

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Risa Garon <risa.garon@nfrcfamily.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 5, 2020 9:53 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin  
**Subject:** request and support for funding NFRC

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

Dear County Executive Dr. Ball and Members of the Howard County Council, Mr. Jones, Ms. Jung, Ms. Rigby, Ms. Walsh and Mr. I Yungmann,

I would like to request your support in funding the National Family Resiliency Center for FY2021 for the same amount we received last year, \$29,280.

Your prior support for our work with children, teens and families has been greatly appreciated by all of us -- Board, Staff, Peer Counselors and Clients.

Needless to say, these are very difficult times. We currently are providing teletherapy to as many children, teens and adults as possible. We have worked with the police, Mobile Crisis Unit and others in the community to try to diminish the anxiety, anguish, conflict and other psychological problems our families are experiencing. When we did a virtual teen group last week, our reward was the teens thanking us for reducing their sense of isolation and loneliness.

We know how very hard you are working and applaud your multiple efforts to support families in Howard County. Thank you for all your efforts!

With gratitude,

Risa Garon

Risa Garon, *LCSW-C, BCD, CFLE*  
Executive Director and Therapist  
National Family Resiliency Center  
[www.nfrchelp.org](http://www.nfrchelp.org)  
[www.familyconnex.org](http://www.familyconnex.org)  
410-740-9553 x203



## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Elizabeth Chazottes <elizabeth@egcconsultingllc.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 5, 2020 2:51 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** Re: Affidavit to Speak  
**Attachments:** Testimony at HoCo Council Budget Meeting - MCRC 5-6-2020.pdf

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

Dear Margery,

I have attached my written testimony to be distributed and posted for the Howard County County Council budget hearing tomorrow, May 6th at 4:00. If you have any questions, please let me know. Thank you.

Best regards,

Elizabeth

Elizabeth Chazottes  
President, Board of Directors  
Mediation & Conflict Resolution Center (MCRC)

410-215-3630

On Fri, May 1, 2020 at 3:11 PM Sayers, Margery <[msayers@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:msayers@howardcountymd.gov)> wrote:

Good Afternoon

I show that you signed up to speak next Wednesday at our Public Hearing, on behalf of a group. Please fill out and submit to the council at least 2 hours prior to the hearing.

Sincerely,

Margery

*Margery Sayers*

Executive Assistant

Howard County Council

410-313-0832

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Elizabeth G Chazottes  
President

EGC Consulting LLC  
410-215-3630  
[elizabeth@egcconsultingllc.com](mailto:elizabeth@egcconsultingllc.com)



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

*The mission of the Mediation and Conflict Resolution Center (MCRC) is to provide widely accessible and affordable conflict resolution services and education that help all members of the community manage difficult conversations in a meaningful, proactive way. In FY21 MCRC has been provided the opportunity to renew its CSP grant, which will take this young nonprofit into its 4<sup>th</sup> year. Vital county support received since the rebirth of this organization in March 2017 has been greatly appreciated.*

*In each of those years MCRC has provided over 100 conflict resolution services in the form of community, prisoner re-entry and family mediations, youth restorative practices and school circles - services that assist people in having difficult conversations and work towards solutions that help them move forward from their current challenges. We are excited to soon be expanding our services to our Howard County senior citizens. We will be offering assistance to staff in senior living facilities, facilitating conversations with and among seniors who are closed in, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, and mediation service with families and their seniors looking to plan and make important decisions for the safety and well-being of their loved ones.*

*Yet MCRC does not want to only be known as the center that helps resolve conflict. Practicing effective conflict management is a critical piece in supporting a civil society. MCRC promotes the development of strong conflict management skills in its presentations, workshops and group facilitations which have been delivered to community groups, churches, nonprofit organizations, businesses, the public library and school systems, police and fire departments and the Office of Workforce Development.*

*In FY21, MCRC will maintain attention on conflict resolution services while also dedicating certain MCRC messaging to effective communication and conflict management skills development to support individual and organizational wellness. To that end, MCRC was excited to host a summer internship program to select high school students and young adults that would focus on contributing to a marketing strategy to educate young people about the benefits of effective conflict management strategies and attract more young involvement with MCRC. The end product of the internship was to be a marketing plan that will be presented to MCRC's Outreach Committee and incorporated into MCRC's print and electronic outreach materials. Although this project is now on hold due to the current pandemic, we do still expect to see this opportunity through at a later date.*

*So, you see, the Mediation and Conflict Resolution Center seeks to engage all residents of Howard County. Amazingly, all of MCRC's great work is being completed by 2 full-*

*time staff and a roster of 40 dedicated, highly trained volunteers. Due to a reduction of CSP funding last year, MCRC found it necessary to reduce its staff from 2.5 FTE to 2, a 20% decrease. Strict fiscal responsibility together with dedicated human resources and focused steps towards smart, sustainable funding diversity has allowed the organization to march on. Case by case, workshop by workshop, conversation by conversation, MCRC is making a difference in how the people of Howard County respond to conflict. But there is a lot more work to be done and more resources are needed. MCRC wants to be recognized as the Howard County 'go to' resource to help each person, family, or group find the outcome that best fits them, regardless of their financial resources. While we offer our services at low or no cost, that does not mean that the services have no cost associated. We have been agile during this difficult period and continued to offer some of our services virtually particularly those services provided to youth in trouble in our County. MCRC is open and responding virtually and by phone to individuals and families who are experiencing conflict, some due to the COVID-19 virus restrictions with parents working from home, college students home early with no possibilities for summer jobs, the inability of our seniors to see and visit with families and the lack of the ability to socialize in person. WE DO GREAT WORK. WE PROVIDE CONSISTENT, SKILLED SUPPORT THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY. WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE. WE ARE A VALUABLE COMMUNITY RESOURCE AND LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING TO HELP THE COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS' CONSTITUENCIES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY.*

*Renewal of CSP funding at the FY20 level (\$100,000) will support basic operational costs and would allow MCRC to continue to provide exceptional services and increase its visibility and influence throughout the county at a time when this is even more critical.*

*Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to continue to serve the people of Howard County.*

*Elizabeth Chazottes, President, Board of Directors  
Mediation & Conflict Resolution Center (MCRC)*

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Tierra Bradford <TBradford@commoncause.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 1, 2020 5:41 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Common Cause Maryland Public Comment for May 4th 2020  
**Attachments:** CCMD HoCo Citizens' Election Fund Summary & Recommendation (1).pdf; Public Comment- HOCO Citizen Election Fund.pdf

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

Hello,

I am submitting a Public Comment for the County Council Budget work session on Monday. I have attached our comment, as well as, a recommendation/fact sheet that was previously submitted to the Citizens Election Fund Commission in 2019 for reference.

Thank you,

Tierra D. Bradford (She/Her/Hers)  
Common Cause Maryland Policy Manager  
121 Cathedral Street, Ste. 3-4  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
Office #: 443.906.0442 Mobile#: 412.801.3254

**To: Howard County Citizens' Election Fund Commission**  
**From: Common Cause Maryland**  
**Date: November 11, 2019**  
**RE: Funding Recommendation for FY21**

Dear Chairwoman Geckle and members of the Citizens' Election Fund Commission,

In 2016, Howard County voters made history when they approved Question A on the ballot and the Council followed the will of voters when they passed CB-30, creating the second program for small-donor fair elections for local candidates in Maryland. The legislation created a legacy for Howard County, giving citizens a new way to be heard and giving candidates a new way to campaign in county elections.

Common Cause Maryland and the Fair Elections Maryland coalition are grateful that you have stepped up to lead the County through preparations for the first use of the program and that you are working to honor that legacy by getting the program off to a strong financial start. We urge you to recommend the County make an investment of \$1.5 million in the FY21 budget to fund the Citizens' Election Fund, ensuring the program is ready for use in 2022. We have provided cost estimates that break down that recommendation as well as a summary of the program for your reference.

We are sorry that we can't be in attendance for the meeting but are happy to discuss our recommendations further. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Joanne Antoine  
Executive Director, Common Cause Maryland

#### Summary of Program

Threshold to Qualify for Small Donor Matching Program		
	County Executive	Council
Number of Donations	500	125
Amount of Donations	\$40,000	\$10,000



\*Must forgo contributions greater than \$250 and only accept contributions from individuals (no money from corporations, unions, PACs, etc.). Multiple contributions from one person cannot exceed \$250.

Match Ratio	County Executive	Council
First \$50	7 to 1	5 to 1
Second \$50	4 to 1	3 to 1
Third \$50	1 to 1	1 to 1
Above \$150	Accepted, no match	Accepted, no match
*Only contributions from Howard County residents are matched.		

Match Cap	County Executive	Council
	\$700,000	\$85,000
*Once the cap is reached, candidates can continue to raise donations from individuals of \$250 or less but will not receive any matching funds. The match cap is for the election cycle.		

#### Sample breakdown under the Citizens' Election Fund

- A County Executive candidate who collects 1166 \$200 donations would have \$932,800 to spend (\$233,200 + \$699,600).  
Breakdown: \$200 = \$350 (first \$50) + \$200 (second \$50) + \$50 (third \$50) + no match for last \$50 = **\$600 match**
- A County Council candidate who collects 260 \$75 donations would have \$104,000 to spend (\$19,500 + \$84,500).  
Breakdown: \$75 = \$250 (for first \$50) + \$75 (for second \$25) = **\$325 match**

#### Assumptions

Goal is not to ensure a candidate using matching can outspend all competitors; goal is to stay competitive with enough funding to get message out.

#### Projections for 2022

\*Number of candidates we can expect to run in 2022 primary and general

Cycle	2022		2018		2014		2010	
	Primary	General	Primary	General	Primary	General	Primary	General
County Exec.	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2
Council D1	3	2	3	2	6	2	2	2
Council D2	3	2	2	2	3	2	3	2
Council D3	3	2	4	1	2	1	2	2
Council D4	2	2	4	2	1	1	3	2
Council D5	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2



\*While this is a projection of the number of candidates that may run, note that not all of these candidates will opt into the program and, of those who do, not all will qualify or receive max match. Also, candidates who opt into program and do not have an opponent are not eligible for match

**Common Cause Maryland projections on how many candidates can be expected to use the Citizens' Election Fund in 2022.**

- County Executive – 2 in the primary, 2 in the general
- Council – 10 in the primary, 5 in the general

**Common Cause Maryland projection for cost of program in 2022 election.**

- County Executive – \$700k in the primary and general (**\$1.4 million**)
- Council – \$567,000 in the primary, \$142,000 in the general (**\$700-\$800k**)

\*Assumption continues to be that 2/3 of Council expenses occur in the primary and 1/3 occur in the general, while County Executive race costs are 50/50.

**Total cost to establish the Citizens' Election Fund: \$2.2-\$3 million**

**Anticipated Cost to County**

\$750,000 a year would cover multiple County Executive and Council candidates, assuming a full match, as well as oversight and public education for the program.

For this program to effectively function, it is critical that it be funded in regular, predictable increments. Because no funds were added to the Fund this year, our recommendation for the upcoming fiscal year: \$1.5 million. This will ensure the County can hire staff to work with the Commission as well as ensure the program is fully funded ahead of the elections in 2022.

Please note that if adequate funds are not available, the Director will have to mandate a pro rata reduction in the amounts that will be matched. Such a reduction would jeopardize public trust in the program, the willingness of candidates to seek public funding, and the reputation of the Citizens' Election Fund itself.



**May 1, 2020**

Public Comment  
Common Cause Maryland  
County Council Operating Budget Work Session

Dear Howard County Council

This comment is in regard to the Fiscal Year 2021 Operating Budget, in which, County Executive Ball allocated \$750,000 in funding to be made available to establish the Citizen's Election Fund. We are very pleased that the County Executive has recognized the importance of funding this program, even in the midst of COVID-19 and the impact of COVID-19 on the County's Budget. That being stated, we are still concerned that the program is in danger of not being ready for use by the 2022 election.

As a refresher, the Citizens Election Fund is a campaign finance reform established in Howard County in 2016. As the County Executive described in the budget, the Citizen Election Fund provides matching funds to small donations from ordinary people. The purpose of the fund is to promote and encourage broader access to elected office in Howard County and help prevent large donations from having undue influence in government.

Our recommendation has always been for \$750,000 of the budget to be allocated for the fund every year. This consistent allocation of resources results in the program having at least \$3 million in the fund every four years, in time to properly fund each county election. This amount allows participating candidates for County Executive and County Council to run competitive campaigns in their elections. Although \$750,000 has been allocated to the fund in the 2021 operating budget, last year money was not allocated to fund the program. As of now, it appears the program is not on track to be adequately funded for the 2022 election.

We understand that adequately funding the Citizen's Election Fund at this time will be very difficult. Under normal circumstances, we would strongly recommend that \$1.5 million be allocated to fund the program this year. However, under the current circumstances, **we simply ask that a plan be put in place to ensure the program is adequately funded by the 2022 election.** Again, we applaud both the County Executive and the County Council for all your hard work and the leadership you have shown during this time.

Thank you,

Tierra Bradford, Policy Manager for Common Cause Maryland

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** bombick@verizon.net  
**Sent:** Friday, May 1, 2020 7:30 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Operating Budget  
**Attachments:** Operating Budget.xlsx

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

Dear County Council,

It is difficult for a regular citizen to offer substantive feedback on the operating budget. In an effort to understand our spending, I have attached a comparison of Montgomery, Frederick, and Howard counties.

I offer it only to get a sense of where we are spending and how it compares to our neighbors. Please note that Montgomery County does not segment out Public Works from their government, so that figure is not reliable (better to group all of general government together). Some items were segmented out in the other budgets (such as Emergency Response) but not in Howard County, so I assume they are folded into other categories. All budgets compared are the 2021 proposed operating budgets. I hesitate to send it along with Dr. Jones on the board, as I am no mathematician or true budget analyst. I hope he will go easy on me. This is offered as a conversation starter, not a true statistical analysis.

Even with these deficiencies, there are some clear discrepancies. Please note that we spend 10% less on the operations of our public schools than either other county as a percentage of budget. The community college is also an area that receives less operational funding than either other county. As a county, our operating budget reflects our needs and priorities. Please consider taking a close look at where we spend our funds.

Thank you for your dedication to Howard County.

Sincerely,  
Cate Bombick

<b>Operating Budget</b>	<b>Montgomery</b>	<b>Frederick</b>	<b>Howard</b>
Public Schools	47.38%	46.51%	34.99%
Community College	5.39%	3.05%	2.06%
Libraries	0.74%	1.79%	1.23%
Police	4.88%	3.91%	7.57%
Corrections	1.23%	3.16%	1.19%
Fire/Rescue	3.89%	9.52%	8.16%
Volunteer Fire/Rescue		1.32%	
Sheriff	0.44%	0.60%	0.51%
Animal Services	0.14%	0.34%	
Emergency Management	0.06%	1.65%	
Parks & Recreation	3.74%	1.78%	2.98%
Transportation	4.05%	0.00%	1.06%
Health, Human Services, Housing, & Community Services/Development	5.94%	2.29%	3.29%
Environmental Initiatives	2.79%	0.34%	2.82%
Public Works (Planning, Development, Zoning, etc.)	2.57%	5.52%	13.74%
Government/Other Categories	9.80%	11.46%	13.32%
Debt Service	7.40%	6.76%	7.07%

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Lisa May <lisavm78@vt.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 24, 2020 2:38 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Howard County Housing Statistics from HCAR  
**Attachments:** HCAR Housing Report April 24.pdf

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

Good afternoon Council Members,

As promised from our FY 21 Capital Budget testimony, we are providing a snapshot of our current real estate market trends.

Our multiple listing service may not have final Howard County numbers for the current month until early May; however, they are providing weekly updates at the regional level, which we will share with you. We are also expecting an update from our National Association's Chief Economist at the end of next week on what to expect in the MD-DC-VA region.

If you have any questions about this report, or if we can help you locate additional information, please let us know. Thank you, and have a good weekend!

Lisa May  
HCAR



# Housing Market Update

## April 24, 2020

### Howard County Market Conditions (March 2020)

- March 2020 began strong, outpacing 2019 numbers in transaction volume. With the imposition of stay-at-home orders and social distancing, the second half of the month under-performed 2019 in volume.
- New listings declined 9% and new pending sales decreased 10% from March 2019 levels. (Source: *Bright MLS*)
- Housing prices remained steady from February, and were up 9% from last year. Overall housing inventory remains low, which helps to support housing prices. (Source: *Bright MLS, Freddie Mac*)

### Regional and National Market Outlook

- Real estate transactions are continuing through the use of technology and assistance from state and federal regulators.
- Bright MLS, which includes Howard and other counties throughout the greater D.C and Baltimore areas, are releasing weekly snapshots of monthly activity to-date. For the current week, pending home sales volume is down 45% compared to 2019.
- An April 2020 National Association of REALTORS® (NAR) Economic Pulse survey of membership revealed that 57% of buyers and 59% of sellers are planning to delay their real estate transactions for at least a few months. 10% of buyers and 10% of sellers anticipate delaying their purchases indefinitely.
- The NAR Weekly Housing Market Monitor report for the current week found that 131,000 Maryland homeowners and 51,000 renters are struggling to afford their monthly payments.
- Freddie Mac's latest quarterly forecast predicts a similar 45% decline in sales volume nationwide throughout the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter. Beyond that, current predictions show a slow increase in the number of sales over Q3 and Q4 of 2020 and Q1 of 2021, returning to previous volumes by 2Q of 2021.

### Additional Considerations

The above projections are based upon what is known about the economy and the state of emergency at this time. The following factors can influence these projections upward or downward:

Continued Mortgage Liquidity – Many lenders have been increasing requirements for prospective buyers by requiring higher credit scores and increased down payments. There are estimates that between 4-6% of the buyers who received mortgage loans in February would not have qualified for those same loans today. Federal assistance may be needed in this area to keep mortgage capital available for those who need it.

Overall Economic Conditions – Unemployment insurance claims have been higher than expected, and even those remaining employed have experienced decreases in income. One-third of renters and 3 million homeowners did not make their scheduled rent or mortgage payments for April.

Pandemic Response – Many projections are based upon a limited continuation of social distancing and some return to normal business activity by the summer. Should another period of pandemic response remain necessary, it will have impacts on the housing market and broader economy. Timing of economic opening may also impact buyer or seller behavior as it relates to lease renewal terms for those currently renting, the start of the 2021-22 school year, or other factors.

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Alan Schneider <ajs333@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 22, 2020 12:41 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Cc:** Ball, Calvin  
**Subject:** Response to Worksession question regarding Funding for Fire Stations

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

Council Members;

**Responding to the question raised at the last County Council work session, below is a starting list for funding sources for a fire station.** Thanks for asking.

**Favorable consideration will be given to applications which provide answers** to planning questions, including compliance with National Fire Station Location standards, response times, and how does spending \$13 million on a relatively small 3 bay fire station fit into the currently underway 20 year county General Plan. Three National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards contain response time requirements, and response time maps. Planning would also include details on existing density, currently approved plans adding density, zoning that permits "density" increases in specific areas, and associated traffic/road capacity/travel times.

**Funding is available for fire stations.** Governor Hogan's office provides assistance. Numerous federal agencies and grants are available for fire stations, equipment, training, hazmat equipment, and other resources. State level funds are available from sources not specifically identified, which is different than funds specifically identified for school construction. **Funding Plans are required** by Code § 22.402 and 22.403.

1. Funding available through FEMA  
<https://www.usfa.fema.gov/grants/>

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), through the U.S. **Fire** Administration, awards Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) as a way to help **fire** departments reduce their response times and improve their quality overall. FEMA has a portion of the AFGs set specifically for new **fire station** construction or renovating existing facilities. <https://bizfluent.com/info-7897507-new-fire-station-grants.html>

2. Funding for Rural Fire Stations.  
<https://www.nal.usda.gov/ric/rural-fire-department-resources-local-officials>

3. Description of Funding for Fire Stations  
<https://www.firehouse.com/tech-comm/billing-inventory/article/11137994/fire-department-funding-and-government-finances>

4. Homeland Security list of Grants for First Responder Grants.  
<https://www.dhs.gov/science-and-technology/frg-grants>

5. Maryland Governor's Grants Office



Welcome to the Governor's Grants Office! We provide resources, training, research, and guidance to state agencies, local governments, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and academia on all aspects of federal grants and federal funds. <https://grants.maryland.gov/Pages/home-page.aspx>

**Budgets are being slashed.** Before the General Plan revision now underway, it makes little sense to spend \$3 million to move a ball field from one end of the crescent park to the other end, to cut trees, to expand highway intersections, to add parking, to reduce open green space, to give this item a "high priority" when the school budget is cut again; and all without the code required capital funding plan for the remainder of the estimated \$13 million.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alan Schneider  
Clarksville, Md.