

Sayers, Margery

From: Eatough, Christopher
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:27 PM
To: Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail
Cc: Cabellon, Angela; Ron Hartman; Gartner, Bruce; Sidh, Sameer
Subject: Letter of Support for Bike Infrastructure Funding
Attachments: MTB to CE Ball and Council re 202 Bike Funding.pdf

Hello County Executive Ball and Members of the County Council.

Our Office received the attached letter from the Chair of the Multimodal Transportation Board.

Please take this into consideration for the FY2020 Capital Budget.

Thanks.

Chris.

Chris Eatough
Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator
Office of Transportation
Howard County Government
Phone: (410) 313-0567
Email: ceatough@howardcountymd.gov





HOWARD COUNTY MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD
3430 Court House Drive ■ Ellicott City, Maryland 21043 ■ 410-313-4312

Ron Hartman, Chair

www.howardcountymd.gov

FAX 410-313-1655

TDD 410-313-2323

April 29, 2019

Howard County Executive Calvin Ball and Howard County Council Members
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Re: Support for \$2.2 million funding for bicycle infrastructure in the FY2020 capital budget

Dear County Executive Ball and Council Members:

I am writing on behalf of the Howard County Multimodal Transportation Board to express our strong support for the inclusion of \$2.2 million in funding for bicycle infrastructure in the FY2020 capital budget. This funding will allow the County to make substantial progress or complete many important projects over the next year, making it safer and easier for people to access jobs, education, transit, parks, shopping, and entertainment destinations in Howard County by bicycle, as well as ride for recreation.

Facilitating transportation options, including bicycling, walking and convenient public transit, as alternatives to driving, will serve the needs of all residents, employees and visitors more effectively rather than focusing on only one mode. And when more people use bicycles for transportation, the entire county benefits in many ways: our air is cleaner, our residents are healthier, our economy is stronger, our roads are less congested, and our quality of life is better.

Therefore, fully funding bicycle infrastructure is a key component in Howard County's multimodal approach to the delivery of transportation services and infrastructure. FY2020 funding is crucial to project delivery, while ongoing and sustained funding is critical in developing and maintaining a connected and useful network. We also want to highlight the continuing need to fully fund projects in FY2021 and beyond as projects progress from planning and design to construction.

The Multimodal Transportation Board also requests your ongoing support as projects are planned and implemented. Community outreach, education and feedback are always a part of any project. The Office of Transportation makes its best efforts to resolve any local concerns raised, balancing these concerns with the goals of advancing transportation options and ensuring safe and environmentally sustainable transportation for everyone in the county.

We fully support your decision to provide significant bike funding in the FY2020 capital budget and look forward to a similar commitment in future years. We recognize that there are requests from multiple constituencies throughout the County for these funds. We believe that this investment in bicycle infrastructure is the right decision and that it will be money well spent for Howard County.

Sincerely,

Ronald J. Hartman, Chair

Sayers, Margery

From: Risa Garon <risa.garon@nfrfamily.org>
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 11:52 AM
To: edrewyer@verizon.net; CouncilMail
Subject: Re: NATIONAL FAMILY RESILIENCY CENTER

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Hi, Elaine,

This is a fabulous letter!!! Thank you so much for writing it. I wish you could go up to each decision maker and have them read it and respond to you!

Thank you a million!!!!!!!

Take care,

risa

On 5/3/2019 9:33 AM, edrewyer@verizon.net wrote:

May 1, 2019

Dear County Executive Dr. Ball and Members of the Howard County Council, Chairperson Christiana Mercer Rigby, Vice Chairperson Opel Jones, Liz Walsh, Deb Yung and David Yungmann

It has been brought to my attention, and I am deeply saddened and disappointed to hear of the proposed 50-percent funding cut for the National Family Resiliency Center (NFRC), where I have been providing therapeutic support to families and children for fifteen years. I have been a resident of Howard County since 1982 and have a deep commitment to supporting the wellness of our community. It concerns me deeply that the resources available to our community will be depleted by the decision to cut the funding to NFRC.

A proposal of a 50-percent cut in the funding for the National Family Resiliency Center should be reconsidered for the following reasons:

- * A large number of families and children in Howard County are experiencing high conflict relationships and other complex family challenges. Prior to seeking the many resources provided through the National Family Resiliency Center, these

families are in highly volatile circumstances causing dire safety concerns in our neighborhoods.

- * The safety concerns occurring in our neighborhoods are the result of the families who struggle to cope with losses and changes, as a result of their family divorce or break-up. Very often these changes occur as a result of untreated mental illness, substance abuse, domestic violence, child abuse, and untreated developmental challenges. I have worked with families and children with all of these challenges.
- * NFRC has an immense impact on families and children through their group therapy programs. I have witnessed these benefits through the facilitation of these therapeutic sessions with children. Over the 15 years I have facilitated groups for children, I have received only remarkable and compelling feedback from parents and children confirmed by their participation in multiple group sessions. Our therapeutic group program is a unique resource to families in Howard County.
- * Children and teen volunteers support the group therapy program and volunteer many hours of their time. The giving and receiving of support by the peer counselors provides families with the benefits of having a supportive community to help families through their grief. The grant assists with the peer counselor program and allows us to offer sliding fees to families who are eligible.

I see a severe need for the services provided to the children and parents of Howard County. As a resident of Howard County for 37 years, I am quite aware of and concerned about mental illness in our county. As a therapist at NFRC, I see children and adults living with severe mental health concerns; have reported many child abuse circumstances to CPS; supported and educated children about their parent's mental illness; counseled children and adolescents struggling with their illness of suicide and provided therapy to those experiencing trauma. This is what the clinicians of NFRC do on a daily basis, so that all of the families and children of Howard County can be a part of a healthy environment.

Please DO NOT cut the funding for this outstanding non-profit center. The National Family Resiliency Center has taken action for thirty years to support an area of need that is a prevalent and under-served population by providing creative and innovative programs that support families and children in our community.

Thank you for reading this email and considering the points made relative to the cut in funding for the National Family Resiliency Center.

Sincerely,

Elaine K. Drewyer, LCSW-C

National Family Resiliency Center
410-740-9553 Extension 206
www.nfrchelp.org

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Risa Garon, *LCSW-C, BCD, CFLE*
Executive Director and Therapist
National Family Resiliency Center
www.nfrchelp.org
www.familyconnex.org
410-740-9553 x203

Sayers, Margery

From: Doris Rausch <darcyrau@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 5, 2019 6:18 PM
To: Ball, Calvin B; CouncilMail
Subject: Expansion of East Columbia 50+ Center

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear County Executive and Council Members:

I am VERY disappointed that you have seen fit to give preference to the Bain Center over that of the needs of the East Columbia 50+ Center. The Bain Center was just recently renovated, so to now spend millions more on it rather than bringing the East Columbia 50+ Center up to the standard that the Bain Center enjoys at the present time is indefensible, in my opinion.

The Bain Center functions very well in its present condition. This should not be disrupted until the East Columbia facility has been expanded. Seniors count on programs offered at Bain and do not want them disrupted for a renovation until these same programs are able to be offered at East Columbia.

Please reconsider this seemingly biased decision.

Doris Rausch
5608 Golden Spring Lane
Columbia, MD 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: lisamamck@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, May 5, 2019 3:34 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: East Columbia 50

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Please fully fund the East Columbia 50 Center!
Thank you.
Marie McKillop

Sent from AOL Mobile Mail
Get the new AOL app: mail.mobile.aol.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Lisa McKillop <lisamamck@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 5, 2019 3:23 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Bain Center

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear County ExecutiveBall.

I am writing to urge you to find a way to fully fund the Bain Center project. My husband (85) and I (81) attend as it provides the best socialization for us within a distance within which we can drive.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Marie (Lisa) McKillop

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Ronald Young <young.ronaldj@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 4, 2019 12:23 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: East Columbia 50+ Center

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Hello,

I have lived in Columbia since 1983. I am 86 years old. I want to write in support of a new 50+ Center in East Columbia on the schedule promised last year. That schedule called for construction in FY20 with an opening in FY21. I am disappointed to see the current budget permitting another delay.

I go to one of the tai chi classes at the current center. This class has been very good for my health and balance. Seniors are strongly advised to exercise. Tai chi is eminently suitable as a form of exercise for seniors because of the slow movements. Many studies have shown that as an added benefit tai chi also teaches seniors how to avoid falling. Statistics show that falls are by far the leading cause of injuries and even death for seniors.

The current space is inadequate for tai chi classes. Room size is such that students have to watch each other in order to avoid colliding and routinely one bumps into chairs or tables piled by the wall.

Practice is necessary between classes and this is impossible at the center because of the lack of space and time slots. At the present time, the Owen Brown Community Center kindly allows us to practice there for one hour once a week. Students from different classes and levels gather there for practice. It is clear a new senior center is needed. I started tai chi classes five years ago and I have noticed a steady increase in the number of classes and the size of the class which I attend.

I fully support an amendment to the current Capital Budget to open this new center in FY21. We cannot wait. We don't have that much time left.

Ronald Young
9629 Morning Leap Terrace
Columbia, MD 21046
301-498-8593