

Sayers, Margery

From: Ted Markle <tedmarkle@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2020 11:50 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Testimony capital budget 2021
Attachments: County Council Meeting April 2020.docx

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

Dear Council;

Please see attached testimony.

Ted Markle

Ted Markle

6281 Amherst Ave.

Columbia, Md 21046

RE: Project T7107 Downtown Columbia Patuxent Branch Trail Extension

Dear Planning Board;

My testimony concerns project T7107. This proposed bike path starts south of downtown Columbia and goes under the Route 29 bridge at the Little Patuxent River. This project has been ongoing for over 6 years. The county has to get the permission from the State of Maryland - State Highway Administration (SHA) to build a path under the Route 29 bridge. After the county submitted several proposals, the State of Maryland has rejected the county's proposal to build a path under the Route 29 bridge near downtown Columbia. The first proposal submitted on August 6 2018, the second proposal submitted on October 16, 2019 and the third proposal submitted on December 5 , 2019. On January 3, 2020 SHA rejected the project. I talked to Chris Eatough, the Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator in March 2020, who was not aware of the rejection. Obviously he is not reviewing the contractor's work. The contractor is not keeping Chris informed of this rejection. The contractor continues to work on this project which cannot be done because the MD SHA will not give them permission to build over their land.

The SHA's reasoning is A. They are concerned with the Extreme flash flooding under the Route 29 bridge ; and B. There is already a safe path 3/8 of a mile away via the Route 29 bridge path over Route 29.

The rejection of the bike path by the State of Maryland can be verified by going to the website <https://www.roads.maryland.gov/mdotsha/pages/amd.aspx?Pageid=876> and typing in project 18APHO008XX. At that time they called it the Stevens Forrest shared use path. Howard County keeps changing the name of the project even though it is the same project to confuse people and disguise its failure. Eric Tissue from SHA , the engineer who worked on this project can verify that this path has been rejected. Eric's email is Tissue.consultant@mdot.maryland.gov or Telephone 301-624-8153. Also, Scott Newill the supervisor at SHA can verify this rejection snewill@sha.state.md.us 301-624-8151.

Also, there is incorrect information in the description stating that it is a car free connection between downtown Columbia and Savage. At Vollmerhausen Road near the Patuxent Valley Middle School the path crosses the road and go up a very steep hill. Crossing the road is dangerous because of the curve at the top of the hill with limited visibility. Also, once one crosses the road they would have to share a small sidewalk with school walkers and ride up a very steep hill. This can be viewed on goggle maps where the Patuxent Branch Trail is shown but is deceiving as the steep hill is not shown but the curve in the road is shown

Below is a picture of a flood under the Route 29 bridge where the path would be built.



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

On May 27, 2018 fireman performed a high water rescue of a woman on Route 29 near the bridge where the path would be built under the bridge. See video below.

<https://patch.com/maryland/columbia/high-water-closes-part-highway-columbia>

County officials say flooding is rare which is not true. Since the river bank is only a few feet above the water level under the Route 29 bridge it floods with as little as 1/2 " of rain.

Over \$575,000 has been appropriated on this path which had very little chance of getting approved from the beginning. This has been a complete waste of money. The bike committee which is composed of extreme fanatical bikers will never cancel this project even though the

State of Maryland rejected the county's proposal. There is no need to continue to waste money on this proposed path when there are many bike paths that can be built that are safe and feasible. Please remove this project from the 2021 budget.

TED MARKLE

Sayers, Margery

From: bombick@verizon.net
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2020 11:48 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Budget 2021

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

Dear County Council,

After reviewing the SAAC department presentations, the proposed Capital Budget, and in light of the budgetary uncertainty due to the current Covid-19 pandemic, I would like to offer the following comments.

Please consider limiting capital projects to areas of need in the county. Needs might include long-awaited road repairs, stormwater management concerns, and ongoing repairs to maintain facilities, parks, etc. Many departments have mentioned ongoing deferred maintenance problems. While many projects mentioned in the capital budget are visionary, if they do not "pay for themselves" in some way (and add ongoing maintenance costs), they should be scrutinized carefully.

Please consider delaying projects that are not mission critical to the county and that have not already begun. Items such as parking structures, new office facilities, new work/training spaces, etc. may be able to be delayed under the current county circumstances.

There are two areas I think should be considered essential because their use is mandated. People are required by law to be in K-12 schools and the detention center. These are places we must maintain adequately. Howard County residents have the freedom to come and go to the various libraries, community centers, pools, and parks. Community schools and the detention center are places residents must attend and therefore they must be maintained adequately for the population. They are not fun, but they are our obligation.

Other areas, including pools, parks, arts centers, and senior centers are amenities. Surely there must be outside grants and/or businesses that would be interested in partnering with Howard County for these projects. Please note that some projects are requesting the highest quality materials and gold star LEED certification. Is this the most efficient and effective use of county funds? I have heard suggestions that we look for public-private partnerships for our schools -- why not for senior centers? At the very least, please consider financially partnering with CA in building projects within Columbia. I assume that it is their mission to maintain and develop the amenities in this area and would therefore be interested in investing in projects such as new fields, senior centers, etc. within Columbia proper.

I wanted to comment on the Cultural Arts Center. Similar and nearby art and performance space is available at HCC and Wilde Lake HS, both of which are already paid for and maintained. Perhaps these spaces could be utilized more fully with better transportation rather than \$60,000,000 in building costs?

Finally, all amenities constructed should strive to be revenue neutral. Fees should be charged to businesses and individuals using these facilities that will ensure that their ongoing maintenance can be managed. We must request that departments generate revenue through a combination of fees, grants, and business partnerships to meet their ongoing needs.

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,
C. Bombick

Sayers, Margery

From: no-reply@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 5:30 PM
To: mariedodge@comcast.net
Subject: Council - Capital Project K5043 for Sidewalk Repair

First Name: Marie
Last Name: Dodge
Email: mariedodge@comcast.net
Street Address: 4724 Yorkshire Drive
City: Ellicott City
Subject: Capital Project K5043 for Sidewalk Repair

Message:

For the last 4 years I have requested the county to repair the sidewalk in front of my house. The trees put in by the county years ago have heaved my sidewalks and it is a safety hazard for those residents that are walking, running, pushing strollers, riding bikes, etc. We spray the sidewalk edges yellow to give people a warning. One corner of the sidewalk is now 4 inches out of the ground. I understand that Capital Project K5043 is up for discussion that includes sidewalk repair and I request the council support this project with the appropriate funding. I would like it fixed before someone really gets hurt.

Sayers, Margery

From: no-reply@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 12:36 PM
To: costello@umbc.edu
Subject: District 3 - new 50+ center

First Name: peg
Last Name: costello
Email: costello@umbc.edu
Street Address: 7246 Lasting Light Way
City: Columbia
Subject: new 50+ center
Message: - The yoga class at the east columbia - 50+ has changed my life! - Thank You!

Sayers, Margery

From: Carolyn Zimmerman <zimmercm@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 10:32 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please Support Construction of 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.]

To: All County Council Representatives

I wanted to write to you before the budget meeting tomorrow. I am asking your support for Project C0335, the building of a new stand-alone East Columbia 50+ Center. I am very happy that the proposed Capital Budget for FY21 includes \$16.2 million for construction of the Center. Please support this initiative as you continue deliberations on the FY21 budget. Now is the time to commit the funds for construction and break ground.

My husband and I are both in our 70s, and we live near the East Columbia Library/50+ Center. We have been enjoying yoga classes and dance classes there (until the COVID-19 shutdown). My husband was going to the ElkrIDGE 50+ center to use their fitness center. It would be wonderful to have such a center close by.

Thank you!

--

Carolyn M. Zimmerman
6679 Drowsy Day
Columbia, MD 21045
410-381-9347

Sayers, Margery

From: Wendy Alberg <wendy.alberg@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 4:34 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Fwd: East Columbia 50+ funding

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

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Wendy Alberg** <wendy.alberg@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Apr 8, 2020 at 5:53 PM
Subject: East Columbia 50+ funding
To: Councilmember Christiana Rigby <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>

Christiana-

I am so glad that Executive Ball's budget proposal includes funding for the East Columbia 50+ Center. We here on the "other" side of the Rt 29 canyon often feel like the poor stepchildren of Howard County, and it is good to see that our cramped, minimal senior center is finally getting serious attention.

-Wendy Alberg

Sayers, Margery

From: brenstokess@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 2:50 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: 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 Council,
Once again I implore you to support the efforts being made to build us a new center - apart from the East Columbia library. Before the current closures due to the Covid-19 virus, I visited the senior center at least twice a week for classes. It is simply not big enough to adequately satisfy the needs of the seniors who regularly attend. Thank you for considering.

Sincerely,
Carollyn Alexander
5063 Thunder Hill Rd
Columbia MD 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: LINDA Wengel <lwengel@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 8:12 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support for Cultural Center

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

(First, please presume that this testimony was prepared before the current Coronavirus crisis.)

As an advocate of mixed income housing in Downtown Columbia, I ask this council to support the development of the Cultural Center, one of five projects promised in the 2010 DRRA between the county and the Howard Hughes Corp. to fulfill the need for affordable housing in Downtown.

Those of us who advocated for a simpler inclusionary approach to supply mixed income housing throughout Downtown, were assured that the developments to be built on county owned land would deliver affordable housing faster. However, as thousands of apartments go up in Downtown, ground has not yet been broken on any of these sites. Approving the Cultural Center will finally bring our first mixed income development to fruition.

Through the tedious efforts of the Housing Commission, the Downtown Columbia Housing Commission, the county government and the Orensteins, funding has been secured that will not use general fund money or add to the deficit. I realize this is a hard concept for the public to comprehend and I know there is considerable public resistance. The Planning Board understood it and approved the Cultural Center development unanimously. I hope this Council will do the same. Thank you.

Linda Wengel, writing for myself
Columbia, MD

Sayers, Margery

From: allison korn <allisonkorn@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 1:02 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Allison Korn
Subject: 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 Members of the County Council:

As you prepare for your April 16th meeting I wanted to express my support for construction of the new East Columbia 50+ Center, Project CO335. I use the current small center nearly every day of the week. I think by now you've heard all the reasons it is inadequate to serve the needs of the growing 50+ population in this part of the county so I won't repeat the arguments here. The County Executive included the project in the capital budget after many years of deferring it. I ask that you support the project as the budget process unfolds. I recognize that the coronavirus pandemic has and will cause financial issues for the county so I know it will be difficult to fund every initiative. Having said that, I urge you to support the project.

I am writing to all of you because you may not be aware that people from all parts of the county travel to East Columbia for specific activities. Likewise, east Columbia residents often have to travel elsewhere in the county for activities because the small size of the East Columbia center precludes a fuller array of activities and amenities. It is long past time when east Columbia facilities measure up to those elsewhere in the county. Thank you for your consideration.

Allison Korn (6550 Carlinda Avenue, Columbia 21046)

Sayers, Margery

From: Claire Femiano <cfemiano@fastmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 12, 2020 4:48 PM
To: Pastewart4; CouncilMail
Cc: Fran LoPresti; McCague, Meridy; Henrietta Milward; Nelson Pollack
Subject: Re: Senior Center East Columbia

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

This is excellent Pearl. Point about social isolation and the center was something I hadn't considered.

Hope you're ok.

Claire

--

Claire Femiano
cfemiano@fastmail.com

On Sun, Apr 12, 2020, at 1:44 PM, Pearl Stewart wrote:

- >
- > Please keep funding for the East Columbia Senior center. Following
- > this crisis, Seniors will need these services more than ever.
- > Socializing we are realizing is important even more so for Seniors,
- > many who live alone. Resurrection of hope and resilience for Seniors
- > we pray for today and always.
- > Prayers for our Leaders for good health
- >
- > Sent from my iPhone
- > Pearline Atkinson Stewart
- >
- >
- >
- >

Sayers, Margery

From: Leannah Allen <leannah.allen23@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 12, 2020 3:01 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: The building of a 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.]

I am writing to ask your support for Project C0335: the building of a stand-alone East Columbia 50+ Center. I am pleased that the proposed Capital Budget for FY21 includes \$16.2 million for construction of the Center. I am asking that you please support this initiative as you continue deliberations on the FY21 budget: Now is the time to commit the funds for construction and break ground.

The building of a stand-alone East Columbia 50+ center would, I believe, add a few more enjoyable years to my life, as well as to the lives of many other seniors in the Columbia area . I know this: because I have seen it happen in the lives of the seniors of Prince Georges County. When the Wayne Curry Center was built, it gave the seniors a new perspective on their life. Some of the seniors had never walked any more than a few feet within a week. Those same seniors can now walk one to two and three miles within an hour. The Wayne Curry Center administers Annual Health Fairs as well as other enjoyable activities that benefit the seniors. So, those seniors have a place to get their blood pressure checked as well as other health related issues (no cost to them of course.

So, yes, I believe the building of a new 50+Center in Columbia would increase the life span of the elderly.

Thanks for your continuing endeavors in support for Project C0335; the building of a stand-alone East Columbia 50+ Center.

Lheannah Allen

A member of The East Columbia 50+ Center.

April 11, 2020.

Sayers, Margery

From: Pearl Stewart <pastewart4@verizon.net>
Sent: Sunday, April 12, 2020 1:44 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Fran LoPresti; McCague, Meridy; Henrietta Milward; Nelson Pollack; Claire Femiano
Subject: Senior Center East Columbia

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

Please keep funding for the East Columbia Senior center. Following this crisis, Seniors will need these services more than ever. Socializing we are realizing is important even more so for Seniors, many who live alone. Resurrection of hope and resilience for Seniors we pray for today and always.
Prayers for our Leaders for good health

Sent from my iPhone
Pearline Atkinson Stewart

Sayers, Margery

From: Pete Stoloff <pstoloff@verizon.net>
Sent: Sunday, April 12, 2020 8:18 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Project C0335

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

To: County Council Representatives

I am writing to ask your support for Project C0335, the building of a new stand-alone East Columbia 50+ Center. I am pleased that the proposed Capital Budget for FY21 includes \$16.2 million for construction of the Center. Please support this initiative as you continue deliberations on the FY21 budget, now is the time to commit the funds for construction and break ground.

Thanks for your continuing interest in a new East Columbia 50+ Center.

Sayers, Margery

From: Ping Mao <jpingmao@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 11, 2020 8:51 PM
To: CouncilMail
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 County Council Representatives:

I am writing to ask for your support of Project C0335, the building of a new stand-alone East Columbia 50+ Center. I am pleased that the proposed Capital Budget for FY21 includes \$16.2 million for construction of the Center, and I look forward to your commitment of funds towards its construction. As you continue deliberations on the FY21 budget, I'd like to share my perspective behind the monumental impact this project will have on the local community.

I have been a Tai Chi instructor in the East Columbia 50+ center for 13 years, now teaching over 100 senior citizens in this center multiple times each week. The program has grown tremendously in recent years, establishing heightened need for more space and facilities. Our group classes serve as a key outlet for healthy exercise and socialization.

A new center will increase the capacity at which we can offer the elderly community such engaging activities that improve their quality of living.

Thank you very much for your continued support of the rapidly increasing senior population in Howard County.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jianping Mao
6507 River Run
Columbia, MD 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Paul Verchinski <verchinski@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 11, 2020 5:00 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Paul L Verchinski
Subject: 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.]

To: County Council Representatives

I am writing to ask that you delay or abort Project C0335, the building of a new stand-alone East Columbia 50+ Center. The entire HoCo Operating and Capital budget will be stressed due to COVID19. This is a discretionary and nice to do project. We need funding for food and for HoCo basic needs and not a building that will only be used by 10% of Older Adults. I am not pleased that the proposed Capital Budget for FY21 includes \$16.2 million for construction of the Center.

Please delete this project as you continue deliberations on the FY21 budget. Now is not the time to commit the funds for construction.

The County has sufficient 50+ and Community Centers for Older Adult needs.

Best
Paul Verchinski
5475 Sleeping Dog Lane
Columbia, MD 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: Sharonlee Vogel <sharonleevogel@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 11, 2020 4:31 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: 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 Members,I

I'm writing to ask you to support for Project C0335, the building of a new stand-alone East Columbia 50+ Center.

I am pleased that the proposed Capital Budget for FY21 includes \$16.2 million for construction of the Center.

Please support this initiative as you continue deliberations on the FY21 budget, now is the time to commit the funds for construction and break ground.

The current center is far to small for activities - and as you know, the 50+ demographic is the fastest growing in Howard County, faster than K-12.

It is time to put assets to this large, growing group which has for decades support through their taxes and volunteerism the County.

Thank you!

Sharonlee Vogel
8725 Warm Waves Way, Columbia, MD 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: Kristine Amari <kristine.amari@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2020 8:06 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: FY 2021 Capital Budget

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

Hello,

I wanted to express my support for the 7.38 million for improved walking and biking in Howard County! These projects are valued by everyone in my family, and I feel they add a great deal to so many aspects of daily life in Howard County. In particular, improved bike lanes are such a great investment - helping people feel safe biking reduces traffic and improves air quality and the environment, and is also a huge draw to people looking to move into Howard County, bringing economic benefits as well. Thank you for making this important choice to fund these types of projects!

I also support increased funding for the Howard County Public Schools. I feel strongly that the public schools here are becoming less good for children and less academically competitive. I think we need to reinvest in our schools to make sure we are able to hire and keep good teachers who have the resources they need to do the essential work that they do. We badly need new schools (on top of what is already planned to be built) and many schools need work. We need to comprehensively solve the chronic redistricting problem which is harming our children's education and social development. Please make this a top priority for funding!

Thanks for your time.

Kristine

Sayers, Margery

From: Lou Weber <weber823@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 4:41 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Proposed budget

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

I see yet another "tax" is being increased, the real estate transfer tax is being upped. Last year was an addition to the fire tax. We need to stop the tax increases or lower spending. You are taxing people out of this county.

Lou Weber
9934 winter sun road
Laurel MD 20723
2028155139

Sayers, Margery

From: DIANE BUTLER <politicodiane@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 3:07 PM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth; CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin B; Ball, Calvin
Subject: budget testimony

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

To all,

I have not been able to follow all of the changes for the budget hearing and testimony times. Hence, the Email. I do know that I was "not" informed when the Army Corp of Engineers came back to Howard County with their report that Senator Cardin ordered after the state storm water management hearing that was held after the second massive flood, and I missed that important meeting. There were many questions that needed to be raised about the outlying areas of the watershed, besides Historic Ellicott City. (Why is there not a comprehensive calendar that lists all of the county events, and that is sent to the people that signed up for county notifications? IE The Charter public hearings were not even on the county calendar, if you were able to even find it).

There are other areas besides Historic Ellicott City that are in the two watersheds that are in dire need of storm water management. Dunloggin is a 60 year old neighborhood and our concerns are only addressed when the roads actually cave in due to outdated storm water management. I would like to request budget monies for fixing our ailing storm water management issues in the two watersheds, outside of the Historic Ellicott City project.

I am still waiting on word about a berm on Saint John's Lane to keep the water that rushes off of the road down through my, and my neighbor's yards (that never did this until the level of the road was raised after so many repavings without digging the road back down to its original height, as should have been done.)

The last time anything was done was when the county covered their own backsides by saying that they were no longer responsible for private systems that hook to county systems, even though the county mandated these systems. That is unfair to make our properties illegal after the county forced the same property owners to install storm water management that hooked directly to county drainage systems in the first place. The county was aware of these water issues 50-60 years ago. (Actually, what are county systems for, if the citizens cannot access them?) These older neighborhoods need comprehensive storm water management, now. I used to have a yard when I moved in more than twenty years ago. Now I have a constant swamp. Tax dollars have been paid for infrastructure, yet the storm water management has been woefully ignored.

Yes, we have our hands full right now, but the county has had fifty years to save for this rainy day!

Thank you, Diane and Andrew Butler
4056 Saint John's Lane, Ellicott ity, MD 21042
410-461-0066 (in case public works wants to call about installing the rest of the berm on Saint John's Lane to continue the job that was started nearly 15 years ago, and never finished!)

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2020 3:52 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: FY21 Budget Input - River Hill Community Association
Attachments: County FY21 Budget Input - RHCA Final.pdf

From: Susan M. Smith <manager@villageofriverhill.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2020 10:52 AM
To: Ball, Calvin <cball@howardcountymd.gov>
Cc: Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>; Kenney, Lisa <lkenney@howardcountymd.gov>; Pruiim, Kimberly <kpruim@howardcountymd.gov>; Williams, China <ccwilliams@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: FY21 Budget Input - River Hill Community Association

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

Dear County Executive Ball,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, please find enclosed the River Hill Community Association's input regarding the County's FY21 Budget.

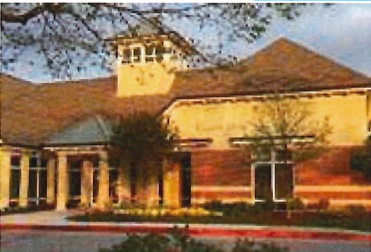
Thank you for your consideration of the community's requests.

Sincerely,

Susan M. Smith, Village Manager
River Hill Community Association
6020 Daybreak Circle, Clarksville, MD 21029
410-531-1749

www.villageofriverhill.org

Like us on Facebook: <https://facebook.com/RiverhillCommunityAssociation>



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March 11, 2020

Dr. Calvin Ball, County Executive
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear County Executive Ball,

The River Hill Community Association appreciates the opportunity to provide input on the County's FY21 Budget. Howard County is an excellent place to live, work, and play and the Board supports efforts to maintain the quality of life in the County. The issues currently of greatest importance to our community are education and safety.

Howard County's educational system is a strong one and is vital to maintain the quality of life for residents and property values across the county. While we are grateful for the proposed budget that increased in educational spending, more is needed to be done to accurately allocate and fund our county's school system.

Our excellent public education has been a crucial component in the growth and prosperity shared by all in Howard County. The Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) and its educators have consistently been recognized for their achievements at the national level. On the heel of the largest redistricting initiative in Howard's history, our community agrees with you that "... It is now time for us to begin the healing process and start coming together as a county... we continue to share a common goal - to provide all our students the best public education possible and foster the best teaching environment for our educators."

We believe that adequately funding our schools sends the important message to the citizens of Howard County and HCPSS educators that, the county is fully supportive of the school system and the decision of the Board of Education (BOE). Our community also shares your concern with the BOE's inability to clarify the data provided by HCPSS.

Therefore, we recommend the county request a performance audit by the Maryland State Department of Education to fully understand the expenditures of HCPSS, the redistricting process, and the effectiveness of the recent redistricting in addressing the student achievement gaps in our county. An objective third party, post implementation review of the redistricting plan will also provide insight for future redistricting; clarity in the process and the data for redistricting will help our citizens and decision-makers continue

our tradition of providing the best education for our children; and an accurate understanding of expenditures that will help citizens appreciate the depth and complexity of what make HCPSS great.

The River Hill Community Association maintains a strong focus on general safety within the community, traffic and pedestrian safety issues, and improvements along the MD 108 corridor. The following are budget priorities for our community:

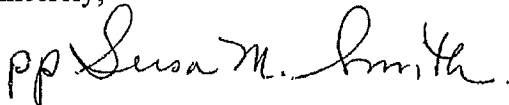
- **Public Safety** – The association supports the work that the County’s Fire and Rescue and Police Departments perform to keep our communities safe. These departments must be adequately funded to maintain services as the County’s population grows, attrition of employees occurs, and community needs change. Adequate funding is crucial to attracting and hiring fire fighters and officers without having to sacrifice hiring standards. While we are disappointed that due to budget constraints construction of a third police station has been postponed, we fully support projects to renovate and repurpose space for the department’s short-term use. However, we ask that your administration continue to plan for construction of a new station, establish a new funding schedule, and identify an alternative location if necessary.
- **Infrastructure Improvements and Connectivity** – Improvements are needed along the MD 108 commercial corridor in Clarksville to improve bike and pedestrian connectivity, reduce traffic congestion and speeding, improve safety, and create a sense of place. Therefore, the association continues to support Capital Project T7108 – Clarksville-River Hill Streetscape Improvements. The 65% design needs to be completed in FY21 and adequate funding established for construction in FY22 and FY23. We expect the county to collaborate with the State Highway Administration and developers along the corridor to maximize their contributions to this effort.
- **Road Resurfacing** - The association also supports funds for the Road Resurfacing Program. We ask that resurfacing funds in FY21 be allocated to include the completion of the project that began in the Pointers Run neighborhood in FY20. In 2019, bike lanes were installed along Summer Sunrise Drive, in conjunction with a re-surfacing project. Although roadway markings indicating the work would include the section of the neighborhood off Empty Song Road and connecting to Grace Drive, resurfacing in this area did not occur. This happened even though the streets in part of the neighborhood pre-date those at the rear off River Run which were re-surfaced.
- **Street Trees** - Street trees are a signature element of Columbia’s villages. As the county ages, adequate funds are needed for street tree replacement and maintenance. The County’s trim cycle of 12 – 13 years is inadequate in addressing the growth of the street trees in the River Hill community. The result is a lack of visibility, traffic safety issues, difficulty for pedestrians

using the sidewalks, and general resident frustration. In River Hill we have had some residents take "matters into their own hands" by pruning the street trees in a manner that damages the trees. While we recognize and appreciate that much of the budget has been directed to the removal of trees affected by the Emerald Ash Borer, funding needs to be enhanced for general street tree maintenance. The current trim cycle is too long in younger communities where trees are not as tall as in some of the older residential sections of the county.

- Sidewalk Repairs – The association supports funding for sidewalk repairs to address deteriorated sidewalks and driveway aprons in the public rights-of-way. Our community is now more than 25 years old and we are seeing the impact that time and tree roots have on the condition of our neighborhood sidewalks.

Thank you for considering our community's priorities and needs as you move forward in the budget process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "pp Tony M. Miceli". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Tony Miceli
Board Chair

Cc: Deb Jung, County Council Representative
Howard County Planning Board
Village Board
Columbia Council Representative

Sayers, Margery

From: Rusty Toler <rusty.toler@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2020 8:18 PM
To: BudgetTestimony
Cc: CouncilMail
Subject: Budget Testimony
Attachments: Budget Testimony

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

SUGGESTIONS FOR ENHANCEMENT TO OOAI AGING IN PLACE RESOURCES

Louis (Rusty) Toler, 7421 Swan Point Way, Columbia 21045 rusty.toler@gmail.com.

I am pleased that the Housing Opportunity Master Plan is underway .It is especially important that the County closely examine the housing needs of our Senior residents-myself included. The Howard County Senior Housing Master Plan has not been updated since 2004.

While we await and some of us actively participate in a future -focused plan, it's arguably more important that you put some dedicated resources into helping seniors now.

The 2004 Report had this short term recommendation (one to two years -or 2006!):

“Expanding the Office on Aging’s capacity to provide consultation and guidance to senior homeowners, assisting them to identify the needed scope of work, determine appropriate contractors or other sources, and contract for home repair, maintenance, renovation or modification. Seek partnerships with community and volunteer organizations to provide this help.”

It's now time to fully implement this recommendation:

“The OOAI should “staff up” or repurpose its existing staff to lead an aggressive and proactive Aging in Place program in partnership with other County departments and the private sector. The increased resources should be equal to the \$400 000 provided for the Housing Opportunities contract.

The County should provide a free “Age Friendly Home” evaluation for our 60+population so they will know the “ins and outs” of continuing to live where they are and can make house modifications for long term care at home or develop other housing options. This could start with seniors who have qualified for the Income based Senior Tax Credit or the Aging in Place Property Tax Credit. The next logical step is to help make sure these homes are “Age - Friendly”.

This assessment should include:

- **Home Safety.** A Home Safety or Home Risk Assessment should be done as a baseline to assure that homes are as safe as possible for daily living.
- **An Aging in Place (Stay or Go Move) Assessment.** The County should provide a list of options, questions and pros and cons of staying in the current residence versus moving.
- **Universal Design /Visitability Assessment.** This should be based on the Universal Design Guidelines for Age Restricted Adult Housing in Howard County. (The current requirements should also be evaluated and probably enhanced.)

- **Technology Assessment and Assistance.** Affordable internet and WIFI access county wide will foster communications and services. Technology will help provide for long term care at home and lessen the burden on family caregivers. It will also enhance job growth in both the home care and technology service sectors.
- **Energy Efficiency Assessments and Assistance.** Many homes occupied by seniors are decades old and energy inefficient and unhealthy –e.g., mold in the HVAC units and clogged ducts. This not only drives up utility costs but has adverse health consequences as seniors keep home temperatures abnormally high or low.

This funding request is a miniscule investment when compared with the return it could provide to maintain the safety, health and well-being of our older adults. It will also reduce the burden on caregivers, other County services and health providers. Further , this “all inclusive” approach would establish the County as a leading Age Friendly County.

I appreciate the opportunity to participate in the budget determination process.

Sayers, Margery

From: Roger Thibaudeau <Roger.Thibaudeau@howard-autism.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2020 7:01 PM
To: BudgetTestimony
Cc: CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin; Patrick Boxall; Melissa Rosenberg
Subject: Budget Testimony
Attachments: 20200312 - Budget Testimony Letter (Signed) final.pdf

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

Hello,

Please find attached testimony from the Howard County Autism Society regarding the FY21 Howard County budget.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you for this opportunity,
Roger Thibaudeau
Chair, Education Advocacy Committee
Howard County Autism Society



HOWARD COUNTY AUTISM SOCIETY

March 12, 2020

To: Dr. Calvin Ball, Howard County Executive

CC: Ms. Deb Jung, Howard County Council Chairperson
Ms. Liz Walsh, Howard County Council Vice-Chairperson
Mr. Opel Jones, Howard County Council Member
Ms. Christiana Rigby, Howard County Council Member
Mr. David Yungmann, Howard County Council Member

From: Education Advocacy Committee – Howard County Autism Society (HCAS)

Subject: HCAS Testimony regarding the Howard County FY21 Budget

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

My name is Roger Thibaudeau. I am a long-time volunteer for the Howard County Autism Society (HCAS), currently serve as the Chair of the Education Advocacy Committee, and have a 16-year old son with autism. I am providing this testimony today to cover two individual budget related topics;

1. Grants to non-profit organizations in support of the community
2. The Special Education portion of the HCPSS budget request

Firstly, on behalf of the Howard County Autism Society, I would like to thank you for your support of our organization and our members. The County has consistently provided us with funding opportunities so that we can develop innovative and effective supports for those on the autism spectrum, their families, and the communities in which they live and work. A prime example of this support was just last week, as the County honored us with a \$10,000 Innovation Grant to stand up an Autism Hiring Center designed to create a comprehensive program to develop a workforce pipeline across the county with our local businesses. We are excited for this opportunity given the extremely high rates of unemployment among those on the spectrum throughout the county, state and country.

At HCAS, we have also been fortunate to be consistent recipients of funding from the County through the Community Service Partnership Grant Program. HCAS relies on this funding stream to bring several key programs to the community, including:

- Support of a navigator for families facing significant additional challenges,
- Upkeep of our unique special education news center,

Providing Support • Promoting Awareness • Advocating for Change

9770 Patuxent Woods Drive, Suite 308 • Columbia, MD 21046
410-290-3466 • www.howard-autism.org • info@howard-autism.org

Howard County Autism Society

- Support of many education-related conferences and meetings,
 - Continued partnership with Disability Rights Maryland, and
 - One-on-one support services we offer the community through our educational consultant.
- Through the multitude of feedback we receive, we know these services are making a significant impact in the lives of those families we are serving. We are hopeful that this year's budget includes the funding that will allow us to continue supporting these programs into FY21 without having to reduce our services to the community.

Switching gears, we would like to talk about an area where we believe the funding needs are not being met. Specifically, we would like to discuss the special education crisis we are facing in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) due to a crippling combination of lack of staffing, and lack of training.

As the student population grows, so too does the number of special education students being supported by HCPSS. However, the percentage growth is higher amongst the special education population, a trend that has continued from recent years. Along with growth in numbers, we have also seen a rise in the complexity and diversity of needs of students across the county. When you add to that the questionable budget and programming decisions made by the last school administration that eroded the supports offered to some of our most vulnerable children, it should come as no surprise to anyone that the gap between available resources, and required resources, is so large. If we do not adequately staff special education, everyone loses; teachers burn out and leave, morale plummets, and our children fail.

For the second year in a row, Dr. Martirano, Dr. Savage and the HCPSS Department of Special Education (DSE) team have put forth a budget aimed at attempting to fill the resource gap. Yet, for the second year in a row, the Board of Education (BOE) has voted to significantly cut the additional requested staff before sending the budget onto the County.

Last year's BOE cut from the requested DSE budget was over \$5M. And since then;

- We have seen a continued rise in the diversity of needs, the complexity of challenges, and the sheer number of students requiring supports.
- We have heard from a multitude of parents and teachers concerned about the understaffed and undertrained classrooms supporting their students.
- We witnessed four brave special education staff members testify in front of the BOE in November about the dire nature of the barriers impeding them from providing the services to our children that these teachers yearn to provide.
- We saw a special education department so diluted that the HCEA felt the need to file a class action grievance on behalf of more than 70 of those teachers focusing on the severe effects of the underfunding on the staff, and on our children.

This year, the BOE cut \$4.2M from the Dr. Martirano's FY21 DSE budget, including half of the requested 216 additional staffing positions. Given the feedback from students, teachers, staff and parents alike, some may wonder why they made those cuts. We believe they know the additional staff is needed, but they believe that, given the County budget forecast, the HCPSS budget sent forth, even with the cuts made, is untenable; that the County does not have the

Howard County Autism Society


revenue to cover the amount Dr. Martirano requested; and that the percentage of the school expenses of the overall County budget is growing too rapidly and too large.

I am not here to argue those points. I'll leave that to those much more versed in County funding and politics than I am. We often talk about affordability when it comes to the County budget. I know that the budgeting task that lies ahead of you is challenging. But one thing should be clear. What we cannot afford are additional cuts to the special education budget put forth. We cannot continue to mortgage our future to handle the present. What happens when our students cannot grow and succeed due to lack of resources? They eventually age out of the school system. Once that happens, they struggle to find jobs, become isolated from the community, and require greater support for the remainder of their lives; well beyond the 15-18 years they are supported in school. Penny-wise and pound-foolish is an old, but perfect, analogy to describe this situation.

If there have to be additional cuts to the school budget, we must ensure they do not come on the backs of our most vulnerable students. The funding increase for special education remaining in the Board of Education budget can still provide positive impact for our community, as it provides for over 100 additional staff, including 20 K-12 special education teachers and 48 positions in early intervention. This augmented spending is a first step to work toward ensuring that our children will be safe every day they go to school, and will all have a true opportunity for quality education and an independent life. We have a long way to go to adequately support special education students in our County. We implore you to preserve this increase, and resist the urge to balance the budget at the expense of the most vulnerable in our school system.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony. We look forward to our continued partnership with the county.

Yours sincerely,



Roger E. Thibaudeau, Jr.
Chair, Education Advocacy Cmte
Howard County Autism Society



Melissa Rosenberg
Executive Director
Howard County Autism Society



Patrick Boxall
President, Board of Directors
Howard County Autism Society

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 11:59 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Howard County Budget 2021

From: C B <growingkids123@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 9, 2020 11:05 AM
To: Ball, Calvin <cball@howardcountymd.gov>; Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Howard County Budget 2021

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

Dear County Executive Ball and Council Member Jung,

In reviewing the budget presentations for FY2021, I would like to offer the following areas of consideration:

Capital Budget

Flood mitigation, street maintenance, detention center repairs, and school expansion seem to be areas of need in the county. Expanded sports fields, new libraries, senior centers, wedding venues, swimming pools, more sports fields, and expanded parks seem to be wants. Please limit these amenity projects. Every department mentioned the need to address maintenance backlog. This should be the priority over adding more facilities, employees, and land to maintain.

Operating Budget:

The *Library System* received 2.5% of the budget last year. In Montgomery County, *Community Use of Facilities, Recreation* and *Libraries* only accounted for 1.7% of their Operating Budget.

The Office of Transportation RTA stated that ridership is falling, but they added 5,000 hours of service and need new busses. Before more money is deployed, perhaps needs should be analyzed. Before bus stops are reconfigured and new bus shelters are put in place, perhaps the usage of stops should be more carefully evaluated. Maybe our new scooter partners have some suggestions on meeting county user demands and incentivizing use.

The Police Department requests increase staff due to school events. I believe that in the school budget sessions, HCPSS stated that they would be trying to handle more events with their own safety staff. Please determine which will be the case before allocating funding. There was also was a request for more officers. While the department feels stretched thin based on population growth, the actual crime numbers continue to decrease in every category except vehicle theft. The third area of concern was the challenges of Special Event Staffing. This type of staffing should not be allowed to put a strain on the budgets of our local agencies. If special events require a certain amount of police presence, that should be figured into the cost of permitting the event and payments should be made by the organizers, private or public.

The school system maintains fields and buildings for community use. They pay for the staff and maintenance out of the school budget. They run the bussing program for several private schools. They provide space for teacher daycare centers. The police department staffs special events out of their budget. Departments should not be overburdened while answering to the needs of other departments or organizations. Perhaps money should be allocated to

departments to "pay" other departments for their services. It may encourage departments to be more strategic in their planning and requests if they see the budgetary impact.

Special activities, programming, and services should strive to be more revenue neutral. If we are not charging enough for permits, school/field use, library classes, summer school, senior center use, transportation, etc., then the pricing model needs to be reviewed. Perhaps a sliding payment scale would provide more equity.

Revenues

As our land inventory reaches capacity, we face a tighter budget. This problem is exacerbated by allowing growth where infrastructure is not available. The fiscal study presented to SAAC assumes school capacity exists. In areas where there is no such school capacity, development causes more problems. Development should be directed to areas where capacity is available.

While our business sector is growing (at 18%) we are still far behind our neighbors (Montgomery and Frederick are about 22-24% business). Housing development should not be considered synonymous with business. We must focus on other types of business to develop long-term stability as we move out of the "growth" phase of the county.

Population growth

SAAC presented that we have a growing senior population. While this is true, we were starting at a lower than average number of seniors. Meanwhile, the population of children in Howard County is still more than 11% higher than other counties in Maryland and is the fastest growing student population in the State of Maryland. This should be considered when allocating funds and services.

Thank you for your service to Howard County.

Respectfully,
C. B. Russell

Sayers, Margery

From: tellhoco@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 11:55 AM
To: Gick, Ginnie; Jung, Deb; Williams, China; Jones, Diane; Hightower, Rozonna; Sayers, Margery; Hammond, Patricia; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0006026 – opened and unassigned

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



SUPPORT CASE

Case Number: CS0006026

Case Opened: 03-11-2020

Short Description: Watch Chain Way

Constituent: Stephen Hall

Priority: 3 - Moderate

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

03-11-2020 11:54:09 AM EDT - China Williams Work notes

To All:

Due to the fluid situation with the COVID-19 virus, I appreciate the opportunity to submit written testimony rather than appear in person at the Budget Hearing Thursday night as originally planned. I am following CDC guidelines and, as I am over 70, the advise is to avoid large crowds.

As everyone is well aware, there is a stormwater run-off drainage issue that effects my backyard at 6069 Watch Chain Way in Columbia, as well as my neighbor Birchard Allen at 6065 Watch Chain Way and John Cataldi at 6105 Stem Winder Court

The stormwater run-off has continued to increase over the past twenty years and reached a point last spring when we notified everyone the saturation was just intolerable. In my opinion, there are economic, health and safety issues.

My neighbors and I have worked for over a year in good faith with HoCo DPW to try to obtain funding for an

independent study of the sewer system in our area to determine the source of the increased run-off as well as what is recommended, based on the facts, to mitigate and/or reduce the surface water which ends up sitting in our three yards. We have no idea if there is capacity in the sewer system that could be utilized with some cost effective modifications or if new sewer drain construction are needed. (that is most likely the case for the standing water in the easement on Lot 270 owned by Parks and Rec). They recently declined to take any action and they told us we were on our own.

With the help of Kimberly Pruum, Sameer Sidh of Calvin Ball's office and Deb Jung's office, we have been informed that DPW will now arrange for an independent third party assessment of the storm water run-off that effects us. Although we have not received anything in writing to confirm the initiative, we have seen at least one potential candidate visit our area to personally survey the situation. Nevertheless, we believe that written confirmations not too much to ask of DPW.

We hope this is a story with a happy ending and an example of government in action for the common good because as we know, "all politics are local".

We hope that perhaps DPW could be more transparent and share the timeline and scope of the study. We are not engineers and are not trying to interfere with their business. We are not trying to capitalize on this situation, only to maximize the effectiveness by developing a good rapport with all involved.

There are still miles to go regarding this chronic problem. Once we have the benefit of the information contained in the study, we can then determine the appropriate course of action to follow. We are fair people and if things need to be done by DPW, we expect not to have to continue the endless delays and lack of answers and "there is no money in the budget" that we have continually received from them. If there are components for appropriate action by the homeowners, we will accept that.

We look forward to working with everyone effectively for the common good.

Thank you for this opportunity.

Sincerely,

Stephen P. Hall

6069 Watch Chain Way
Columbia, MD 21044-4715



www.howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG1005500

Sayers, Margery

From: Jeryl Baker <villagemanager@columbiatowncenter.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 12:42 PM
To: Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail
Subject: Funding for Howard County Watershed Stewards Academy
Attachments: Watershed letter .pdf

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

Please see attached testimony regarding the upcoming budget discussion. Thank you.

Jeryl Baker

Village Manager, Executive Director

Town Center Community Association
Historic Oakland Manor
5430 Vantage Point Road
Columbia, MD 21044
410-730-4744 phone
410-730-1823 fax
villagemanager@columbiatowncenter.org
www.columbiatowncenter.org
www.historic-oakland.com



Town Center Community Association

March 10, 2020

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Lynn Foehrkolb
Joel Broida
Kevin Fitzgerald
Robin Hillen
Dean Dworkin

COLUMBIA COUNCIL
Lin Eagan

County Executive Dr. Calvin Ball
Howard County Government
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

To the Honorable Dr. Calvin Ball,

We are writing to urge you to support the University of Maryland Extension's request to include as a new effort the Howard County Watershed Stewards Academy (HoCoWSA) in the County's FY 2021 operating budget. HoCoWSA provides valuable services to the Howard County community. The academy trains and educates local citizens in relevant stormwater and watershed issues using trained Master Watershed Stewards. These stewards assess neighborhoods and residential sites for stormwater management problems and potential solutions, while also guiding citizens as they seek to initiate residential-scale best management practices that will reduce the volume and pollution that leaves these sites as stormwater runoff.

HoCoWSA is able to access private property within Howard County – property that is outside of the County's authority/ownership and is thus inaccessible – and has collaborated with a number of County departments, nonprofits, schools, Boy/Girl Scout Troops, homeowner associations, and places of worship, conducting education and outreach efforts and acting as an effective bridge between the County and its citizens. With the increase in rain events and their resulting impacts on individual properties, the demand for help from homeowners across the County continues to increase.

Town Center is proactively addressing sustainability and resiliency issues as related to climate change. A key component is assessing the vulnerability to flooding, stream erosion, and damage to adjacent infrastructure. HoCoWSA through its programs is a vital link in support of assessing these issues and helping to mitigate their effects.

Again, we urge you to support the University of Maryland Extension's request to include as a new effort the Howard County Watershed Stewards Academy in the County's FY 2021 operating budget.

Thank you for your attention and support.
Sincerely,

Board of Directors, Town Center Community Association

Sayers, Margery

From: Angie & David Boyter <angie.boyter@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2020 4:21 PM
To: N'Guessan-Gbe, Darrell; Williams, Megan; Pruum, Kimberly
Cc: Dave Crawford; CouncilMail; Fisher, Karina; Walsh, Elizabeth
Subject: Road Resurfacing Budget Testimony
Attachments: Road Resurfacing Budget-Letter to Calvin.docx

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

Attached is my testimony for the capital and operating budgets for FY 20-21. Please enter it officially. I do not plan to testify in person.

Angie Boyter

Angie Boyter
3914 MacAlpine Road
Ellicott City MD 21042
boyter@boyter.net

410 465-1444

January 15, 2020

Dr. Calvin Ball

Howard County Executive

George Howard Building

Ellicott City MD 21043

Dear Calvin,

As you put together both the operating and capital budgets in the area I would like to bring up an area that definitely needs more funding. Transportation is a crucial element in the lives of EVERYONE in the county, and I have been planning for some time to bring to your attention a serious shortcoming that affects practically every mode of transportation our citizens use, be it bikes, buses, or private autos. In short, our local roads are in dreadful condition.

I see more potholes in the roads today than I can ever remember in the 52 years I have lived in Howard County. Our hard-working public works crews repair the potholes, but more crop up right near the ones just repaired. As I drive down neighborhood roads, even where there are no potholes there are significant cracks running through the roads, a signal that potholes are likely to appear soon. Many of our roads need resurfacing, not just pothole repair, and yet I see little or no money in the budget to resurface our local roads. I am enclosing pictures I took on Dunloggin Road and MacAlpine Road, within a block of my home, but I assure you that we are not unusual. I am confident that most of the neighborhoods have similar conditions.

Roads like this are unsightly and embarrass me when I have friends come visit me in what I brag is a great place to live, but it is also unsafe in bad weather, causes wear on tires, and can make for especially uncomfortable rides for frail or handicapped passengers and drivers.

I appreciate initiatives to improve our transportation network, but basic local government services like road maintenance are prerequisite to successful operation of those new initiatives as well as to serving the many citizens in communities like mine (or yours) that are not dense enough for significant mass transit or for cycling and walking to serve most of our needs.

Planning for future improvements is great and is necessary, but we need to put the priority on taking care of what we already have. Please help by putting more of my tax dollars to keeping the roads I use every day in better repair.

Sincerely,

Angie Boyter





Sayers, Margery

From: manager@owenbrownvillage.org
Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2020 4:17 PM
To: N'Guessan-Gbe, Darrell
Cc: Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail
Subject: Budget Testimony
Attachments: FY21 County Budget Input.pdf

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

Please see attached letter regarding FY21 budget testimony.

Thank you,

Craig Barton
Village Manager
Owen Brown Community Association, Inc.
6800 Cradlerock Way
Columbia, MD 21045
T -410-381-0202
F -410-381-0235
www.owenbrownvillage.org

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Monday, December 30, 2019 2:57 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Budget Testimony
Attachments: EC250-JR-FY21-budget request.pdf; EC250 Board Letter (2).docx

Thank you for contacting me with this important request.

Deb Jung
Council Chair, District 4
Howard County Council
3430 Court House Dr., Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-2001

Sign-up for my District Update [here](#).

From: William Lilley <ecrfpres@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 12, 2019 8:55 AM
To: Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Budget Testimony

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

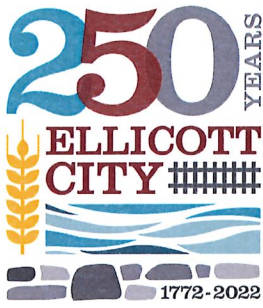
Dear Ms Jung

Attached are two letters of support for a funding request for the upcoming EC 250 event celebrating the founding of Historic Ellicott City.

Request was made in person Monday evening by Board Member Grace Kubofcik at the Executive's Budget Hearing. and we wanted the Council to be aware of the request.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Ed Lilley
EC 250 Board and Steering Committee
410-303-2959



CELEBRATING 250 YEARS

The Honorable Dr. Calvin Ball
Howard County Executive
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

December 9, 2019

County Executive Ball,

As Honorary Committee Chairman for the upcoming Ellicott City 250th Anniversary Celebration I ask that you please consider fully funding the request by EC250 Inc. in the amount of \$45,000 in your FY21 Proposed Budget. As you know Ellicott City is of special importance to me and I believe it is equally so to you. Also, as you know, I fully appreciate the funding demands and challenges you face in preparing your budget.

As you make your funding decisions, please remember that EC250 Inc. is a grassroots, non-profit that will operate within a very limited scope of time (FY21 and FY22). While there is tremendous support from partner organizations that will undoubtedly contribute to the success of this year-long celebration, additional funding will be necessary for basic operational expenses, marketing materials, fundraising and to help secure additional monies through matching grants.

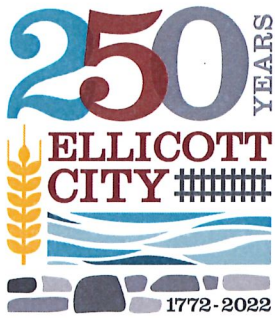
Much like the Howard County Sesquicentennial Celebration that occurred during my tenure as Howard County Executive, Ellicott City's 250th Anniversary Celebration will not be possible without the support of Howard County Government. I hope your administration will step forward, as I did, to make this a reality for Ellicott City, Howard County and Maryland. We are fortunate to hold such a valuable piece of American history in our hands and it is important that we share that story in a way befitting a County as rich and influential as ours.

I am counting on you to do your best to provide the funds to help make Ellicott City's 250th Anniversary Celebration a reality. Thank you for your consideration and I am always available should you have questions or wish to discuss this with me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jim Robey'.

Jim Robey,
Chairman, EC250 Honorary Committee



**EC250, Inc.
Board of
Directors**

*Victoria Goodman
Rita Hamlet
Debra Slack Katz
Joan King
Grace Kubofcik
Ed Lilley
Ron Peters*

The Honorable Dr. Calvin Ball
Howard County Executive
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, MD 20143

December 9, 2019

County Executive Ball,

EC250, Inc, respectfully requests that you please include \$45,000 in your proposed FY21 Operating Budget to help fund the 250th Anniversary Celebration of Ellicott City.

Our recent launch event for EC250 created much enthusiasm for our endeavor and we were so very pleased that you were there to celebrate alongside us. We appreciate the support you have offered thus far and are confident the efforts of our Honorary Committee going forward will benefit from your support. We are also very appreciative of your staff's support on our advisory committee as well as that of the Department of Recreation & Parks.

We are a grassroots, non-profit whose mission is to provide the overarching leadership, coordination, and support that will bring together local stakeholders to plan and collaboratively create an educational and celebratory 250th anniversary year filled with initiatives that honor the founding of historic Ellicott City, Maryland through a variety of activities, programs, events, and learning experiences. We plan to be in operation for a very limited time (FY21 and FY22), and while there is tremendous support from our partner organizations additional funding is necessary for us to begin basic, start-up operations such as marketing materials, fundraising efforts, and monies for matching grants and hiring a part-time Executive Director toward the end of 2020. We previously received \$5,000 from Howard County Government in FY19 that enabled us to launch our website. There was no request in FY20. We do not anticipate seeking more than the \$150,000.00 that Columbia 50th received from the County.

We do understand the funding demands you face and hope you agree that this landmark anniversary is of great significance and worthy of investment. With your help we promise to present a 250th Anniversary Celebration of the founding of Ellicott City that is representative of the quality that is synonymous with Howard County.

Thank you for your consideration and we are happy to answer any questions.

Ed Lilley on behalf of
EC 250 Inc. Board of Directors

Sayers, Margery

From: Bibi Foston <bhfoston@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2019 5:53 PM
To: tellhoco; Ball, Calvin
Cc: Madera, Matt; Delorme, Raul; Rigby, Christiana; CouncilMail
Subject: Budget Request - High Ridge Park Circle, North Laurel

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

Hello All,

At tonight's Budget Meeting 2020 - 2021, please include in your budget for the circle in High Ridge Park. We need a solar panel operated lights for all year round, and special lights for occasions - Memorial Day, Veterans Day, Ravens, and Holidays from November 21 to January 21, etc.

The horticulture in the circle needs to be better maintained.

Sincerely,
Bibi H. Perrotte-Foston

Sayers, Margery

From: larc4@comcast.net
Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2019 11:00 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: 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 Council members,

I am writing to support Project C0335, the building of a new stand-alone East Columbia 50+ Center. I was able to attend most of the hearings on this issue to date except for the December 9 meeting, so I'm writing to you to express my feelings. I am a senior citizen and have been a Howard County resident for over 50 years. I reside in Harpers Choice Village, but I'm a frequent user of the East Columbia center. My main activity there is to attend the art classes.

It is evident to me that the current center is seriously inadequate to support services and activities for the growing senior population who live in East Columbia, and for city-wide senior citizens like me who utilize the center for specialized classes. I urge you to support full funding for the center on the accelerated timetable that will enable it to be started in FY21. Further delays will only cost the County more money.

As you know, seniors are a valuable resource in our county. We pay property taxes but require no school funds. We require fewer overall services when compared to the general population. We also volunteer our expertise and experience for innumerable county activities. Howard County needs to show a concrete commitment to encourage and keep a robust senior population.

The senior community has testified at many Budget Hearings and Council meetings over the last 4 years explaining why we think building a new center should be a top priority. In addition to providing much needed senior services to a heavily populated area of Howard County, the existing center has been partnering with other civic groups to serve the greater community. A bigger center would mean more services for all of Howard County. I urge you to fully fund the project in the FY 21 Capital Budget.

Thank you for your support of this project.

Sincerely,
Carolyn Arena
5033 Broken Oak Lane
Columbia, MD 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Doris Rausch <darcyrau@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2019 4:48 PM
To: Ball, Calvin
Cc: CouncilMail
Subject: FW: East Columbia 50+ Center Update and Plea for your letters (list 2)

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

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 started in FY21. Further delays will only cost the County more money.

Seniors are a valuable resource in our county. We pay property taxes but require no school funds and require fewer overall services compared to the general population. We volunteer our expertise and experience in record numbers. Howard County needs to show a concrete commitment to encourage and keep a robust senior population.

The senior community has testified at many Budget Hearings and Council meetings over the last 4 years explaining why we think building a new center should be a top priority. In addition to providing much needed senior services to a heavily populated area of Howard County, the center has been partnering with other civic groups to serve the greater community. A bigger center would mean more services for all of Howard County. We urge you to fully fund the project in the FY 21 Capital Budget. Thank you for your support of this project.

Sincerely,
Doris Rausch
6508 Golden Spring Lane
Columbia, MD 21044
410-730-2777

Sayers, Margery

From: B Illum <buffy.illum@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 9, 2019 4:36 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Citizen's budget testimony: Schools, complete streets, GREEN streets, recycling

[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,

I am sending this email as a substitute for giving in person testimony. I think it's wonderful that the county executive and council are inviting citizens input on budget priorities. There are several issues impacting my neighborhood and the county in general. I will list them here:

- School improvements - Please put Dunloggin Middle School back on track for renovations
- Complete streets traffic safety - I support complete streets AND want to be sure bike riders and pedestrians are safe in my neighborhood (Dorsey's Search/Dorsey Hall) Car traffic at 108/Columbia Rd and Columbia Rd/Old Annapolis Rds intersectons is dangerous here at peak times. I have learned that the county is aware that the back ups here are due to drivers using Columbia Rd and Old Annapolis to avoid back ups on Rt 40 and 70. So 1) Please work with the state of MD to alleviate traffic here so that bike riders and pedestrians can safely get to shopping, school and work places at peak times. 2) Please ENHANCE the turning lane signage and markings on southbound Columbia Rd where it crosses 108. There are often near misses between cars themselves where motorists overlook that the left lane is left turn only. What will happen to bike riders? It is downright dangerous at peak times 3) Please improve crosswalk visibility on 108 and I strongly urge bike lanes and sidewalks on 108 (unless the MD state doesn't allow that?) 4) Please figure out what can be done to alleviate traffic at Columbia Rd/Old Annapolis intersection. That's a tight section of road 5) This is not a direct budget item but could end up saving the county money so I will include it here: please, please reconsider if Old Route 108 could be used to increase bike/pedestrian/car safety instead of selling it to a private developer. My neighbors and I are sincerely concerned about these two intersections and would like to see the county working on solutions. Thank you!
- Storm water management: there's a lot of run off in Howard County. I see quite a lot of run off on parking lots and roadways. We're not going to be reaching the Chesapeake Bay goals at this rate. Please allocate funds for storm water management. Something that would be a fantastic fix and has worked in other parts of Maryland is doing Green Streets. These are like complete streets but with storm water management designed in as well through the installation of trees, drought/flood tolerating native plants and rain garden features where appropriate. So how about adding in a green layer to all the county's complete street plans? Might as well knock this out while you are installing complete streets. That would save money and continue allowing the county to respond to climate change.
- Recycling: please come up with a solution that will allow the county to accept more types of plastic for recycling and perhaps get food digesters to be able to put food waste to good use

Thanks for your time and attention! I'll be following this process with interest,
Buffy Illum
Dorsey's Search

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Monday, December 9, 2019 12:04 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Letter re Senior Center

Thank you for sharing your perspective. I appreciate it.

Deb Jung
Council Chair, District 4
Howard County Council
3430 Court House Dr., Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-2001

Sign-up for my District Update [here](#).

From: GENIE L WESSEL <gwessel1@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, December 9, 2019 9:03 AM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth <ewalsh@howardcountymd.gov>; Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>; Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>; Yungmann, David <dyungmann@howardcountymd.gov>; Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>; allisonkorn@comcast.net
Subject: Letter re Senior Center

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

Genie L. Wessel, RN, BSN, MSN
10517 Catterskill Ct.
Columbia, Maryland 21044
Calvin Ball, County Executive
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043
Dear County Executive Ball,

I am a Howard County senior resident and I wish to thank you for all your support for the needs of seniors like me who live in Howard County. I appreciate the services that already exist and of course I welcome any new ones.

As a result, I am writing to ask you to fully support the funding for the East Columbia 50+Center. Known as Project C0335, the building will be new stand-alone East Columbia 50+ Center. The current center is seriously inadequate to support services and activities for the growing senior population in East Columbia. Full funding for the project is critical to all of us who look forward to its use.

I have heard you at many appearances voicing your concern and support to the seniors of Howard County. As the Vice Chair of the CA Senior Advisory Committee, I come into contact with many seniors who are waiting for the opening of the Center. Your support would mean a great deal to all of us.

I urge you again to give full funding for the project on an accelerated timetable, specifically that it be started in FY21. As you know delays only add to the costs of any project. Do not let that happen to the East Columbia Senior Center.

Seniors are a valuable resource to Howard County. We pay property taxes, volunteer our expertise and experience in record numbers.

We hope you will show your commitment to us by providing this new Center as quickly as possible. We require fewer overall services as compared to the general population. The senior community has testified at many Budget Hearings and Council meetings over the last 4 years letting you and the Council know why we need a new center.

Please respond by making it a top priority. I (we all) urge you to fully fund the project in the FY 21 Capital Budget. Thank you for your understanding and commitment to Howard County. We can see your support in so many areas of this beautiful vibrant County. Please make this another of your successes. We will be here for you. Will you be there for us? I (we) hope so.

Sincerely

Genie L. Wessel RN, BSN, MSN

District 4

CC:

Liz Walsh at ewalsh@howardcountymd.gov

Opel Jones at ojones@howardcountymd.gov

Christiana Mercer Rigby at crigby@howardcountymd.gov

Deb Jung at djung@howardcountymd.gov

David Yungman at dyungmann@howardcountymd.gov

Sayers, Margery

From: allison korn <allisonkorn@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 6:59 PM
To: Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail; Allison Korn
Subject: Writing in support of 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 Executive and members of the County Council:

I am writing to urge your support for funding the construction of the new East Columbia 50+ center. The advocacy group formed to lobby for the new center has testified several times and provided compelling reasons for pursuing the new center. It would seem that everyone is in agreement that construction of a new center is justified, plans are well-developed and there is a strong support in the senior community. We have waited long enough.

For each delay the building will cost more (or is at risk to be scaled back which would be a real shame). As you've heard before, seniors are a vital population. We do lots of volunteering, we pay taxes and we contribute in many different ways. We have a demonstrated need for a large and robust center. We have patiently and persistently lobbied for the new center and now, PLEASE, make the funds necessary to make it happen.

Sincerely,

Allison Korn

6550 Carlinda Avenue, Columbia21046

Sayers, Margery

From: Sharonlee Vogel <sharonleevogel@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 25, 2019 9:42 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support - 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 Members,

I support the building of a new stand-alone East Columbia 50+ Center. I am a senior Howard County resident and live in East Columbia.

The current center is seriously inadequate to support services and activities for the growing senior population in Howard County, especially East Columbia.

I ask you to support full funding for the project on an accelerated timetable, specifically that it be started in July FY21. Further delays will only cost the County more money.

Seniors are a valuable resource in our county. We pay property taxes but require no school funds and require fewer overall services compared to the general population. We volunteer our expertise and experience in record numbers. Howard County needs appreciate its seniors as an asset, showing a strong commitment to encourage and keep a robust senior population.

The senior community has testified at many Budget Hearings and Council meetings over the last four years explaining why we think building a new center should be a top priority.

In addition to providing much needed senior services to a heavily populated area of Howard County, the center has been partnering with other civic groups to serve the greater community. A bigger center would mean more services for all of Howard County. We urge you to fully fund the project in the FY 21 Capital Budget.

Thank you for your support of this project.

Sincerely,

Sharonlee J. Vogel
8725 Warm Waves Way
Columbia, MD 21045
Resident of East Columbia - Long Reach Village