

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 12:55 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: New Cultural Center- Funding in FY 2021 Capital Budget
Attachments: CDHC_CountyCouncil_Supportltr_NCCbudgetFY2021_562020.pdf

From: Deik, Tracy <tdeik@howardcountymd.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 9:38 AM
To: Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>; Walsh, Elizabeth <ewalsh@howardcountymd.gov>; Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>; Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>; Yungmann, David <dyungmann@howardcountymd.gov>
Cc: Bruce Rothschild <Brucei4070@gmail.com>; Chris Fritz <christopherjfritz100@gmail.com>; Jeryl Baker <VillageManager@ColumbiaTownCenter.org>; John DeZinno <jdezinno@howardbank.com>; Jolly Burks <jolly.burks@verizon.net>; Mary Ka Kanahan <pastorkanahansju@gmail.com>; Pat Sylvester <psylvester@ats2.org>; Peter Morgan <pdm53@verizon.net>; Rev Turner <runrev31@gmail.com>; Rev. Turner <roturner@stjohnbaptistchurch.org>; Russ Snyder <rsnyder@voaches.org>; Peter Engel <pengel@househoward.org>; Delorenzo, Carl <cdelorenzo@howardcountymd.gov>; Bethany Hooper <bhooper@hrehllc.com>; Dvorak, Nicole <ndvorak@howardcountymd.gov>; Harris, Michael <mrharris@howardcountymd.gov>; Gelwicks, Colette <cgelwicks@howardcountymd.gov>; Williams, China <ccwilliams@howardcountymd.gov>; Gick, Ginnie <ggick@howardcountymd.gov>; Knight, Karen <kknight@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Re: New Cultural Center- Funding in FY 2021 Capital Budget

Dear Chairman Jung and Members of the Howard County Council:

The attached letter has been sent on behalf of the Columbia Downtown Housing Corporation.

Best,

Tracy Deik
Department of Housing & Community Development
Howard County Government
410-313-6316

COLUMBIA DOWNTOWN HOUSING CORPORATION
9820 Patuxent Woods Drive, Suite 224, Columbia, MD 21046
(O) 410-313-6316; housing@howardcountymd.gov

BY E-MAIL

May 6, 2020

Ms. Deb Jung, Chair, and Members of the Howard County Council
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City MD 21043

RE: New Cultural Center – Funding in FY 2021 Capital Budget

Dear Chairman Jung and Council Members:

The Columbia Downtown Housing Corporation (CDHC) fully supports and respectfully requests County Council approval of the funding for the New Cultural Center (NCC) included in the Administration's FY 2021 budget. Council approval is the lynchpin for moving forward with the first Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) development included in the affordable residential development plan for Downtown Columbia enacted by HR-52-2016 et. al and the Developer Rights and Responsibilities Agreement (DRRA) executed in accordance with that legislation.

CDHC has worked diligently to implement the DRRA, including brainstorming with the Administration and the Commission on how to ensure the necessary funding for the development of the Toby's site. The housing and non-residential components of the development have been inextricably linked since inception. Without funding for the NCC, the housing component, now known as Artists Flats, cannot proceed and the Commission is at risk of losing substantial federal and state funds for this vitally needed affordable housing community.

CDHC has been proactive yet patient as our partners have worked to develop a viable and doable funding plan. We believe they have done so yet understand that the Council has some concerns. We encourage the Council to work collaboratively with the Administration to approve, with revisions as needed, a funding structure for the development of NCC that will enable the entire development to continue moving forward on schedule.

CDHC has committed \$2.5M to Artists Flats, which will contain approximately 180 total units (50% affordable), including the corresponding parking garage spaces. The remaining funding

The Columbia Downtown Housing Corporation ("CDHC") serves as the Downtown Columbia Housing Foundation recognized by the Howard County Council under Title 28 of the Howard County Code. CDHC is organized specifically to fulfill the vision of the Downtown Columbia Plan for a full spectrum and diverse mix of housing in Downtown Columbia, including affordable housing that will ensure low, moderate and middle- income families will have an opportunity to live in Downtown Columbia.

COLUMBIA DOWNTOWN HOUSING CORPORATION
9820 Patuxent Woods Drive, Suite 224, Columbia, MD 21046
(O) 410-313-6316; housing@howardcountymd.gov

for Artists Flats includes equity from federal LIHTCs, private loans, and other state funding. The financing totals approximately \$64.2 million.

The downtown affordable housing legislation resulted from diligent, candid and thoughtful exchanges of ideas over two years among housing advocates, community groups, residents, Howard Hughes as master developer, CDHC, the County Housing Commission, and the former County Council and Administration. Successful progress for the affordable housing components of the plan are tied to benchmarks related to both commercial and residential (both market-rate and affordable) development in the downtown. Thus, delays or the loss of this first LIHTC development may have repercussions concerning future downtown development.

None of us could have foreseen the current pandemic confronting this nation, and CDHC very much appreciates the tough decisions that must be made to ensure the health and well-being of the county and its residents. We know that many in our community have suffered greatly from coronavirus and will continue to feel its effects into the future. In our view, the need for quality affordable housing in our county will only increase as we begin a phased reopening of our community and look to get back to work. The New Cultural Center is poised to help with that rebuilding -- it can help put people back to work as it is constructed and through its future programming, and Artists Flats can house essential workers and critical community players once completed. Please vote to approve the requested funding for the development of NCC.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions. Thank you for your consideration and please stay safe during these difficult times.

Sincerely,



Patricia Rynn Sylvester
President

Cc: CDHC Board Members
Carl DeLorenzo, Director of Policy and Programs, Howard County Government
Peter Engel, Executive Director, Howard County Housing Commission

The Columbia Downtown Housing Corporation ("CDHC") serves as the Downtown Columbia Housing Foundation recognized by the Howard County Council under Title 28 of the Howard County Code. CDHC is organized specifically to fulfill the vision of the Downtown Columbia Plan for a full spectrum and diverse mix of housing in Downtown Columbia, including affordable housing that will ensure low, moderate and middle- income families will have an opportunity to live in Downtown Columbia.

Sayers, Margery

From: Joe Pacifico <jcpacifico@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 7:32 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Restoring Funding for National Family Resiliency Center
Attachments: Grant letter to Cty..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 the attached letter from Christian Counseling Associates, Inc., supporting NFRC's funding to be restored to its same level as last year, and not slashed in half, as it is now proposed.

Joe C. Pacifico
President, Board of Directors

CHRISTIAN COUNSELING ASSOCIATES, Inc.

STEVENS FOREST PROFESSIONAL CENTER
9650 Santiago Road, Suite 101
Columbia, MD 21045

(410) 995-5587 or (301) 596-5759
Fax (410) 992-1779
email: mail@christiancounselingassociates.org

May 11, 2020

Howard County Council:

It has come to my attention that the recommended funding for National Family Resiliency Center, Inc. in Howard County by the Community Services Partnership office has been slashed to half of what it was last year. That will severely damage their ability to serve the community of people who need their mental health services.

The need for their full funding this year is greater than ever from my professional perspective.

First, because the COVID-19 impact in the community will be widespread and deep for anxiety and depression issues, which need more counselors to attend to. The county mental health agencies were already struggling to handle the demand of clients who need mental health care, about 1 in 5 people, before COVID-19.

Second, because the great work that NFRC does to help support the Howard County Courts to provide a Program to parents who are in transition, for how to develop a healthy Parent Plan for their families as co-parents. I know the need and the benefit it has for these parents and their children, because I teach part of this Program.

NFRC is the only Agency that the Howard County Courts uses for the Parent Plan Program, since they go into much more detail for these couples in helping them manage their lives with their children after marriage than any other Agency does.

Sincerely,

Joe C. Pacifico
President, Board of Directors

Sayers, Margery

From: Rebecca Beall <bella358@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, May 10, 2020 7:20 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: National Family Resiliency Center funding

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

Dear Council Members,

I hope you and your families are safe and healthy. I am asking you to restore funding to the National Family Resiliency Center (NFRC). This is a vital service and organization in Howard County.

I am very dismayed that NFRC's funding has been cut in half. Funding history since 2013 has been \$28,000, which last year was cut to \$14,00, and then increased to \$29,280. This year, NFRC is asking for \$28,000 for FY 21.

This organization is an incredible jewel in Howard County, supporting families who are going through some of the most difficult times of their lives, a family separation. NFRC was crucial to my daughter and me as we navigated the crisis of our family transition, and we are stronger, happier for their support (and we are Howard County voters, too!!).

Thank you so much!

Rebecca Beall
5456 Endicott Lane
Columbia, MD 21044
410-340-4805

Sayers, Margery

From: Stribling, James <James.Stribling@tetrattech.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 10, 2020 1:26 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Howard County Watersheds Stewards Academy (letter of support)
Attachments: WSA letter of support 20200510 (to Council).pdf

[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 members,

Please find attached a letter of support for the budget request submitted by the Howard County Watersheds Stewards Academy. If there are any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

James B. (Sam) Stribling, PhD | Director
Desk: 410-902-3159 | Reception: 410-356-8993
james.stribling@tetrattech.com

Tetra Tech, Inc., Center for Ecological Sciences
10711 Red Run Blvd., Suite 105 | Owings Mills, Maryland USA 21117 | www.tetrattech.com

PLEASE NOTE: This message, including any attachments, may include privileged, confidential and/or inside information. Any distribution or use of this communication by anyone other than the intended recipient is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender by replying to this message and then delete it from your system.



UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION

May 10, 2020

Howard County Watershed Stewards Academy
3300 North Ridge Road
Suite 240
Ellicott City, MD 21043
Office Phone: 410-313-2707
Fax Number: 410-313-2712

Ms. Liz Walsh (District 1), **Ms. Opel Jones** (District 2), **Ms. Christiana Rigby** (District 3), **Ms. Deb Jung** (District 4), and **Mr. David Yungmann** (District 5)

Howard County Council
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043
councilmail@howardcountymd.gov

Dear Howard County Council members,

As chair of the Howard County Watershed Stewards Academy (WSA) Advisory Committee (AC), I am submitting this letter on behalf of the AC in support of WSA's FY2021 budget request and programmatic activities. The WSA is an established training program focused on increasing the abilities of County residents to help protect and improve the vital ecological health of our streams and rivers within our communities. The mission is to reduce the negative effects of stormwater pollution using public outreach to successfully work with residents, homeowners' associations, schools, private businesses, and places of worship. WSA interactions with the public often serve as the first contact with private property owners in addressing water quality or drainage complaints. Certified steward volunteers work closely with residents to address their concerns. This is an effective resource for the community and great value to the County.

Administratively, the WSA is located within the University of Maryland Extension (UME) and operates under the counsel of this advisory committee. The WSA AC provides guidance and direction to the UME staff which in turn helps the program identify opportunities to provide effective watershed management. The WSA AC is currently made up of six active or retired professionals who volunteer because of strong beliefs in protecting our watersheds and streams, along with four UME staff who have similar interests and complementary responsibilities. In FY2020, we developed a detailed annual workplan and initiated numerous workplan actions. Every AC member champions the role of the WSA and its Stewards as critical and cost-effective



The University of Maryland Extension programs are open to any person and will not discriminate against anyone because of race, age, sex, color, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, religion, ancestry, national origin, marital status, genetic information, political affiliation, and gender identity or expression.



UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION

Howard County Watershed Stewards Academy
3300 North Ridge Road
Suite 240
Ellicott City, MD 21043
Office Phone: 410-313-2707
Fax Number: 410-313-2712

community resources in improving the well-being of the Howard County environment and her citizens. With this letter, we urge favorable consideration by the Howard County Council of the FY2021 budget request of the University of Maryland Extension to include the Howard County Watershed Stewards Academy in its operating budget as a new effort.

Sincerely,

Dr. James B. Stribling
Chair, Advisory Committee
The Howard County Watershed Stewards Academy

Copy: Lonnie R. Robbins, Chief Administrative Officer (lrobbins@howardcountymd.gov);
Jennifer D. Jones, Deputy Chief of Staff (jdjones@howardcountymd.gov)



The University of Maryland Extension programs are open to any person and will not discriminate against anyone because of race, age, sex, color, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, religion, ancestry, national origin, marital status, genetic information, political affiliation, and gender identity or expression.

Sayers, Margery

From: M. W. Smith <manfredsmith@verizon.net>
Sent: Sunday, May 10, 2020 11:57 AM
To: Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail
Subject: IMPORTANT CORRECTION

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

Howard County Executive and Council:

One critical correction to my previous email regarding opposition to any tax increase:

Freeze all “capital projects,” reduce county salaries, and all expenditures on non-essential services. **Fully fund police, fire and emergency services.**

Manfred Smith, resident since 1976
9085 Flamepool Way
Columbia MD

Sayers, Margery

From: M. W. Smith <manfredsmith@verizon.net>
Sent: Sunday, May 10, 2020 10:18 AM
To: Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail
Subject: OPPOSE PROPOSED TAXES

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

Howard County Executive and Council:

Well, that didn't take long at all...nothing like a "crisis" to come up with schemes to raise taxes.

Of course our county Administration wants to raise taxes "on the rich", except, of course, the electorate as a whole is always "the rich" when all is said and done.

The proposed increases in transfer and recordation taxes will raise the cost to buy or sell ANY home or property in Howard County, not just higher priced homes as has been reported by our county exec and his tax increase advocates. On my short street, there are four families who work outside Howard County, three of them who work in Montgomery County—the county with the highest property and other sundry taxes in the state. I know they will be absolutely delighted about this proposal to making closing costs on Howard County's average priced home the second highest in the State, right behind Montgomery County!

Not only will this tax impact buyers and sellers of homes, it will create a significant competitive disadvantage and impair Howard County's ability to address our low commercial tax base. Permanent tax increases like these are not needed to preserve services during the current economic crisis, despite claims to the contrary by our County Executive and his supporter in and outside the Council.

There should be zero increase in spending until the Administration can better quantify the fiscal impact of the shutdown at both the county and state levels. I notice that there is no long-term hiring freeze nor a deferring cost of living (COLA) increase that has been incorporated into the budget. I'm certain that virtually every neighbor on my street who are currently idled and who may not even have a job after this heath crisis fiasco abates, are delighted to know that our "public servants" and county employees continue to enjoy the privilege of being paid with no fear of being laid off or their employer going out of business (and get COLA, too).

Our County Executive has made no effort to decrease the requested capital budget, which was created pre-shutdown. The capital budget presented to the Council adds significantly more new debt than the Spending Affordability Advisory Committee recommended before the economic crisis. It also proposes to spend close to \$10 million from the county's fund balance on capital projects, rather than using those funds to support the county through this economic crisis without tax increases. Too bad for the employees of businesses who must deal with economic realities and do not have the luxury of taxing county residents—let them eat tuna and spam.

I oppose any tax increase. Freeze all "capital projects," reduce county salaries, and all expenditures on non-essential services (such as police and emergency services).

Manfred Smith, resident since 1976
9085 Flamepool Way
Columbia MD

Sayers, Margery

From: Joylene <jsowah@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 9, 2020 8:58 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Requesting Full Funding for the National Family Resiliency Council

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

Dear Council Members,

I am a former recipient of services from and current Board member of the National Family Resiliency Council (NFRC) and I am writing to implore you not to cut funding to this organization which is so vital to the health of the Howard County Community.

As a recipient, the NFRC was a lifesaver when I found myself facing an unsolicited divorce and had no mental resources to handle my own emotional needs, much less those of my 9 year old daughter. Because of the care and the programming that was implemented by the thoughtful counselors and staff of the NFRC, my daughter and I were both able to find a 'soft place to land' and came through emotionally intact. Indeed, my daughter is currently graduating Wesleyan University with a double major in psychology and French. She has worked as a peer health counselor for the NFRC and has now extended that commitment to serve others by working as an online counselor for an organization that offers mental health services to youth. This has been a crucial resource for the young people that she serves especially during this pandemic.

And it is becoming increasingly evident during this time that mental health services are a critical need in the community as people struggle to cope with the physical, emotional, and financial repercussions of COVID-19.

As a Board member, I add the following:

- Our funding history since 2013 was \$28,000 a year with an increase to \$29,280 just last year after petitioning when the Community Services Partnership office recommended a cut to \$14,000 last year. We are currently asking for only \$28,000 for FY21.
- We are puzzled by the cuts to our funding. It appears that every other non-profit was awarded the same as last year. We are more than willing to meet with the council, but missed the opportunity to testify, because we were alerted about the funding allocated to NFRC *after* the deadline to sign up to testify.

The family services provided by the NFRC are unique and important to the maintenance of a healthy Howard County. We are respectfully asking you to reconsider the cut and fund us up to the aforementioned levels.

Sincerely,

Joylene John-Sowah
Board Member, NFRC

Sayers, Margery

From: Kathy Helt <khelt@nfrchelp.org>
Sent: Saturday, May 9, 2020 6:24 PM
To: countycouncil@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin
Subject: NFRC Information - Please Read

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

Ms. Kimberly Pruim

Director of Constituent Services and Community Partnerships

Howard County, MD

Dear Dr. Ball. Ms. Pruim, County Council Members:

Thank you for taking the time to write to me and our supporters. We are really grateful for all that you are doing in the community to help others during this very difficult time.

We ask that you look beyond the "one time" funding from last year. As our testimony from last year indicated, we were "cut" significantly. If you review our prior funding listed below, we think that was part of the reason we were granted the funding that the County Council members and Dr. Ball approved for last fiscal year. If you look at the percentage of funding that NFRC received, 5% at the \$29,280 funding, from last year would now drop to 3% if funding is reduced to \$14,000. It is such a small percentage of our budget and a small amount compared to other mental health non-profits.

Funding record since 2013:

FY13-\$28,000
FY14-\$28,000
FY15-\$28,000
FY16-\$28,000
FY17-\$28,000
FY18-\$28,000
FY19-\$28,000
FY20-\$29,280
Fy21-\$14,000 RECOMMENDED BY CSP

Thank you Dr. Ball and County Council Members for your consideration.

Lora Cushman Gudi, President Board of Directors

Risa Garon, LCS-C, BCD, CFLE, Executive Director
National Family Resiliency Center, Inc.

www.nfrchelp.org

risa.garon@nfrchelp.org

410-740-9553x203

10630 Little Patuxent Parkway- Suite 115
Columbia, MD 21044

Please note that you are waiving your right to confidentiality when communicating by email.

This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and are intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to which they are addressed. This communication may contain material protected by HIPAA legislation (45 CFR, Parts 160 & 164). If you are not the intended recipient or the person responsible for delivering this email to the intended recipient, be advised that you have received this email in error and that any use, dissemination, forwarding, printing or copying of this email is strictly prohibited.

Sayers, Margery

From: Sheryl Hurtt <thurtt1625@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 9, 2020 4:20 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: NFRC funding

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

As a Howard County resident in District 5, I am very happy to live in Howard County, but find great disappointment upon learning that The County Council has drastically cut the funding to the National Family Resiliency Center. In 1993 I found myself becoming a single person with two daughters in college, after 25 years of marriage ended. Were it not for this Center, I'm not sure I would have survived. I received counseling from a wonderful Therapist, who is still working with this center today. Both my children were treated there as well. Today we are all healthy adults who are so very grateful for the assistance we received there.

I am writing this letter to request that the county find additional funding for The National Family Resiliency Center(NFRC) to bring the funding back to the amount it has received since 2013. It is extremely hard to understand why this center, which helps so very many families, has had it's funding drastically cut.

From the time I finished my personal counseling in 1995, I have been committed to help this organization in any way that I could find to do that. When I retired in 2018, I immediately made it a priority to contact NFRC and arrange to be a volunteer, once a week.

I sincerely hope you will reconsider the value of this long standing non-profit organization that has been helping families for more than 25 years.

With both sincerity and concern,
Toby Hurtt

Sayers, Margery

From: fortylove2@verizon.net
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2020 10:25 PM
To: CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin
Subject: Letter of Support and Request for Full Funding for The National Family Resiliency Center (NFRC)
Attachments: Letter to County Executive and Council 572020.docx

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

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

Please see attached letter.....thank you.

Sincerely,

Pamela Blackwell, M.Ed., LCPC
Coordinator of Educational Programs, NFRC
Former Director for Student Services, HCPSS (2000-2012)
District 4, Howard County

May 7, 2020

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

One of the major reasons I moved to Howard County with my family, left my position in Prince Georges County and decided to work for the Howard County Public School System as the Director for Student Services, was the value the leaders in this county, including the County Executive and Superintendent of Schools, at that time, placed on the **mental health and well-being of children and families in Howard County**. I also was amazed to learn there was a Center that specifically focused on supporting the emotional well-being of children and their parents who were going through a **separation or divorce**, and for children who had parents, never married, but were ending their relationship.

The **National Family Resiliency Center (NFRC)**, previously known as **The Center for Children of Separation and Divorce**, continues to provide parent and co-parent education seminars in both Spanish and English, individual and group therapy for children, teens and adults, and co-parenting education classes which include assisting and teaching co-parents how to communicate respectfully as they develop their **child-focused parent plan**, which is now a requirement to have in Maryland for parents who are separating or divorcing.

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

It was very upsetting to learn today that the funding recommendation for FY21 for the National Family Resiliency Center (NFRC) would be **cut by more than half**....from \$29, 280. to \$14,000. The number of children bearing the brunt of their parent's divorce, at a great cost to them, is growing in Howard County and state-wide. This pandemic has certainly put additional stress on families who were already struggling to cope during their transition. The emotional pain, grief and loss children are feeling, is often not recognized by their parents, their teachers, their school counselors or the community. Continuing to fund the NFRC at previous levels, will enable the staff at the NFRC to continue to offer training to our schools and in our community, on-line and in person, and provide the unique services and supports for families in conflict. In addition, because it is **now a requirement of the Maryland Judiciary for parents to complete The Maryland Parenting Plan Tool (CC-DR-109 [01/2020])** and NFRC staff, including myself, specifically teach parents how to complete this plan, I am respectfully asking Dr. Ball and members of the Council to please reconsider this funding cut and fully fund the National Family Resiliency Center. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Pamela Blackwell, M.Ed., LCPC
Coordinator of Educational Programs, NFRC
Former Director for Student Services for HCPSS (2000-2012)

Sayers, Margery

From: Gina DeLeonardis <hajiinai1@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2020 2:07 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Funding Allocation National Family Resiliency Center (NFRC)

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

May 7, 2020

Dear Dr. Ball, Ms. Jones, Ms. Jung, Ms. Rigby, Ms. Walsh and Mr. Yungmann,

I am writing this letter to you today to respectfully request you re-examine the funding recommended for FY21 for the National Family Resiliency Center (NFRC). Since 2013, our funding has been \$28,000 with an increase last year to \$29,280. **We learned at 2:39 AM this morning, that it is recommended that our funding be reduced to \$14,000.** I will be brief as I can only imagine the very complex county-wide issues you are dealing with to help all families in Howard County.

As a volunteer for this organization, I am personally committed to the level of excellence in the services NFRC provides to families and children. As a consulting therapist, I have been hearing firsthand the immense strain that being single parents of young children, now sheltered together away from friends and other family supports, are experiencing right now. Or the employment losses, the job uncertainties and the financial pressures that families who are in 2 households raising their children are under right now.

You have our collective letter outlining the ways in which NFRC has worked hard this year to address some of the concerns you brought to our attention. I hope that in re-visiting our allocation you can feel confident we are good stewards of our county's resources, helping families in their times of need, before, during and following this health crisis.

Thank you in that reconsideration.

Gina DeLeonardis, LCSW-C
NFRC Board of Directors
Columbia, MD

This transmission may contain information that is privileged, confidential and/or exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution, or use of the information contained herein (including any reliance thereon) is STRICTLY PROHIBITED. If you received this transmission in error, please immediately contact the sender and destroy the material in it's entirety, whether in electronic or hard copy format. Thank you.

Sayers, Margery

From: Donald Lewis <don_c_lewis@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2020 1:38 PM
To: CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin
Subject: 2021 County Budget

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

Having read the article in The Howard County Times issue of May 7, 2020 about the recordation tax increase, I am amazed, disappointed, and disgusted - all at the same time. Is the Council and County Executive tone deaf or just uncaring about the citizens of Howard County? Every one has been negatively impacted by COVID-19. While everyone is trying to stay stable with less income and less opportunity, the County sees only that it will have lower income so the response is naturally "Where can I find more opportunities to take from the citizens". No where in the article is it indicated that the County is giving **ANY** consideration to reducing expenditures. The closet it gets is to talk about a zero increase in the budget! Everybody else is trying to do with less, but the County sees only the opportunity to take more from the pockets of its residents. I find this to be irresponsible - and actually reprehensible - governing. No one that voted any of you into office gave you permission to rob them of what they have. Why do you not even consider eliminating/reducing county costs? Does that side of the balance sheet not exist? Some of you should take a sabbatical and work for a private business for a time to find out what cost cutting really means.

Don Lewis
16185 Old Frederick Rd
Mt. Airy, MD 21771

Sayers, Margery

From: bombick@verizon.net
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2020 1:02 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: General Funds Only
Attachments: Operational General Fund.xlsx

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

Hello Councilmembers,

It was good to speak with you yesterday. I have adjusted the numbers to include only general funds, so the previous material was all funds, as Mr. Glendening guessed. Strangely, that eliminates the fire department completely from our budget? I included one column with and one without, since other counties had included them. I certainly feel much better about our funding percentages. I didn't want to leave you with incomplete information, although I am a bit confused as to how/why funds are divided out, so I will strive to understand that a bit more for next year! I will look forward to learning more as I watch the upcoming meetings. Thank you for all your hard work for Howard County.

Sincerely,

Cate Bombick

General Fund Only	Anne Arundel		Frederick	
	\$	%	\$	%
Education				
Public Schools	748,066,200	43.51%	309,699,428	46.52%
Community College	45,387,700	2.64%	20,288,119	3.05%
Libraries	24,576,100	1.43%	11,962,068	1.80%
Public Safety				
Police	155,547,200	9.05%	26,036,541	3.91%
Corrections	53,547,800	3.11%	21,038,454	3.16%
Fire & Rescue	129,975,300	7.56%	63,352,650	9.52%
Volunteer Fire/Rescue			8,799,550	1.32%
Emergency Services	807,500	0.05%	10,888,246	1.64%
Animal Services			2,232,764	0.34%
Sherrif's Office	11,595,100	0.67%	3,966,789	0.60%
Public Works				
Planning & Zoning	8,444,900	0.49%	2,863,900	0.43%
Public Works	31,926,200	1.86%	29,534,738	4.44%
Inspections, Licenses & Permits	14,041,700	0.82%	4,094,612	0.62%
Recycling				
Community Services				
Recreation & Parks	27,562,600	1.60%	11,877,615	1.78%
Community Use of Public Facilities				
Community Resources & Services				
Health Department	41,741,700	2.43%	6,600,715	0.99%
Social Services	5,331,400	0.31%	500,684	0.08%
Aging & Disability	8,238,300	0.48%	1,957,843	0.29%
Citizen/Youth & Family Services			6,096,342	0.92%
Community Development & Housing				
Community Service Partnerships				
Transportation	6,165,700	0.36%	0	
Legal/Judicial				
County Council/Legislative	4,693,900	0.27%	827,618	0.12%
State's Attorney	12,796,600	0.74%	6,402,169	0.96%
Board of Elections	5,329,700	0.31%	2,123,776	0.32%
Circuit Court	6,228,900	0.36%	1,726,718	0.26%
Orphan's Court	155,900	0.01%	39,706	0.01%
Independent Agencies				

Licenses/Commissioners	917,000	0.05%	477,122	0.07%
Internal Audit/Ethics	251,400	0.01%	391,063	0.06%
Cooperative Extension	240,600	0.01%	415,619	0.06%
Weed Control			264,921	0.04%
Soil Conservation			109,335	0.02%
MD Dept Taxation			900,618	0.14%
County Government				
County Executive	5,438,100	0.32%	880,681	0.13%
Administration	17,592,900	1.02%	5,329,692	0.80%
Central Services	25,074,000	1.46%		
Human Resources/Personnel	8,080,600	0.47%	1,244,409	0.19%
Budget	1,521,300	0.09%		
Finance	9,434,100	0.55%	5,600,696	0.84%
Office of Law	4,598,900	0.27%	1,507,248	0.23%
Office of Administrative Hearings	424,000	0.02%		
Technology/Communication	24,390,000	1.42%	10,958,724	1.65%
Economic Development			1658614	0.25%
Non-Departmental				
	279,101,000	16.23%	81,888,880	12.30%
Other Categories				
Grants in Aid			1,245,196	0.19%
General Fund TOTAL:	1,719,224,300		665,783,863	

Howard (w/o Fire)		Howard (including Fire)	
\$	%	\$	%
620,300,000	51.96%	620,300,000	46.41%
36,559,860	3.06%	36,559,860	2.74%
21,880,020	1.83%	21,880,020	1.64%
125,825,592	10.54%	125,825,592	9.41%
20,269,986	1.70%	20,269,986	1.52%
		142,853,678	10.69%
8,940,635	0.75%	8,940,635	0.67%
6,813,961	0.57%	6,813,961	0.51%
61,995,955	5.19%	61,995,955	4.64%
8,255,911	0.69%	8,255,911	0.62%
25,379,504	2.13%	25,379,504	1.90%
14,526,951	1.22%	14,526,951	1.09%
10,807,432	0.91%	10,807,432	0.81%
650,090	0.05%	650,090	0.05%
11,442,707	0.96%	11,442,707	0.86%
11,474,098	0.96%	11,474,098	0.86%
5,579,551	0.47%	5,579,551	0.42%
9,213,146	0.77%	9,213,146	0.69%
4,025,419	0.34%	4,025,419	0.30%
3,240,447	0.27%	3,240,447	0.24%
87,453	0.01%	87,453	0.01%

626,272	0.05%	626,272	0.05%
1,085,344	0.09%	1,085,344	0.08%
2,066,359	0.17%	2,066,359	0.15%
12,001,908	1.01%	12,001,908	0.90%
8,818,967	0.74%	8,818,967	0.66%
4,239,189	0.36%	4,239,189	0.32%
302,803	0.03%	302,803	0.02%
2,891,726	0.24%	2,891,726	0.22%
154,510,475	12.94%	154,510,475	11.56%
1,193,811,761		1,336,665,439	

Sayers, Margery

From: Lcguidi <lcguidi@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 6, 2020 5:23 PM
To: CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin
Cc: Lora Cushman Guidi; Kathy Helt; Risa Garon
Subject: NFRC Funding Board of Directors letter

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

5/6/2020

Dear Dr. Ball, Ms. Jones, Ms. Jung, Ms. Rigby, Ms. Walsh and Mr. Yungmann,

We are writing this letter to you to respectfully request you re-look at the funding recommended for FY21 for the National Family Resiliency Center (NFRC). Since 2013, our funding has been \$28,000 with an increase last year to \$29,280. We learned at 2:39 AM this morning, that it is recommended that our funding be reduced to \$14,000.

We will make this letter brief as we can only imagine the very complex county-wide issues you are dealing with to help all families in Howard County.

Last year you asked us to do a few things to show we are doing our part to make our center successful. We took your recommendations and have taken steps that I will list below.

-We have added a diverse group of new board members

-We increased funding and had two special grants from the Peck Family Foundation and Mead Family Foundation to launch an on-line parent education program that will be used currently, during the pandemic when parents, court ordered to attend this program, will be able to attend on line which will expedite their legal process and inform parents to have constructive co parent relationships and complete parent plans now required by the state.

During this time, NFRC has continued to provide teletherapy to many children, teens and adults. We have kept in close communication with the NFRC staff that is working extremely hard in meeting the needs of families we serve. This virus pandemic has created stress in families in new and challenging ways sadly resulting in greater family abuse and violence. The economic stress, closed schools and forced stay at home orders will continue for some time and require attention to family well-being as never before. NFRC's sole purpose is to help families during such times.

Your support last year was deeply appreciated by the NFRC Board of Directors, staff and clients. We thank you for your belief in and support of our work.

We hope that you and your families remain well and you award us the funding we have received in recent years.

With gratitude,

The NFRC Board of Directors:
Lora Cushman Guidi, President

Lester Bradshaw
Tekyia Brower, M.Ed.
Gina DeLeonardis LCSW-C,
Irene Griff, PhD
Michelle Turnage Huffman, CPA
Joylene John-Sowah MD, MHP
Adam MacArthur
John Murphy, III, Esq.
Jerry Schaefer

Sayers, Margery

From: Kathy Helt <khelt@nfrchelp.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 6, 2020 5:05 PM
To: CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin
Subject: Funding Request NFRC

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

May 5, 2019

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

My Name is Kathleen Helt, I have been the Associate Director of the National Family Resiliency Center, Inc. (NFRC) since 1991. I grew up in Howard County in a family that believes in community services. Most of my family has served in the Howard County Fire Service for three generations both as volunteers and professionals. I wrote a much longer letter last year so will not repeat what I wrote previously

I made a decision to stay at NFRC because of its mission and vision and a caring, committed staff. We have two full time staff, (Risa and Kathy), three part time administrative assistants/receptionists, seven therapists and eighteen part time parent educators. We have never had any benefits, medical or retirement and in terms of paid vacation, we each have so many accrued hours we could take several months in vacation. So you see, it is not about money or lack of benefits. We are committed! Risa, as Executive Director is an extraordinary leader who out paces anyone I know in terms of her energy and work. She works two jobs. She is both executive director and a talented therapist who brings in revenue to the center through her counseling. We have had some incredibly talented therapists who have been with us for many years, several more than twenty years. Each could otherwise have had a thriving private practice but they chose NFRC because of the teamwork, leadership and mission.

I am shocked that the CSP office is recommending a 50% cut in our grant when all other agencies are being funded at last year's level. We are serving more individuals and families this current fiscal year through educational programs as well as therapy, so the need for funding is as important as ever. Currently our therapists are working hard to serve as many families as possible through tele-therapy even though many of our clients are unable to pay at this time due to loss of jobs or furloughs. No one is turned away.

I ask that you find the funds to be equitable to NFRC and fund our organization at the same level you are funding other agencies at last fiscal year's level.

Listed below in a history of funding since 2013

HC Grant Funding	Awarded
FY13	\$ 28,000.00
FY14	\$ 28,000.00
FY15	\$ 28,000.00
FY16	\$ 28,000.00
FY17	\$ 28,000.00
FY18	\$ 28,000.00
FY19	\$ 28,560.00

FY20

\$ 14,280.00-→ proposed

With respect and hope,

Kathleen A. Helt, M.A.S.
Associate Director
National Family Resiliency Center, Inc.
www.nfrchelp.org
410-740-9553 x 208 443-540-7744

This transmission may contain information that is privileged, confidential and/or exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution, or use of the information contained herein (including any reliance thereon) is STRICTLY PROHIBITED. If you received this transmission in error, please immediately contact the sender and destroy the material in its entirety, whether in electronic or hard copy format.

Thank you

Columbia
Phone: 410-740-9553 x208
10630 Little Patuxent Parkway, Suite 115
Columbia, MD 21044

Rockville
Phone 410-740-9553
451 Hungerford Drive - 225
Rockville, MD 20850

Sayers, Margery

From: Amanda Hof <amanda@howardcountytourism.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 6, 2020 4:34 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Howard County Tourism Council's Budget Testimony
Attachments: Visit Howard County FY21 Funding Request May 6 Council Testimony_FINAL (1).pdf

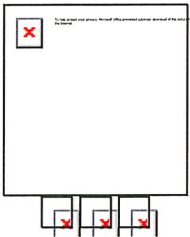
[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council:

Please find Howard County Tourism Council's Budget Testimony attached as a follow to my virtual testimony at your May 6 Citizen's Budget Hearing. I understand that internet testimony is considered public information and, as such, is subject to the Maryland Public Information Act.

Thank you for your assistance. Please advise if you need any additional information.

Amanda Hof



Amanda Hof
Executive Director
Visit Howard County

Business cell phone/text: (667) 352-5166

Email: amanda@howardcountytourism.com

Visitor Website: VisitHowardCounty.com

Industry Website: HowardCountyTourism.com

Address: 8267 Main Street, Ellicott City, MD 21043

[CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION PORTAL](#)

Visit Howard County

Howard County Tourism Council, Inc.,
Testimony, May 6, 2020

Good evening Madam Chair and members of the Council. I am Amanda Hof, Executive Director of the Howard County Tourism Council, Inc. located at 8267 Main Street in Ellicott City's historic district.

On behalf of our board and staff, I want to thank you for your extraordinary efforts and focus on saving lives in fighting the COVID-19 health crisis. Under guidance from Howard County Government and the State, our organization continues to monitor the ever-changing COVID-19 landscape. Our organization has executed best practices and ordinances to minimize and reduce the risk of exposure and spread of the virus. Preventative steps were undertaken to protect the health and safety of employees and guests while continuing services to Howard County's tourism and hospitality community to the greatest extent possible.

We are honored to be working alongside Howard County Executive Dr. Ball, you - the Council, and colleague organizations including Howard County Economic Development Authority and the Howard County Chamber of Commerce as part of the response and soon to be re-opening and recovery efforts. Together we have achieved:

- A portal for businesses with the information and resources they need regarding COVID-19: Our organization has referred over 2,000 businesses to this resource.
- A new HoCoFoodGo website that supports businesses and helps residents locate restaurant delivery and carry-out options: there are over 160 restaurants on the site - we have received many thank you emails from restaurants for our help in facilitating and promoting the site.
- We helped with an inventory of hotels interested in assisting Howard County Government to temporarily house health and safety workers as well as members of our homeless community. Additionally, we in the process of sending lunches to hotel employees so they too feel recognized as essential.
- We are providing regular, timely updates for our member businesses - Since the crisis, our weekly update has been opened 2,580 times with 792 links clicked.

Links include resources and information such as the Coronavirus Portal, virtual event and activity submittals, ways to help, where to buy PPE and hand sanitizer, and important State and Federal information regarding labor laws and relief programs.

- We launched a new calendar of ‘virtual events’ and list of activities residents can enjoy safely at home and help keep businesses in front of their customers - Our organization was among the first of Destination Management Organizations to do this.
- We have helped spread the word about ways to help through social media, member updates, and our VisitHowardCounty.com website.
- And, we are keeping residents engaged with tourism and hospitality industry businesses through our social media activities that have reached over 10,500 people and generated over 5,000 clicks to relevant websites and social media handles since Stay at Home orders began.

I am sure our organization is not alone with concern about the impact the COVID-19 crisis will have on Howard County’s economy as well as the financial viability of our own organization. While it is too soon to realize the full impact, we are prepared to adjust accordingly and assist our community in any way we can.

While we realize you are in the midst of a historically difficult budget session we thank you for considering Howard County Tourism’s FY21 funding allocation. With your support, our organization is uniquely situated for the coming fiscal year to help heal public perception of our community from Ellicott City to what we now know as the COVID-19 health crisis and economic fallout. With your support, we can help get consumers back to our businesses and get businesses’ cash registers ringing again. We can specifically do this by positioning Howard County as a destination that:

- is inclusive where everyone feels welcome;
- is safe and healthy;
- is easily accessible;
- has free and affordable activities for all;
- and
- has outdoor amenities like parks, trails, open space, and historic districts

The tourism, travel, and hospitality industry all across Maryland will be a bright spot in the economy again. In the meantime, we must stay vigilant and continue our focus on saving lives and supporting our businesses in fighting the COVID-19 health crisis.

In making this request on behalf of the 11,000 plus employees of Howard County’s tourism and hospitality industry we recognize how fortunate we are to live and work in a County with leaders who understand how continued investment in tourism is part of the solution. Howard County residents, local businesses, and visitors alike will see benefits from significant initiatives intended to promote and enhance the attractions in Howard County. We thank you for your continued support.

Thank you for your time and have a good evening.

END



Sayers, Margery

From: Tara Salvati <Tara_Salvati@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 6, 2020 4:24 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Impact of budget

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

Hello,

My name is Tara Salvati. I am both a teacher and parent of three students in the Howard County Public School system. We are a military family who has lived in the county for six years and we decided to be geographically separated from my husband, an active duty Army pilot this year, so that our children could go back to their elementary school and I could return to my high school teaching position. Times are difficult. Money is tight and the world is literally in crisis mode. I appreciate all of this and am well aware that sacrifices must be made. I need to express, however, how some of these sacrifices will have indelible impacts.

Due to the increasing of class sizes next year, there are less world language positions available in my school. Because I previously taught ESOL in the building and have not been there as long as some of my colleagues, I will have to either be split between schools or part-time next year. Because I, a certified Spanish teacher will not be there, my classes will be taught by a uncertified French teacher. While this teacher is incredible and amazing, having someone teach out of their content area is a disservice to the teacher and the students. It also ensures that two language programs will be killed, French and Spanish, because neither is receiving the expertise it deserves. While the academic impact there sincerely worries me, I am troubled more by the emotional impact these cuts will have. We have homeless students, abused students, lost students and students who just need a challenge. How can any teacher be expected to reach all of these vast needs in an overcrowded classroom? How can any student build a positive relationship with a teacher or school that becomes more and more detached and impersonal with constant turnover and overcrowding?

I believe in the power of schools to create communities and change lives for the better. I believed the messages we were told by real estate agents and Human Resources employees who told us that HOCO had a great school system and that they hired the best teachers. What I am left to question is what do you believe? You cannot believe in the importance of academics if it doesn't matter to you who teaches what to your students and that no one can access the curriculum because it's too impersonal. You cannot believe in relationships being the central focus of education if you constantly rip teachers from their students and schools to save a few dimes. And you cannot believe that schools are the foundation of our communities if you are not willing to sacrifice more for them. Please consider our community's values when thinking about these budget needs.

Thank you for your time,
Sincerely,
Tara Salvati

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

Sayers, Margery

From: geratypaul@gmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, May 6, 2020 4:22 PM
To: Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail
Subject: FY2021 Funding for the National Family Resiliency Center, Inc (NFRC)

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

Dear Dr. Ball, Mr. Jones, Ms. Jung, Ms. Rigby, Ms. Walsh and Mr. Yungmann,

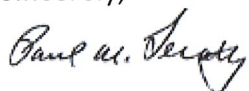
I hope and pray you and your loved ones are safe and in good health during this very challenging time.

I am writing to support FY2021 funding for the National Family Resiliency Center, Inc. of \$29, 280 which is the same amount that was awarded for FY2020. If there is any way that the County can continue funding NFRC at the same level that would be greatly appreciated as NFRC provides tremendous value to the children and families living in Howard County from their offices in Columbia.

The National Family Resiliency Center (NFRC) has been instrumental in helping me and my family work through difficult challenges related to separation and divorce which has resulted in significant improvements in all of our relationships and has enabled my ex-wife and I to continue to effectively co-parent our two children during the past 16 years. NFRC has also played a critical role in helping us understand the challenges that one of our sons was experiencing related to substance abuse which enabled us to take the necessary steps to provide him with the help he needed to successfully overcome his addiction. Over the years I have continued to obtain personal and family counseling through NFRC that has been instrumental in providing me with the foundation to strengthen and improve the relationships I have with my wife, ex-wife, children and now grandchildren. As a result of my personal experiences with NFRC, I have also become a peer counselor where I have the opportunity to work with parents who are going through separation and divorce and to share with them the importance of effective co-parenting and provide them with encouragement and best practices that my ex-wife and I have found critical to enabling us to be effective co-parents for our sons and co-grandparents for our three grandsons.

Based on my 16 year association with the NFRC, I have the highest regard for the organization, its leadership and staff as they truly change the lives of all they touch including those most vulnerable, our children, which positively impacts our entire community. As such, I would highly encourage the County to continue to support the NFRC in FY2021 at the same level as FY2020, \$29,280.

Sincerely,



Paul M. Geraty, CPA, CGFM
geratypaul@gmail.com
240-286-3961
919 Logtown Road
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Lcguidi <lcguidi@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 6, 2020 4:07 PM
To: CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin
Cc: Lora Cushman Guidi
Subject: NFRC funding

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

5/6/2020

Dear Dr. Ball, Ms. Jones, Ms. Jung, Ms. Rigby, Ms. Walsh and Mr. Yungmann,

I started at COSD when I was 16 years old and I am now 49 and still involved with this program as board president. For 33 years I have been involved with this non-profit that changed my life and my relationship with my father. I say father because he was just a "father" figure 33 years ago. I went through the HS group and the first MFS session my father's eyes opened and he took it to heart what was being said. It is the most powerful thing that parents have to sit and listen to their kids talk without saying a word. My father got the help that was needed for himself at 22 I finally felt I had a dad to talk to, there is a difference between a father and a dad. For the first time he actually listened to what I had to say and I was not scared to talk to him for the first time. My dad used to be so angry, without this program and not having a lot of money the sliding scale fee is what made my mom afford to send me. I was asked to be a peer counselor after a few groups and I did this for years and am still a Peer Counselor and now on the Board of Directors as Board President supporting NFRC. I would not be the person I am without the center and Risa, she is the most caring and amazing person I know- she works tirelessly to support the children who need a voice and to help parents see that kids need a voice and should not be put in the middle of parents actions. Being cut over 1/2 what has been given to us will effect the people in the community who need a sliding scale fee, I am one of the countless many who have needed to use their services and without them I really don't know where I would be today.

Additionally, this virus pandemic has created stress in families in new and challenging ways sadly resulting in greater family abuse and violence. The economic stress, closed schools and forced stay at home for orders will continue for some time and require attention to family well-being as never before. NFRC's sole purpose is to help families during such times.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. Please fund NFRC at 100%.

Sincerely,
Lora Cushman Guidi

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Matthew Fleming <matt.fleming@visitoec.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 6, 2020 3:24 PM
To: Jung, Deb; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Yungmann, David
Cc: CouncilMail; Dvorak, Nicole; Alicia Jones
Subject: Testimony for budget hearing
Attachments: Statement of Matthew Fleming--ECP, 6 May 2020.pdf

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

Council Chair Jung, Vice Chair Walsh, and Councilmembers Jones, Rigby, and Yungmann,

My name is Matt Fleming; I'm the President of the Ellicott City Partnership. Please find attached my testimony for the budget hearing tonight (though note that I'm delivering this via email—I will not be testifying live). Thank you for everything you're doing for Howard County in these unprecedented times.

Be well and stay safe,

Matt

Matthew H. Fleming, Ph.D.
President, Ellicott City Partnership
Matt.Fleming@visitoec.com



**ELICOTT CITY
PARTNERSHIP**

**Statement of Matthew H. Fleming (Ellicott City Partnership)
to the Howard County Council, 6 May 2020**

Council Chair Jung, Vice Chair Walsh, and Councilmembers Jones, Rigby, and Yungmann, **thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony to the 6 May 2020 budget hearing.** My name is Matthew Fleming. I'm the President of the Ellicott City Partnership (ECP; I represent the ECP, and am also a resident). The ECP is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization founded in 2013 with the merger of the Ellicott City Business Association and the Ellicott City Restoration Foundation. **The ECP works to preserve the heritage and vitality of Old Ellicott City while creating and enhancing economic growth** (its mission); it seeks a vibrant, economically sustainable historic community (its vision). The ECP's constituents comprise businesses, property owners, residents, and visitors to Old Ellicott City; its partners include county and state departments and agencies, as well as local nonprofits. Through the work of the ECP, Old Ellicott City was officially designated a Maryland Main Street Community in 2014, and the ECP continues to administer that program in partnership with the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development.

The ECP's efforts directly and indirectly increase jobs, labor income, tax revenues, property values, and the reputation of Howard County as one of the best places to live in the United States. These efforts have been indispensable as Old Ellicott City has continued its aggressive recovery from the flood events of 2016 and 2018 and beyond. I draw your attention to recent evidence of ECP impact: hundreds of events hosted, assisted, and promoted by the ECP in the last year, including the iconic Main Street Music Fest, 41st annual Midnight Madness, and Mardi Gras on Main. By all accounts, this programming was overwhelmingly successful, with many Old Ellicott City businesses reporting their best days in years. The ECP also launched the new VisitOEC.com website in 2019 (averaging 27k monthly views) and welcomed 20+ new businesses to town.

Now we find ourselves in unprecedented times, with the world facing the global COVID-19 pandemic. **For the third time in four years, Old Ellicott City businesses have had to suspend normal operations—and the work of the ECP has become more essential than ever.** Indeed, the needs of the community have grown, requiring intensive and expanded strategic focus and more purposeful, longer-term ECP programming. In response, the ECP has served as critical connective tissue between local, state, and federal government and ECP constituents, not least in highlighting available financial assistance to those in dire financial straits. For example, the ECP has:

- organized multiple virtual meetings with County Executive Ball, Vice Chair Walsh, State Senator Katie Hester, State Delegate Courtney Watson, and representatives of the Howard County Economic Development Authority, Visit Howard County, and Howard County Chamber, on crisis grants and loans;



**ELICOTT CITY
PARTNERSHIP**

- provided technical assistance to businesses on expansion of e-commerce and other related offerings;
- promoted Old Ellicott City businesses offering online/curbside shopping and gift cards;
- liaised with the multi-stakeholder Howard County Community Organizations Active in Disaster group to share information on collective community needs/opportunities; and
- facilitated the provision of feedback from ECP constituents to local, state, and federal elected officials.

The ECP is a lean, efficient organization that provides the county a significant return on investment. Through its all-volunteer board of directors and its army of volunteers from Howard County and beyond, the ECP provides its constituents with the combined services of more than 5,000 volunteer hours annually (often provided by subject-matter experts in fields relating to public policy, public- and private-sector management, marketing/communications, retail innovation, event planning, historic preservation and environmental protection, and the like). Volunteer hours are complemented by a mix of county funding, grants, donations, and event proceeds (though clearly no in-person ECP events—to include SpringFest, the ECP’s large spring music festival—have been possible since stay-home orders were issued).

County funding is the bedrock upon which the ECP is built, allowing the ECP to execute its vital mission. **We’re grateful to County Executive Ball for his continued support for the ECP, including via his FY2021 budget request; we would be grateful for your support in this regard as well.** FY2021 county funding will allow the ECP to continue to lessen the burden on county government—as a force-multiplier—by providing constituents with critical services and maintaining the Main Street Maryland designation. FY2021 county funding will also allow the ECP to continue to innovate in its programming to meet strategic constituent needs—so critical in these unprecedented times.

The ECP stands devoted to Old Ellicott City and Howard County, and looks forward to continuing its close working relationship with county partners. **On behalf of the ECP and its constituents, thank you for your time and consideration.**

Matthew H. Fleming, Ph.D.
President, Ellicott City Partnership
Matt.Fleming@visitoec.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Liz Williams <lizwill@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 6, 2020 3:19 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Ball, Calvin
Subject: Funding for NFRC -National Family Resiliency Center, In

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

Dear Dr. Ball, Mr Jones, Ms Jung, Ms Rigby, Ms Walsh, and Mr Yungmann

I am writing in support of NFRC- National Family Resiliency Center Inc receive the full amount of the \$29,280 needed for FY20. I am quite dismayed and disappointed to find that only half that amount has been allocated. In addition notification was made at a time 2:30am as well as post deadline which would have allowed for a video testify in order to apply for said funds. I am writing to you not only as a former client of NFRC, but also as a former peer counselor there and most importantly a former resident with family still there.

Howard County proudly markets and advocates a place to live, learn and work.

Such is the case for what my family was doing until domestic crisis impeded all of those things. We needed help, guidance, education, therapy and support. We walked in the doors with feeling of helplessness as our divorce was effecting each of us as well as our family and extended members of family and friends. My children were socially isolating, giving up sports, music, and clubs, my exhusband whose company is located and employs many HOCO residents was unable to focus on career, as a mother I could barely hang on. My participation in volunteering and fundraising was nil as I attempted to get help for us all during our divorce. NFRC provided every resource for each of us collectively and individually. It was painful and horrid yet they provided us with the tools to take many broken pieces and make us whole again. Allowing for healthy renewed relationships amongst each family member. Including my ex and myself.

What is significant about this is not just the magic of NFRC tremendous efforts in helping us redefine our family, provide safe and supportive community to heal in— but the unexpected outcomes it provided within the community.

You see when you have healthy individuals who have been given tools to heal— the trickle down effect happens within the community. My children were leading participants in several state champion sports teams, my child was accepted into Ivy League schools where prior she wanted to drop out and stay w me. My children participated in several community fundraisers and food donations to the food pantry.

I returned to the efforts I put forth in volunteering at my kids school as well as local non profit club for girls. Lastly, my ex may not have been able to be well enough to return to work and help his company grow and hire significantly more HOCO folks.

None of that would have been possible if we did not get the intervention and services NFRC provided. It helped our family as well as the branches of our lives we connect to within the community. That is called a vital community agency that provides more than the eye can see.

Next as a Peer Counselor— NFRC has programming not just for within its programming and clients but the community itself. Touching all areas of the county. Legal— educating Judges and Lawyers on the issues involved as well as the depth of impact divorce has on families with the hope to prevent a court battle that is painful for all.

NFRC provides training and awareness to our educators as well. Giving them the tools to identify and refer a student or parent that may need support. From a financial perspective NFRC assists with referrals to help families navigate ways to address how to divide their funds that are in best interest of family.

I could continue on. There are so many special and amazing parts of this agency. It's staff are unique in their dedication, passion and caring for their clients. They have worked hard to secure other funding and create on line portals to help their clients.

Currently our world has been facing a crisis that will have many trickle down effect outcomes. Due to the nature of this pandemic those stressors will ultimately crack a family that is already fractured. Now is the time to insure that family agency like NFRC

is in a position to support these families.

As I stated earlier one family has ability to affect many others when in crisis. Howard County should be proud of what they offer to their community. NFRC should and must be one of those offerings to be proud of. I beg of you to consider fully funding this fine organization.

I am more than willing to discuss at length and issues, questions, or concerns you may have.

I appreciate your time and attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

Liz Williams

Sent from my iPad

Sayers, Margery

From: Risa Garon <risa.garon@nfrfamily.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 6, 2020 3:07 PM
To: CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin
Subject: urgent please read updated letter and information

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

May 6, 20

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

I would like to clarify the first letter that I wrote to you yesterday. The chronology below, will help you to better understand why we, NFRC, thought that the Community Partnership Grants, recommended the same amount of funding that we received last year. As you will see, we tried to verify this and were told by the Association for Community Services that all non-profits were receiving the same amount funded last fiscal year.

I hope this clarifies why I and others wrote what we did. We do not want to appear arrogant and or living in denial. We thought that the \$29, 280 was the amount we would be getting. We did not hear from the county grants office, Community Service Partnerships, until 2:39am today.

All I can ask is that you understand where we were coming from, consider funding last year's amount and accept my apology for any confusion this has caused.

Sincerely,

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

CHRONOLOGY and HISTORY

- Kathy Helt, Associate Director wrote to Megan Godfrey at the Office of Community Partnerships Monday morning at 7 AM stating that we had not yet received an email or letter, as we had in the past, stating the recommended amount of funding, from the Office of Community Services.
- When we did not hear from Megan, we decided to reach out to the Director of the Association of Community Services, who she said she was informed funding was to stay the same for grant recipients. She is NOT part of the County government. She would not have known the specific amount we received last year.
- Ms. Godfrey replied to our request at 2:39 AM Weds morning May 6.

- Why did Ms. Godfrey wait until 2:39 AM on 5/6 to email when the deadline to testify expired at 7 pm, the evening before her middle of the night email.
- In the past, NFRC has received notification about the recommended amount of funding several days prior to any hearings. When Ms. Godfrey emails, she stated: “The proposed FY21 Howard County Budget presented by the County Executive includes **\$8,438,369** in funding for CSP Human Service Grants. Based on the recommendations from the grant review process coordinated by the Department of Community Resources and Services, funding has been included for **National Family Resiliency Center, Inc.** in the FY21 Budget for approval by the County Council. The list of proposed award levels for CSP Operating and One-Time Grants can be found on page 381/382 (*Adobe page 398/399*) of the FY21 Proposed Operating Budget.”
- On Dec. 9, 2019, Risa and Kathy met with the two administrators at the Office of Community Partnerships to discuss updates to our work. We wanted to share what we had added based on our own goals and their recommendations. These changes included adding more board members, increasing fundraising, and continued growth in counseling services. There seemed little interest on their part and they did not like us challenging them about the importance of our work and our need for continued funding. We left feeling deflated with little to no sense of support.
- Below is our history of funding:

FY06- \$35,000

FY07- \$36,400

FY08- \$38,000

FY09- \$38,000

FY10-\$32,300

FY11-\$32,300

FY12-\$32,300

FY13-\$28,000

FY14-\$28,000

FY15-\$28,000

FY16-\$28,000

FY17-\$28,000

FY18-\$28,000

FY19-\$28,000

FY20-\$29,280

Fy21-\$14,000 RECOMMENDED BY CSP

Sayers, Margery

From: Meghna Sreenivas <meghnasreenivas@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 6, 2020 3:01 PM
To: Jung, Deb; CouncilMail
Subject: National Family Resiliency Center

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

Dear Ms. Jung,

I hope you are staying safe and healthy. My name is Meghna Sreenivas and I am a resident in your district. I'm a graduate of Reservoir High School and a current senior at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business. While we have not met personally, I have had the pleasant opportunity to interact with other members of the council and Dr. Ball, while I was leading the student government at Reservoir and actively participating in the county-level student affairs.

Today, I am writing in support of \$29,280 for the National Family Resiliency Center, Inc. I am shocked to hear that the county is recommending that the funding be dropped to \$14,000 this year, despite the extremely important work that this organization has done for individuals, lawyers, judges, and the broader family courts in Howard County.

As a child of a messy divorce and the subsequent death of my father, the NFRC was pivotal in getting me and my family back on my feet. Therapists, such as Dr. Risa Garon, have profoundly influenced my life - she is the reason why I turned my life around and ended up representing Howard County at an Ivy League Institution. It brought my parents to a co-parenting plan that provided the least amount of harm possible to the children. When I was nervous to give the valedictory address at my high school graduation because of my parents' fighting, the therapists from the NFRC were the first people I saw in the audience; they truly go above and beyond to help support families during and after transitions. When my father passed away, Risa was the first person I called and she stayed awake with me as I cried at 3am.

Even while in college, I have made it a point to serve as a peer counselor to support new co-parents during this transition. I have spoken in front of multiple judicial conferences and panels about my experiences, and the perception of the NFRC's importance has always been incredibly strong. The NFRC has such a powerful message to share; its clients come back and want to continue to share the message.

When I was in high school, the NFRC encouraged me to speak out about my experience and participate in Howard County Ignite's speaking event, where I shared the stage with former County Executive, Allan Kittleman. I encourage you to watch it [here](#) to understand the experience I went through.

I am sure you are getting many inquiries just like this, as the budget gets updated. I urge you to continue to provide the same level of funding to the NFRC so they can continue their incredibly important work. They change lives and enable people to contribute to society. In this way, the therapists at the NFRC are an instrumental part in the success that Howard County,

I look forward to meeting you soon, when circumstances allow.

Cheers and stay healthy,
Meghna Sreenivas

Meghna Sreenivas

The Wharton School | Undergraduate Class of 2020

The University of Pennsylvania

meghnas@wharton.upenn.edu | [+1.443.852.2960](tel:+14838522960) | [linkedin.com/in/meghnasreenivas](https://www.linkedin.com/in/meghnasreenivas)

Sayers, Margery

From: susan siegler <susansiegler@verizon.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 6, 2020 2:43 PM
To: CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin
Subject: Funding for NFRC (National Family Resiliency Center) for FY21

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

Dear Dr. Ball, Mr. Jones, Ms. Jung, Ms. Rigby, Ms. Walsh and Mr. Yungmann,

I am writing to support FY21 funding for the National Family Resiliency Center, Inc. in the same amount that was awarded in FY20 and from the same sources used for FY20 funding.

At this time, the amount that has been slated for the National Family Resiliency Center, Inc. for FY21 is barely half of the total that the organization received during FY20 which came from more than one source. What is most disheartening is that NFRC was informed that their funding for FY21 would be the same as for FY20 but this was incorrect. The error in communication only became clear this morning - too late to be able to testify via video. NFRC has always been there for the residents of Howard County who needed help during times of great duress, and, today, NFRC needs your help in order to continue to help Howard County families succeed.

There are moments in our lives when we are blessed with someone who magically shows up in our lives at the time we need help the most. For me, that person was Risa Garon when she agreed to be my divorce coach in 2007. That is when I first became acquainted with NFRC and all the good work they do in the Howard County community. My divorce was done by mid-2009 but that was only the beginning of my relationship with NFRC. I have volunteered as a Peer Counselor at NFRC since early 2010 and have personally witnessed the transformation of many women from frightened and uncertain of their future to becoming strong enough to face the future head on. You see, it helps when you hear other women's stories of success who began their journeys with the same uncertainty and fear of the future.

NFRC helps the women face their new futures with the knowledge that they don't walk the journey alone but have the support they need. As amazing as NFRC is with the women they are an incredible resource when helping the children of divorce in Howard County. NFRC not only supports the children by helping their parents become strong and independent they also help the children by sponsoring groups where the children can grow and become stronger and more confident in their own right.

I saw NFRC provide support free of charge to a family that desperately needed their services during the Great Recession when both parents were out of work. They do what needs to be done and give help to those who need it.

They are a critical resource that is needed more than ever during this time of health and economic uncertainty. Howard County needs NFRC to help the community get through this time of uncertainty. NFRC has been recognized by many for the good work that they do time and time again.

The most recent recognition came in the form of increased funding and two special grants from the Peck Family Foundation and Mead Family Foundation to launch an on-line Parent Education Program. This program will be used during the pandemic when parents who are court ordered to attend this program can attend now on line. The Parent Education program can help expedite the parent's legal process, and, will inform parents how to have constructive co-parent relationships. The program also allows the parents to complete their Parent Plans which are now required by the state.

When families go through their own personal crisis than guidance in any form is crucial for the mental health of all family members.

Covid-19 has made even the smallest of life's tasks more difficult to navigate. Howard County needs experienced organizations like NFRC to guide the way.

Please reconsider increasing their funding for FY21 so that NFRC can continue doing good in the community they have supported for the last 3 decades.

Sincerely,
Susan M Siegler.

Glenwood, Maryland.

Sayers, Margery

From: Jennifer Broderick <Jennifer@bridges2hs.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 6, 2020 2:33 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Operating Budget written testimony
Attachments: Operating budget testimony Bridges May 2020.pdf

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

Please find the attached written testimony for the Operating Budget, from Bridges to Housing Stability, Inc. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Broderick
Executive Director
Bridges to Housing Stability, Inc.
www.bridges2hs.org

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10



May 6, 2020

Liz Walsh
Opel Jones
Christiana Rigby
Deb Jung
David Yungmann

Dear Howard County Council members,

On behalf of Bridges to Housing Stability, Inc. in Howard County, I am writing in support of the proposed operating budget for the Community Service Partnership (CSP) funding through the Department of Community Resources and services, and the budget for the Howard County Department of Housing and Community Development.

We understand that it is a tight financial time for the county, and appreciate the County Executive's consideration to keep funding level for CSP grants and Plan to End Homelessness (PEH) dollars. For thirty years Bridges has provided rehousing services for low income households and those experiencing homelessness in the county. Thousands of individuals have been impacted and stably housed long term. We are anticipating a struggle to raise the same amount of fundraising dollars in the coming year due to the uncertainty in holding large events. Knowing that the CSP and Plan to End Homelessness dollars will be level helps us to continue to serve the most vulnerable, employ 15 staff, and help those whose housing may be in jeopardy in the coming year because of job loss or sickness caused by the pandemic. We will continue to work with the Department of Community Resources and Services, and the Coalition to End Homelessness to move forward in keeping homelessness rare, brief, and nonrecurring in Howard County.

The Howard County Department of Housing and Community Development support allows Bridges to continue to provide additional scattered site affordable housing solutions to low income households making 30-60% of Howard County Median Income along with strengthening relationships with landlords and providing support services to keep these households stable. Affordable housing for these low income households that often have housing barriers is very scarce in Howard County. The seventy five households that have been housed through our Housing Connections and Bridges Alliance programs depend on the below market rents, and support services to remain housed. None of these households would have housing in the county if it wasn't for the support of the Howard County Department of Housing and Community Development through the years.

Bridges continues to leverage the funding received through CSP, PEH, and DHCD grants with hundreds of thousands in other funding to continue the work and lower the percentage of the organization's budget that comes from the County.

I hope you will support these items in the budget. Many other organizations that serve thousands of County residents can continue the great work they do thanks to the CSP and PEH funding. Many thanks to all of you for your service to the County.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me anytime at 410-312-5760 ext. 117 or jennifer@bridges2hs.org

Thank you,

Jennifer Broderick, LCSW
Executive Director
Bridges to Housing Stability, Inc.
9520 Berger Rd. Suite 311
Columbia, MD, 21046

Sayers, Margery

From: Thomas Burns <tburns.bblaw@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2020 3:31 PM
To: Ball, Calvin
Cc: CouncilMail
Subject: NFRC funding
Attachments: To Ball.HCC 5.14.20.pdf

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

Please see the attached correspondence for your consideration concerning funding for NFRC

Very truly yours,

--

Thomas A. Burns
Berger & Burns, LLC
3701 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043
Tel: 410-465-7904
Fax: 410-465-7903
www.bergerburns.com

The information in or attached to this email is confidential and may be legally privileged. It is intended solely for the addressee. Access to this email by anyone else is unauthorized and expressly prohibited. If you have received this email in error, please promptly notify sender by reply email and then destroy all copies of the transmission.

If you are not the intended recipient of this email, any disclosure, copying, distribution or any action taken or omitted to be taken in reliance on it, is prohibited and may be unlawful. When addressed to our clients any opinions or advice contained in this email are subject to the terms and conditions expressed in the governing Berger & Burns, LLC Retainer Agreement.



*ACS supports Howard County nonprofits in the achievement of their missions
because strong nonprofits improve the quality of life for all.*

FY 2021 Operating Budget May 17, 2020

Testimony

As Executive Director of the Association of Community Services, it is my privilege to offer testimony on behalf of our over 170 nonprofit member organizations and community advocates who work diligently on behalf of vulnerable populations in our community. Our nonprofit sector values our strong collaborative relationship with the County as together we strive to meet the needs of residents. As we respond to the COVID-19 crisis and help our residents recover from the impacts of it, this relationship will be critical to keeping our community strong and thriving.

First, I would like to offer *our* sincere gratitude for your ongoing support for the NonProfit Collaborative. Now in its fourth year, the Collaborative continues to broaden its reach and impact in Howard County. Our tenants continue to build collaborations and partnerships, expand their programs as well as the number of people served. and more effectively serve residents by referring clients with multiple needs to others service providers within the NPC and on the Community Resources Campus. Having a hub where these services can be more easily accessed and coordinated will help residents recover from the impact of the current pandemic. The NPC also serves as an important resource to the broader nonprofit community and has seen a 50% increase in the number of outreach meetings and programs held at the NPC by local nonprofits.

ACS also applauds the County for its commitment to affordable housing. We look forward to the creation of a Housing Opportunities Master Plan that provides a clear path for expanding and preserving affordable housing that is critical to the 22% of Howard County households with incomes of less than \$60,000 who struggle to make ends meet. This percentage will likely increase as more residents experience unemployment, furloughs, and reductions in hours.

We would like to note a few key opportunities to strengthen support for both nonprofits and the Howard County residents we serve:

- We appreciate the careful review of the Community Service Partnership (CSP) grant program and are confident that it will result in a process that better serves our community. While level funding for FY21 originally promised to provide stability to grant recipients as the CSP process is revised, this is no longer the case. We are concerned that as the need has vastly increased and our nonprofits financial stability has been seriously threatened by the COVID—19 crisis, stable funding will not be adequate to ensure that our nonprofits can meet the many critical needs in our community. Needs across the service continuum from housing and utility assistance, to mental and behavioral health, to food, childcare and transportation have dramatically increased. The hope is that emergency funding from the federal government will be available to help our nonprofits as they assist residents in recovering.



*ACS supports Howard County nonprofits in the achievement of their missions
because strong nonprofits improve the quality of life for all.*

- We congratulate the Department of Community Resources and Services for its dedication to serving the homeless and its release of updated Plan to End Homelessness, The Path Home. Adequate funding of this plan will be critical to making this vision and priority for the County a reality.
- HCPSS will face increasing challenges as their students cope with the impact of the current crisis. Adequate funding for the Student Services Offices will be imperative. HCPSS will undoubtedly see a spike in the need for mental health, psychological and counseling services during the FY20-21 school year and Pupil Personnel Workers will be responding to expanding caseloads as more students and families will require additional support.
- We strongly support funding for the Office of Transportation's infrastructure projects. A more robust investment in building and improving sidewalks, crosswalks and other projects will improve safety and connectivity for pedestrians. We encourage the County to prioritize communities using the Vulnerable Population Index, as specified in CR-120, to identify spaces where the need for sidewalks, crosswalks, bus stops, and bike lanes are the greatest, such as Guilford, Elkridge, Savage and Jessup.

Finally, I applaud the commitment, creativity and spirit of collaboration that our County government has exhibited in responding to the COVID-19 crisis. This will need to be supported with additional funding and/or flexibility in FY21 to keep County departments and nonprofit service providers stable and capable of responding to the surge in need in the coming months.

For more information about ACS priorities, feel free to contact us at any time and visit:
<https://www.acshoco.org/advocacy/our-priorities/>.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Driessen

Joan Driessen, Executive Director

To say that we are living in a very difficult time is an understatement. The children and families of Howard county are struggling through the challenges of having to continue education at home in isolation from much of their support network while dealing with economic hardship and uncertainty. Our teachers and other school staff are working so hard to try and make the most of what can be done virtually. So much of our lives and near futures are up in the air and unknown.

Eventually, our students will start going back to school buildings, even if we are not yet sure of the exact timeline. When our students can start to safely return, we cannot return them to increased class sizes and fewer needed services and supports. This time of interruption to education, great stress and uncertainty, and increased poverty will require more to address it, not less. I implore you to prioritize our school system and commit additional funds beyond what the county executive has proposed to the HCPSS.

Meg Ricks
Elkridge

BERGER & BURNS, LLC

www.bergerburns.com

3701 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043
Phone#: 410-465-7904
Fax #: 410-465-7903

Victor D. Berger
E-mail: victorbergerlaw@gmail.com
Thomas A. Burns
E-mail: tburns.bblaw@gmail.com

May 14, 2020

VIA E-MAIL ONLY
The Honorable Dr. Calvin B. Ball, III
Howard County Executive
cball@howardcountymd.gov

and

Howard County Council
councilmail@howardcountymd.gov

Dear Dr. Ball and Esteemed County Council Members,

I am an attorney and businessperson with an office in Ellicott City. I have been practicing law in Maryland since 1995, primarily in Howard County since 2004, and my partner, Victor Berger and I started our own law firm in Ellicott City in 2009. I am writing as it has come to my attention that NFRC stands to lose a significant portion of their annual grant funding.

During the course of my career, I have served hundreds of Howard County residents in a variety of roles from attorney to mediator. I am also collaboratively trained. The focus of our practice is to work with our clients to resolve matters amicably wherever possible. While this is ALWAYS important in our view, this is especially true this year in light of the current pandemic and the current unavailability of the Courts which will be followed by a significant backlog due to several months of postponed cases.

I have routinely worked with NFRC for many, many years on numerous cases. They are an invaluable resource to me and my clients in our practice and by extension to the citizens of Howard County as a whole. There is not a neighborhood or school in our County that has not been touched by divorce and custody issues. Any loss of funding to NFRC would be a terrible blow not only to their organization, but to the families, children and professionals in our community.

NFRC is involved in coordination with the Circuit Court for Howard County to provide parenting programs and co-parenting mediation services to the benefit of our court system, legal and mental health professionals and for our citizens during a time of tremendous stress and transition. Beyond my professional affinity for NFRC, I have been divorced myself. I can personally attest to what their influence meant to me and my ex-wife during the time of our divorce as we went through the parenting classes described above many years ago. With the lessons learned during those difficult days, my ex-wife and I now look forward to the 'virtual' graduation of our daughter from Long Reach High School in a few weeks, and then on to a college career at Northeastern University. I know that many of our daughters friends and classmates have been impacted by the ravages of divorce, and those who were touched by NFRC are better off for their involvement.

NFRC has long been a source of pride for Howard County family law practitioners as other colleagues in other jurisdictions lament the fact that they do not have an organization like NFRC in their jurisdictions. The practice culture in Howard County is different than any other jurisdiction in which I practice, and I believe that is due in large part to the influence and support of NFRC. I know that this letter comes at a time of challenging budget decisions due to the ravages of the Coronavirus and that local programs will have cuts because of budget issues. With that said, I would urge you to do everything possible to keep NFRC fully funded so that they may continue to play their role in making Howard County among the greatest places to live and work in our entire country.

Thank you for your consideration and please let me know if I can be of any assistance.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TAB', written in a cursive style.

Thomas A. Burns

TAB/bt

Sayers, Margery

From: Frances O'Connor <chettyoak@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2020 11:30 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: AFPO Exemptions

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

After reading the latest school projections for 2020-2021, I feel more strongly than ever that Howard County MUST slow the growth of development until our infrastructure can catch up. We simply cannot continue to build homes into a system that cannot support support the people that live in these homes! Clearly new development does not pay for itself -- otherwise we would not be in such a mess in terms of school construction, over crowding, etc.

Please do NOT allow any additional AFPO exemptions, even on affordable housing. In fact, I ask you to RAISE the fees-in-lieu that developers pay to get out of affordable housing requirements. Make the fees high enough that developers instead choose to actually build the affordable housing.

Also, I ask you to revisit the call (desperate pleas?) to extend AFPO wait times, especially in the most critically overcrowded areas. At what point does this become criminal? Morally irresponsible?

Finally, as you consider new taxes for residents, please understand the supreme disappointment in the willingness to propose new taxes on residents while it appears there is such push back and hesitancy to make developers pay market rate fees or slow their profits. Voters are watching.

Thank you,
Frances J. Keenan

Sayers, Margery

From: Leo Emond <leo@bwequipment.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2020 8:31 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please reject any increases in spending. Even our Governor said he would not approve any increases. Time to put things in perspective. Thanks

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

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Seyed <seyed.khadem@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 12:09 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Taxes

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

Hi,

We have a luxury of living next to the nations capital and drawing on income from the bounty that is the federal government, but now with more remote work options I am considering moving to a county with less taxes. Can you assure me that taxes will not be increased?

I work hard for my money and pay enough, I will curb my spending and go outside the county if it comes to it, with the unimpressive response in the remote school option as well as the uncertainty of the upcoming school year I see no reason to stay within the county. My neighborhood doesn't even have sidewalks, the county parks are closed yet people park all along side the highway, making it unsafe, various signs are posted in the parks allowing only certain groups to use fields, it's a real mess and I'm not sure what I'm getting for the massive payments I'm making.

Increase the taxes and expect a mass exodus, it won't help with the budget shortfalls

Seyed Khadem

Sayers, Margery

From: Jolie Weinberg <jgw@wsfamilylaw.com>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 8:58 PM
To: CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin
Subject: NFRC Funding

Importance: High

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

Dear Dr. Bell and Esteemed County Council Members,

I wrote a letter last year when NFRC was in risk of losing their grant money. I am heartbroken to learn that this issue has arisen again this year. Over my almost 30 years of practicing family law, I have represented thousands of families and children, served as a mediator, collaborator and children's counsel and I can vouch that NFRC is so necessary in every area of our practice.

To say that the loss of funding would be a grave detriment to NFRC and to our community is an understatement. I can tell you that NFRC touches every one of my clients, their family and the community at large. NFRC is and continues to be a pioneer in divorce education, parenting programs, assisting families in a time of stress and transition, and most importantly, teaches children how to navigate the heartache of divorce. They have single handedly spear headed the recent parenting plan legislation. Divorce is often a stigma and is embarrassing and traumatic for families and definitely children even into their adulthood. NFRC provides a safe place to navigate the process, the emotional pains and the family relationships. I have watched this county flourish and grow, and I know this pandemic will set us all back. But there is no substitute to good health care for the investment into our children and our future. I know local programs will have cuts because of budget issues. I can tell you that any loss of any part of NFRC is a loss to all of us.

Howard County is a very diverse county in terms of religion, ethnicity, and other areas which makes Howard County a desirable place to live and raise a family. I know this as my family has resided in Howard County since 1993. Unfortunately, there is also domestic violence, high conflict situations, untreated mental illness, substance abuse and other complicated issues in our county. NFRC have been advocates for families in Howard County, the

state and throughout the country with a national reputation by helping families from all socioeconomic backgrounds.

Without NFRC, we have no place to send our clients and the Howard County community for services that assist them through one of the most difficult times in their lives. NFRC fills the void that allows us to offer valuable services to our community and what a loss that will be to everyone if such services are not available. I would request that you do everything possible to keep NFRC funded so they can continue the great work they do for our county.

Thank you for your consideration and please let me know if I can be of any assistance.

Very Truly Yours,

Jolie Gelman Weinberg



Weinberg & Schwartz, L.L.C.

A Family Law Practice
2000 Century Plaza, Suite 446
10632 Little Patuxent Parkway
Columbia, Maryland 21044
Phone (410) 997-0203
Fax (410) 741-3868
www.wsfamilylaw.com

Please note that this firm uses an e-mail filter which may affect receipt of certain e-mails. If you believe that we have not received your message, please call to confirm receipt of any present and future e-mails.

This e-mail is confidential, intended only for the named recipient(s) above and may contain information that is privileged, attorney work product or exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If you have received this message in error or are not the named recipient(s), please immediately notify the sender at 410-997-0203 and delete this e-mail message from your computer. Thank you.