

C 3 24 - 2019

Sayers, Margery

From: Shannon Franks <shannonkayfranks@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2019 1:48 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Budget

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

As I watch David Youngman have the nerve to lecture us all on living within our means I take great offense because the County Council gave away the farm, literally, to developers year after year. Why does the Council act like that never happened and won't discuss your major part in all this? Had the County Council properly assessed fair development fees, we could have been building in infrastructure for our schools as we needed it. Instead, you let developers get their way and stress our infrastructure well beyond its limits. Now you want to turn it around on parents of children who are in these overcrowded, underfunded schools. So very disappointed, but that is not new.

As my child is attending a school that cannot even dismiss at the end of the day without doing it in phases so kids won't start a brawl, I know first hand how underfunded our schools are.

You need to be apologizing, not lecturing. However, because the County Council gave everything to developers you are correct that we, the residents, will end up paying dearly in so many ways. Infuriating.

Regards,
Shannon Franks

Sayers, Margery

From: Tamiko Cokley <doccokley@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2019 11:51 PM
To: CouncilMail

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

Dear Howard County Council,

Merriweather Post Pavilion is Howard County's cultural beacon and has for more than half a century drawn performers and people from all over the world to celebrate in harmony together.

Over the past five years, the venue has undergone an extensive renovation and modernization project to ensure its sustained viability for the next fifty years, and this renovation project, which has been made possible by a combination of public and private funds, is finally nearing completion. It is time to finish what we've started.

The final phase of construction includes new concessions and a new bathroom that will be shared with Merriweather Park at Symphony Woods and the community programs at the Chrysalis. This is the kind of shared use facility envisioned by the Downtown Columbia master plan and a critical synergy between the park and the pavilion.

What's more, this final phase of construction will make Merriweather completely accessible to all guests. For too long, portions of the venue have been inaccessible to guests with mobility needs and this phase of construction fixes this long-standing challenge finally making it ADA compliant.

I appreciate Howard County Executive Ball's inclusion of funds in his proposed operating budget to support Merriweather's construction, and hope that you, as members of the County Council, approve this funding.

The Merriweather Post Pavilion renovation project has endured its share of challenges and a very public setback with the roof collapse. It is now on the finishing stretch and the time is now to bring the construction to a close. Please continue to support this funding and let's finish what we started.

Thank you,
<include your full name>
<include your full address if you live in Howard County or just say "Merriweather employee" below your name>

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: heather.urner@yahoo.com
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2019 6:19 PM
To: CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin
Subject: Impact Fees

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

Good Evening,

Interesting quote from Baltimore County:

"Right now, taxpayers subsidize the cost of development. This will require developers to pay for a greater share of schools. It's a big win for communities."(Councilman David Marks (R) District 5

Interesting how another County sees that having developers pay more, is for the community ,and is willing to put that effort in to actual practice as of next year.

Thank you

Heather Urner

Sayers, Margery

From: m a nolan <margaretannolan@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2019 2:27 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Vilma Anderson; Trish and Bob Hemler; Robbins, Lonnie; Evelyn, Janssen; Kuc, Gary
Subject: Safewalking = Strong Community Font Hill-Budget FY 20

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

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/ohPnJhNdMumbqim33>

Please use this link to see the video (man in red jacket) demonstrating the serious need for a sidewalk along Frederick road from the Miller library to Centennial Lane, as well as crosswalks at Centennial and Frederick.

This project was in the Capital Budget, and hopefully will remain there. Font Hill residents sincerely hope that the discussions of fiscal austerity will not result in a slowdown or elimination of this much-needed project.

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@nfrcfamily.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

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

50+

CB 24-2019

Sayers, Margery

From: Kathryn Tillman <kbtilman@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 25, 2019 9:12 PM
Cc: Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David; Ball, Calvin
Subject: Regional Senior Center to be built in East Columbia

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

Howard County Executive Calvin Ball
Howard County Council Members

George Howard Building
3430 Courthouse Drive

Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear County Executive Calvin Ball and Council Members,

I am writing in hopes that you will move ahead on the plans to build a new 50+ Senior Center at the East Columbia Library site. My understanding is that in 2015 a Master Plan was developed to "Create an Age Friendly Community". That Master Plan called for a 35,000 square foot Regional Senior Center to be built in East Columbia to replace the few rooms set aside in 1992. It was adopted in September 2015, FY16. By that plan, it should have been in a brand-new center in FY19. The FY20 proposed capital budget has reneged on this promise. It calls for **design and beginning construction in FY20, construction in FY21 and open in FY22**. The text clearly states that the construction portion of funds for the new 50+ center is in **FY21**.

Unfortunately, it often feels like the east side of Route 29 is neglected and its needs are not fully met - and I say this from a balanced perspective. I lived in the Centennial School District for 28 years, and our children graduated from Centennial High School. While living on the west side of Route 29, I taught for 20 years at Oakland Mills High School, and in 2006, my husband and I moved to the Owen Brown area.

The new Senior Center by Miller Library and the Florence Bain Senior Center offer much to seniors who live in those areas, while the small cluster of rooms at the East Columbia Library devoted to senior activities is woefully inadequate and doesn't meet the needs of seniors living in this area.

I strongly suggest that the original schedule be restored as promised in the FY19 budget with full funding for construction in FY20 and an opening in FY21. I ask that every Council Member urge the County Executive to amend the FY20 budget.

Thank you for your attention on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Tillman
9467 Hickory Limb
Columbia, MD 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: YALE STENZLER <stenzler@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 9:54 AM
To: Rigby, Christiana
Subject: FY 2020 Capital Budget for 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 Council Member Rigby,

I have been a resident of Howard County since 1972 and have grown older (now 76) and attend and participate in programs at the East Columbia 50+ Center (now at the East Columbia Library).

We need your support to fund the new and enlarged East Columbia 50+ Center (project CO 335) in the FY 2020 Capital Budget. The design work has been completed and we really need to move this project forward this year.

Delaying the project another year will undoubtedly increase the costs from inflation alone and the potential for added costs for certain supplies and/or equipment.

If it is not possible allocate funds for his entire project, perhaps you could partially fund this project. You could for example approved the award of the contract and allocate the funds needed to meet the cash flow needs for the the upcoming year. Then provide the balance of the funds needed in the FY 2021 capital budget.

This would honor your commitment to the many senior citizens from several of the County Council Districts who utilized the East Columbia 50+ Center and provide the equity of facilities for seniors in Howard County.

Your assistance and commitment to move this important project forward is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Yale Stenzler

Sayers, Margery

From: James Chapple <heatgod@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2019 2:45 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Capital project C0335 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 Calvin Ball and Council Members,

I am writing about Capital project C0335, building a new 50+ Senior Center at the East Columbia library site. In 2015 a Master Plan was developed to "Create an Age Friendly Community". That Master Plan called for a 35,000 square foot Regional Senior Center to be built in East Columbia to replace the dinky few rooms set aside in 1992. It was adopted in September 2015, FY16. By that plan, I should have been in a brand-new center in FY19. The plan was simply ignored.

The FY16, FY17, and FY18 budgets had funds for design but no design was undertaken. When the FY19 budget had the same language (4 years of no action) the seniors of East Columbia spoke out loudly in testimony at budget meetings of the County executive and the County Council, wrote letters, and a petition was delivered to the County executive asking that full design money be allocated for FY19 with **construction in FY20 and opening in FY21**. Those efforts led to an amendment to the FY19 capital budget which was approved. It had 2 options: if the library site was deemed feasible, we would have the new center ready for use in FY21. Otherwise a year of land acquisition would push the opening to FY22.

Architects were hired and a parking study was undertaken. The library site was indeed deemed feasible and in fact, desirable. Architects have met with the community twice in public meetings and the Seniors are very happy with both the design and location.

The FY20 proposed capital budget has reneged on this promise. It calls for **design and beginning construction in FY20, construction in FY21 and open in FY22**. The text clearly states that the construction portion of funds for the new 50+ center is in **FY21**. This is absolutely unacceptable. The seniors feel ignored and rejected once again. I have lived in East Columbia for 39 years, paid taxes, and have voted in every election. Seniors do not use many of the resources in Howard County but we do need 50+ Centers. I strongly suggest that the original schedule be restored as promised in the FY19 budget with full funding for construction in FY20 and an opening in FY21. I am not getting any younger and we have been waiting for 5 years for this project to move forward. I would appreciate a response from the County Executive's office since an amendment would need to originate in that office. I ask that every Council Member urge the County Executive to amend the FY20 budget. Thank you for your attention to this extremely important matter.

James Chapple
Columbia Maryland

Sayers, Margery

From: Rigby, Christiana
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 1:55 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: URGENT - YOUR SUPPORT AND APPROVAL NEEDED

From: Jessie Barnes <jsldancer@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2019 6:02 PM
To: Ball, Calvin <cball@howardcountymd.gov>
Cc: Walsh, Elizabeth <ewalsh@howardcountymd.gov>; Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>; Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>; djung@howardcountymd.gov; Yungmann, David <dyungmann@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: URGENT - YOUR SUPPORT AND APPROVAL NEEDED

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

Calvin Ball, County Executive
George Howard Building
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear County Executive Ball,

I am writing to express my disappointment and dismay at the omission of construction funds for a new East Columbia 50+ Center (project CO 335) in the FY2020 budget. I have been teaching line dance classes at the center for more than 15 years and we really need a better facility that will accommodate my students.

I understand that the County has concerns about the parking for the site and wants to acquire land for additional parking spots. But, a parking site analysis was done last year and found that the parking lot meets the required number of spaces and that, in fact, there are 24 spaces above the minimum required.

You have acknowledged that seniors are the fastest growing sector of the County population and you have pledged to provide for that population. Delaying the construction will prolong the serious inequity in facilities and services that exist in East Columbia and will hurt seniors, particularly vulnerable seniors who need (and deserve) the planned Connections program.

I urge you to reconsider your decision to delay this project and put full funding at an accelerated schedule in the FY2020 budget. Please don't disappoint us; we need your support and approval.

Jessie Barnes

<https://www.facebook.com/Jessiesoulinedancers/>

Sayers, Margery

From: Debra Ricigliano <daricigliano@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2019 3:02 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: East Columbia 50+ Center funding

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

County Council
George Howard Building
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear County Council,

The Senior population of Howard County is vital and important and makes important contributions on many levels to benefit our County. Therefore, I am writing to express my disappointment and dismay at the omission of construction funds for a new East Columbia 50+ Center (project CO 335) in the FY2020 budget. It is my understanding that the County has concerns about the parking for the site and wants to acquire land for additional parking spots. But, a parking site analysis was done last year and found that the parking lot meets the required number of spaces and that, in fact, there are 24 spaces above the minimum required.

It has been acknowledged that seniors are the fastest growing sector of the County population and you have pledged to provide for that population.

Delaying the construction will prolong the serious inequity in facilities and services that exist in East Columbia and will hurt

seniors, particularly vulnerable seniors who need (and deserve) the planned Connections program.

Seniors who use the East Columbia Senior Center have waited many years for a new center. I urge you to reconsider your decision to delay this project and put full funding at an accelerated schedule in the FY2020 budget. Please don't disappoint us.

Sincerely,
Debra Ricigliano
9740 Knowledge Drive
Laurel, MD 20723
301 221-5535/daricigliano@hotmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Jonni Gray <jonning@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2019 3:02 PM
To: Ball, Calvin
Cc: CouncilMail
Subject: Captial Project CO335, A Senior Center delayed is a Senior Center deinid

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

April 26, 2019

Howard County Executive Calvin Ball
Howard County Council Members
George Howard Building
3430 Courthouse Dr.
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear County Executive Calvin Ball and Council Members,

It is my understanding that Capital Project CO335, building a new 50+ Center at the East Columbia Library site, has been omitted from the FY2020 Budget because of parking concerns. Car ownership is trending down because of ride sharing apps and Tesla projects that it will have a self driving car in two years. When they are not using their cars, Tesla owners will have the option to allow their electric cars to pick up riders and generate income. I currently carpool to classes at the 50+ center out of a desire to reduce atmospheric CO2. Acquiring land and putting down non-permeable pavement is a 20th century solution to a 20th century problem and a waste of taxpayer dollars.

The Master Plan for a East Columbia Regional Senior Center was adopted September 2015, FY16. If the previous administration had not ignored the project we would have a new center in FY19. Because seniors testified at budget meetings, wrote letters and delivered a petition, an amendment including the senior center in the FY19 capital budget was approved. The site adjacent to the East Columbia Library was deemed desirable and an excellent architectural design for that site was created. Unfortunately the FY20 proposed capital budget has delayed the construction portion of the funds for the new senior center until FY21. The delaying and dismissive tactics of the previous administration are apparently being repeated.

I have owned property in Howard County since 1982 and rented for several years before that. I currently pay over \$10,000 in property taxes annually and have paid for classes at the over crowded East Columbia 50+ Center since 2011. I have voted in every election since I turned 21 because I believe it is my responsibility for the privilege of being born in this democracy and because in a democracy it is essential for the people to hold public officials accountable.

I am asking that the County Executive's office amend the FY20 budget to restore full funding for construction in FY20 and opening in FY21. I also ask that every Council Member urge the County Executive to so amend the FY20 budget. **A senior center delayed is a senior center denied.**

Jonni M. Gray
6635 Corina Ct.
Columbia, MD 21044
jonnimg@hotmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: leaouzi leaouzi <leaouzi@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2019 7:48 AM
To: Ball, Calvin B; CouncilMail
Subject: URGENT: 50+ Center (Capital Project C0335)

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

Dear County Executive Calvin Ball and Council Members,

I am writing again about Capital project C0335, building a new 50+ Senior Center at the East Columbia library site. It appears as though the FY20 proposed budget has further delayed planning for the new center--which originally was to have been in place in FY19!

In 2015 a Master Plan was developed to "Create an Age Friendly Community". That Master Plan called for a 35,000 square foot Regional Senior Center to be built in East Columbia to replace the dinky few rooms set aside in 1992. It was adopted in September 2015, FY16. That plan would have had me and my senior friends and colleagues in a brand-new center in FY19. The plan was simply ignored.

The FY16, FY17, and FY18 budgets **had funds** for design but no design was undertaken. When the FY19 budget had the same language (4 years of no action), the seniors of East Columbia spoke out loudly in testimony at budget meetings of the County executive and the County Council, wrote letters, and delivered a petition to the County executive asking that full design money be allocated for FY19 with **construction in FY20 and opening in FY21**. Those efforts **led to an amendment to the FY19 capital budget**, which was approved. It had 2 options: if the library site was deemed feasible, we would have the new center **ready for use in FY21**. Otherwise a year of land acquisition would push the opening to FY22.

Architects were hired and a parking study was undertaken. The library site **was indeed deemed feasible and, in fact, desirable**. Architects have met with the community twice in public meetings, and the Seniors are very happy with both the design and location.

The FY20 proposed capital budget has reneged on this promise. It calls for design and beginning construction in FY20, construction in FY21 **and open in FY22**. The text clearly states that the construction portion of funds for the new 50+ center is in **FY21**. **This is absolutely unacceptable!** The seniors feel ignored and rejected once again. My friends and colleagues have lived East Columbia for decades, paid our taxes, and voted. Seniors do not use many of the resources in Howard County, but we do need 50+ Centers for the growing senior community.

We ask that the original schedule be restored as promised in the FY19 budget **with full funding for construction in FY20 and an opening in FY21**. We are not getting any younger, and we have been waiting for 5 years for this project to move forward. **We would appreciate a response from the County Executive's office**, since an amendment would need to originate in that office. **We ask that every Council Member urge the County Executive to amend the FY20 budget**. Thank you for your attention to this extremely important matter.

Regards.

Jennifer Keefer-Frankfort
Resident of Owen Brown

Sayers, Margery

From: Susan Helsel <srhelsel@outlook.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2019 12:17 PM
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.]

Howard County Council Members
George Howard Building
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear County Council Members,

I am writing to express my disappointment and dismay at the omission of construction funds for a new East Columbia 50+ Center (project CO 335) in the FY2020 budget. It is my understanding that the County has concerns about the parking for the site and wants to acquire land for additional parking spots. But, a parking site analysis was done last year and found that the parking lot meets the required number of spaces and that, in fact, there are 24 spaces above the minimum required.

Seniors who use the East Columbia Senior Center have waited many years for a new center. I urge you to reconsider your decision to delay this project and put full funding at an accelerated schedule in the FY2020 budget. Please don't disappoint us.

Sincerely,
Susan Helsel
9569 Red Apple Lane
Columbia 21046
410-382-7621

Sayers, Margery

From: Michael Femiano <mfemiano@fastmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2019 10:38 PM
To: Ball, Calvin
Cc: 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.]

County Executive Ball,

I have lived in Howard County since 1959, and owned property (paid taxes) since 1977. Now a senior, I would like to enjoy some senior - oriented amenities while I can.

It was disappointing to learn that you did not allocate funds for the complete construction of the new East Columbia senior center in the FY 2020 capital budget.

This project has been repeatedly delayed and sometimes forgotten since the master plan of 2014 first suggested the need for a new senior center in that area. It needs to be built soon and not be put off any longer. The architects have designed a beautiful building, the parking study shows that there are ample parking spots, the community wants and needs this center desperately.

Please put full construction funding for a new 50+ center back into the FY 2020 budget.

Sincerely,
Michael Femiano
3405 Font Hill Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042
mfemiano@fastmail.com

--
Michael Femiano
mfemiano@fastmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Liz Larson <ealarson1@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2019 5:20 PM
To: Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail; christianamercer@gmail.com
Cc: ealarson1@verizon.net
Subject: Please Fund the East Columbia 50-Plus Center in FY2020

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

Dr Ball and Howard County Council Members –

I am writing to plead for the county to reconsider the denial of funding in FY2020 for an East Columbia 50-Plus Center. I am outraged that the already large Bain Center (24,350 sq ft) will be renovated, again, while we in East Columbia have only a tiny center (2200 sq ft for activities/3800 sq feet with closets, etc included – my Columbia house is larger than that) which is not anywhere near large enough to accommodate the 50-plus population here. We were also overlooked in the recent multi-million dollar renovation of the E. Columbia Library in which the current Sr Center is located – why was there money to greatly expand child-care facilities there, but nothing for the Sr Center? Since that renovation did not increase the size of the library, but only the areas dedicated to children’s activities, it seems particularly unfair to once again ignore the need for a new East Columbia 50-plus Center, preferably the one envisioned in the already-completed architect’s plans for which the county paid in excess of \$1,000,000 of tax-payer money.

I truly do not understand the lack of interest and commitment to Seniors who have spent their adult lives and careers residing in Howard County (in our case we have been property owners AND TAX PAYERS in Columbia since 1974), and chose to retire here. I resent that it appears that Seniors, because we are at the end of our lives, not the beginning, are not valued the way, for instance, developers are -- if developers paid their fair share there would most probably be enough money in the budget for many more amenities such as a Senior Center in East Columbia, and also for must-haves, such as flood remediation for Ellicott City. In the 45 years I have lived in Columbia, I have witnessed, over and over again, the inequities in funding services in different parts of Columbia and Howard County and the broken promises of politicians. Please don’t be part of that history.

A number of us recall that many of you supported the funding and building of this center, and we feel betrayed by your positions now that the election is over.

Over-50 citizens have a lot to offer, and keeping Howard County (and Columbia) an attractive place for older citizens to reside is in the best interest of the county and the state, fiscally, socially, and culturally, and amenities such as vibrant and welcoming Senior Centers constitute a large part of that equation. Please do the right thing and fund the East Columbia 50-plus Center in FY2020.

Sincerely,
Elisabeth A. Larson
9774 Polished Stone
Columbia, MD 21046

Sayers, Margery

From: Fran LoPresti <fflopresti@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2019 11:57 AM
To: Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail
Subject: FY20 Capital Budget Project C0335- 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.]

April 23, 2019

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

Dear County Executive Calvin Ball and Council Members,

I am writing about Capital project C0335, building a new 50+ Senior Center at the East Columbia library site. In 2015 a Master Plan was developed to "Create an Age Friendly Community". That Master Plan called for a 35,000 square foot Regional Senior Center to be built in East Columbia to replace the dinky few rooms set aside in 1992. It was adopted in September 2015, FY16. By that plan, I should have been in a brand-new center in FY19. The plan was simply ignored.

The FY16, FY17, and FY18 budgets had funds for design but no design was undertaken. When the FY19 budget had the same language (4 years of no action) the seniors of East Columbia spoke out loudly in testimony at budget meetings of the County executive and the County Council, wrote letters, and a petition was delivered to the County executive asking that full design money be allocated for FY19 with **construction in FY20 and opening in FY21**. Those efforts led to an amendment to the FY19 capital budget which was approved. It had 2 options: if the library site was deemed feasible, we would have the new center ready for use in FY21. Otherwise a year of land acquisition would push the opening to FY22.

Architects were hired and a parking study was undertaken. The library site was indeed deemed feasible and in fact, desirable. Architects have met with the community twice in public meetings and the Seniors are very happy with both the design and location.

The FY20 proposed capital budget has reneged on this promise. It calls for **design and beginning construction in FY20, construction in FY21 and open in FY22**. The text clearly states that the construction portion of funds for the new 50+ center is in **FY21**. This is absolutely unacceptable. The seniors feel ignored and rejected once again. I have lived in East Columbia for 39 years, paid taxes, and have voted in every election. Seniors do not use many of the resources in Howard County but we do need 50+ Centers.

I strongly suggest that the original schedule be restored as promised in the FY19 budget with full funding for construction in FY20 and an opening in FY21. I am not getting any younger and we have been waiting for 5 years for this project to move forward. I would appreciate a response from the County Executive's office since an amendment would need to originate in that office. I ask that every Council Member urge the County Executive to amend the FY20 budget. Thank you for your attention to this extremely important matter.

April 23, 2019

Howard County Executive Calvin Ball
Howard County Council Members

George Howard Building
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear County Executive Calvin Ball and Council Members,

I am writing about Capital project C0335, building a new 50+ Senior Center at the East Columbia library site. In 2015 a Master Plan was developed to "Create an Age Friendly Community". That Master Plan called for a 35,000 square foot Regional Senior Center to be built in East Columbia to replace the dinky few rooms set aside in 1992. It was adopted in September 2015, FY16. By that plan, I should have been in a brand-new center in FY19. The plan was simply ignored.

The FY16, FY17, and FY18 budgets had funds for design but no design was undertaken. When the FY19 budget had the same language (4 years of no action) the seniors of East Columbia spoke out loudly in testimony at budget meetings of the County executive and the County Council, wrote letters, and a petition was delivered to the County executive asking that full design money be allocated for FY19 with **construction in FY20 and opening in FY21**. Those efforts led to an amendment to the FY19 capital budget which was approved. It had 2 options: if the library site was deemed feasible, we would have the new center ready for use in FY21. Otherwise a year of land acquisition would push the opening to FY22.

Architects were hired and a parking study was undertaken. The library site was indeed deemed feasible and in fact, desirable. Architects have met with the community twice in public meetings and the Seniors are very happy with both the design and location.

The FY20 proposed capital budget has reneged on this promise. It calls for **design and beginning construction in FY20, construction in FY21 and open in FY22**. The text clearly states that the construction portion of funds for the new 50+ center is in **FY21**. This is absolutely unacceptable. The seniors feel ignored and rejected once again. I have lived in East Columbia for 39 years, paid taxes, and have voted in every election. Seniors do not use many of the resources in Howard County but we do need 50+ Centers.

I strongly suggest that the original schedule be restored as promised in the FY19 budget with full funding for construction in FY20 and an opening in FY21. I am not getting any younger and we have been waiting for 5 years for this project to move forward. I would appreciate a response from the County Executive's office since an amendment would need to originate in that office. I ask that every Council Member urge the County Executive to amend the FY20 budget. Thank you for your attention to this extremely important matter.

Fran LoPresti
Member, East Columbia 50+ Center Advocacy Steering Committee
6985 Deep Cup
Columbia, MD 21045
fflopresti@gmail.com
410-995-6160

Fran LoPresti
Member, East Columbia 50+ Center Advocacy Steering Committee
6985 Deep Cup
Columbia, MD 21045
fflopresti@gmail.com
410-995-6160

--
Fran LoPresti

Sayers, Margery

From: Rita Cohen <rcohen0126@aol.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 20, 2019 11:34 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Funding for East Columbia 50+ Center (Project CO 335)

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

Calvin Ball, County Executive
George Howard Building
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear County Executive Ball, and Council Members,

I am writing to express my disappointment and dismay at the omission of construction funds for a new East Columbia 50+ Center (project CO 335) in the FY2020 budget. It is my understanding that the County has concerns about the parking for the site and wants to acquire land for additional parking spots. But, a parking site analysis was done last year and found that the parking lot meets the required number of spaces and that, in fact, there are 24 spaces above the minimum required.

You have acknowledged that seniors are the fastest growing sector of the County population and you have pledged to provide for that population.

Delaying the construction will prolong the serious inequity in facilities and services that exist in East Columbia and will hurt seniors, particularly vulnerable seniors who need (and deserve) the planned Connections program.

Seniors who use the East Columbia Senior Center have waited many years for a new center. I urge you to reconsider your decision to delay this project and put full funding at an accelerated schedule in the FY2020 budget. Please don't disappoint us.

Sincerely,
Rita Cohen
6106 Forestvale Court
Columbia, MD 21044
410-992-5876
rcohen0126@aol.com

Sent from my iPad

Sayers, Margery

From: Carmen <cmortiz3@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 20, 2019 7:35 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Project CO 335 FY2020 Budget

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

Calvin Ball
County Executive

Dear Mr. Ball,

I am writing to express my disappointment and dismay at the omission of construction funds for a new East Columbia 50+ Center (Project CO 335) in the FY2020 budget.

It is my understanding that the County has concerns about the parking for the site and wants to acquire land for additional parking spots. But, a parking site analysis was done last year and found that the parking lot meets the required number of spaces. In fact, the study found that there are 24 spaces above the minimum required.

Increasing numbers of politically active seniors have attended - and testified at - Council and Budget Committee meetings. We also attended two meetings with the architects, who listened to our ideas and developed an innovative cost-efficient design for a 21st century facility that can serve the needs of seniors for years to come ... and become a showcase for the entire state.

You have acknowledged that seniors are the fastest growing sector of the County population ... and you have pledged to provide for that population.

Delaying the construction will prolong the serious inequity in facilities and services that exist in East Columbia as compared to other parts of the county. The delay will also hurt seniors, particularly vulnerable seniors who need (and deserve) the planned Connections program.

Statistics show frequent extensive use of the current the East Columbia Senior Center, but it is rapidly showing its age and inadequacies.

We have waited many years for a new center to help us better enjoy the remaining part of our lives.

I urge you to reconsider your decision to delay this project and put full funding at an accelerated schedule in the FY2020 budget.

Please don't forget us. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Carmen Ortiz and Rafael Ortiz
6602 Windsor Court
Columbia, MD 21044
301-802-5176

Sayers, Margery

From: Carmen <cmortiz3@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 20, 2019 7:23 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Project CO335

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

I am writing to express my disappointment and dismay at the omission of construction funds for a new East Columbia 50+ Center (Project CO 335) in the FY2020 budget.

It is my understanding that the County has concerns about the parking for the site and wants to acquire land for additional parking spots. But, a parking site analysis was done last year and found that the parking lot meets the required number of spaces. In fact, the study found that there are 24 spaces above the minimum required.

Increasing numbers of politically active seniors have attended - and testified at - Council and Budget Committee meetings. We also attended two meetings with the architects, who listened to our ideas and developed an innovative cost-efficient design for a 21st century facility that can serve the needs of seniors for years to come ... and become a showcase for the entire state.

You have acknowledged that seniors are the fastest growing sector of the County population ... and you have pledged to provide for that population.

Delaying the construction will prolong the serious inequity in facilities and services that exist in East Columbia as compared to other parts of the county. The delay will also hurt seniors, particularly vulnerable seniors who need (and deserve) the planned Connections program.

Statistics show frequent extensive use of the current the East Columbia Senior Center, but it is rapidly showing its age and inadequacies.

We have waited many years for a new center to help us better enjoy the remaining part of our lives.

I urge you to reconsider your decision to delay this project and put full funding at an accelerated schedule in the FY2020 budget.

Please don't forget us. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Carmen Ortiz and Rafael Ortiz
6602 Windsor Court
Columbia, MD 21044
301-802-5176

Sayers, Margery

From: Nirmala Mallya <nirmala.mallya@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 20, 2019 5:40 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: East Columbia 50+ Center (project CO 335)

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

Howard County Council
George Howard Building- First Floor
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear Howard County Council Representatives,

I am writing to express my disappointment and dismay at the omission of construction funds for a new East Columbia 50+ Center (project CO 335) in the FY2020 budget. It is my understanding that the County has concerns about the parking for the site and wants to acquire land for additional parking spots. But, a parking site analysis was done last year and found that the parking lot meets the required number of spaces and that, in fact, there are 24 spaces above the minimum required.

You have acknowledged that seniors are the fastest growing sector of the County population and you have pledged to provide for that population. Delaying the construction will prolong the serious inequity in facilities and services that exist in East Columbia and will hurt seniors, particularly vulnerable seniors who need (and deserve) the planned Connections program.

Seniors who use the East Columbia Senior Center have waited many years for a new center. I urge you to reconsider your decision to delay this project and put full funding at an accelerated schedule in the FY2020 budget. Please don't disappoint us.

Sincerely,

Nirmala Mallya
8834 Warm Granite Drive
Columbia, MD 21045
410-489-4882
nirmala.mallya@yahoo.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Doris Rausch <darcyrau@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 20, 2019 12:49 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: aging
Subject: East Columbia 50+ Center funding

[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,

I was VERY disappointed that you have withheld funding for the East Columbia 50+ Center in favor of renovating the Bain Center (which just has a renovation a couple years ago). My thinking is that the Bain renovation should be delayed until after the expansion of the 50+ Center at East Columbia is finished.

Senior citizens need the activities offered at a Center in this area (21044-5-6). With the Bain Center and East Columbia closed at the same time, Seniors will be deprived of locally-available activities and companionship.

Please reconsider this action.

Doris Rausch
6508 Golden Spring Lane
Columbia, MD 2044
410-730-2777

Sayers, Margery

From: Cristine Smith <cris4447@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 20, 2019 11:17 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Columbia East 50+ Center

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

I am very disappointed that funding will not be made available to build a new 50+ Center in Owen Brown. I have recently retired and was so looking forward to this project. Seniors need a reason to stay in Owen Brown and now that funding was not received I feel discouraged. I have been a resident of Owen Brown since 1978, living on Garland Lane the entire time. Building a senior community was something I not only was looking forward too, but vital to the well being of seniors. Cristine Smith

Sayers, Margery

From: Carolyn Rimes <cm60rimes@verizon.net>
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2019 2:18 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Fwd: East Columbia 50+ Center
Attachments: 6384 Scarlet Peta1.docx

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

please restore funding.

6384 Scarlet Petal

Columbia, Md. 21045

April 19, 2019

Liz Walsh, Opel Jones, Christiana Rigby, Deb Jung and David

Yungman

George Howard Building

3430 Courthouse Drive

Ellicott City, MD. 21043

Attention Council Members: Liz Walsh, Opel Jones, Christiana Rigby, Deb Jung and David Yungman,

I am saddened, upset and angry at the elimination of construction funds for the stand-alone East Columbia 50+ Center. This was project CO 335 in the FY2020 budget. It is rumored that the issue focuses on parking concerns. Apparently, the County has concerns about the parking for the site and wants to acquire land for addition parking spaces. To refresh memories; a parking site analysis was completed last year, and found that there are 24 spaces above the minimum number required.

As you are aware, seniors are the fastest growing sector of this Counties population, and the area east of rt. 29 contains a large proportion of seniors (who vote). Delaying or denying the construction of the 50+ center will adversely impact this population. The existing Center is too small to support this population and delaying/denying the center will hurt seniors.

Seniors were promised and have waited many years for a new center. Please reconsider your decision to delay (meaning to me deny) funding for this project. Please fully fund this project at the accelerated schedule in the Fy2020 budget.

Senior, east of Rt. 29 are not a fading constituency and would appreciate your support of the construction of the 50+ Center.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Rimes

410-290-9606

Cm60rimes@verizon.net

Sayers, Margery

From: amccartn@aol.com
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2019 12:57 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: East Columbia 55+ Center

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

Calvin Ball, County Executive
George Howard Building
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear County Executive Ball,

I am writing to express my disappointment and dismay at the omission of construction funds for a new East Columbia 50+ Center (project CO 335) in the FY2020 budget. It is my understanding that the County has concerns about the parking for the site and wants to acquire land for additional parking spots. But, a parking site analysis was done last year and found that the parking lot meets the required number of spaces and that, in fact, there are 24 spaces above the minimum required.

You have acknowledged that seniors are the fastest growing sector of the County population and you have pledged to provide for that population. Delaying the construction will prolong the serious inequity in facilities and services that exist in East Columbia and will hurt seniors, particularly vulnerable seniors who need (and deserve) the planned Connections program.

Seniors who use the East Columbia Senior Center have waited many years for a new center. I urge you to reconsider your decision to delay this project and put full funding at an accelerated schedule in the FY2020 budget. Please don't disappoint us.

Sincerely,
Annette McCartney
6320 Raritan Court
Columbia, MD 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: Ping Mao <jpingmao@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2019 12:05 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Fwd: Please Fund A New East Columbia 50+ Center in 2020 ...

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

Howard County Council Members,

I am writing you and the County Council to express my disappointment and dismay at the omission of construction funds for a new East Columbia 50+ Center (Project CO 335) in the FY2020 budget.

It is my understanding that the County has concerns about the parking for the site and wants to acquire land for additional parking spots. But, a parking site analysis was done last year and found that the parking lot meets the required number of spaces. In fact, the study found that there are 24 spaces above the minimum required.

Increasing numbers of politically active seniors have attended - and testified, including me, at - Council and Budget Committee meetings. We also attended two meetings with the architects, who listened to our ideas and developed an innovative cost-efficient design for a 21st century facility that can serve the needs of seniors for years to come ... and become a showcase for the entire state.

You have acknowledged that seniors are the fastest growing sector of the County population ... and you have pledged to provide for that population. Delaying the construction will prolong the serious inequity in facilities and services that exist in East Columbia as compared to other parts of the county. The delay will also hurt seniors, particularly vulnerable seniors who need (and deserve) the planned Connections program.

Statistics show frequent extensive use of the current the East Columbia Senior Center, but it is rapidly showing its age and inadequacies.

We have waited many years for a new center to help us better enjoy the remaining part of our lives.

I urge you to reconsider the decision to delay this project and put full funding at an accelerated schedule in the FY2020 budget.

Please don't forget us.

Sincerely,

Jianping Mao, Ph.D.

6507 River Run

Columbia, MD 21044

410-531-7968

Sayers, Margery

From: Nelson Pollack <npollack@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, April 18, 2019 8:05 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Need to Fund New East Columbia Senior Center

Importance: High

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

I am writing to express my disappointment and dismay at the omission of construction funds for a new East Columbia 50+ Center (Project CO 335) in the FY2020 budget.

It is my understanding that the County has concerns about the parking for the site and wants to acquire land for additional parking spots. But, a parking site analysis was done last

year and found that the parking lot meets the required number of spaces. In fact, the study found that there are 24 spaces above the minimum required.

Increasing numbers of politically active seniors have attended - and testified at - Council and Budget Committee meetings. We also attended two meetings with the architects, who listened to our ideas and developed an innovative cost-efficient design for a 21st century facility that can serve the needs of seniors for years to come ... and become a showcase for the entire state.

You have acknowledged that seniors are the fastest growing sector of the County population ... and you have pledged to provide for that population.

Delaying the construction will prolong the serious inequity in facilities and services that exist in East Columbia as compared to other parts of the county. The delay will also hurt seniors, particularly vulnerable seniors who need (and deserve) the planned Connections program.

Statistics show frequent extensive use of the current the East Columbia Senior Center, but it is rapidly showing its age and inadequacies.

We have waited many years for a new center to help us better enjoy the remaining part of our lives.

I urge you to reconsider your decision to delay this project and put full funding at an accelerated schedule in the FY2020 budget.

Please don't forget us.

Sincerely,

Nelson Pollack

6252 Golden Coin Court

Columbia, MD 21045

410-381-7744

Sayers, Margery

From: Rigby, Christiana
Sent: Thursday, April 18, 2019 11:46 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Lack of Funding for the East Columbia 50+ Center in the FY2020 Budget

From: Carolyn Zimmerman <zimmercm@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 18, 2019 11:24 AM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Lack of Funding for the East Columbia 50+ Center in the FY2020 Budget

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

Dear Ms. Rigby,

I was very disappointed to see the omission of construction funds for a new East Columbia 50+ Center (project CO 335) in the FY2020 budget. It is my understanding that the County has concerns about the parking for the site and wants to acquire land for additional parking spots. However, a parking site analysis was done last year and found that the parking lot meets the required number of spaces. In fact, there are 24 spaces above the minimum required.

I know from your kind note that you support this funding. I sincerely hope you will be successful in getting full funding restored in the FY2020 budget. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Carolyn M. Zimmerman
6679 Drowsy Day
Columbia, MD 21045
410-381-9347 landline
410-627-4126 cell

--

Carolyn M. Zimmerman

Sayers, Margery

From: Carolyn Zimmerman <zimmercm@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 18, 2019 11:22 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: No FY2020 Funding for the 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 Council Members,

I am surprised, disappointed and dismayed at the omission of construction funds for a new East Columbia 50+ Center (project CO 335) in the FY2020 budget. It is my understanding that the County has concerns about the parking for the site and wants to acquire land for additional parking spots. However, a parking site analysis was done last year and found that the parking lot meets the required number of spaces. In fact, there are 24 spaces above the minimum required.

You and County Executive Ball have acknowledged that seniors are the fastest growing sector of the County population and you have pledged to provide for that population. Delaying the construction will prolong the serious inequity in facilities and services that exist in East Columbia and will hurt seniors, particularly vulnerable seniors who need (and deserve) the planned Connections program.

Seniors who use the East Columbia Senior Center have waited many years for a new center. I urge you to reconsider your decision to delay this project and put full funding at an accelerated schedule in the FY2020 budget. Please don't disappoint us.

Sincerely,
Carolyn M. Zimmerman
6679 Drowsy Day
Columbia, MD 21045
410-381-9347 landline
410-627-4126 cell

--
Carolyn M. Zimmerman

Sayers, Margery

From: Betty Myers <bettymyers@mac.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 18, 2019 11:23 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: East Columbia 50+ Center (project CO 335)-not included in FY2020 budget

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

Calvin Ball, County Executive
George Howard Building
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear County Executive Ball,

I am shocked to learn that construction funds for a new East Columbia 50+ Center (project CO 335) are not included in the FY2020 budget.

You have acknowledged that seniors are the fastest growing sector of the County population and you have pledged to provide for that population. Delaying the construction will prolong the serious inequity in facilities and services that exist in East Columbia and will hurt seniors, particularly vulnerable seniors who need (and deserve) the planned Connections program.

I hear that despite last year's parking analysis findings that the current lot exceeds projected needs, for some reason the County has concerns about parking for the site and wants to acquire land for additional parking spots. Is that the only reason to delay?

As a Senior who uses the East Columbia Senior Center, my colleagues and I have waited many years for a new center. I urge you to reconsider your decision to delay this project and put full funding at an accelerated schedule in the FY2020 budget. Please don't disappoint us. Remember, we built this city, and rely on your efforts to sustain it for us!

Sincerely,
Betty H. Myers
5238 Raccoon Court
Columbia, MD 21045

410-715-1175
bettymyers@mac.com

Betty Myers
www.willowbrookpainters.com

Keep your love of nature, for that is the true way to understand art more and more.
-Vincent Van Gogh

Sayers, Margery

From: Susan Souder <susansouder@outlook.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 18, 2019 10:16 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.]

Calvin Ball, County Executive
George Howard Building
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council Members,

I was very disappointed to learn of the omission of construction funds for a new East Columbia 50+ Center (project CO 335) in the FY2020 budget. It is my understanding that the County has concerns about the parking for the site and wants to acquire land for additional parking spots. But, a parking site analysis was done last year and found that the parking lot meets the required number of spaces and that, in fact, there are 24 spaces above the minimum required.

Seniors are the fastest growing sector of the County population and will continue to grow greater than ever expected, you have pledged to provide for that population. Delaying the construction will prolong the serious inequity in facilities and services that exist in East Columbia and will hurt seniors, particularly vulnerable seniors who need (and deserve) the planned Connections program.

Seniors who use the East Columbia Senior Center have waited many years for a new center. I urge you to reconsider your decision to delay this project and put full funding at an accelerated schedule in the FY2020 budget. Please don't disappoint us.

Sincerely,
Susan Souder
11420 Little Patuxent Parkway
Unit 908
Columbia MD 21044
410-370-8491
Susansouder@outlook.com

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Sayers, Margery

From: allison korn <allisonkorn@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, April 18, 2019 9:24 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please support the new 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 Council Representatives:

I am writing to express my extreme disappointment that funds for the construction of a new East Columbia 50+ Center (project CO 335) are not included in the FY2020 budget.

The seniors of East Columbia (and others from all over the county who use the center) have waited too long for our center to be built. We have watched as every other part of the county gets state of the art facilities and we think this inequity should be remedied now. The center is small and overcrowded. Because of size limitations the program offerings are not as robust as they could and should be. The proposed location adjacent to the East Columbia Library is convenient (land acquisition is a non-issue), and enthusiastically supported. The plan to include a **Connections** program for seniors with physical and memory problems is much needed in East Columbia. Currently people have to travel too far to other centers to use this program. I know of people who cannot use the program because the distance by bus for family members is simply too far.

It is well known that the senior population in the county is growing, and East Columbia already has a high density of seniors who want programs and services in their own neighborhood. The plan for a new center has been on the books for many years now and it keeps getting delayed and delayed. Delaying construction will prolong the unfairness in parity with other 50+ centers. Construction will cost more the longer it is pushed into the future. We want the project fully funded and accelerated.

Of course, I am also writing the County Executive urging the project be funded. I urge you to support restoring the project to the budget. Please don't disappoint East Columbia seniors.

Sincerely,

Allison Korn

6550 Carlinda Avenue

Columbia, MD, 201046

allisonkorn@comcast.net

Sayers, Margery

From: Jill Bartos <jillbartos@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 18, 2019 7:52 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.]

Dear County Executives,

I am a 65 year-old resident of Kings Contrivance who attends a weekly painting class and movies at the Owen Brown senior center and I'm writing to you to express my disappointment and dismay at the omission of construction funds for a new East Columbia 50+ Center (project CO 335) in the FY2020 budget.

It is my understanding that the County has concerns about the parking for the site and wants to acquire land for additional parking spots. But, a parking site analysis was done last year and found that the parking lot meets the required number of spaces and that, in fact, there are 24 spaces above the minimum required.

You have acknowledged that seniors are the fastest growing sector of the County population and you have pledged to provide for that population. Delaying the construction will prolong the serious inequity in facilities and services that exist in East Columbia and will hurt seniors, particularly vulnerable seniors who need (and deserve) the planned Connections program.

Seniors who use the East Columbia Senior Center have waited many years for a new center. I urge you to reconsider your decision to delay this project and put full funding at an accelerated schedule in the FY2020 budget. Please don't disappoint us.

Sincerely,

Jill Bartos
7916 Red Jacket Way, Jessup, MD 20794
301-725-3022

Sayers, Margery

From: Wanda Daye <wrdaye@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2019 11:36 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Wanda Daye
Subject: East Columbia 50+ Center (project CO 335)

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

Calvin Ball, County Executive
George Howard Building
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear County Executive Ball,

I am writing to express my disappointment and dismay at the omission of construction funds for a new East Columbia 50+ Center (project CO 335) in the FY2020 budget. It is my understanding that the County has concerns about the parking for the site and wants to acquire land for additional parking spots. But, a parking site analysis was done last year and found that the parking lot meets the required number of spaces and that, in fact, there are 24 spaces above the minimum required.

You have acknowledged that seniors are the fastest growing sector of the County population and you have pledged to provide for that population. Delaying the construction will prolong the serious inequity in facilities and services that exist in East Columbia and will hurt seniors, particularly vulnerable seniors who need (and deserve) the planned Connections program.

Seniors who use the East Columbia Senior Center have waited many years for a new center. I urge you to reconsider your decision to delay this project and put full funding at an accelerated schedule in the FY2020 budget. Please don't disappoint us.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Wanda Daye
5705 Little Bells Row
Clarksville MD 21029
Wrdaye@aol.com

Sent from my iPad

Sayers, Margery

From: Wanda Daye <wrdaye@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2019 11:36 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Wanda Daye
Subject: East Columbia 50+ Center (project CO 335)

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

Calvin Ball, County Executive
George Howard Building
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear County Executive Ball,

I am writing to express my disappointment and dismay at the omission of construction funds for a new East Columbia 50+ Center (project CO 335) in the FY2020 budget. It is my understanding that the County has concerns about the parking for the site and wants to acquire land for additional parking spots. But, a parking site analysis was done last year and found that the parking lot meets the required number of spaces and that, in fact, there are 24 spaces above the minimum required.

You have acknowledged that seniors are the fastest growing sector of the County population and you have pledged to provide for that population. Delaying the construction will prolong the serious inequity in facilities and services that exist in East Columbia and will hurt seniors, particularly vulnerable seniors who need (and deserve) the planned Connections program.

Seniors who use the East Columbia Senior Center have waited many years for a new center. I urge you to reconsider your decision to delay this project and put full funding at an accelerated schedule in the FY2020 budget. Please don't disappoint us.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Wanda Daye
5705 Little Bells Row
Clarksville MD 21029
Wrdaye@aol.com

Sent from my iPad

Sayers, Margery

From: brenstokess@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2019 8:39 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: FUNDING FOR A NEW EAST COLUMBIA 50 PLUS CENTER

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

Dear Sir,

I ask that you please reconsider the funding for a desperately needed center for East Columbia - Project 335. Have you been to this center? Try walking through with your personal belongings and all the paraphernalia that's needed/required to take some of the classes. It's impossible to enter the walkway if another class is trying to exit. It's entirely too small.

There was some mention of not having adequate parking in the proposed plans. The parking lot analysis, however, showed that there is parking above the minimum amount of required spaces.

We need this building and for it to be included in the FY 2020 budget. PLEASE!

Sincerely,
Carollyn Alexander
5063 Thunder Hill Rd
Columbia MD 21045
410.730.4851

Sayers, Margery

From: Claire Femiano <cfemiano@fastmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2019 8:34 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: East Columbia Senior 50+ Center

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

To all Councilpersons,

I have been a resident of Howard County for over 40 years. I am frustrated and dismayed to see that no funding for the new Senior 50+ Center in East Columbia was put into the FY2020 budget.

A new center is desperately needed- the present one is woefully inadequate and tiny for such a heavily populated part of Howard County. Additionally, memory challenged and disabled seniors have no programs available to them in that area.

County Executive Ball made a pledge to support seniors and specifically the many seniors that use the East Columbia Senior Center. This project has been delayed for over 5 years already and it is grossly unfair to ask elderly citizens to wait any longer. Please consider requesting that County Executive Ball restore full funding for a new center in the FY2020 capital budget.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Claire Femiano
3405 Font Hill Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042
Cfemiano@fastmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Ann Wing <annwings1@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2019 10:54 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana
Subject: 50+ Center in Owen Brown

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

Dear Ms Rigby

I have been extremely impressed with your willingness to listen to your supporters.

Right now, I am asking you to please fund the completion of the Senior Center in Owen Brown. in the FY 20 Capital Budget. (Project C0355)

- It is ready to be constructed....land is available, the design is complete,
- .it is needed in a community where many of us early residents of Columbia are growing older. Space for physical activities, for gathering with others...to keep ourselves healthy in mind and body.
- We need space that will help those who are caring for elderly family members who have mental and physical issues.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely

Ann Wing

7457 Swan Point Way

Columbia 21045



Sayers, Margery

From: Carmen <cmortiz3@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2019 2:17 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana
Subject: Support Project C0335

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

> Dear Ms.Rigby:

> I am writing to support Project C0335, the building of a new stand-alone East Columbia 50+ Center. I am a senior Howard County resident and a frequent user of the East Columbia center. The current center is seriously inadequate to support services and activities for the growing senior population in East Columbia.

>

> I participate in exercise programs at the East Columbia 50+ Center. Since there is only one room large enough for exercises, only a limited number of programs are available. Furthermore, I play bridge twice weekly. The bridge room only holds two tables; therefore when we have twelve players, a third table is set up in a small area in the hall. I urge you to support full funding for the project on an accelerated timetable, specifically that it be completed in FY21.

>

> The senior community has testified at many Budget Hearings and Council meetings over the last 2 years explaining why we think building a new center should be a top priority. We urge you to fully fund the project in the FY 20 Capital Budget. Thank you for your support of this project.

>

> Sincerely,
> Carmen Ortiz and Rafael Ortiz
> 6602 Windsor Court
> Columbia, MD 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: allison korn <allisonkorn@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2019 2:14 PM
To: Allison Korn
Subject: Reminder to write your letters RE new East Columbia 50+ Center (list 2)

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

Time is running out, please send your letters now.

-----Original Message-----

From: allison korn [mailto:allisonkorn@comcast.net]
Sent: Thursday, March 07, 2019 8:09 PM
To: allisonkorn >> Allison Korn
Subject: Update on new 50+ activities and important request to write letters in support of new Center (list 1)

To Supporters of a New East Columbia 50+ Center:

We are writing for two reasons: to tell you about County Executive Ball's second budget meeting (held on March 5), and to ask you to write letters to the County Executive and County Council members in support of the project. We need a massive rush of letters before the FY20 budget is finalized.

1. The hearing went very well--over 40 people attended in support of our 4 speakers. The Tai Chi students wore their colorful uniforms; art students held "palette" signs and 20 others wore eye-catching orange "50+" badges. Our speakers did a wonderful job of explaining the reasons our current center is inadequate and the numerous benefits to be derived from a new, expanded center. Attached you'll see a photo showing the crowd as we waited for the hearing to begin.

2. IMPORTANT LETTER WRITING CAMPAIGN---PLEASE SEND LETTERS BY MARCH 18

The budget is still being developed. We need to write letters NOW urging the County Executive and County Council to support FULL FUNDING on an ACCELERATED TIMETABLE. We are suggesting the following language for your letters. HOWEVER, it is preferable to customize by adding your personal views and experiences and not copying it word for word.

Email to: calvinball@howardcountymd.gov

For bigger impact, use regular US Mail to:

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

Dear County Executive Ball,

I am writing to support Project C0335, the building of a new stand-alone East Columbia 50+ Center. I am a senior Howard County resident and a frequent user of the East Columbia center. The current center is seriously inadequate to

support services and activities for the growing senior population in East Columbia. I urge you to support full funding for the project on an accelerated timetable, specifically that it be completed in FY21.

The senior community has testified at many Budget Hearings and Council meetings over the last 2 years explaining why we think building a new center should be a top priority. We urge you to fully fund the project in the FY 20 Capital Budget. Thank you for your support of this project.

Sincerely,
[Your name and address]

Please send similar letters to all members of the County Council at:

Howard County Council
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Or by email to:

Liz Walsh at ewalsh@howardcountymd.gov Dear Ms. Walsh (District 1)

Opel Jones at ojones@howardcountymd.gov Dear Mr. Jones (District 2)

Christiana Mercer Rigby at crigby@howardcountymd.gov Dear Ms. Rigby (District 3)

Deb Jung at djung@howardcountymd.gov Dear Ms. Jung (District 4)

David Yungman at dyungmann@howardcountymd.gov Dear Mr. Yungman (District 5)

Thank you for writing your letters NOW!

Your East Columbia 50+ Center Steering Committee

(Fran LoPresti, Claire Femiano, Pearl Atkinson-Stewart
Henrietta Milward, Nelson Pollack, Allison Korn)

P.S. You can watch the hearing by pasting the following URL into your browser. Our speakers appear at approximately minutes: 43:30, 50 and 1:06.

http://howardcounty.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?clip_id=3778&fbclid=IwAR2dB1rKY5b4h_A74MPyZrPOI7O454MLWDbXtKeAsTdbh2jjm_z6Rbs-_z4

Sayers, Margery

From: leaouzi leaouzi <leaouzi@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 17, 2019 1:28 PM
To: Ball, Calvin; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David
Subject: Support for New East Columbia 50+ Center (Project C0335)

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

Calvin Ball, County Executive
Howard County Council Members

George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear County Executive Ball and Members of the Howard County Council,

I am writing to support Project C0335, the building of a new stand-alone East Columbia 50+ Center.

As a senior in Howard County and a participant in the current East Columbia Senior Center's Tai Chi program, I see first-hand that current facility is seriously inadequate to support much needed specialized services for the growing senior population in East Columbia – and throughout Howard County.

I urge you to support full funding for the project according to the proposed design developed by the architects, with considerable input from the senior community. I note that this state-of-the-art facility can be constructed on an accelerated timetable and cost-efficient basis because, e.g., existing county land adjacent to the East Columbia Library is available now.

Your senior community has testified at many Budget Hearings and Council meetings over the past few years and is united in advocating that this project be a top priority. We urge you to fully fund the project in the FY20 Capital Budget.

Thank you for your previous time and efforts, as well as continued support of this project.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Frankfort
Columbia, MD 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: Betsy Lew <blew7@verizon.net>
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2019 9:15 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana
Subject: Support for Project C0335---- the Building of a New Stand-alone 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 Ms. Rigby,

I have lived in Howard County since 1976, and I have participated in many activities in the various senior centers throughout the county. Since the opening of the East Columbia 50+ Center, it has been the senior center in which I have taken the most classes. and attended the most workshops. Through the years I have seen the East Columbia 50+ Center grow from a modest senior center to a vibrant, welcoming center with a fast-growing number of programs attracting increasing numbers of senior citizens.

Because of the increasing number of people participating in a growing number of programs, I want to request your support for Project C0335, the building of a new stand-alone East Columbia 50+ Center.

Currently, the East Columbia 50+ Center has very limited space. It is inadequate to support both the growing number of seniors who currently use the spaces in addition to those who will be eligible in the near future. Therefore, I urge you to support full funding for the project on an accelerated timetable so that the new East Columbia 50+ Center can be completed in FY 21.

I feel that the 50+ centers are crucial contributors to the mental and physical health, morale, and happiness of seniors. In the senior center, a senior can learn new skills, for example painting, dancing, knitting or crocheting; pursue a hobby, such as playing mahjong or card games; take part in an exercise program; practice tai chi or yoga, attend educational programs, and most importantly socializing with other people. All of these things can improve the quality of life for a senior.

Personally, I have benefited from the East Columbia 50+ Center for years. I feel strongly that my retirement years have been richer because of the opportunities to participate in the various programs offered by the center. For these reasons, I urge you to support the building of a new stand-alone East Columbia 50+ Center in order that others in the future will also have the opportunity to have a great quality of life in their golden years.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Betsy A. Lew

Sayers, Margery

From: Paul Verchinski <verchinski@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, March 8, 2019 3:49 PM
To: CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin B
Cc: Paul Verchinski
Subject: Project C0335, the building of a new stand-alone 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.]

You should not support this project in your next budget. Only 10% of Older Adults in HoCo use these centers. Segregation of Older adults is not a good idea. Older Adults use the Community Centers in Ellicott City and North Laurel very well and get used through out the day by all generations. We need to get the most bang for our buck where more of our citizens can use facilities and not just a small group. This is to be a \$19M facility which IMHO is sited poorly. I live on the east side of Columbia and do not support this project.

Paul Verchinski
5475 Sleeping Dog
Columbia

CB 24-2019

public hearing
testimony 4/9

April 9, 2019

My name is John Jennings. I live in Heritage Green, a townhouse development of eighty homes.

The reason I am here tonight is to let you know the County is about to make a bad decision, a decision that is impractical and illogical. I am talking about the County's proposal to develop the active playground behind Harper's Choice Middle School into a complex consisting of a new police headquarters, a fire station with accompanying fueling station and several additional buildings. More than 360 County employees will be employed in this complex. A new access road for this complex will be built to accommodate the emergency, police and employees' vehicles. This new road, fire and fueling stations will be located directly across the street from Heritage Green, no more than 50 yards from some of our homes.

If this complex is developed, our residents who currently enjoy a good quality of life will be confronted with dramatic changes. Our current quiet neighborhood will be punctuated with a clamor we have not known, including the sounds of emergency sirens and horns blowing, the rumbling of diesel engines, air brakes releasing, the beeping of trucks backing up and vastly increased vehicular traffic. And this will be 24-7-365, forever.

Vehicle traffic and the resulting safety issues on the two neighborhood roads, Rivendell and Cedar Lanes will increase substantially. With more than 360 employees in this complex and their vehicles travelling twice daily on these narrow streets,

together with emergency vehicles, will create congestion and traffic situations in which we are not accustomed. This daily usage of the new access road at an already slightly dangerous intersection will cause unknown safety issues. The County has made no plans for this intersection and traffic calming in the area. Additionally, children walking to and from the middle school will have to cross the new access road at the same time these emergency and employee vehicles are using it. The County seems oblivious to this and potentially dangerous situation.

Further, these unaccompanied preadolescent children will be walking on a path located very close to the fire station that will not be protected by a security fence. The children, some of whom may be curious and perhaps a little mischievous, could venture onto the fire station property and pose safety risks. Further, children playing on the middle school baseball field, which is only 50 yards from the fire station and people playing on Field 6, Cedar Lane Park West will periodically be retrieving balls from fire station property, again another safety issue.

A fueling station with two 10,000-gallon buried storage tanks will cause environmental problems for our residents. There is the risk of spillage while County vehicles and tanks are refueled. The County reports, "... there have been no significant spills..." at any of their other fueling sites. This means the "insignificant" spills will flow with surface water into the existing retention pond in our development and eventually into the Patuxent River run off. It's important to note the County

has discounted the results of their own "Fueling Stations" study which recommends a fueling station should not be sited within 500 feet of schools, parks, etc. Both the Harpers Choice Middle School and the athletic fields at Cedar Lane Park West are well within this distance.

Starting in late summer each year, the Columbia Ravens, the local youth football teams, use the field where this complex is to be built. If the complex is built on this field that they have used for fifteen years, more than 275 local children will be impacted each year.

When their football season starts, their games are played on Field 6, Cedar Lane Park West. The southern end of this field is no more than 50 yards from the proposed location for the County's fueling station. Multiple games are played all day and night. There is a constant movement of people and cars as games start and end. During game days the fields, parking areas, stands, and the surrounding roads are inundated with people and cars. Police do not enforce parking restrictions and the Columbia Association has to place a guard on the road to their Dog Park to prevent illegal parking in that area.

Bottom Line. A fire station with emergency vehicles running in and out during these times would be very unsafe. Rivendell Lane would be the only road that could be used. Cedar Lane would be out of question.

For these reasons, it is difficult to understand why the County is proposing to construct such a complex in this location. It is

readily apparent the County has not done the proper amount of due diligence. It seems someone made the decision to wedge this facility into an area bordering on a middle school, a dog park, athletic fields and our development without considering the inherent problems

I urge you to not support the construction of this complex.

Thank you.

John Jennings



HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

I, Larry Corsa, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

Heritage Green Townhouse Association, Inc. to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding Capital Budget items F5976 and P4928 to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Larry Corsa

Signature: *Lawrence J Corsa III*

Date: 4/9/2019

Organization: Heritage Green Townhouse Association, Inc.

Organization Address: 5305 Village Center Drive, PMB 184, Columbia, MD 21044

Number of Members: 80 Owners plus families

Name of Chair/President: Lawrence J Corsa III

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 5pm the day of the Public Hearing or delivered in person the night of the Public Hearing before testifying.

Project T7107 Downtown Columbia Patuxent Branch Trail Extension

Ted Markle
6281 Amherst Ave.
Columbia, Md 21046
410-730-3931

My testimony concerns project T7107 the Downtown Columbia Patuxent Branch Trail. This path will run along the Little Patuxent River from Downtown Columbia to Stevens Forrest Road and cross under Route 29.

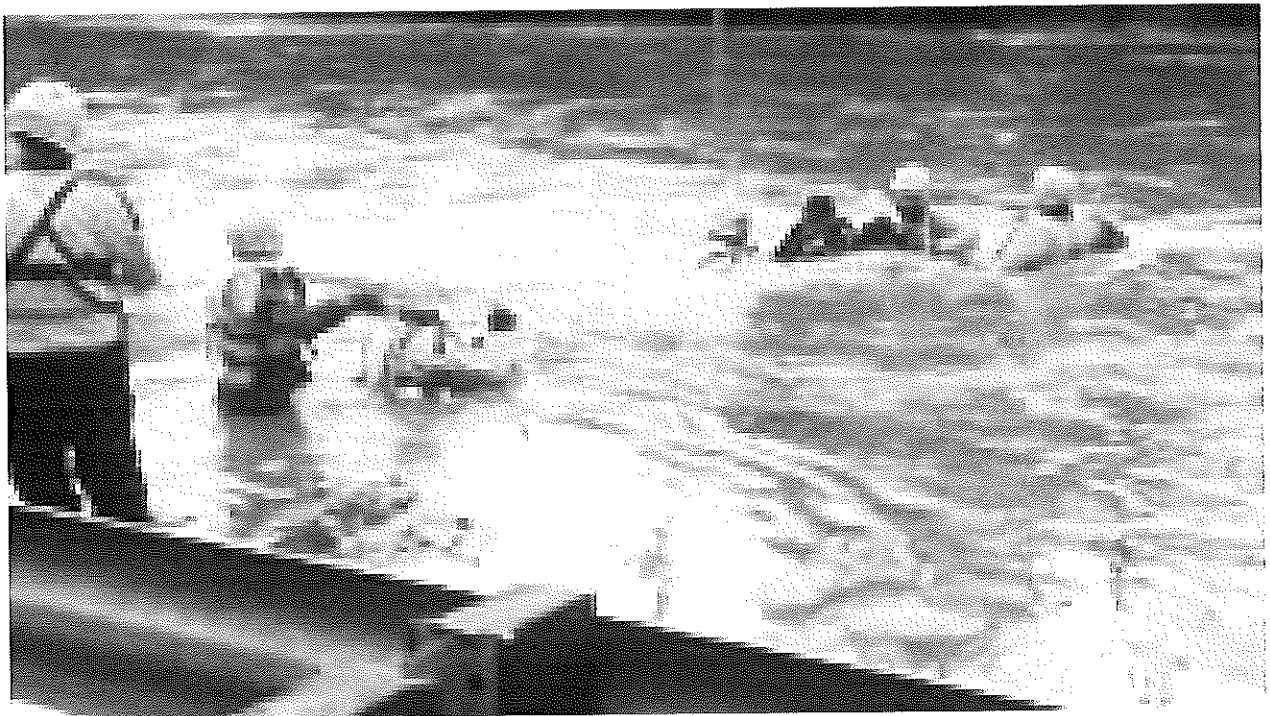
In light of the flooding in Howard County in recent years, I think we need to take a very close look at this proposed path. Because of the extreme flash flooding it is very unsafe to built a path in this area. Below is a picture of a flood near Route 29 with the red line showing where the path would be built.



April 30, 2014 Route 29 & Little Patuxent River- Mid-Storm

The most used flood plain designation is the 100 year flood plain. (There is no designation to show the 10 year or 1 year flood plain). By saying bike paths in the flood plain are OK does not tell the whole story. Recently, the area under the Route 29 bridge has been flooding almost monthly, making it 1000 times more likely to flood than at the top of the 100 year flood plain. (Bike advocates saying the police will close down the path and get everyone off the path if it floods is wishful thinking.) The area under the Route 29 bridge floods first, long before any roads flood.

Several years ago 2 kids climbed a tree to escape flood waters and had to be rescued by the fire department because of a flash flood from the Little Patuxent River. (In May, 2014 a police officer in Savage saved a girl from the swift current of the Little Patuxent River.) Below is a picture of a water rescue on Route 29 near the Little Patuxent River only 1/4 mile from the proposed path.



Rescue on Route 29, May, 2018; 1/4 mile from the proposed path

Bike advocates say that people will just get out of the way of rising waters. Well why didn't people in Ellicott City and on Route 29 get out of the way and why didn't they move their cars so dozens of cars would not have washed down the Patapsco River. The answer is flash floods are unpredictable and happen too quickly for people to get out of the way once they realize they are in trouble. We have already had enough heartache with too many deaths in Howard County from flash floods we don't need to intentionally put people in harm's way.

I have seen the area under the Route 29 bridge flood when Columbia didn't receive any rain. The water came upstream from Ellicott City. During a flood in 2018 the Little Patuxent River rose 10 feet in a matter of minutes because of upstream waters from Ellicott City even though it had stopped raining in Columbia.

During heavy rains the water running under the Route 29 bridge is funneled into a small opening creating a very dangerous situation. Also, the path under the bridge will need to be narrow and the vertical clearance less than the recommend height.

See the picture below.



Sewer Manhole under Route 29 bridge February 2017

The plan is to put a flood gauge under the bridge which will light up warning signs on the path in the case of rising water. The problem with this idea is since the water level is only a few feet from the top of bank the warning lights will go off every time there is 1/2" rain or more. Also, after a heavy rain the water in the river can stay high for days; therefore, the flood warnings lights will stay on for days. After awhile people , especially the kids, won't pay any attention to the warning signs because they will be on frequently. (I have DO NOT trespassing signs on my property and only about 30% of adults and 10% of kids pay any attention to the signs. When we get to the point of having to install flooding warning lights we should not build this path.)

The reason that the path is proposed is because bike advocates state there needs to be a path from downtown Columbia to Savage. There is currently a path that runs from Downtown Columbia crosses the Route 29 bridge path and goes to Savage only 3/8 of a mile from the proposed path. (I have ridden this path many times.) The proposed path is unnecessary and duplicative.



Route 29 bridge path Columbia 3/8 of a mile from proposed path

In 2014 Columbia Association , who owns most of the land, paid for a feasibility study to be done on the proposed path. (Obviously the consultant stated that the path was feasible since CA paid for the study.) This study was immediately accepted by the Howard County DOT as the basis to go ahead with this project. This was not an independent study as Howard county did not perform this study and should not be the basis on which to build this path. (Bike advocates are very aggressive and are loath to make any changes to the plan.) I am hoping that common sense will overrule politics and this project removed from the county's budget.

P.S.

If the path were built from Downtown Columbia to Stevens Forrest Road that would make 5 places to cross Route 29 within a 1 1/2 mile area. These include 2 bike and pedestrian paths (the other path is the Route 29 bike path bridge) and 2 roads (Broken Land Pkwy and Route 175) crossing Route 29 within a one 1/2 mile area. Bridge Columbia would be less likely to receive approval.

Tuesday, April 9th, 2019

Dear Howard County Counsel,

My name is Bethany Burke and I am here to represent the Savage Community Association. I am a Howard County resident and board member on the SCA. I would like to start by saying that we are disappointed that the funding for complete streets in Savage has been pushed back to FY 2021. However, we are thankful that during FY 2020 construction will begin to address the dangerous intersection of Foundry St and Washington St. We do recognize that the county budget is limited but we also feel like our needs are not being met.

The area of most concern is the reductions in funds to make repairs on historic Carroll Baldwin Hall. On pages 121-122 of the Executive Proposed Capital Budget for FY 2020, funding for exterior renovations to historic Carroll Baldwin Hall was reduced by \$100,000. This funding is critical to repair a crumbling entrance, improve drainage to prevent further water intrusion, and to improve access for persons with disabilities. We would also like to stress that a large portion of the construction is already underway.

We would like to know why this project was selected for a funding reduction. It is essential that we complete these critical repairs before additional water damage occurs and to improve access. Furthermore, why didn't anyone at the county level ask us about the project or the impact of this reduction? We are very disappointed that we were not at least given notice that a reduction to the funds was being considered.

I, on behalf of the SCA, implore you to reinstate funding to repairs to the Carroll Baldwin Hall. The hall has had water damage due to a poorly designed drainage system and that must be corrected in order to preserve this historical site. The stairs on the west side of the hall have been crumbling for many years. And the current ramps are not sufficient to provide access for persons with disabilities. These repairs are critical to maintain this cherished historic building that is the pride of our community. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Cordially,

Bethany Burke



**HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION**

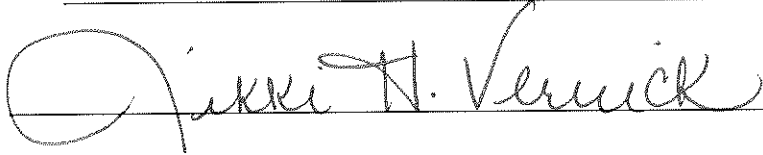
I, Nikki Highsmith Vernick, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

The Horizon Foundation to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding the capital budget to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Nikki Highsmith Vernick

Signature: 

Date: April 9, 2019

Organization: The Horizon Foundation

Organization Address: 10221 Wincopin Circle, Suite 200, Columbia, MD 21044

10221 Wincopin Circle, Suite 200, Columbia, MD 21044

Number of Members: NA

Name of Chair/President: Nikki Highsmith Vernick

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HORIZON FOUNDATION

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Ned Tillman

David Wolf

Bill No: FY 2020 Budget – Funding for Bicycle Infrastructure
Position: SUPPORT

The Horizon Foundation, the largest independent health philanthropy in Maryland and Howard County's local health foundation, fully supports the \$2.2 million allotted in the budget for expanding bike routes in Howard County. We recognize these are tight fiscal times, and we appreciate that this level of county spending shows that bike routes are a priority.

The Foundation believes – and research shows – that a more bikeable and walkable Howard County will be a healthier Howard County. Too many of our streets are not accessible or safe for walkers, cyclists, bus riders or people with disabilities. This was a top issue named by residents in the county executive's listening sessions and included in several sections of the county executive's Transition Team report.

Thousands of residents also have weighed in on this issue and told county leaders that they want better, safer biking and walking built into our community. Together we believe that *everyone* should be able to safely, easily and comfortably bike or walk where they need to go, and get the physical activity they need to stay healthy.

Funding and laws are both critical to making this possible.

We now need a vision and an accountable, strong implementation plan to be set forth by law, which will guarantee safer, more accessible walking and biking for our residents now and in the future. A strong complete streets law will require new neighborhoods, new businesses and rehabbed public spaces to have safe places to bike and walk. A strong complete streets law will make a real, specific commitment to making changes that will last for generations – with transparency, public involvement, equity considerations and accountability.

We have been talking about bike routes and pedestrian routes for a long time in this county. We have plans that have yet to be built, and thousands of people who have been waiting for action. For many in our community, bike routes and sidewalks are a necessity to safely get to work, to school, to the bus stop and other everyday locations.

Investing in these changes and implementing laws to move these changes forward will yield many benefits – from reducing greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change to increasing competitiveness for local employers to attract workers.

We look forward to working with you, the county executive and our partners to continue making progress.



HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

I, Jack Guarneri, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

Bicycling Advocates of HC (a 501(c)4) to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding FY2020 Budget to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: James M. (Jack) Guarneri

Signature: JM Guarneri

Date: 4/9/19

Organization: Bicycling Advocates of HC/Bike HOC

Organization Address: 10224 Little Brickhouse Ct
Elliott City, MD 10224

Number of Members: 10 Board / > 500 Supporters

Name of Chair/President: Jack Guarneri

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 5pm the day of the Public Hearing or delivered in person the night of the Public Hearing before testifying.

Jack Guarneri

President
Bicycling Advocates of Howard County
A 501(c)4-Non Profit



Cell: (301)844-8930
Home: (410)465-7892
president@bikehoco.org
<http://www.bikehoco.org>
<https://www.facebook.com/BikeHoCo>



Bicycling Advocates of Howard County

Testimony to County Council Public Budget Hearing at April 9, 2019

The Bicycling Advocates of Howard County (Bike HoCo) was founded as a 501(c)4 non-profit in 2008 by groups representing over 1000 cyclists. There are two major Bike HoCo objectives that have remained consistent: to increase cycling safety through infrastructure improvements and greater awareness and to be proponents that bicycling should be a part of an energy efficient, environmentally sustainable transportation system for Howard County and the region, a forward-looking system that meets the needs and desires of all between the ages of 8 to 80+. Bike HoCo has functioned as a subject matter expert and provided advise to the County Government and the County Executive on bicycling issues in Howard County.

Bike HoCo is uniquely positioned to help identify, analyze, comment, prioritize and advise on the impact of this year's budget on the *Bike Howard* Master Plan having been involved in its development, funding, and execution to date. We have several issues that I want to review:

1. In the 3 years since Council Resolution approved Bike Howard unanimously in April 2016 this year's budget will finally allow progress to be made but this is just the beginning and more significant money will be needed in next few years.
2. The near term *Bike Howard* projects are mitigation/remediation of lack of attention given to bicycle accessibility in the past, and these have been underfunded.
3. A *Complete Streets Law*, a new *Design Manual* for roads, and a rewrite of *Development Regulations* are needed for future in order to control growth and move forward with multimodal transportation in Howard County.

WHY:

The primary issue for cyclists has been the exponential increase in automobile traffic on all County roads but especially on those frequently cycled roads that we use daily. It has been like a storm that starts with some light rainfall and eventually turns into a flood or 1 school portable that turns into 15. Cyclists started experiencing the impact of growth on roads in mid 2000's - which is why leaders from major cycling groups formed Bike HoCo. Roads that were formerly safe, or at least rideable, became much less safe -- slowly, over time. Traffic is cumulative and each little increase in development resulted in an increase car trips per day. This is why we decided we needed the County to remediate/mitigate the problem on roads we ride and in the long-term control growth and to change the culture to avoid having to fund future mitigation.

WHAT:

Bike HoCo worked with the County to create a Bicycle Advisory Group (BAG) and functioned as intermediaries' with the cycling community to start developing a bicycle master plan in 2012. It took 4 years to finalize and to have the County Executive and Council approve *Bike Howard*. At

that point we believed that we were finally on our way to improving/adding bicycling infrastructure. That proved to be optimistic.

Near-projects in *Bike Howard* were intended to add 72 miles of infrastructure over 10 years at a ROM total cost of approximately \$30 Million. In the past 3 years, only about 10 miles of bike lanes have been added (see Figure) primarily through restriping roads being repaved by Public Works. In that same time period approximately 5000 units of residential housing and over 25,000 car trips per day were added to HC roads. A total of less than 2 million dollars was spent over FY 17/18/19. Our neighboring Counties have spent significantly more on bicycle improvements in the same timeframe: Montgomery County has committed \$26.69 per resident and Anne Arundel \$10.14 per resident bicycling transportation projects while HC has spent only \$3.20 per resident. This years proposed budget for Bike Howard of \$2 Million in County funding plus for Bike Howard plus Grants and pathway projects averages \$7 per resident. We are finally making progress, but have a long way to go.

Bike Howard Approved
↓

	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	Projection FY19
Miles of Sidewalk (cumulative)	1045.2	1065.3	1065.7	1068.3	1071.3
Miles of Bike Lane (cumulative)	23.4	24.0	26.9	34.4	37.6
Miles of Shared use Pathway (cumulative)	105.8	106.2	107	107.7	108.1
Total miles of sidewalks, bike lanes and pathways	1174.4	1195.5	1199.6	1210.4	1217

Figure: Howard County Progress on Infrastructure for Bicycling and Walking (Office of Transportation)

HOW:

Finally, the majority of the near-term (*Bike Howard Express*) projects are intended to remediate, or at least mitigate, the damage to bicycle accessibility that has occurred in the County over the past 20+ years. For the future we have to address traffic and multimodal accessibility for all road users; we can't build our way out of traffic congestion or even mitigate it unless we first control it. The way forward is to change our culture in the County and to enable alternative transportation by bicycle and walking. We need to accelerate the County adoption of three documents needed to safeguard our transportation system and to lead to a more environmentally sustainable future:

- A Complete Streets Law with adequate level of detail on County Department responsibilities and action items with specific deadlines.
- A new Public Works Design Manual (Volume III Roads and Bridges) that provides guidance for new roads and rebuilt roads to ensure they adequately address the needs of bicyclists and pedestrians.
- A rewrite of the County Development Regulations (currently under development as HoCode Rewrite) which should add stringent guidelines for multimodal transportation in the new development approval process and
 - In order to accelerate this process a County Council Bill similar to the Anne Arundel Council Bill 78-2018 which added a multi-modal transportation assessment to existing County development policies and processes.

Testimony delivered by Jack Guarneri, President Bike HoCo



**HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION**

I, Lori Lilly, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

Howard EcoWorks to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding D1164 to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Lori Lilly

Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

Date: 4/9/19

Organization: Howard EcoWorks

Organization Address: 9770 Patuxent Woods Dr

Columbia MD 21042

Number of Members: 11

Name of Chair/President: Bill Withers / Dick Hesser

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 5pm the day of the Public Hearing or delivered in person the night of the Public Hearing before testifying.



**HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION**

I, Kevin McAuley, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

Wilde Lake Village Board to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding Complete Streets to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Kevin McAuley

Signature: Kevin McAuley

Date: 4/9/19

Organization: Wilde Lake Village Board

Organization Address: 10400 Cross Fox Lane

Number of Members: 5

Name of Chair/President: Kevin McAuley

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 5pm the day of the Public Hearing or delivered in person the night of the Public Hearing before testifying.



**HOWARD COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL
Testimony submitted to Howard County Council
Regarding FY2020 Proposed Budget
May 1, 2019**

Good evening Chairperson Rigby and members of the County Council. I am Coleen West, Executive Director of the Howard County Arts Council located at 8510 High Ridge Road. On behalf of the Arts Council, I want to thank you for all that you do for the residents of Howard County.

In 1980, the Howard County Council adopted Section 12.804(a) to the County Code to establish and provide support for a private, non-profit arts agency to foster the arts. Shortly afterward, the County designated Howard Arts United, which later changed its name to the Howard County Arts Council, as the County's permanent arts agency authorized to distribute public funds appropriated for the arts. This year we are celebrating - 38 years of fostering the arts and serving the community.

I am here tonight to ask you to support County Executive Calvin Ball's proposed budget of \$890,000 – a 2.9% increase over last year's arts appropriation.

Seventy-four percent of the proposed funding will be used to support 4 grant programs that provide operating and project support to county arts organizations, K-12 schools through Parent Teacher Associations, and Baltimore City arts and cultural organizations. These grants support 50-60 organizations that provide a broad range of arts and arts education programs for both children and adults. Attendance at arts events funded through these grant programs is 311,000 and volunteers for local arts groups receiving grants donated 100,000 hours – a value of \$2.4 million – clear indicators that the arts are important to the citizens of Howard County.¹

In addition to the intrinsic value of the arts; a strong arts sector improves our quality of life and is an economic asset that stimulates business activity, attracts tourism revenue, and retains a high quality work force. The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reports

that the arts and culture sector made up 4.2 percent, or \$763.6 billion, of the nation's GDP—a larger share of the economy than agriculture, transportation, or warehousing. In addition, arts and culture generates 4.9 million jobs and U.S. exports of arts goods (e.g., movies, paintings, jewelry) resulted in a \$20 billion arts trade surplus.²

Local companies face a global marketplace where value is increasingly determined by technology, knowledge and ideas. A study published by the Conference Board (serving the Fortune 1000 U.S. companies), found 97% of employers say creativity and innovation skills are important in U.S. workplaces, while 85% of these employers say they can't find the creative, innovative applicants they seek.³

In an economy that is driven by creativity and innovation, we will need to attract the creative class – artists, entrepreneurs, and innovators. In order to attract - and retain them - we will not only need strong public education, safety, and transportation systems, but we will need to provide adequate wages and have maker spaces as well as world-class entertainment, arts, and recreational amenities, and unique live-work options that appeal to their active, 24-7 lifestyle.

Howard County has positioned itself well to meet these expectations. We have a vision for a vibrant arts, retail and entertainment district in Downtown Columbia, ownership of Merriweather Post Pavilion has been turned over to the Downtown Arts and Culture Commission, the iconic Chrysalis amphitheatre is open, and Ellicott City was recently named one of the "Top 20 Leading Creative Class Cities" by Richard Florida.⁴ In addition, we have a growing state-of-the-art community college, the arts curriculum in our public schools is one of the strongest in the nation, we have excellent recreational facilities and libraries, and we are home to 763 arts-related businesses that employ 3,511 people in the County.⁵ The arts sector accounts for 3.9% of the total businesses in the County, 1.7% of the people they employ, and is made up of major tourist attractions, for-profit media and design businesses, and a vibrant network of non-profit arts groups.

Further, the National Center for Arts Research released a study that measured arts vibrancy across the United States. Based on the 5 characteristics assessed, Howard County scored:

- higher than 91% of counties in the US for the number of Arts and Culture Organizations and Individual Artists in our community;
- higher than 96% of counties for the amount of contributions raised and program revenue earned;
- higher than 94% of counties in terms of local, state and federal government support for the arts;
- higher than 99% of counties in terms of its socio-economic status
- and higher than 82% of counties for leisure characteristics like restaurants and hotels.⁶

Howard County is a special place that has developed a strong community for the arts. To illustrate this point, a 2015 study by Webb Management Services⁷ found:

- Howard County residents spend more per capita on arts and entertainment out of the seven Baltimore-Washington metro counties.
- Howard County has the second highest number of individual artists and creative industries per capita out of the seven metro counties.
- And, Howard County has the second highest level of arts participation per capita out of the seven metro counties.

The arts (both for- and non-profit) are an important part of the County's small business sector AND the heART of the arts community are non-profit groups such as the Columbia Festival of the Arts, HoCoPoLitSo, Rep Stage and others. These non-profits provide opportunities for engagement and participation, they incubate artistic ideas and enterprises, and they create distinctive experiences that attract tourists, businesses and residents alike.

It takes a special ecosystem to maintain a vibrant arts community on a local level – you need the talent and dedication of practicing artists, strong arts organizations, innovative businesses, enthusiastic audiences, financial support and arts-friendly policies from government, and contributions from businesses and individuals. In addition, you need affordable space to incubate, create, and produce the arts and you need appropriate space to present the work and engage the public.

The non-profits work year round to make the arts available to people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities. They do an incredible amount of work with very little resources. Even in good times, their budgets are extremely fragile. County funding provides them with a reliable source of unrestricted support that they use to underwrite their core activities and to leverage private dollars.

County investment in the arts serves the public interest by broadening public access to the arts and by fostering diverse forms of expression. The non-profit arts groups, in turn, give back to our community by enhancing our quality of life, attracting businesses and jobs, and generating revenue for the County. In FY18, not only did Howard County grantees provide us with exceptional programming, they used these funds to leverage \$3.8 million in revenues – 43% from earned income and admissions, 22% Howard County, 13% individuals, 8% State and Federal, 8% corporations, 3% foundations, 3% from the Columbia Association– and 135 FTE jobs.⁸

Statewide, there are 13,185 arts-related businesses that generate 52,723 jobs⁹, including 317 non-profit arts groups that generate 17,688 FTE jobs. The non-profit sector alone has a total annual impact of \$1.4 billion.¹⁰

The arts add tourism dollars to the local economy as well. Locally, 20-30% of our non-profit arts audiences are made up of people who reside outside of Howard County,¹¹ these visitors come to our County and spend money at local restaurants and businesses. The Maryland State Department of Commerce reports that every \$1 of operating generates an additional \$4.12 in spending on goods and services.¹² Using this

formula, the non-profit arts groups in Howard County, generated an extra \$15 million in secondary spending to our local economy in FY18 for a total economic impact of \$19.45 million (this does not include revenue from for-profit venues such as Merriweather Post Pavilion, Toby's Dinner Theatre, movie theaters, or design, marketing and printing companies, or others that do not receive direct funding from the Arts Council).

Seventy-four percent of the proposed county funding will go to support 4 grant programs that provide operating and project grants to 50-60 organizations and schools.

- 1) The Community Arts Development (CAD) program provides operating and project grants to local arts organizations as well as non-arts groups interested in presenting arts programs. In FY18, the Arts Council awarded \$345,000 (CAD: \$330,000, JRT: \$15,000; OD: \$0) to 19 Howard County organizations through this grant.
- 2) The Baltimore City Arts and Culture (BCAC) program awards grants to city organizations that have regional significance and provide considerable services to Howard County residents. In FY18, we awarded \$168,000 to 11 city organizations.
- 3) The Outreach Howard program awards grants to City grantees to produce projects IN Howard County. In FY18, \$40,000 was awarded to 7 organizations.
- 4) The Artist-in-Education (AiE) program, a partnership with the County PTAs, provides grants to place visiting artists in school classrooms to enhance student experiences and skills and meet local and state goals for arts education. In FY19, we awarded \$37,131 to 21 schools.

The CAD, BCAC, and AiE programs must be matched at least 1-to-1 by the grant recipient. The goals of the grant programs are:

- To foster excellence, diversity and vitality in arts offerings for Howard County residents.
- To broaden opportunities for Howard County audiences, artists, and arts organizations.
- To increase the availability of arts activities in Howard County. And,
- To increase awareness of arts.

All grantees are required to submit final reports, which the Arts Council uses to evaluate grant programs, to track attendance and budget figures, and to hold grantees accountable to their request. These FY18 reports show that community interest and support, in terms of participation, is very strong – 311,000 attended arts events sponsored, in part, through County funds and 100,000 volunteer hours, valued at \$2.4 million, were donated. We also provided opportunities for 5,900 artists through these grant programs.

In addition to the grants program, the proposed budget provides funds to support the Arts Council's other principle program, the 32,000 square foot multi-purpose Howard County Center for the Arts in Ellicott City. At the Center, we sponsor year-round classes, art exhibits in our galleries, and performances in the community black box theatre. We also provide low cost studios for 14 visual artists, office space for 3 resident arts groups, and meeting space for 6 volunteer run groups that participate in our Arts Advancement Program. In FY18, 34,154 people visited the Center and we provided opportunities for 4,590 artists and 2,465 students to showcase their work. Whether they take a class, view an exhibit, drop in a studio, or enjoy a performance in the black box theatre, the Center provides rewarding experiences in the arts for people of all ages and from all walks of life.

Funds we receive from the County also support county-wide initiatives, such as, our on-line arts calendar, ARTsites, a partnership with 12 sites throughout the County to place sculptures in public spaces for one year, as well as free community-based arts activities for underserved audiences, such as our Head StART in ART program.

Head StART in ART is a model artist-in-residence program for preschoolers from low-income families that has been recognized by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Maryland State Arts Council as an exemplary early childhood arts program. This program introduces 100-150 children to practicing artists and provides them with experiences and training in the arts that would otherwise not take place. Each residency is designed to provide age-appropriate activities that complement Head Start's curriculum and reinforce core life and learning skills that are needed for future success. This program is free to participants. It received the John W. Holland Service Award from the Community Action Council in 2011. Cuts to the Arts Council budget would cause us to reduce or eliminate free public programs such as this and limit free public access to the arts.

Cuts would also adversely affect the groups that receive County funding through the Arts Council's grant programs. Local treasures, such as the Columbia Orchestra, the Columbia Festival of the Arts, and HoCoPoLitSo rely on these grants to meet their day-to-day operational needs. Unrestricted funds for general operations are rare, the Arts Council, through its grant from the County, is one of the only sources of such support. As mentioned earlier, the operations of the non-profit arts groups, both large and small, are extremely fragile – any cuts to the arts budget will have a negative impact on our local arts groups, our community, and the people we serve.

In addition to the economic impact mentioned earlier, the arts impact our daily lives in other tangible ways. Numerous independent studies from the academic, arts, business, law enforcement, medical and technology fields confirm that the arts are an effective means to address a wide variety of issues and challenges in our community such as:

1) Workforce Development

Early encouragement and training in the arts help students develop core life and social skills that lead to future success, both academically and in the work place. To quote educator, Paul Lehman, "A lot of what is taught in schools suggests that

there are correct and incorrect answers – as evidenced by the use of multiple choice and true/false questions. In the real world, questions are not posed that way.” He goes on to say that the academic, business, and public sectors say today's graduates are not prepared to keep our workforce competitive in the new global economy. This is supported by the Conference Board study cited earlier. In order to be competitive and address real-life circumstances, employers need people who can do more than check off an answer from a prepared list of options or people who have only been taught what is tested - they need people who are able to make independent, complex judgments and decisions. The arts, by their very nature, teach people to seek multiple interpretations and solutions, weigh options and think critically. They also teach us how to be more tolerant and open.

In order to attract and maintain a creative workforce, greater emphasis on arts education and practice is needed in our schools and communities.

2) Education

The contributions the arts make to academic success are well documented, I will take this opportunity to cite two important studies. First, a report from the College Board Profile of SAT and Achievement Test Takers, which has been tracking tests for decades, shows that students who studied the arts or music for four or more years, on average, score 93 points better on their SAT scores than students with just one-half year of arts or music.¹³ Second, is a study from UCLA that followed a sample of 25,000 American high school students over a ten-year period. The results of this study show that students who studied the arts had higher grades, scored better on standardized tests, had lower dropout rates, and were more active in community affairs than other students. In addition, it found that students from disadvantaged families who studied the arts improved their overall school performance more rapidly than other students.¹⁴

While studying the arts, students hone their perceptual, analytic and interpretive skills while developing creative thinking, communication and problem-solving

abilities – providing them with the critical skills needed to succeed in school and in life.

The arts also provide a common ground for understanding. They facilitate intercultural understanding and provide a common lexicon for building relationships in an increasingly diverse and global society. With the growing number of non-English speaking students enrolling in our public schools, it is important to maintain a strong arts curriculum, one that is integrated with other subjects, in order to connect with non-English speakers and bridge the cultural gap.

3) Community Health and Wellness

The arts have a positive impact on community health and wellness. Nearly one-half of the nation's healthcare institutions provide arts programming for patients, families, and staff; 78 percent deliver these programs because of their healing benefits to patients—shorter hospital stays, better pain management, and less medication.¹⁵ Physicians and therapists use visual art, music, dance, and drama to treat patients with a variety of therapeutic needs. Here, the arts are used to strengthen speech patterns, self-image, and socialization skills; they help patients overcome or reduce physical dysfunction; and music therapy, in particular, has been very successful in treating seniors with Alzheimer's Disease. Military service members and Veterans rank art therapies in the top 4 (out of 40) interventions and treatments.¹⁶ The arts not only help patients cope with loss, isolation, depression, and the effects of mental and physical illnesses, but help families cope as well.

The arts provide a means for seniors to remain active and productive in the community as participants, volunteers and audience members. Controlled research by the Center on Aging found that older Americans involved in the arts demonstrated better health, fewer doctor visits, and less medication usage – saving money and improving the quality of life of seniors.¹⁷

As Howard County's special needs and senior populations grow, more programs, such as the Arts Council's Fabulous Fifty+ Players musical theatre program for older adults and the No Boundaries musical theatre program for people with developmental disabilities, will be needed to meet their needs. In addition, infrastructure and specialized training and professional arts service providers are needed to integrate the arts into community health and wellness service delivery systems.

4) Youth At Risk

The arts help at-risk youth. Numerous studies have found that arts education programs can help reduce dropout rates - increasing the retention and engagement rates of students and raising educational attainment levels. Participation in arts programs decreases young people's involvement in delinquent behavior, increases academic outcomes for disadvantaged children, and improves students' attitudes about themselves and their future. Studies by the U.S. Department of Justice demonstrate increased pro-social behavior among adjudicated youth involved with arts programs.¹⁸ Similarly, an evaluation of Core Arts examined the effect of arts programs on adjudicated youth in Mississippi and found that participants in this program made notable improvement in cooperation, self-control, academic performance, interpersonal skills, attitude, and incidence of disruptive or risky behavior.¹⁹

As the number of youth-related incidents continues to rise, Howard County may want to explore options to use the arts as a preventative measure or as an alternative teaching method for troubled youth or those suffering from mental health issues.

While many of us value the intrinsic impact of the arts on our lives - as an advocate for the arts, the Arts Council knows it is important to show how the arts impact the wider community. As County leaders look for ways to improve our economy and maintain our

quality of life, the arts can be – and should be - part of the solution for economic and workforce development, for community revitalization, for academic success, for life-long learning, for community health and wellness, and for our own personal growth.

In closing, the arts entertain, engage, and enlighten us in many different ways and on many different levels. They are a good investment with many great returns.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak with you this evening.

¹ Source: Howard County Arts Council Attendance Report for FY17 Grantees, 2017.

² Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis and National Endowment for the Arts, <http://mcs.smu.edu/artsresearch2014/articles/blog-white-papers/how-arts-vibrant-are-americas-cities-heres-every-county-ranked>, March 2018.

³ *Ready To Innovate*, Conference Board, 2008, cited on www.artsusa.org/information_services/toolkit by Americans for the Arts.

⁴ *America's Leading Creative Class Cities in 2015*, Richard Florida. *City Lab*, The Atlantic Monthly Group, April 20, 2015.

⁵ *Creative Industries: Business & Employment in the Arts*, Americans for the Arts and Dun & Bradstreet, 2017.

⁶ *Interactive: Arts Vibrancy Across the US*, National Center for Arts Research, Southern Methodist University, 2017. <https://sites.smu.edu/meadows/heatmap/index.html>

⁷ *Needs Assessment For Arts Facilities*, Howard County, MD, Webb Management Services, 2015, pg 20.

⁸ Source: Howard County Arts Council Revenue Sources for FY18 Grantees, 2018.

⁹ *Creative Industries 2017: The State Report*, Americans for the Arts and Dun & Bradstreet, 2017.

¹⁰ *Economic Impact of the Arts in Maryland*, Maryland Department of Commerce, 2017.

¹¹ *ArtsVision: State of the Arts in Howard County 2003*, Howard County Arts Council and Vision Howard County, 2003, page 21.

¹² *Economic Impact of the Arts in Maryland*, Maryland Department of Commerce, 2017.

¹³ *2016 College-Bound Seniors: Total Group Profile Report*, The College Board, 2017; analysis by Americans for the Arts, 2018.

¹⁴ *A Study of Model Community Arts Programs*, Howard County Arts Council and the Horizon Foundation, 2002, pp 76-77.

¹⁵ *2009 State of the Field Report: Arts in Healthcare*, Society for the Arts in Healthcare, 2009.

¹⁶ Source: blog.americansforthearts.org/2017/02/14/top-10-reasons-to-support-the-arts-in-2017.

¹⁷ Source: Americans For the Arts, www.artsusa.org.

¹⁸ Source: Americans For The Arts, www.artsusa.org.

¹⁹ *A Study of Model Community Arts Programs*, Howard County Arts Council and the Horizon Foundation, 2002, pp 77-78.



HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

I, COLEEN WEST, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

HOWARD COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding FY2020 BUDGET to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: COLEEN WEST, HCAC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Signature: Coleen West

Date: 5/1/19

Organization: HOWARD COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL

Organization Address: 8510 HIGH RIDGE ROAD

ELICOTT CITY, MD 21043

Number of Members: 14 BOARD MEMBERS

Name of Chair/President: JULIE HUGHES JENKINS, PRESIDENT
HCAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 5pm the day of the Public Hearing or delivered in person the night of the Public Hearing before testifying.

Good evening Council Chairperson Rigby and members of the Howard County council. My name is Misako Aoki, and I am the artistic director for Misako Ballet Company. Misako Ballet is a professional non-profit dance company, created in 2006, whose mission is to create classical ballet and Japanese-themed performances to bring joy to our community.

We receive a Community Arts Development Grant and a Jim Rouse subsidy grant from the Howard County Arts Council.

I am Japanese and desire to offer our community an experience of Japanese culture. To do this I combine western ballet and Japanese folk culture to create an original ballet style: Classical with a Japanese Twist. In recent years I choreographed one-act Japanese ballets based on Japanese folk tales such as, The Grateful Crane, Celestial Maidens, and Momotaro. Over the last several years, the Jim Rouse Theatre subsidy grant has given us the opportunity to present our newest Japanese themed ballets in this professional theatre.

Misako Ballet has performed in many other venues in Howard County and beyond including the Columbia Association's Sister City's event, the Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington DC, the Light City Festival in Baltimore, and at Baltimore-Kawasaki Sister City events.

Within Howard County, Misako Ballet Company has been committed to bringing dance to the entire community by providing free performances at public libraries, senior centers and the public schools. The Howard County Arts Council grants make these free concerts and community events possible.

Finding funds can often be difficult for arts organizations. Fortunately, since our beginning in 2007, Misako Ballet has received a Community Development Grant and in recent years, a Jim Rouse Subsidy grant from the Howard County Arts Council. These grants have been essential to our ability to grow and sustain ourselves and address the challenges of running a performing arts organization.

On behalf of Misako Ballet Company, we thank the Council for providing our local Arts Council with resources to support local artists and encourage you to not only continue to provide them with resources but to increase those resources so that small artistic companies like ours can continue to grow and flourish in Howard County.

Thank you for your time.

I am pleased to submit my testimony on behalf of Howard County Arts Council. I would first like to thank everyone in this room for taking to time to listen to my testimony and the Arts Council for giving me this opportunity to speak on behalf of the Head StART in ART program.

Head Start has built a long lasting relationship with the Arts Council and all of the artists that have been in our classrooms have had a positive powerful impact on our 3 – 5 year old students. When you enter our school and see the mural or you're in the classroom and you see the children engaged in an art project. The arts have assisted in fueling the imaginations of our young people and are an essential part of our children's learning. Artist who have come from the Arts Council have supported in ways they could never imagine. It is what they bring to the classroom that has assisted us with attendance, academic success and our assessment scores. They are exposing our students and involving them in music, dance, drama, visual arts, and media arts. This exposure has contributed to the success of our students. This is especially true for students of color, low-income students, and English as second language students.

I urge you to support funding for Howard County Arts Council. This sound investment pays huge dividends and stimulates significant academic growth and cultural vitality.

Thank you for the honor of testifying before this committee today. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions regarding this testimony or if I can be of assistance to you.

Don Corbin

Education Coordinator

Howard County Head Start

443-736-0606

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak in support of the Howard County Arts Council. My name is Annie Kalis and I have been the PTA Cultural Arts Chair for Hollifield Station Elementary School for the last 6 years.

In October 2017 I attended the Cultural Arts Showcase at the Howard County Arts Council in Ellicott City. This event was attended by PTA Cultural Arts representatives, Recreation and Parks representatives, daycares, libraries, and other cultural arts presenters. Through the showcase, I was introduced to more than 30 performing artists, each presenting an 8-minute excerpt of their work. It was at this showcase that I met South African multimedia artist, Carien Quiroga. Carien guides students in the design and creation of mosaic artworks, including murals, stepping stones, and translucent glass art.

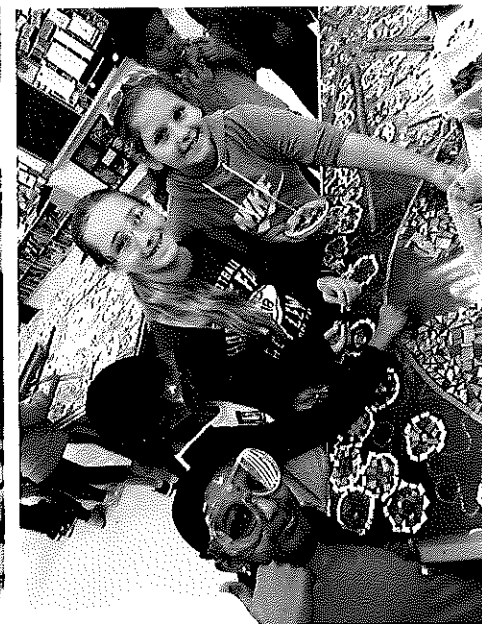
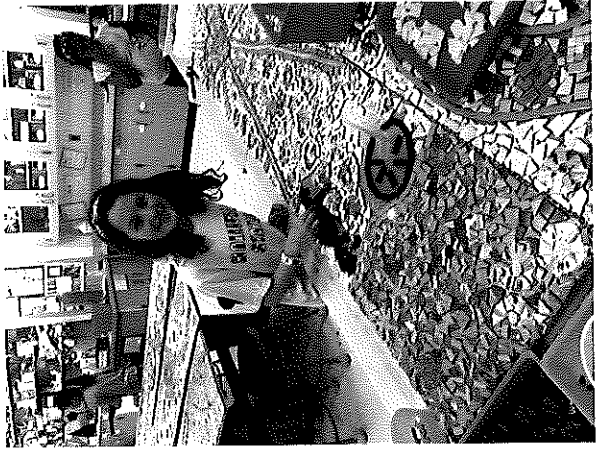
During the showcase Carien brought a 6 year old audience member to the stage to demonstrate that anyone can create a mosaic. In just a short 8 minutes she calmly instilled confidence and gentle instruction to the little girl as together they made a small mosaic in front of the audience.

After the showcase I spent the next few months trying to figure out how we could have Ms. Quiroga as our Artist in Residence at Hollifield. Our PTA had a successful fundraiser in the fall of 2017 and we were hopeful that our fundraiser in the fall of 2018 would be equally as successful, but it still wouldn't be enough to cover the \$10,390 cost associated with the two week residency unless we cut other programs or got financial help through a grant. So, in the spring and summer of 2018, our veteran art teacher at Hollifield, Mrs. Margie Eisenstein, and I got to work on the grant application to the Howard County Arts Council. We received word in August 2018 that our grant application had been approved and would cover \$2,733 of the cost. Mrs. Eisenstein and I were ecstatic knowing that our students were going to have the opportunity to create their own masterpiece. What I didn't know at the time, is that the experience would give the students much more than a beautiful entrance to their school.

In October 2018, students grades Kindergarten through grade 5 drew concept ideas, learned the skill of glass cutting, tiling, and grouting, and assembled thousands of pieces of glass and tile to make "Be Kind, Work Hard" under the direction of Mrs. Quiroga. Over 900 students participated in the project along with faculty and administration. Making a mosaic is something most people, let

alone children, never get the chance to experience. The students learned that with teamwork, they can make something beautiful. What I saw during the project was children of all age, race, and intellectual ability working together, as equals. Toward the end of the project, one of our special needs students who is primarily non-verbal was working on the finishing touches with his peers and he spoke loud and clear "We did it!" with a look of pure joy on his face. Art brings out something in us that we never knew was there.

Thanks to our PTA and the grant from the Howard County Arts Council, "Be Kind, Work Hard" gave students at Hollifield a once in a lifetime opportunity that taught teamwork, built confidence, and permanently transformed the entrance of our beloved school. I hope you vote to approve the budget for the Howard County Arts Council.





HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

I, Hector Garcia, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

FIRN to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding operating budget to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Hector Garcia

Signature: H Garcia

Date: 5/1/19

Organization: FIRN

Organization Address: 5999 Harpers Farm Rd
Columbia MD 21044

Number of Members: 6

Name of Chair/President: Anthony Colon

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 5pm the day of the Public Hearing or delivered in person the night of the Public Hearing before testifying.

County Council Testimony 5/1/19

Good evening my name is Jillian Watt and I am a student board member for the Foreign-Born Information and Referral Network thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight.

I am a graduate of Long Reach high school and a current student at the University of Maryland, College Park.

Three years ago, I was sitting in this same seat during my first year on the board. Honestly at that point I had a surface level knowledge of the immigration process. And most of us in this room will never have to experience it but I quickly learned how crucial it is to understand it. The immigration process doesn't just end after a family moves, there is an adjustment period of years where support is needed. And FIRN is there to offer that help as immigrants integrate and become active members of the community.

My position as a board member has opened my eyes to things I had never thought about before. FIRN offers so many services to the community like help maneuvering the health care system, an emergency food bank, and after school tutoring. FIRN also provides well trusted translating and interpreting services. One of my favorite aspects of FIRN is their annual International 5K race, which I will be coming home for this weekend. The event showcases a great sense of community and pride in heritage well also being a great fundraiser for FIRN.

When my friends and advisors at school ask me what FIRN is, I feel like saying an organization that assists immigrants never does justice. FIRN is so much more.

I have seen the passion the staff puts into the organization. The increase in demand due to the recent political atmosphere has spread the staff thin with one person working the jobs of many. Immigration can be a frustrating process, but the staff always maintains a positive and hopeful attitude.

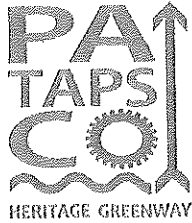
This passion is also evident through the board members and our executive director. I have seen how important this organization is to them.

FIRN has given me an empowering role as young female to have a voice on a board of directors. Even as an eighteen-year-old, I know my opinion is valued. I will forever appreciate this role and will always be in awe of how eye opening each of the meetings are. I sit and absorb all of the knowledge and years of experience the board contributes to the foreign-born population.

My generation is a progressive one that wants to see changes in the world. When we see inequalities we speak up, and FIRN is there to listen. In such a digitalized world conflict and global issues can seem overwhelming. I saw FIRN as a way to get involved and make an impact on my community. I want Howard County to continue to be the inclusive community I grew up in.

The board is always grateful for the support from the county and understands we must do our part for fundraising, it is a topic always on our agenda at board meeting. FIRN's resources are vital and no other organization is providing them right now. FIRN needs the continued financial and collaborative support from the County.

Thank You



P. O. Box 96, Ellicott City, Maryland 21041 | info@patapsco.org | www.patapsco.org

**BOARD OF
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Grace Kubofcik,
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Victoria Goodman,
Vice President
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Pam Johnson
John McCoy
Marsha McLaughlin
David Nitkin
John O'Connor
Nancy Pickard
Justine Schaeffer
Mark Southerland
James Wagandt
Lisa Wingate

HONORARY

James Robey
Ed Kasemeyer

**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR**

Lindsey Baker

May 1, 2020

Chairperson Rigby and Members of the Howard County Council:

The Patapsco Heritage Greenway, Inc. is pleased that County Executive Calvin Ball has proposed an increase in funding to our organization in his proposed FY20 Operating Budget. We ask for the County Council support for the \$60,000y funding. It will be used to match our request for a \$100,000 Management Grant from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA).

Being a part of a Heritage Area brings great rewards for organizations which fall within the boundaries of the Patapsco Valley Heritage Area. In the short time, February 2015, that the Patapsco Valley Heritage Area has been a part of the MHAA program, Howard County organizations have received over \$200,000 in funding through the MHAA Capital and Non-Capital programs and our organizations mini-grant programs.

The return on Howard County's investment in our Heritage Area is high. For FY19, Howard County Recreation and Parks was awarded over \$80,000 for the restoration of the Ellicott City Station Caboose and the restoration and interpretive reframe of Ellicott City Station's freight room diorama.

For FY19, Howard County organizations received \$11,500 in mini-grant funds. These funds were awarded to the Ellicott City Partnership, the Community Ecology Institute, the Howard County Conservancy, the Upper Patuxent Archaeology Group, and Friends of Patapsco Valley State Park.

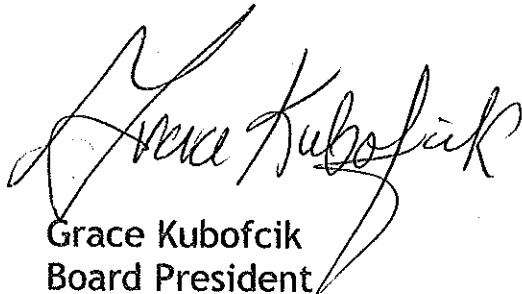
We expanded our FY19 sponsorship program. Seven Howard County organizations thus far have received \$3,550 in sponsorship awards for their programs or events. These organizations are Howard ECOWorks,

PATAPSCO HERITAGE GREENWAY is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization working to preserve, protect, interpret, & restore the environment, history, and culture of the Patapsco Valley Heritage Area.

Howard County Historical Society, EC250, Upper Patuxent Archaeology Group, Elkridge Rotary Foundation, Community Ecology Institute and the Howard County Arts Council. We've printed a new heritage area brochure (attached) to encourage heritage tourism in the Patapsco Valley. We've expanded our efforts in recreation, creating a Hiking 101 Guide and partnering with Patapsco Valley State Park to create a thru-trail map. Both of these documents are available in English and Spanish.

Looking forward to FY20, we will expand our partnership program; create a matching fund for our mini grants for smaller organizations currently hindered by our matching component. We will expand our recreation and environmental efforts. We will focus specific resources on Heritage education rescheduling our successful month of March Patapsco Days and adding more Heritage information to our web site.

We appreciate the County Council's support and full funding of the Executive Ball's request for our organization.



Grace Kubofcik
Board President



HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

I, Grace Kubofek, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

Patapsco Heritage Greenway Board to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding FY 20 Operating Budget express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Grace Kubofek

Signature: Grace Kubofek

Date: 5/1/19

Organization: Patapsco Heritage Greenway

Organization Address: P.O. Box 96 Ellicott City MD 21041

Old Columbia Pike

Number of Members: 90+

Name of Chair/President: Grace Kubofek

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**HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION**

I, Millicent Nwolisa, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

Laurel Advocacy & Referral Services Inc. to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding FY20 County Operating Budget to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Millicent Nwolisa

Signature: Millicent Nwolisa

Date: 5/1/19

Organization: Laurel Advocacy & Referral Services Inc.

Organization Address: 311 Laurel Avenue, Laurel, MD 20707

311 Laurel Avenue, Laurel, MD 20707

Number of Members: _____

Name of Chair/President: Executive Director is Leah Paley

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 5pm the day of the Public Hearing or delivered in person the night of the Public Hearing before testifying.



Mediation and Conflict Resolution Center, Inc.
9770 Patuxent Woods Drive, Suite 306
Columbia, Maryland 21046
443-518-7693 • info@mcrchoward.org

May 1, 2019

FY2020 Operating Budget Testimony to:
Howard County Council
Proposed budget: \$100,000
Community Services Partnership Grant

Good evening,

I am Barb Soscia and I am the Executive Director of the Mediation and Conflict Resolution Center. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you about the important work MCRC is doing in the community. Because this is the first time this Council is being asked to approve funding for our organization, I thought it was appropriate for you to learn more about us. MCRC is a small nonprofit with 2.5 FTE, 40 highly-skilled volunteers and a Board of Directors consisting of 11 members. We provide conflict resolution services to help individuals, groups and organizations have difficult conversations.

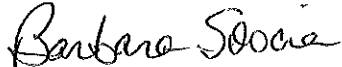
Our services include community mediation of disputes between neighbors, staff members, landlords & tenants, consumers & merchants and families; re-entry mediation for inmates at the Howard County Detention Center; restorative practices for youth as referred by the Department of Juvenile Services, the State's Attorney's Office, the Howard County Police Department and the Howard County Public School System; community building and restorative circles in schools; conflict management workshops for individuals and organizations; and group facilitation that helps groups or organizations have productive, focused meetings. In the first 10 months of the fiscal year, between July 2018 and April 2019, we provided 153 conflict resolution services reaching an estimated 665 people, benefitted our referral and community partners by efficiently dealing with conflict situations within their departments, agencies and organizations and reduced considerable burden on the courts.

In a very short time, just 2 years, MCRC has increased its level of alternate funding sources to cover a greater share of its programmatic expenses, however there is still need to cover operating costs that provide stability for the organization, such as keeping a roof over our heads, internet and phones and the staff to continue to spread the word to the people of Howard County about our valuable services and to respond to their conflict resolution needs. Those

operating costs are represented in the proposed FY2020 operating budget you have before you today.

MCRC's mission is to provide widely accessible and affordable conflict resolution services and education that help all members of the community manage conflict and have difficult conversations in a meaningful, proactive way. Funding through a Community Services Partnership grant is the means through which we can continue with our mission. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and please don't hesitate to contact us if we can help you or any of your constituents, our fellow neighbors, in any way.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Soccia".

Barbara Soccia
Executive Director
443-518-7694 (direct)



HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

I, Barbara Soscia, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

Mediation & Conflict Resolution Center to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding FY 20 Operating Budget to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Barbara Soscia

Signature: Barbara Soscia

Date: 5/11/2019

Organization: Mediation & Conflict Resolution Center, Inc.

Organization Address: 9270 Potomac Woods Dr, Suite 306

Columbia, MD 21046

Number of Members: 11

Name of Chair/President: Timothy Johnson

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Testimony to Howard County Counsel May 1, 2019
By: Ann Heavner
Executive Director, Rebuilding Together Howard County

On behalf of the board of directors, advisory board, low income homeowner clients and thousand volunteers of Rebuilding Together Howard County, I am testifying in support of the county executives' inclusion of a \$90,000 Community Service Partnership grant for Rebuilding Together and a One Time Grant of \$10,000.

Rebuilding Together is the nation's largest not for profit organization dedicated to providing the rehabilitation of residential structures for the purpose of providing decent, safe and affordable housing opportunities for low income households. There are 140 affiliates in the United States. For the past 27 years, Rebuilding Together Howard County has worked to preserve the limited stock of affordable, single-family homes in Howard County and revitalize the housing community. We have repaired free of charge over 950 homes. Most recently, regarding Community Revitalization, we responded to meet the needs of the Ellicott City homeowners hard hit by two major floods in two years. We were an early member of the board starting in 2016 of the One Ellicott City Recovery Project and have provided critical/major repairs to over 14 homeowners impacted by the floods. We offer three different programs described below:

Our **Urgent Repairs Program** assists low income homeowners who have critical home repair needs that require immediate attention. For example, loss of heat during the winter, broken water pipes, tree crashing onto a roof, loss of electricity and a broken hot water heater are some of the examples of critical repairs provided under this program. These are expensive repairs that require professional contractors like HVAC technicians, plumbers, roofers and electricians.

Our **Handyman Program** provides repairs that are smaller in scope. One example would be an elderly individual living alone that needs a new door and door lock to be safe and secure in their home. Water damage is also a problem that occurs with

Rebuilding Together® Howard County, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) Corporation, EIN 52-1748888

The nation's largest volunteer organization preserving and revitalizing low-income houses and communities



leaking toilets and our handymen are experienced in replacing wax rings to eliminate toilet leaks. These are just two examples of the repairs provided by the Handyman Program.

Finally, our **Year-Round Home Repair Program** marries teams of volunteers with homeowners in need. Our teams range from 10 to 50 volunteers. The expertise of the teams varies. Major regional builders like Harkins, Hamel Builders, and Buch Construction bring their experienced carpenters and subcontractors to accomplish major projects such as building a new deck, installing retaining walls, upgrading bathrooms to be handicapped accessible, to name a few major repairs. Local churches supply teams as well. We have even had a Girl Scout Troop who sponsored a house to achieve their Silver Project. The building materials and supplies are purchased by Rebuilding Together.

Regarding population served, to be eligible for any repairs, the applicant must (1) own their home (2) the home must be located in Howard County and (3) the homeowner must have a low income and be unable to afford to pay for their own repairs. Our clients include the elderly attempting to age in place, disabled individuals, veterans and families with small children. We also repair the facilities of other non-profits such as Athelas Institute, Humanim, and Bridges to Housing Stability. Individuals who receive our services are positively impacted when they see their homes transformed from unsafe and unhealthy places to live to being homes that are safe, warm and dry. Surrounding communities are revitalized when homes are rehabilitated by Rebuilding Together, like Ellicott City after the floods.

In closing, Rebuilding Together Howard County greatly appreciates the help and financial support provided by this Community Service Partnership Grant.

Rebuilding Together Howard County
8775 Centre Park Drive #519
Columbia, Md. 21045
443-812-5627

Rebuilding Together® Howard County, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) Corporation, EIN 52-1748888

The nation's largest volunteer organization preserving and revitalizing low-income houses and communities



**HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION**

I, Ann Heavner, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)
Rebuilding Together Howard County to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)
County Council regarding Ho. Co. Budget to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Ann Heavner

Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

Date: 5-1-19

Organization: Rebuilding Together Howard County

Organization Address: 8775 Centre Park Drive #519

Columbia, MO. 21045

Number of Members: n/a

Name of Chair/President: Ann Heavner, Executive Director

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 5pm the day of the Public Hearing or delivered in person the night of the Public Hearing before testifying.

Testimony to the Howard County Council -May 1, 2019
Given by: Ayesha B. Holmes, Executive Director of Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center

Good Evening Chair Person Mercer-Rigby and all the members of the County Council. It is an honor to come tonight to share a little about Grassroots and our impact in Howard County.

Grassroots has the honor and challenge of serving individuals when they are often at a low-point in their lives. I truly mean it when I say it *IS OUR HONOR*.

Grassroots has three important functions in the Howard County community.

- First: The Crisis Services Unit, which includes our 24/7 Crisis Hotline, Mental Health/Suicide Counseling, Walk-in Crisis Services, Single Point of Access for Housing Assessments, Substance Use Walk-in Services and Mobile Crisis Team
- Second: The 51 Bed Shelter, located in Columbia at the Grassroots Andrea Ingram Building
- Third: Day Resource Center, located at the Leola Dorsey Community Resource Center in ElkrIDGE

Each of these components of the organization work together to ensure there is a 24/7 safety net for the residents of Howard County. We are always open and always ready to help.

Grassroots serves people who often are experiencing a low moment in their lives. Through our crisis intervention and homeless services, we hope to help people out of despair and move them back to a place of hope. This is not easy work, the staff and volunteers who give their time to this are amazing people with a deep sense of caring and community.

Current data tells us that over 100 people living in a place not fit for human habitation, these numbers rise in the summer and include more children. Long term goals must include housing that is affordable to those with disability and low-income. However, the immediate needs for this group of citizens cannot be understated. Our Day Resource Center (DRC) is there to help people access basic needs while they wait for shelter and housing. They provide food, laundry, health care, showers and clothing. The staff and over 200 volunteers every year work to ensure people are treated with care and dignity.

Many times people in need will start at the DRC and get connected to the Crisis Center to start the process of rebuilding. Other times, people will walk-in, call-in or meet an MCT staff member. We often have police and others bring people to us, when they need help. We work in a connected way to help people with various needs, housing, substance use, serious mental illness, find a way forward.

This year our budget request reflects an increase in need throughout the community. The County Executive provided for level funding from FY2019 to be available in 2020. We are grateful for the level funding. However we think it's important for the Council to understand what the additional support was needed for, and if possible fully fund Grassroots. In FY 2020 we anticipate serving:

- 101 people per day, and over 40,000 per year in our Hotline and Walk-in Counseling Program
- 51 people per day, and over 210 people per year at the Andrea Ingram Shelter
- 100 people per day in the Day Resource Center (3xweek)
- 80-90 calls per month by our Mobile Crisis Team, with 75% of people avoiding hospitalization
- 100 per month with Substance Use needs through Screening and Stabilization services

If our projections hold true to the trends of the past 5 years, by the end of the Fiscal Year, Grassroots will have delivered over 40,000 services through our Crisis Center. This includes both hotline calls and walk-in clients. We are overwhelmed by the number of people needing services for both housing and behavioral health. Without additional funds, we fear that we will not be able to keep up with the demand. We are asking for an additional person to cover our busiest hours between 12-8pm, where demand for walk-in services increases, along with call volume. Without this person, we are looking at people in crisis having long wait times for a counselor, meaning more than an hour.

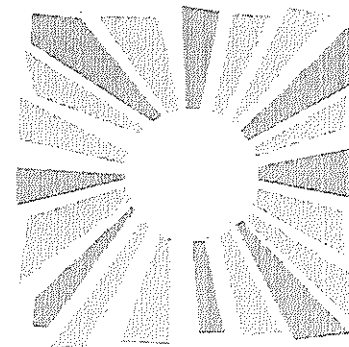
The Day Resource Center now serves about 100 people a day. When we opened last year we could not have anticipated a 25% increase in guests. The center is a large open space. Even with our amazing team of volunteers we need one more staff available during services hours (15 hr. /week) to mingle and assist guests. This is a SAFETY issue. We do not deny anyone service. However, some of our guest lack the social and emotional skills to be part of such a loud and busy place. Staff must be on hand to manage and de-escalate. Volunteers from our faith community are not trained or comfortable doing such things. We hope you will seriously consider this safety issue as you review our request.

Last year, Grassroots agreed to work with Howard County to use Call Point as our database for crisis services. Call Point is able to integrate with Service Point, the County's Homeless Management Information System. We were excited to do this! However, we let them know that in doing so, we would be adding this cost to our operations budget. Without the funding, we cannot do it. **We have already paid over \$27,000 for startup and licensing fees out of a different grant.** Grassroots will have wasted that money if we are not funded, even worse because we are now stuck, we will have to reduce staffing to make up the costs. We believe that good data drives good decisions. That was one of the reasons we wanted to partner with the County to share data more transparently. We hope this is still possible.

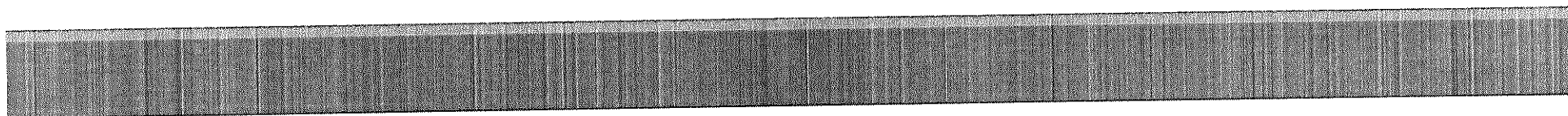
We know that FY2020 will bring success for those we serve. We need your help to keep up with the increasing demand and need for services. If you have any questions please feel free to reach out.

GRASSROOTS

CRISIS INTERVENTION



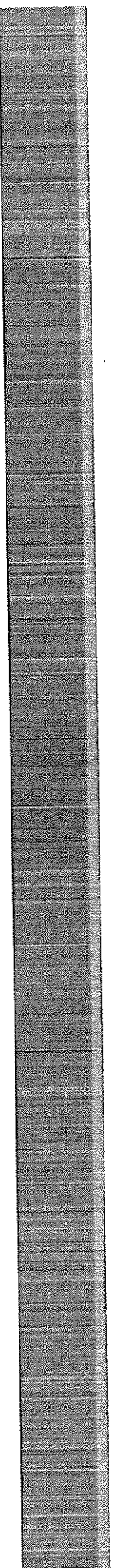
AYESHA B. HOLMES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
GRASSROOTS CRISIS INTERVENTION CENTER, INC.
6700 FREETOWN ROAD, COLUMBIA MD 21044
WWW.GRASSROOTSCRISIS.ORG



What Does Grassroots Do

Grassroots serves Howard County in the following ways:

- ▣ Providing a shelter to homeless families and individuals (51 Beds, 200 people/year)
- ▣ Serving the Homeless through our Day Resource Center (1000 people/year)
- ▣ Providing Behavioral Health or Housing Crisis Services through our 24/7/365 hotline and walk in center and through Mobile Crisis Teams (36,000/year)



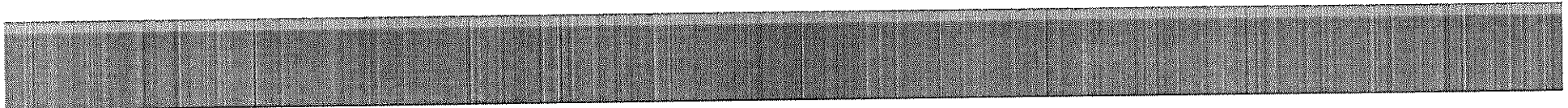
Briefly About Behavioral Health

Crisis Services:

- Operate a 24/7/365 Hotline for Crisis Intervention
 - Housing/Homelessness
 - Mental Health Counseling
 - Substance Misuse

- Operate 24/7/365 Crisis Walk-in Center
 - Housing Assessments
 - Substance Misuse Assistance
 - Crisis Counseling
 - Suicide Assessments
 - Emergency Food or Basic Needs

- Mobile Crisis Services
 - Partnership with Howard County Police
 - Serves 8am-11pm daily




Briefly About Behavioral Health

Grassroots at the front lines of two distinct behavioral health epidemics:

- Suicide Crisis
 - #1 cause of death for middle school and high school aged children in the State of Maryland and in Howard County
 - Last school year, 4 children died by suicide
 - In FY 18, Grassroots responded to over 1100 suicide calls and conducted over 500 suicide assessments, including with people who were homeless at the time.
- Opiate Crisis
 - Overdoses are increasing, death by overdose is decreasing
 - Grassroots is available to assess and connect people to treatment with a trained counselor available 7 days a week
 - Of the almost 1000 walk ins this year, one third will have a substance misuse problem and of that half will agree to screening, treatment and follow up.

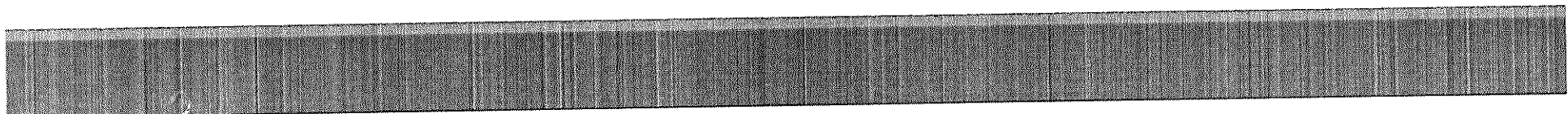
Grassroots Counselors are trained in trauma informed care and evidence base- practice models to ensure the best care is possible.



Briefly About Behavioral Health

Where Howard County needs to go next:

- Develop a Comprehensive Behavioral Health Crisis and Stabilization Center that is open 24/7/365 for individuals in a behavioral health crisis
 - Must have a place for people to stay and be evaluated for up to 72 hours
 - Must have licensed mental health/medical staff to screen, evaluate and develop next steps that are safe for individuals experiencing a mental health or substance misuse crisis
 - Models are available in Harford County, MD, and for Suicide prevention specifically in Arizona
 - This can be done, if the will is there.
 - **Grassroots does most of this already we just need a way to expand to include stabilization. This will SAVE money. It will prevent ED over-usage!**



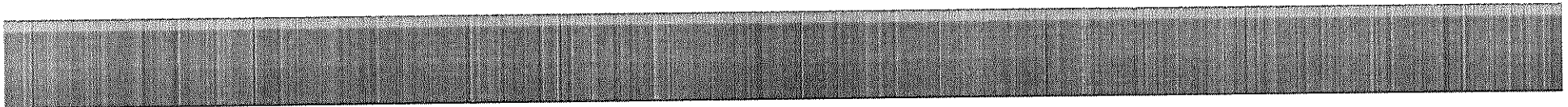
Homelessness is a Crisis

Shelter Services: 51 Bed Crisis Shelter located at 6700 Freetown Road

27 Family Beds, 18 Men's Beds, 6 Women's Beds

■ Service Rich Environment:

- Case Management
- 3 Meals Daily
 - Bagged lunch for children going to school
 - Bagged lunch for individuals to work
 - Hot dinner reserved for those returning late from work
- Workforce Counseling
 - Office of Workforce Development
 - Volunteers
- Friends from Atholton HS
 - Youth from Atholton volunteer to provide activities for youth at the shelter
- Transportation to and from work and medical appointment
- And more...

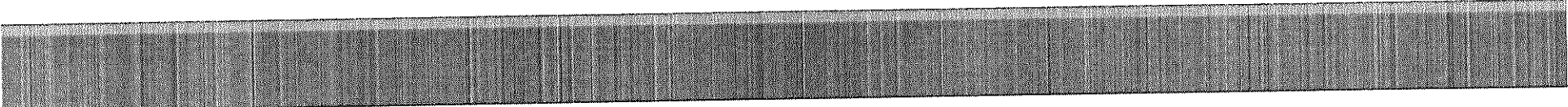


Homelessness is a Crisis

■ Cold Weather Shelter

- 20-25 beds
- Open late November-March
- 18 faith congregations partner
- Rotate weekly from one to the next
- Hot meals and transportation provided by the congregation and bus tickets donated by RTA

■ Code Blue

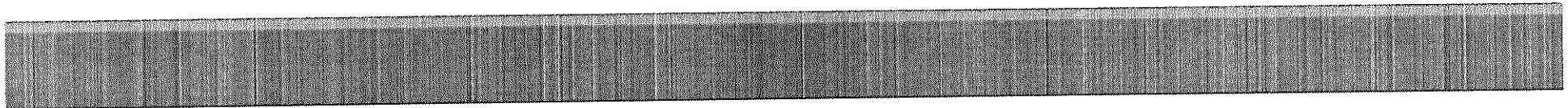
- Extreme cold intervention, 26* or lower
 - 20 beds at Freetown Road location in lobbies and hallways
 - Bagged lunch, with soup
 - Transportation
- 

Homelessness is a Crisis

- In FY18, over 1000 people receive a housing assessment.
- 151 stayed in Grassroots Shelter
- 357 were placed in motel shelter (short term)
- 69 stayed in Cold Weather Shelter
- 368 stayed in Emergency Overnight Shelter (Lobby Stay)

IN SPITE OF THESE RESOURCES:

Over 100 people every night sleep outside in tents, cars, doorways, and other places that are not meant for human habitation.



Day Resource Center (DRC)

Located at the Leola Dorsey Community Resource Center (LDCRC) on Guildford Road in Jessup

■ Grassroots also operates the Day Resource Center. This located on Guilford Road in Jessup. The DRC sees between 90-125 people per session of service. We offer a full array of basic needs services – including:

- Hot Food brought by volunteering congregations (M/W/Sa)
- Showers
- Laundry
- Volunteer Run Medical Clinic
- Food Pantry
- Clothing Closet
- Resources to obtain ID/Social Security etc.
- GED classes through HCCC on T/Th
- And other services

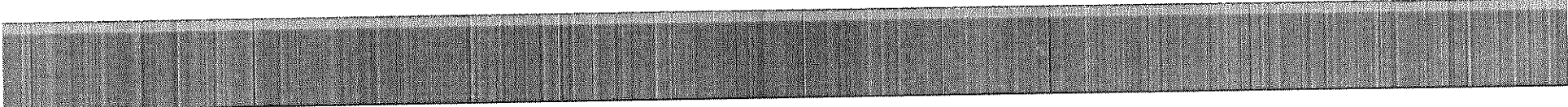
This is a 25% increase in guests, from 2017.

We need to add staff, for both safety and service reasons but can't afford

it.



Addressing the Homeless Crisis in Howard County

- *Divert* as many people as possible from ever becoming first time homeless.
 - *Increase shelter beds* so that every person can have safe place to lay their head at night
 - *Winter sheltering needs to expanded beyond what currently exists to include a low barrier shelter for anyone between mid November through March.*
 - *Increase case management capacity* in the system so that individuals do not end up in a chronic homeless status, which is much harder to overcome than that which is short term or first time.
 - *Increase deeply affordable housing* using a variety of funding strategies so that housing can be affordable for those who may not be high income earners.
 - *Address barriers* such as child-care affordability, transportation routes and times.
- 

2



HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

I, Ayesha Holmes, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

GRASSROOTS to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding Operating Bst. to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

full fund GRASSROOTS

Printed Name: Ayesha Holmes

Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

Date: 5/1/19

Organization: GRASSROOTS

Organization Address: 6700 Freetown Rd, Columbia

Number of Members: Twenty member Board

Name of Chair/President: Nick LANGHOUSER.

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 5pm the day of the Public Hearing or delivered in person the night of the Public Hearing before testifying.



**HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION**

I, Jennifer Broderick, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

Bridges to Housing Stability, Inc to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding Operating Budget to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Jennifer Broderick

Signature: Jennifer Broderick

Date: 5/1/2019

Organization: Bridges to Housing Stability, Inc

Organization Address: 9520 Berger Rd Suite 311

Columbia MD 21046

Number of Members: 13 Board members

Name of Chair/President: Jessica Zuniga

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 5pm the day of the Public Hearing or delivered in person the night of the Public Hearing before testifying.



Howard County Council Public Hearing: Proposed FY 2020 Operating Budget

May 1, 2019

Testimony

Good evening Council Chair Rigby, Co-Chair Jones and Council members. As President of the Association of Community Services and representative of our 160 nonprofit member organizations and community advocates, it is my privilege to offer comments on the Administration's proposed FY 2020 Operations budget.

FY 2020 Budget Requests

In consideration of the proposed budget, ACS has tried to balance consideration of County revenue projections and competing priorities with the continuing and substantive unmet human resource needs that the nonprofit sector continues to see and serve. The following ACS comments reflect our support for and issues with the Administration's proposed FY 2020 Operations Budget.

NonProfit Sector Infrastructure Support

- As President of Heritage Housing, I am pleased to take this opportunity, on behalf of my fellow 15 NonProfit Collaborative tenants, to share our appreciation for the continuing rent subsidy that enables us to serve vulnerable clients efficiently and effectively in a collaborative and productive workplace.
- The proposed level funding of the Community Service Partnerships (CSP) program is very much appreciated, but falls short of our request for a minimum increase over FY 2019 funding of two (2) percent—about \$130,000. As we have in the past, ACS continues to assert that an increase in funding is essential to helping CSP awardees keep up with inflation. Without at least minimal increases in this critical operational funding, nonprofits cannot remain competitive with the public and private sectors for well-qualified staff, to hire additional staff to respond to increasing workloads, and/or to absorb rent and other operations-related increases without having to dip into program funding. The proposed level funding of CSP funding will further exacerbate awardees', and therefore the County's, ability to provide basic services that support the well-being and safety of our communities' most vulnerable residents.
- We also strongly encourage the County to move towards multi-year contracts or service agreements where possible. In many cases there is only one service provider offering services. Multi-year awards would allow for better planning and increase efficiencies for all involved.

Affordable Housing

- The Administration's commitment of funding (through the Department of Housing and Community Development) for development of a **Housing Affordability Master Plan** is sincerely appreciated. Our County has invested in master plans for our aging residents, for

transportation development and for complete streets. It's now time to invest in housing. It won't be an easy task; but it is a task our community cannot afford to put off any longer. We anticipate that development of the Plan will provide a collaborative and open community process that, once complete, will provide a framework and specific actions to guide future policy, legislative and regulatory decisions to the end goal of increasing access to affordable housing across the County's income, workforce and population spectrums.

- We know there continues to be significant unmet need for housing, financial assistance and case management as people who are homeless or near homelessness continue to present themselves and use the Coordinated System of Homeless Services. We had therefore hoped, that rather than level \$1.1 million in funding for the Plan to End Homelessness, that there would have been, at minimum, a commitment of an additional **\$85,000 for five (5) additional Housing Stability Subsidy Program (HSSP) vouchers**. The current 16 DCRS-administered HSSP subsidies have proven to be highly successful in helping households with very low fixed incomes (and little opportunity due to disability or other factors to increase their incomes) to achieve economic stability.

Transportation

- ACS supports the continuing funding for improvements in access to safe and reliable public transportation within the County. Recent funding to improve bus stop accessibility and safety has been a good start toward helping disabled, senior and low-income populations manage the basic transportation needs associated with living independently and keeping jobs. But there remains a long list of shelter, crosswalk, lighting, curbs and median strip work to be done. The proposed funding for a **projected 60 bus stop upgrades** is important.
- ACS also supports the County's investment of \$330,000 for the **Human Service Transportation Program**, which has been shifted from the Office of Transportation to the Department of Community Resources and Services' CSP program. Partnering with organizations such as The Arc of Howard County and Humanim helps ensure efficient, quality client support and an excellent return on County investment.

Community Health

- ACS enthusiastically endorses the proposed County investment of \$750,000 in a long overdue **residential treatment facility** that will have 10 designated beds for Howard County substance abusers.
- In addition, we support the continued commitment to fund the Howard County General Hospital (HCGH) operations, particularly enabling development of **Population Health's community programs**.

On behalf of the ACS Board of Directors and Executive Director Joan Driessen, thank you for this opportunity to highlight our supports of and our concerns about the proposed FY 2020 Operations Budget. As always we are available to respond to Council members' questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Grace Morris

President



HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

I, GRACE MORRIS, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

the Association of Community Services to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding FY 2020 OPERATIONS/BUDGET to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: GRACE MORRIS

Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

Date: 1 MAY 2019

Organization: ACS

Organization Address: 9760 PATRICK WOODS DRIVE

COLUMBIA, MD

Number of Members: 160

Name of Chair/President: GRACE MORRIS

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 5pm the day of the Public Hearing or delivered in person the night of the Public Hearing before testifying.



Community Ecology Institute

May 1, 2019

Good evening Howard County Council Members,

My name is Chiara D'Amore, I live in Columbia, and serve as the President of the Board of Directors of the Community Ecology Institute.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify this evening on behalf of the inclusion of \$70,000 in the proposed 2020 County budget for the Community Ecology Institute. I am here with a community of people that are in support of this allocation of resources.

CEI is a Howard County-based non-profit organization with a mission to create socially and ecologically healthy communities by enhancing the connection between all people and the natural environment. Founded in 2016, CEI's work uniquely focuses on tangible community-level change at the intersection of environment, education, and health. Our experiential education programs concentrate on four Cs: Connection to Nature, Civic Ecology, Community Health and Climate Action.

Our flagship program, Columbia Families in Nature, has offered 233 free nature-based experiential education events throughout the community, which have been attended by over 2,800 families which equates to more than 8,000 participants spending more than 17,000 hours of meaningful time outdoors.

Based on our history of providing impactful nature-based education programming to the community we have been offered the opportunity to purchase one of the last farms in Columbia at a fraction of the development market cost, provided that we commit to keeping it in agriculture and protect it from development, which we will do.

This 6.4-acre organic farm is in Hickory Ridge, directly behind Atholton High School and neighboring the Harriet Tubman School and Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center. This farm has previously provided food for 80 local households through a community supported agriculture program and has a long history of providing fresh produce to the Howard County Food Bank. In addition to the agricultural area, on this property there are two acres of woodland, a small wetland, and two streams that feed into the nearby Middle Patuxent River.

The funding we have requested from the county will go directly to the time-sensitive acquisition of this farm. Due to personal considerations, the owner has determined that if CEI is not able to close on the property at the beginning of this summer he will sell the property at auction. The adjacent property to the east has just been developed into a 24-unit townhome community and this is the likely fate of this farm as well should CEI not secure the needed funding.

In addition to bringing the farm back into production using regenerative agriculture practices, CEI is committed to offering programming on this property that will serve the Howard County community in several areas that support the county's priority around having thriving and healthy residents and a clean and sustainable environment.

We are building on the "Urban Ecology Center" model that has seen tremendous success in Milwaukee Wisconsin, to develop a "Community Ecology Center" that will be based on this farm. The purpose of



Community Ecology Institute

this innovative community education space will be to offer opportunities for county residents to learn through hands on experience about how they can lead happier, healthier, more connected and sustainable lives. For example, we will be offering:

- Environmental sustainability and climate action demonstration spaces and programming that supports the county's commitment to the We Are Still Agreement and U.S. Climate Alliance's Natural and Working Lands Challenge;
- Community-garden based mental and physical health programming that is designed in collaboration with other county non-profits, such as the Howard County Autism Society;
- Nature-based experiential education programming, such as our award-winning Columbia Families in Nature program as well as field trips and community service opportunities for county school children; and
- African American land heritage programming offered in collaboration with the Harriet Tubman School, which is directly across the street from the farm.

The county's support of this endeavor is critical. We quite literally won't be able to save this farm and create a Community Ecology Center on the property without the county's financial contribution. It is important to save our rapidly disappearing farmland, especially what little remains in the eastern part of the county. It is also important to do everything we can to enhance the health of our community, and that means looking at both the people and the place on which we depend and the relationships between our connected well-being. There is strong research linking people's mental and physical health with the amount of time they spend in natural environments. There is also strong research linking people's commitment to environmental action to the exact type of experiences that CEI programs are designed to offer.

During last week's education budget testimony, I was struck by what the students shared about the mental health crisis our youth are facing and left thinking about how to address the root causes of these issues. We believe protecting this farm can be a piece of this complex puzzle. Small, local, community-based ecology centers like we are planning on the farm have the power to help transform communities, helping to heal the environmental and bringing people together with a sense of hope and purpose for the future.

Additionally, communities are the ideal level of focus for building social and environmental resilience because regular people can most effectively be involved at this level. One community's experiment can inspire thousands of other experiments, providing valuable insights and best practices and ultimately building support for larger-scale changes towards the type of future we envision for our children.

We ask that you retain the funding the County Executive has placed in the budget to support our purchase of this farm and creation of a Community Ecology Center for Howard County.

Thank you,

Chiara D'Amore



HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

I, Chiara D'Amore, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

the Community Ecology Institute to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding the 2020 operating budget to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Chiara D'Amore

Signature: Chiara D'Amore

Date: 5-1-19

Organization: The Community Ecology Institute

Organization Address: 5429 Endicott Ln.

Columbia, MD 21044

Number of Members: 10 board members + community volunteers

Name of Chair/President: Chiara D'Amore

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 5pm the day of the Public Hearing or delivered in person the night of the Public Hearing before testifying.

Testimony for the Howard County Council Public Hearing:

Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budgets

Wednesday, May 1, 2019, 7:00 pm

Banneker Room

3430 Courthouse Drive

Ellicott City, MD 21043

Council Chair Rigby, Vice Chair Jones and members of the Council,

Good evening and thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Nora Hart. I live at 7855 Tuckahoe Court in Fulton. I am the Development Officer at the Metropolitan Washington Ear (MWE), a 501 (c)3 nonprofit organization which was established in 1974 to “Bring the Printed Word to the Visually Impaired.” Thank you for your past support for the services that we provide free of charge for residents of Howard County who are blind, have low vision, or have a physical disability that prevents them from reading print material.

We are in our 45th year of providing free news and information services for people challenged by vision loss. We currently provide services for 43 Howard County listeners. MWE provides 24/7 news and information and other services including:

1. 24/7 radio broadcast
2. 24/7 telephone dial-in news and information
3. Personal look-up service each evening
4. Audio Description of live stage performances

We have nearly 300 volunteers, including 16 residents of Howard County.

Our listeners rely on the vast amount of local information we provide, such as food and shopping ads, TV listings, election guides, and community newsletters including the *Howard County Times*. No other organization provides the wide range of vital services that we do for our listeners. They frequently call us their **lifeline**. We address a critical need in the County by providing essential services on behalf of the County to vulnerable County residents.

Without access to information, Howard County citizens are not able to seek and receive information on issues of importance to the public and their community. Whether it is a local government issue in Howard County or a national news story, people with vision loss that prevents them from reading print cannot fully participate in their communities and make informed decisions without information. This denies them a critical human need, the right to access information.

As one of our listeners commented, “One of the greatest challenges faced by those who experience vision loss is accessing information. In today’s environment...it is especially critical that persons who are unable to read the print media have prompt access to the same types of information that are available to their peers. The ability to listen to the daily newspaper and periodicals at any time of the day or night is both a genuine pleasure and an absolute necessity.”

Last year, Howard County supported MWE and worked as a partner with MWE to bring information to residents who are challenged by vision loss that prevents them from reading print. Our work continues and the need is great. Our funding request this year which was denied was for the 43 Howard County residents who depend on our service to fulfill a critical human need for information. While it may be tempting to dismiss the needs of a small group of citizens, people who are visually impaired have the same right to access information as the

sighted population. MWE's mission is to bring the printed word to the visually impaired. Our service allows them to be self-sufficient and prevents further reliance on costly County services. We are uniquely positioned to provide a service that the County is not able to provide.

When more residents have a way to meet the challenge of vision loss they become more employable, more likely to be active participants in their community and less likely to require other costly County services. Our services meet a need that Howard County does not provide within existing County services. We look forward to continuing to serve County residents who rely on us for information that is vital to their everyday lives, their independence, and their well-being and we ask you to urge County Executive Ball to restore our funding in his proposed budget.



**HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION**

I, Nora Hart, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

Metropolitan Washington Ear to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding FY 2020 Budget to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Neely Oplinger

Signature: Neely Oplinger

Date: 5/1/2019

Organization: Metropolitan Washington Ear

Organization Address: 12061 Tech Road, Silver Spring, MD 20904

Number of Members: _____

Name of Chair/President: Freddie Peaco

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 5pm the day of the Public Hearing or delivered in person the night of the Public Hearing before testifying.



National *Family*
Resiliency Center

fostering

family

wellness

April 27, 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

We are extremely upset about the proposed 50% funding cut for our center. The National Family Resiliency Center, (formerly Children of Separation and Divorce) has been a stellar non-profit center in Howard County since we started as a project at the Family Life Center in 1983. If you look at recent funding, there is no explanation as to why our funding was cut in half.

Funding for the National Family Resiliency Center should not be reduced:

- The high divorce rate in our community has had an impact on children and families because of the significant conflict often involved, along with other complex family challenges.
- While some families are able to cope with family changes in healthy ways, there are still many families who struggle to cope with losses and changes, as a result of a divorce or family breakup. Many families don't fare well with a significant change because there may be untreated mental illness, substance abuse, domestic violence, child abuse and untreated developmental challenges. NFRC works with families having all of these challenges. Studies show that divorce or the breakup of a family, can be the most stressful event that the family will ever experience, second only to death,
- NFRC peer counselors have won three county awards for their volunteer services. Children and teens volunteer to help out with group therapy programs, volunteering 12 weeks at a time, for two hours a week. Adults and children speak at court-ordered parent seminars on a monthly basis. Last year, they were given a standing ovation by judges and attorneys at a statewide conference.
- The operational grant assists with office rent, our annual financial review, provides support for our peer counselor program and allows NFRC to offer sliding fees as low as \$5 and \$10 a group to financially eligible families who want their children to participate in group therapy programs. Parents can attend the nine hour co-parent seminar for as little as \$20 thanks to the funding we get.

It is extremely disheartening to me, when professionals from other counties in Maryland tell me they wish they had an NFRC in their community and boards, to be in our own county and see this lack of support. Dr. Ball, several years ago, we met with you and you told us how important our services were. You reflected that before that time, you really hadn't understood what we do. I sincerely hope that you can help others to understand what you learned about our center. Since we last spoke, our center has played a significant role in helping more families in Howard County avoid court and resolve differences through additional parent education programs that the court asked us to develop. I served on the last Maryland Child Custody Commission that addressed the very issues we have worked on in our community. Howard County stands as a model for other counties. We collaborate with other nonprofits, therapists and psychiatrists, with the Howard County Public schools and the courts to support the families we serve. We have made a major difference in this community in how divorce is handled. It helps me to understand how our client families feel when their needs are being ignored and this is the message being sent if our funding is being cut so significantly.

Without our full funding, we cannot provide the much needed services to the children and parents in this community. The county is justifiably concerned about mental illness in this community. We see it, deal with it and help. Just recently, I had to work with the police, hospital and Grassroots to hospitalize a severely depressed adolescent; in April alone, other staff members had to report child abuse to CPS. We work closely with the schools to provide resources and to identify children and adolescents who are having academic and/or behavioral problems that may be a result of conflict in the home due to a separation, divorce or family breakup. Our center is truly unique in this regard and strongly supports the healthy development of families and children which we know is a major goal of Howard County.

What are we not saying that conveys the critical need for our center?

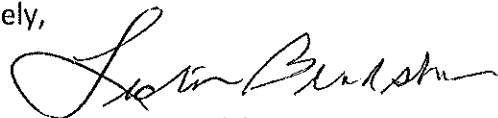
Please reconsider this funding and please don't diminish the work we have done and are trying to continue to do.

Thank you for your consideration.



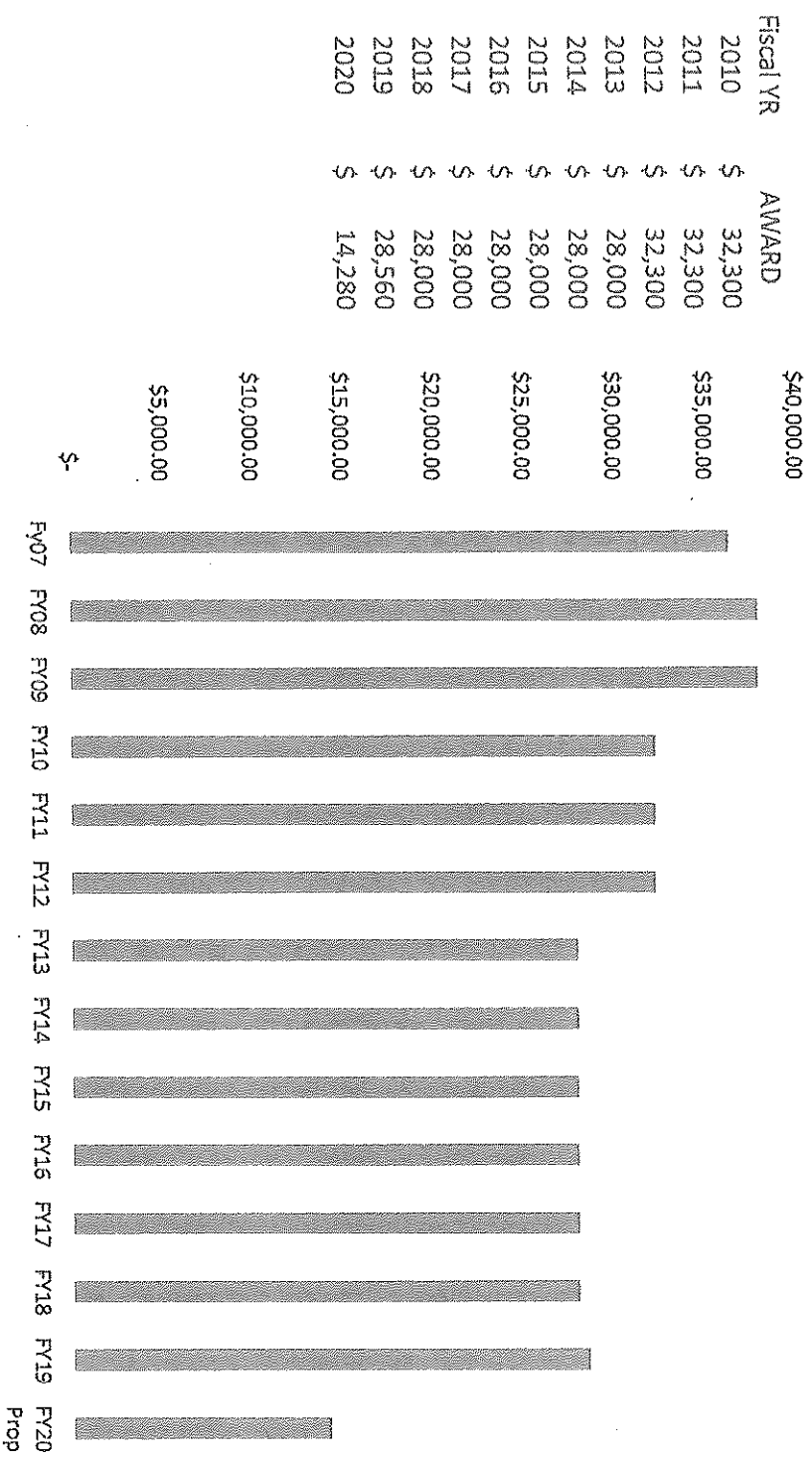
Risa Garon, LCSW-C, BCD, CFLE
Executive Director and Therapist
National Family Resiliency Center
410-740-9553 x203
www.nfrchelp.org

Sincerely,



Lester Bradshaw
President, Board of Directors
National Family Resiliency Center
10100 Twin Rivers Rd, #325
Columbia, MD 21044

National Family Resiliency CSP Grant Awards





**HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION**

I, Risa Garon, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

National Family Resiliency Center to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding Budget to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Risa Garon

Signature: _____

Date: 05/01/2019

Organization: National Family Resiliency Center

Organization Address: 10630 Little Patuxent Pkwy #115, Columbia, MD 21044

10630 Little Patuxent Pkwy #115, Columbia, MD 21044

Number of Members: _____

Name of Chair/President: Lester Bradshaw

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 5pm the day of the Public Hearing or delivered in person the night of the Public Hearing before testifying.

My name is Larry Corsa and I am the President of the Heritage Green Townhouse Association. I represent a community of 80 homes and over 200 County residents located on Cedar Lane across from Cedar Lane Park

I am speaking tonight about the inequities created by the selection of the green space around Harpers Choice Middle School as the site for the proposed North Columbia Fire Station and the Third District Police station. This green space is currently highly utilized, by the School and by numerable community groups for recreation. It borders two great community resources, Cedar Lane Park and the Columbia Dog Park, and is across from my residential community. The selected site has no immediate access to a main highway or arterial road, and will cause a great increase in traffic and noise and raises significant safety concerns.

I know our County Council and County Executive are passionate about and focused on lifting up the citizens of Howard County and ensuring that our children have top-notch educational and community experiences. I hope that you consider carefully, therefore, that converting the proposed site into a fire and police station will deprive the children of Harpers Choice Middle School, one of the less-resourced schools in our County, of the greenspace that is used for practice fields and recreation, and subject them to years of construction, loss of walking paths, and the constant commotion of a fire station performing double duty.

I also know that historically the safety of our school children and preservation of our park land has been a County priority, as evidenced by a County taskforce, chaired by then Councilman Ball, which concluded that fuel facilities should not be sited within 500 feet of schools and parks. Yet, the current proposal will place a fuel facility at the boundary of the Harpers Choice Middle School, Cedar Lane Park and the dog park.

As a citizen, I am deeply troubled by the lack of transparency in the site selection process. No numerical data regarding the urgent need for the proposal has been offered. There is still NO mention of the need or projection for building the latest County General Plan.

I appreciate that this proposal originated with the previous administration and I fault that administration for a failure in planning, in terms of choosing a site that best meets community needs, and for a failure of leadership, by not including the community in the site selection process.

I am grateful that this County Council and our new County Executive are in the position to correct these failures, by carefully examining the costs and benefits of the proposal and including the community in a dialogue, so that we can have our priorities, needs, and concerns fairly considered.

Our community is not opposed to a new firehouse per se. But, it is our understanding, based on statements made by representatives of the Fire Department, that the need for the firehouse is in large part created by recent push for downtown growth and development. The downtown developers and the County as a whole benefitted and continue to benefit enormously financially from this development. We do not believe, therefore, that an adjacent longstanding residential, school, and recreational community should be tapped to bear the burden of the intense usage of a fire and police station. Instead the County should be carefully looking for the best place to site this in terms of impact, with full access to the financial resources gained from the downtown redevelopment. The County should NOT look only in terms of the cheapest and most expeditious site to procure.

On behalf of my community, I ask that this project be placed on hold and a process developed using fair and transparent criteria, including impact analysis, community feedback, and a full and honest exploration of all possible options, before a permanent site for a new fire and police station is chosen.



**HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION**

I, Larry Corsa, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

Heritage Green Townhouse Association, Inc. to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding Capital Budget items F5976 and P4928 to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Larry Corsa

Signature: *Lawrence J Corsa III*

Date: 5/1/2019

Organization: Heritage Green Townhouse Association, Inc.

Organization Address: 5305 Village Center Drive, PMB184, Columbia, MD 21044

Number of Members: 80 owners plus families

Name of Chair/President: Lawrence J Corsa III

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 5pm the day of the Public Hearing or delivered in person the night of the Public Hearing before testifying.

Good evening, Chairman and Council Members. My name is Roger Pyon, and I am the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Korean Community Service Center of Greater Washington (KCSC). On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, and friends of KCSC, I would like to express our great appreciation for your support of the Asian-American community of Howard County.

I am here tonight to request the restoration of scheduled 25% cut in the upcoming budget and why this restoration of funding to 2019 level is critical for the services KCSC provides in Howard County.

KCSC's mission is to assist and empower Asian-Americans and new immigrants to become well-adjusted and fully contributing members of this great nation. Our bilingual staff work very hard to help clients understand US society and culture, so that they can quickly and smoothly transition to life in their adopted motherland.

Howard County is home to over 60,000 Asian residents with Korean-Americans comprising around 23% of this number. In particular, the number of Korean-Americans living in Howard County has more than doubled over the last 15 years, with the most recent data showing a population of 13,626 Korean-Americansⁱ. Because a growing number of KCSC's clients have moved to Howard County, we made the decision to open a new office in Ellicott City in 2018. In fact, Korean-Americans make up over 7% of Ellicott City residents, one of the most densely populated Korean-American communities in the entire stateⁱⁱ.

Thanks to 2019 funding through Howard County's Community Service Partnership, KCSC was able to open a branch office in Howard County three days a week. KCSC provides comprehensive social services to low/moderate income, limited English proficient individuals and families. Our bilingual staff assist them every step of the process from gathering required information, to filing applications, referring them to additional resources, and resolving any matters that they may find difficult or confusing. KCSC strives to be a "one-stop" shop for all community members.

One of KCSC's most essential and successful program is our Safety Net program. I'd like to share a story of one of our recent Safety Net clients which is included at the end of this written testimony. Mr. Park's story is one of where KCSC was able to step in to prevent his family from becoming a homeless statistic when no other Federal, State, or Local government assistance was readily available.

The Community Service Partnership Operating Grant from Howard County has been vitally important in helping us to provide crucial support to Korean-American community members, such as Mr. Park. This grant has allowed KCSC to offer services three days a week and after only 9 months of funding, we are exactly on target to meet our service goals by the end of the fiscal year. During the last year, we have been focusing on our long-term sustainability, working hard to develop new partnerships with local foundations and individual donors. For our Safety Net program, Howard County funds only the operational part of the program, with the rest coming from individual donors and faith-based organizations. Together, this partnership is able to help clients like Mr. Park to overcome many difficult challenges and quickly stabilize their lives and move forward.

We are very concerned that the 25% projected cut to our 2020 budget will result in KCSC having to reduce office hours and the services we provide. This will certainly be devastating to our clients. As we work toward a healthy and empowered community and to make a positive difference, KCSC truly needs stable support and adequate funding from Howard County to allow us to meet challenging community needs. We appreciate your commitment and support to KCSC and humbly ask that you reconsider our 2020 budget request.

Thank you,

Summary of Mr. Park's (KCSC Safety Net Program recipient) testimony:

Last year, about an hour after eating dinner with his family, our client, Mr. Park, had a heart attack and had to be rushed to the hospital. The thought of dying and leaving his wife and three children was terrifying to him. He was left in so much pain that he could barely sit, stand, or even lie down. He was informed that an immediate surgery was required but that news was overshadowed by his financial situation, especially since he wasn't able to work while recovering from surgery. The family was already heavily in debt plus they had been dealing with their daughter's Turner syndrome, which needed ongoing and very expensive treatment.

At that time, Mr. Park came to KCSC to find out if there was any government assistance for his family. Our social worker explained that he didn't qualify for government cash assistance, however, KCSC's own Safety Net program could provide support. Through this program, he was able to get three months of rental assistance for the time he was unable to work and coupons for groceries. The KCSC staff helped him apply for Medicaid benefits for his medical bills and the volunteer financial experts worked with him to sort out his finances.

ⁱ 2015 American Community Survey.

ⁱⁱ CNN Money, Nov. 12, 2015



HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

I, ROGER PYON, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

Korean Community Service Center of G.W. to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding recommended budget for FY 20 to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: ROGER PYON

Signature: Roger S. Pyon

Date: 5/1/2018

Organization: Korean Community Service Center of G.W.

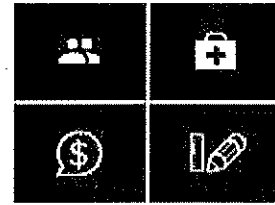
Organization Address: 8430 Glenmar Rd.

Ellicott City, MD. 21043

Number of Members: N/A.

Name of Chair/President: Roger S. Pyon

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 5pm the day of the Public Hearing or delivered in person the night of the Public Hearing before testifying.



Why Howard County is Facing Record Budget Deficits

April 5, 2019

Hiruy Hadgu

"What we have found is that new development tends to more than pay for itself and disproportionately finances the growth in government..."

This was a quote by economist Anirban Basu from a 2005 Baltimore Sun article [3] citing a study his firm Sage Policy Group conducted for the Maryland Builders Association, in response to a slew of impact fee legislation adopted by several Maryland Counties.

The view Mr. Basu stated is an orthodoxy shared by most municipal leaders in Maryland if not the entire U.S. To them, more residential development means, more tax revenue for the county's coffers.

There were dissenters at the time who cast doubt on the assertion. A Baltimore County councilman at the time, Vincent J. Gardina, said the following: "... houses are selling for an arm and a leg, but if you look at one house with two children in school, that [cost per pupil] approaches \$20,000 a year. No way we get that kind of revenue from a property tax." [3]

Fourteen years have passed since Howard County enacted legislation that allowed the collection of surcharge fees to provide infrastructure needed for new development. Who was right?

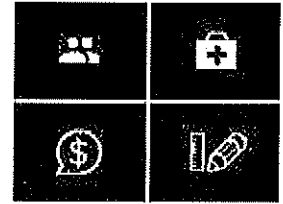
First lets clear up some terminology...

Impact Fees vs. Surcharge Fees

The technical terms used to define the fees differ based on how the fees are assessed and spent. Howard County collects *surcharge fees*, while others collect *impact fees*. Impact fees are required to provide direct benefit in the geographical region of those who purchase the new homes, while surcharge fees have no geographical restriction. Impact fees are also supposed to be spent within a prescribed period of time, after which they are returned to the Developer.

The TL;DR...New Development does not Pay for itself

Looking back, the evidence suggests Mr. Basu and others who pushed that orthodoxy were wrong. In fact, new development does not pay for itself. Each home has associated costs:



schools, roads, police, fire, hospital, water, sewer, environmental, bike paths, public transportation etc...

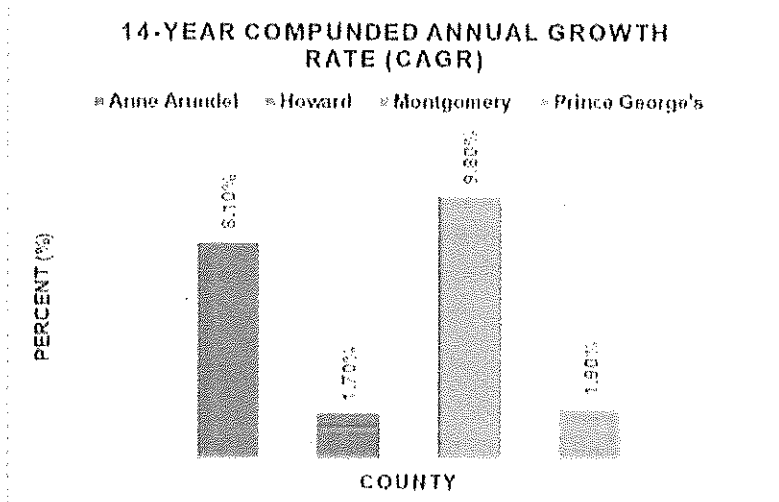
For example, the construction of High School #13 will cost nearly \$78,000 per new student. Furthermore, at the rate of 0.5 kids per home in Howard County, it costs \$15,000 per student to run the public school system.

The marginal revenue and cost of each additional new residential home is further complicated because “where the last units of service are more expensive to provide than the first- the cost of providing services to new residents may be higher than the cost of providing such services to existing residents.” [1]

Developer Corporate Subsidy

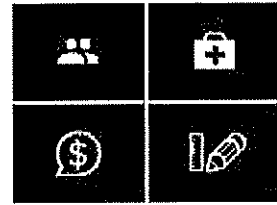
Radio personality Marc Steiner once said "Developers are the defense industry of local governments".

In 2004, the Maryland State Legislature enacted a law that enabled Howard County to charge Developers surcharge fees. The fee was set at an arbitrary value of \$1 per square foot, without any analysis to demonstrate the fee was market rate.



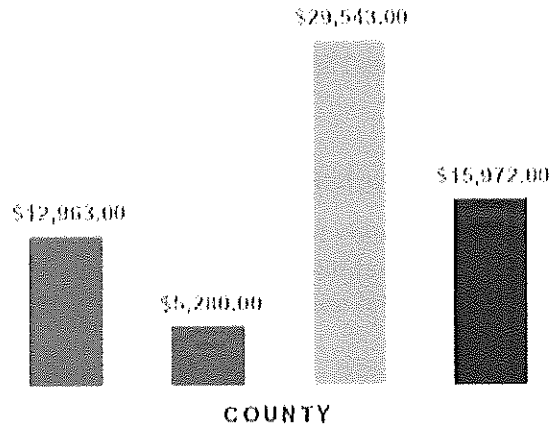
The 2004 bill also tied the County's hands by preventing it from adjusting the fee in the future. Consequently, since 2004, the fee has increased only at the rate of inflation to an annual rate of 1.7%.

In 2018, the average impact fee per new home was \$5,280. By comparison, Montgomery County charges nearly \$30,000, increasing at an annual rate of 9.8% over 14 years.



2018 AVERAGE IMPACT FEE PER NEW HOME

■ Anne Arundel ■ Howard ■ Montgomery ■ Prince George's

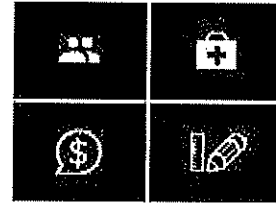


Since 2004, Howard County has approved a minimum of 1,700 homes per year, or nearly 24,000 new homes in 14 years. If Howard County's impact fees kept up in pace with Montgomery County, it would have received an additional \$500 million in fees. The county subsidized developer profits to the tune of \$500 million.

The Public School System's Record Deferred Maintenance

For perspective, as of October 2018, the school system's deferred maintenance has exceeded \$500 million. Furthermore, the county's trailer classrooms have increased annually to over 200 over those years.

Total Deferred Maintenance as of October 2018					
SHOP/Project Mgr	Count of SHOP/Proj Mgr	Sum of Total Deferred Operating Cost	Sum of Total Deferred Capital Cost	Sum of Total Deferred IEQ Cost	
Building Envelope	62	\$6,901,475	\$13,812,260	\$825,000	
Carpentry	6	\$467,250	\$13,350	\$0	
Custodial	1	\$40,000	\$0	\$0	
Electrical	24	\$1,675,000	\$4,451,300	\$0	
Elevator	1	\$0	\$100,000	\$0	
Energy	2	\$160,000	\$0	\$0	
Flooring	44	\$1,375,145	\$19,842,310	\$0	
HVAC	74	\$10,162,000	\$433,875,365	\$0	
Paint	66	\$7,715,000	\$0	\$0	
Plumbing	30	\$6,781,000	\$10,714,471	\$0	
Roofing	23	\$163,000	\$22,927,000	\$0	
Construction	16	\$0	\$3,805,368	\$0	
Total	352	\$35,419,070	\$529,541,424	\$825,000	
Grand Total Deferred				\$545,786,294	

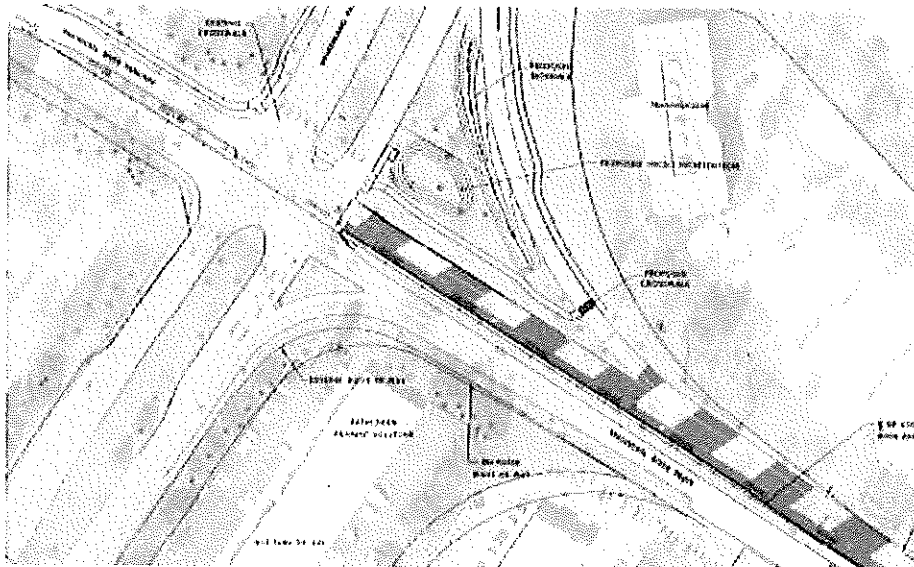


Howard County issues bonds backed by the collected surcharge fees. Since 2004, the county issued \$101 million in bonds based on \$84 million in surcharge fees. Assuming it can realize 20% more in funds through bond financing, how much would the county have raised based on market-rate surcharge fees? That is to say, if the county charged market-rate surcharge fees instead of subsidizing developer profits?

If the county had collected the additional \$500 million, it could have raised nearly \$720 million in bonds for schools.

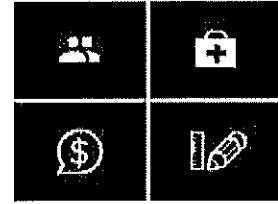
Specific Example of Developer Subsidy

Every year, the county appropriates funds for various capital projects. Between 2011 and 2017, an average of 5% of the county's capital budget was appropriated for road construction and resurfacing. As of 2017 an all-time total appropriation 8.7% of the county's capital budget was set aside for these two programs.



Many of the county's roads are operating at a very low level of service. Not by accident, but by design. For example the level of service for the intersection of Snowden River Parkway and Broken Land Parkway is 'F' because the mitigation process through the adequate public facilities ordinance (APFO) requires a low level of service standard. Furthermore, the county collects very little money from the main beneficiaries of the road improvements- developers of the various businesses along the road.

The county approved construction of a Royal Farms gas station on Snowden River Parkway and Minstrel Way. Over the years, the approval of many such businesses led to significant congestion on the Parkway.



To relieve this congestion, a road widening project will begin in mid-2019. A portion of the project - to add a third westbound left turn lane - in that section of Snowden River road will cost taxpayer \$750,000. [7]



April 7, 2018

Mr. Chad Edmundo, Chief
Howard County
Department of Planning & Zoning
Development Engineering Division
3410 Courthouse Drive
Elkton City, Maryland 21033

Based upon the potential improvement, a preliminary cost estimate has been developed and that estimate is also attached. The total identified cost for this improvement is \$123,815.50.

With a total cost of \$123,815.50, the pro-rata share for this development at 10.8% would be \$13,372 (10.8% of \$123,815.50)

J4222 Snowden River Parkway Widening



Widening of Snowden River Parkway between Oakland Mills Road and Broken Land Parkway.
Project will be phased with new third left turn lane to be constructed in Summer of 2018
Estimated Cost of 3rd left turn lane: \$750,000
Estimated Cost of Overall Project: \$30M
Overall project anticipated completion: 2023

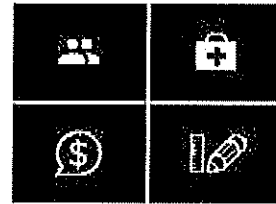
But, the price-tag diverges significantly from the amount estimated by the Developer-financed study of \$123,815.50.

The traffic study group provided the following estimate as the developer's share:

“With a total cost of \$123,815.50, the pro-rata share [Royal Farm's cost] for this development at 10.8% would be \$13,372 (10.8% of \$123,815.50)”.

So not only is the basis for the traffic study a weak APFO mitigation standard requiring low quality of service, the estimated cost impact is 83.5% less than the actual price tag. Furthermore, the Developer will pay only 1.78% of the actual price-tag. Not 10.8%.

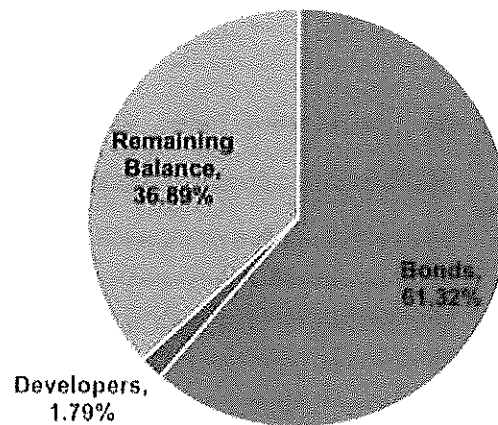
Here again is an illustration of how poorly the county does a poor job of accounting for all externalities in assessing the impacts of a project. In this case the job is to mitigate road congestion.



Record Deficits due to an Orthodoxy

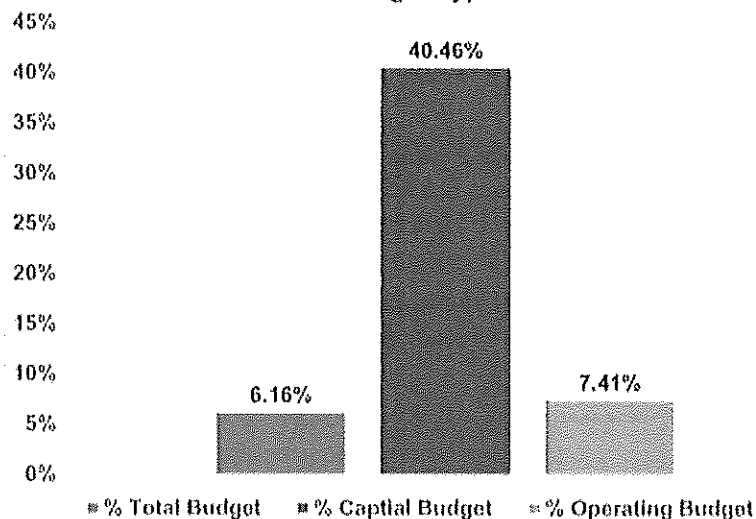
Over the years, the “new development more than pays for itself” orthodoxy has led to record deficit. Recent news reports state, Howard County's “...deficit will reach \$108 million in fiscal year 2020 and will likely grow to about \$275 million by fiscal year 2025 unless officials take corrective action.”[6]

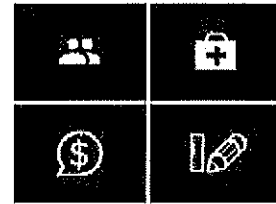
2011 - 2019 Average Capital Budget Funding Sources



Since 2011, the average annual contribution to the capital budget by Developers is equivalent in percentage to the road example presented earlier.

2011 - 2019 Average Debt Service as Percentage of Budget Type





More than 61% of the capital budget is financed through bonds, while developers pay less than 1.8% of the cost as shown by the road construction example. The average annual developer contribution is 1.79%.

Howard County has spent an average of \$100 million per year since 2011 to service these bonds, which amount to nearly 41% of the capital budget, 7.5% of the operating budget, and 6% of the total budget.

Little doubt exists as to the root cause of the deficits. Exorbitant bonds to finance capital projects primarily cause by unmitigated development.

County leaders have not used the benefit of hind-sight to change course. In fact they continue to push for policies based on the orthodoxies and economic approaches championed by Mr. Basu and many others in 2004.

The Traditional View of Development

Why is their approach wrong? Let's get back to impact fees (or surcharge fees in Howard County).

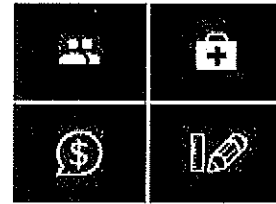
The approach is based on the traditional view [2] on impact fees that looks at the supply-side effect on housing. Broadly speaking, their orthodoxy says "more housing means more revenue".

According to the traditional view, impact fees are like excise taxes, which shift the short-run supply of housing up by the amount of the fee in a competitive market. The traditional view predicts, higher house prices, lower developer profits, and reduction in new home construction. In addition, the traditional view predicts impact fee increases would reduce prices paid to land owners and would hurt the availability of affordable housing.



What to do if an Impact Fee Seems Inevitable

- Suggest alternative mechanisms for the financing of public infrastructure (Chapter 6)
- Provide economic data to demonstrate the influence that impact fees have on housing affordability in an effort to lower the impact fee and/or transfer the timing of the payment of the impact fee further in the development and building process.



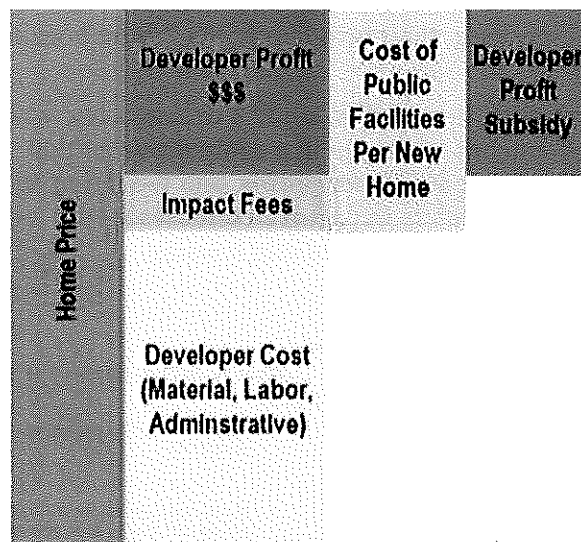
Developers would then be forced to leave the jurisdiction to avoid paying the fee. Consequently, the Developer flight combined with a reduction in tax base would lead to a decline in overall economic activity.

The Development Industry published a playbook [5] to reinforce the orthodoxy and traditional view of development. A snapshot of this playbook is shown. In addition to the predicted economic calamity, they also suggest the use of transfer taxes as an alternative means to raise infrastructure fees.

The Traditional View's Fatal Flaw

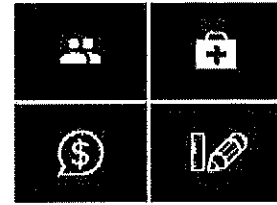
The traditional view has a fatal flaw, but it has the advantage of being intuitive to any consumer who has purchased any kind of goods. The concept of an excise tax getting passed on to the consumer is easy to understand since it happens every day. Alcohol and cigarette tax, gas tax, electricity tax, etc... This fatal flaw is reflected in the figure provided by the developers impact fee playbook.

This is not to say the model is not applicable to other jurisdictions, albeit with some heavy caveats. In Howard County, the traditional model has led to an increase in county debt, decrease in quality of infrastructure, and massive developer profits.



What happens in jurisdictions with low or no impact fees? Developer profits are subsidized because the taxpayer funds all infrastructure.

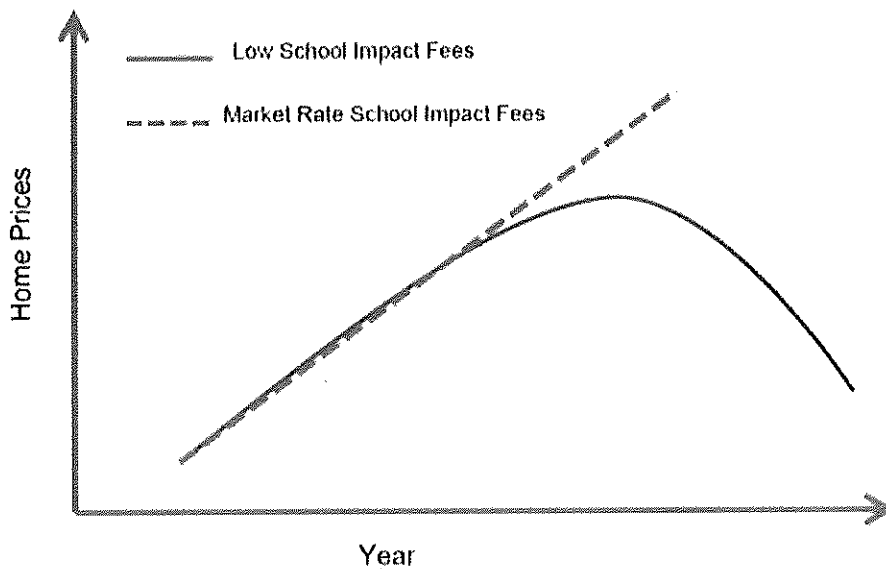
“When a development reduces the commons available to others, such as open space, clean air, or natural habitat, the developer will tend to provide too much of the housing or other product if



the developer and its home buyers are not asked to internalize the full costs of the development's use of commons." [1]

Furthermore, growth is delayed through lengthy planning review processes and a moratorium may be put in effect [by the taxpayer who becomes sick of subsidizing those profits] [2].

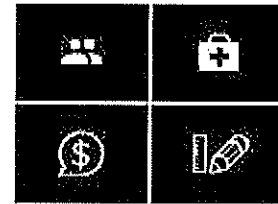
"Because residential development does not generate enough additional tax revenue to cover the cost of providing new public services, the community may adopt exclusionary barriers to the construction of residential property." [2]



Finally, developers move to other jurisdiction because of the inadequate public facilities and low quality of life they activities created.

In the long term, home prices decline because consumers look for jurisdictions with better infrastructure and the remaining tax-base is saddled with all the costs of maintaining existing infrastructure. Since the remaining tax base is poorer it won't be able to sustain the burdens, which leads to higher debt, resulting in a municipal financial crisis.

"In a competitive market, if a jurisdiction increases its property taxes but does not increase the quality or quantity of services it provides with property tax revenue, consumers will purchase housing in jurisdictions with lower property tax rates. Decreased demand will reduce the price of housing in the taxing jurisdiction so that the total housing price/property tax/service package will remain competitive with other jurisdictions." [1]



That is to say, it is the low quality of infrastructure that leads to decrease in demand, not increase in impact fees to keep up with infrastructure needs.

TRADITIONAL VIEW	"NEW" VIEW
<p>IMPACT FEES ARE LIKE EXCISE TAXES ...which shift the short-run supply of housing up by the amount of the fee in a competitive market.</p>	<p>IMPACT FEES HELP ...offset property taxes that would otherwise have been assessed, leading to a savings in these costs that will be capitalized into home values.</p>
<p>IMPACT FEE INCREASES ...reduce prices paid to land owners</p>	<p>IMPACT FEES IMPROVE ...the timeliness of availability of infrastructure. This increases the supply of develop-able land by adding capacity to public infrastructure.</p>
<p>IMPACT FEE INCREASES ...will drive away developers to other jurisdictions</p>	<p>LOW IMPACT FEES ...lead to a decline in quality of living. Developers AND Consumers will leave when quality of living declines due to bad infrastructure.</p>

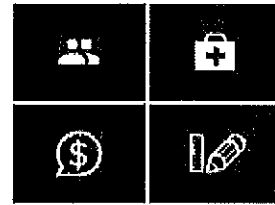
There is an approach to development that more accurately reflects its impacts.

The "New" View on Development

This "new" view, discussed in great detail in [2] says, impact fees are nothing more than the cost of providing valuable facilities to new development. They offset property taxes that would otherwise have been assessed, leading to a savings in these costs that will be capitalized into home values. They improve the timeliness of availability of infrastructure, which increases the supply of developable land by adding capacity to public infrastructure.

Empirical studies on effects of impact fees indicate future property tax increases are averted when the cost of public infrastructure is paid by the Developer at the time new homes are built. Studies also show that impact fees have at best a boosting effect on job and economic growth and at worst a non-discernible effect.

Furthermore, impact fees have an insignificant effect on construction rates, while positive effect on demand for homes in inner and outer suburban and rural areas. The study demonstrates that very little relationship exists between the Developer claims that impact fees reduce affordable housing. The mechanism to provide affordable housing in a jurisdiction with high home prices is not through low impact fees.



So, What is the Solution? Use Level of Service as a Metric

The framework used to assess the effects of new development needs to change. Not only is it grossly inaccurate and misleading, it does not take into account a key metric in the analysis.

For example an economic and fiscal impact study of the update to the county's adequate public facilities ordinance (APFO) prepared for the Howard County Economic Development Authority [4] predicted a decline in "residential construction and employment activity" and a broader decline on "residential income and spending impact".

The predictions like those made by Mr. Basu in 2004 are not accurate because they have no consideration for the impact on the **level of service**. For developers, the level of service is an afterthought.

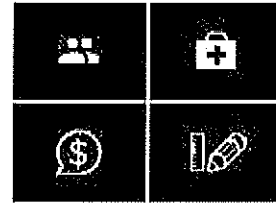
"For the market for housing (or other forms of development) to be efficient- to maximize overall social utility – standard economic theory holds that the price of housing must include all the benefits and costs that the development brings to or imposes on society." [1]

A socially, economically, and fiscally optimal rate of growth can only be achieved only when the impacts of growth on each of these factors are internalized.

Level of service of public infrastructure must be the main driver of new development. In a spectrum with extremes of moratorium at one end and unregulated development on the other, impact fees actually represent a happy medium.

References

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2. Burge, G. (20106, May 03). Impact Fees in Relation to Housing Prices and Affordable ... Retrieved from https://www.researchgate.net/publication/265228760_Impact_Fees_in_Relation_to_Housing_Prices_and_Affordable_Housing_Supply
3. Carson, L. (2005, March 28). Md. counties, builders at odds over who pays for the costs of growth. Retrieved from <https://www.baltimoresun.com/news/bs-xpm-2005-03-29-0503290027-story.html>
4. Clinch, R. P., & Steere, E. M. (2018, January 16). The Economic and Fiscal Impacts of the Proposed Adequate ... Retrieved from <http://www.hceda.org/wp-content/uploads/HCEDA-APFO-Impact-Report-1-16-18.pdf>
5. IMPACT FEE HANDBOOK - NAHB. (2008). Retrieved from [https://www.nahb.org/en/research/~media/8B12E2AABAE549F49CDC751B378C737A](https://www.nahb.org/en/research/~/media/8B12E2AABAE549F49CDC751B378C737A)



6. Wilen, H. (2019, March 1). Howard County could raise taxes following panel recommendation. Retrieved from <https://www.bizjournals.com/baltimore/news/2019/03/01/howard-county-could-raise-taxes-following-panel.html>
7. Snowden River Parkway Lane Addition Project to Begin. (2019, March 26). Retrieved from <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Departments/Public-Works/Bureau-Of-Engineering/Transportation-and-Special-Projects/Current-T-SP-Design-Project-Information>

May 1, 2019

Dear County Executive, Dr. Ball and Members of the Howard County Council:

As the Director for Student Services in the Howard County Public School System from 2000-2012, I had the opportunity to be involved with several agencies in the community that worked with and supported families and children. The many agencies with which I worked, provided resources and information to our school counselors and psychologists, pupil personnel workers and to our nurses, all of whom were in the Department of Student Services. When I made the decision to retire, my hope was that I could continue to be involved more closely with parents and children in our community, especially those who were 'at-risk' because they seemed to be caught in the middle of families in conflict.

The resources and support the ***National Family Resiliency Center (NFRC)*** provides to children and to parents who are separating, divorcing or who have never been married, but are ending their relationship, are unique and specific. There is no other agency or center in Howard County that solely provides specific and targeted parent education and counseling for parents who are divorcing or separating, groups and individual counseling for children who are struggling and in the middle of their parents' conflict, and classes on co-parenting which include creating child-focused parent plans.

Children and adolescents who are caught in the middle of their parents' conflict often internalize their feelings and take on a huge responsibility of guilt for their parent's problems. As a way of protecting themselves from further disappointment and emotional pain, they often disengage from their friends, from school, and from their parents. These are the children the NFRC provides counseling and support for. Parents who are engaged in 'custody battles' or who are 'fighting' to win custody and not focused on what's in the best interest of their children, are those parents with whom the NFRC works to teach how to co-parent for their children's emotional and mental well-being.

I am here tonight to express my disappointment in hearing that the Council is considering cutting 50% of the budget for this unique agency in our community, the ***National Family Resiliency Center***, and am respectfully asking that Dr. Ball and members of the Council to please reconsider this funding cut. The number of children bearing the brunt of their parent's divorce, at a great cost to them, is growing and is often not recognized by teachers and school counselors. Continuing to fund the NFRC at previous levels, will enable the staff at the NFRC to continue to offer training for our schools, and the much needed services and support for families in conflict so that our children can thrive and enjoy their childhood and their parents can co-parent in a civil and respectful manner in two homes.

Sincerely,

Pamela Blackwell, M.Ed., LCPC
Former Director for Student Services for HCPSS (2000-2012)

NATIONAL FAMILY RESILIENCY CENTER

Adult Peer Counselor

~ Client

Youth Peer Counselor

~ Son

Volunteer - Co-Parent Seminar



HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

I, Margaret May Desautelle, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

National Family Resiliency Ctr. to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding _____ to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation. restore funding
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Margaret May Desautelle

Signature: M. May Desautelle

Date: 5-1-19

Organization: NFRC

Organization Address: 1000 Century Plaza.

10630 Little Patuxent Pkysuite # 115 Columbia

Number of Members: _____

Name of Chair/President: Risa Garon

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 5pm the day of the Public Hearing or delivered in person the night of the Public Hearing before testifying.



HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

I, Bita Dayhoff, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

Community Action Council of HO. CO. to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding Operating Funds FY 20 to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Bita Dayhoff

Signature: Bita Dayhoff

Date: 5/1/2019

Organization: Community Action Council

Organization Address: 9820 Patuxent Woods Col. MD

Number of Members: 1

Name of Chair/President: Patrick Curtis

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HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

I, MAT FLEMING, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

ELICOTT CITY PARTNERSHIP to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding COUNTY BUDGET to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name:

MAT FLEMING

Signature:

[Handwritten Signature]

Date:

1 MAY 2019

Organization:

ELICOTT CITY PARTNERSHIP

Organization Address:

8321 MAIN STREET

ELICOTT CITY, MD 21043

Number of Members: _____

Name of Chair/President:

MAT FLEMING

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**HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION**

I, Colleen Morris, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

HCEA to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding _____ to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Colleen Morris

Signature: Colleen Morris

Date: 5-1-19

Organization: HCEA

Organization Address: 5082 Dorsey Hall Dr.

EC MD 21042

Number of Members: 6,100

Name of Chair/President: Colleen Morris

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 5pm the day of the Public Hearing or delivered in person the night of the Public Hearing before testifying.