

Sayers, Margery

From: michael stysley <mts16445@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 1:21 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Fwd: taxes

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

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

From: michael stysley <mts16445@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, May 20, 2020 at 1:13 PM
Subject: taxes
To: <cball@howardcountymd.gov>

Cut taxes

.Your admin. supports MANY different interest groups from taxpayers monies (not your money). Now seniors that have lived in Howard most of their adult life are taken for granted and expect to continue to find money from their fixed income to pay for all the increased spending, The state assessments increased approx. ten percent the economy was booming until the pandemic yet there was not even a discussing of LOWER taxes. CUT TAXES save seniors who supported Howard county for many years.

Sayers, Margery

From: Carolyn Zimmerman <zimmercm@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 12:57 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please Do Not Eliminate the East Columbia 50+ Center from the Budget (Again)

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

Dear County Council Member,

I hope this email reaches you in time. I just learned of an amendment being presented today (May 20) that would cut funds for many capital projects in the FY 2021 budget, particularly the new East Columbia 50+ Center.

As one of the many seniors living in Howard County who regularly uses this center (along with others who live throughout Howard County in all five Districts), I urge you to reconsider eliminating plans to build this much needed facility. Please think about making partial cuts from several proposed capital projects, not just eliminating the 50+ center entirely. Seniors should not be the only segment of our population making sacrifices. This center has been put off and postponed long enough.

We appreciate the difficult decisions that you must make in these trying times. Please consider seniors when you make your final decisions.

--

Carolyn M. Zimmerman
6679 Drowsy Day
Columbia, MD 21045
410-381-9347 landline
zimmercm@gmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Bettina Lewis <bettinalewis7@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 12:22 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: East Columbia Senior Center

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

Dear Folks,

PLEASE consider keeping the East Columbia Senior Center on this year's budget.

We have been waiting a long, long time. At 75, I'm beginning to worry.

The senior center is The Center for my social and exercise life and for that of many others also.

I realize things are a mess right now, but this is a crucial project. So many seniors need this kind of center in this area.

PLEASE keep moving.

Thank you,
Bettina Lewis
9509 Deerfoot Way
Columbia MD 21046
301-362-0091

Sent from my iPad

Sayers, Margery

From: no-reply@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 12:20 PM
To: alicegatormorgan@yahoo.com
Subject: Council - Funds for East Columbia Center

First Name: Alice
Last Name: Morgan
Email: alicegatormorgan@yahoo.com
Street Address: 9342 Ourtime Lane
City: Columbia
Subject: Funds for East Columbia Center
Message: Please keep the East Columbia Center building project in the budget. The Seniors thank you.

Sayers, Margery

From: no-reply@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 12:20 PM
To: alicegatormorgan@yahoo.com
Subject: Council - Funds for East Columbia Center

First Name: Alice
Last Name: Morgan
Email: alicegatormorgan@yahoo.com
Street Address: 9342 Ourtime Lane
City: Columbia
Subject: Funds for East Columbia Center
Message: Please keep the East Columbia Center building project in the budget. The Seniors thank you.

Sayers, Margery

From: Jessie Barnes <jsldancer@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 12:17 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Fwd: Reconsider plans to build community center in Howard Community

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

Dear County Council Member,

I was just informed of an amendment being presented on May 20 that would cut funds for many capital projects in the FY 2021 budget, particularly the new East Columbia 50+ Center.

I am one of the seniors that live in Howard County and have been teaching at the 50 Plus center for over 20 years. I beg you to reconsider eliminating plans to build this much needed facility. Please consider about making cuts from several of the proposed capital projects, not just the 50+ center so that seniors are not the only segment of our population making sacrifices.

We appreciate the difficult decisions that you must make in these trying times. Please consider seniors when you make your final decisions.

The senior center has a direct positive impact on my seniors physical and mental health as well as my self. I have seen students lives changed due to the classes offered at the center. The scheduled health activities keeps the students motivated to stay active in the community.

Jessie Barnes
Leader and Senior
Jessie's Soul Line Dance Instructor

--

Jessie Barnes

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

Sayers, Margery

From: Jennifer Asher <jennifer.h.asher@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 11:57 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Funding for East Columbia 50+ Center

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

I am writing to support funding for the East Columbia 50+ Center. I appreciate that difficult decisions about funding for various capital projects must be made. The East Columbia center is heavily used and way too small. Please do not cut funds for its badly needed reconstruction.

Seniors are a valuable asset to the County, contributing far more in taxes than they consume in services. Please support their needs so that they will remain in Howard County as they age!

Thank you for your consideration.

Jennifer H. Asher
2825 Sagewood Drive
Glenwood, MD 21738

jennifer.h.asher@gmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Claire Femiano <cfemiano@fastmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 11:55 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Amendment to cut the budget

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

Dear County Council Member,

I am writing about an amendment being presented today that would cut funds for many capital projects in the FY2021 budget, particularly the new East Columbia senior center.

I am a senior who lives and pays property taxes in Howard County. I regularly use this tiny three room senior center even though I live in Ellicott City. I urge you to reconsider eliminating plans to build this much needed facility. Please think about making cuts from several of the proposed capital projects, not just the senior center so that we are not the only segment of our population making sacrifices.

I appreciate the difficult financial decisions that you must make during this unprecedented time. But though dire, please take into account that it is not a permanent situation.

All I ask is that you carefully consider the needs of seniors who often pay property taxes and ask little in return from our government when you make your final decisions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

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

Sayers, Margery

From: Paul Verchinski <verchinski@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 11:26 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: 50+ East columbia Capitlal Project

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

This project should be cut from the HoCo Capitlal budget. It will not support social distancing and a different model for Older Adults. 50+ Centers will have to be rethought and may not be a good solution in light of Covid 19.

Please cut from the budget.

Best,
Paul Verchinski
5475 Sleeping Dog Lane
Columbia, MD 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: Michael Femiano <mfemiano@fastmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 11:25 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: 50+ Center in Jeopardy --Emergency Request for your email to County Council

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

Dear County Council Members,

I just learned of an amendment being presented on May 20 that would cut funds for many capital projects in the FY2021 budget, particularly the new East Columbia 50+ Center.

As one of the many seniors living in Howard County who uses this center, I urge you to reconsider eliminating plans to build this much needed facility. Please think about making cuts from several of the proposed capital projects, not just the 50+ center so that seniors are not the only segment of our population making sacrifices.

We appreciate the difficult decisions that you must make in these trying times. Please consider seniors when you make your final decisions.

Sincerely,

Michael Femiano

3405 Font Hill Drive Ellicott City MD 21042

mfemiano@fastmail.com

--

Michael Femiano
mfemiano@fastmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: amccartn@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 11:24 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: East Columbia 50+ Center

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

Dear County Council Member,

I just learned of an amendment being presented on May 20 that would cut funds for many capital projects in the FY2021 budget, particularly the new East Columbia 50+ Center.

As one of the many seniors living in Howard County who regularly uses this center, I urge you to reconsider eliminating plans to build this much needed facility. Please think about making cuts from several of the proposed capital projects, not just the 50+ center so that seniors are not the only segment of our population making sacrifices.

We appreciate the difficult decisions that you must make in these trying times. Please consider seniors when you make your final decisions.

Sincerely,

Annette McCartney

6320 Raritan Court, Columbia, MD 21045

amccartn@aol.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Pat Harman <patonsunset@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 11:21 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Budget amendment

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

Dear County Council Member,

I just learned of an amendment being presented on May 20 that would cut funds for many capital projects in the FY2021 budget, particularly the new East Columbia 50+ Center.

As one of the many seniors living in Howard County who regularly uses this center, I urge you to reconsider eliminating plans to build this much needed facility. Please think about making cuts from several of the proposed capital projects, not just the 50+ center so that seniors are not the only segment of our population making sacrifices.

We appreciate the difficult decisions that you must make in these trying times. Please consider seniors when you make your final decisions.

Sincerely,
Pat Harman
9728 Oak Hill Drive
Ellicott City 21042
Patonsunset@gmail.com

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Usha7742 <usha7742@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 11:21 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: extrimly need of new senior center

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

Dear Sir / Madam

We defiantly need bigger and better 50 East Senior Center of Columbia.

We will highly appreciate if you do not cut the budget what was approved initially to build new facility. Seniors Do Need Bigger and Better facility as they are vulnerable to catch any infections including Cowed19, in a small over crowded place.

Usha Ardeshta
8738 Warm Waves Way
Columbia MD 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: Fran LoPresti <fflopresti@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 11:14 AM
To: Claire Femiano
Cc: CouncilMail; Allison Korn; Pearl Atkinson-Stewart; Nelson Pollack; Henrietta Milward; McCague, Meridy
Subject: Re: FY 2021 Budget amendment

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

Hi,

I sent a personal email to all the Council members and followed up today with a phone call to Deb Jung and David Jungmann. I did speak briefly with Deb Jung's aide, China. She would not divulge anything but said that all amendments would be posted this evening on the Council site. I left a message for Yungmanns assistant, Karen.

I do not think that there is any more public testimony so if there is a killer amendment , we may have to launch a big letter writing campaign.

On Tue, May 19, 2020 at 10:33 PM Claire Femiano <cfemiano@fastmail.com> wrote:
Council Members,

We are writing on behalf of over 200 seniors living in all 5 districts of Howard County that comprise the New East Columbia 50+ Center Advocacy Group. We just learned of an amendment being proposed tomorrow by several County Council members to cut several capital budget projects in the FY2021 budget including the proposed new 50+ Center.

While acknowledging that these extraordinary times may require deep cuts in County capital projects, we urge you not to eliminate plans for our new senior center. As one of the fastest growing segments of the population providing a great source of income to the county (many seniors are property owners) requiring the least from our government ([ie.no](#) school children), it is inequitable to expect seniors to bear a large portion of the cuts. We ask that, at the very least, if cuts need to be made, they be spread across the board with many projects taking a small reduction.

In addition, capital projects like the new senior center will provide needed employment for Howard County citizens in the year to come.

Seniors have put forth an enormous effort to see this new center be realized. We've waited over 6 years for a center to be funded (the current one is hardly qualifies as a center), we have testified at every budget hearing, we've signed petitions and written letters. Seniors from all districts of the County- not just East Columbians want and need this center. It would be devastating for many of us to come this far and not see the center built.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter that is so important to Howard County seniors.

Sincerely,
Steering Committee for the East Columbia 50+ Advocacy Group

Allison Korn
Henrietta Milward
Fran LoPresti

Nelson Pollack
Pearl Atkinson Stewart
Claire Femiano

--
Fran LoPresti

Sayers, Margery

From: Gloria Robb <glomae711@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 11:09 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: 50+ Center

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

Dear County Council Member,

We just learned of an amendment on May 20 that would cut funds which may include funding for the East Columbia 50+ Center.

As seniors living in Howard County for over 40 years, who regularly use the Center, we urge you to reconsider eliminating plans to build this much needed facility.

We appreciate all that you do to keep this facility in the plans to build.

Thank you,
Ernest and Gloria Robb
6290 Setting Star

glomae2@aol.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Jeanette Jenkins <steelmag1@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 11:05 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: URGENT - budget for East Columbia 50+ Center

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

Dear County Council Member,

I just learned of an amendment being presented on May 20 that would cut funds for many capital projects in the FY2021 budget, particularly the new East Columbia 50+ Center.

As one of the many seniors living in Howard County who regularly uses this center (along with others who live throughout Howard County in all five Districts), I urge you to reconsider eliminating plans to build this much needed facility. Please think about making cuts from several of the proposed capital projects, not just the 50+ center so that seniors are not the only segment of our population making sacrifices.

We appreciate the difficult decisions that you must make in these trying times. Please consider seniors when you make your final decisions.

Sincerely,
Jeanette Jenkins
10800 Symphony Way
Columbia MD 21044-4921
steelmag1@icloud.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Ning-Wu Wang <ningwu.wang@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 10:52 AM
To: Sharonlee Vogel
Cc: CouncilMail
Subject: Re: SAVE East Columbia 50+ Center!

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

Thanks for sharing!

As a senior citizen myself, I strongly urge the county council to consider Sharonlee's suggestion. Thanks for your effort to make Columbia a better place.

Ning-Wu Wang

On Tue, May 19, 2020 at 10:21 PM Sharonlee Vogel <sharonleevogel@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear County Council Members,

I just learned an amendment being presented tomorrow, May 20, that would cut funds for many capital projects in the FY2021 budget, particularly the new East Columbia 50+ Center.

As one of the many seniors living in Howard County who regularly uses this center (along with others who live throughout Howard County's five districts), I urge you to support the East Columbia 50+ Center. This East Columbia site has for decades been far, far too small.

Seniors are an important, tax paying asset to Howard County and need our support to live here.

Please think about making cuts from several of the proposed capital projects, not just the 50+ center so that seniors are not the only segment of our population making sacrifices.

We appreciate the difficult decisions that you must make in these trying times. Please consider seniors when you make your final decisions.

Sincerely,

Sharonlee J. Vogel

8725 Warm Waves Way, Columbia, MD 21045

sharonleevogel@gmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Carmen <cmortiz3@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 10:40 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: FY2021 Budget - East Columbia 50+ Center

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

Dear County Council Member,

I just learned of an amendment being presented on May 20 that would cut funds for many capital projects in the FY2021 budget, particularly the new East Columbia 50+ Center.

As one of the many seniors living in Howard County who regularly uses this center, I urge you to reconsider eliminating plans to build this much needed facility. Please think about making cuts from several of the proposed capital projects, not just the 50+ center so that seniors are not the only segment of our population making sacrifices.

We appreciate the difficult decisions that you must make in these trying times. Please consider seniors when you make your final decisions.

Sincerely,

Carmen and Rafael Ortiz
6602 Windsor Court
Columbia, MD 21044
cmortiz3@gmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: ABBroider@verizon.net
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 10:40 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: East Columbia 50+ Center

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

Dear County Council Member,

I just learned of an amendment being presented on May 20 that would cut funds for many capital projects in the FY2021 budget, particularly the new East Columbia 50+ Center.

As one of the many seniors living in Howard County who regularly uses this center (along with others who live throughout Howard County in all five Districts), I urge you to reconsider eliminating plans to build this much needed facility. Please think about making cuts from several of the proposed capital projects, not just the 50+ center so that seniors are not the only segment of our population making sacrifices.

We appreciate the difficult decisions that you must make in these trying times. Please consider seniors when you make your final decisions. This center is an important part of my life for senior connection on a weekly basis.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Aileen Broider
10548 Hunters Way
Laurel, MD 20723

Sayers, Margery

From: Ernest Hilsenrath <ehilsenrath@verizon.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 10:34 AM
To: Jung, Deb; CouncilMail
Subject: East Columbia 50 + Center

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

Dear Deb Jung,

I just learned of an amendment being presented today that would cut funds for many capital projects in the FY2021 budget, particularly the new East Columbia 50+ Center.

As one of the many seniors living in Howard County who regularly uses this center and as you know we have worked very hard to advocate for a new facility since the present one is completely inadequate. We sincerely appreciate the Council's past support in getting this facility started this fiscal year.

However, I urge you to consider alternative funding cuts to make up for budget pressures caused by the pandemic and not cancel plans to build this much needed facility. Please consider reduced funding for other the proposed capital projects, not just the 50+ center so that seniors are not the only citizens making sacrifices.

I appreciate the difficult decisions that you must make in these trying times. Please consider senior health and welfare as you make your final decisions.

Sincerely,
Ernest Hilsenrath
11248-2 Chase Street
Fulton, MD 20759

Sayers, Margery

From: Margaret Golibersuch <mgolib@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 10:09 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Senior Center

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

Dear County Council Member,

Hold everything. I just learned that you would be meeting to cut funds for capital projects in the FY2021 budget. In your youthful and busy worlds, you might be thinking that cutting the new East Columbia 50+ Center would be necessary and harmless.

Think again. It is not any more a harmless cut than many other county financed program centers. It is a cut that harms a range of incomes and a range of needs. I personally use the Glenwood, Ellicott City, Bain, Elkridge and North Laurel Senior Centers. I attend many classes at these centers with many Seniors who have similar interests. I live in Owen Brown but have not been to the East Columbia Senior Center in over a year. It is too small to provide space for the classes in Art, History, American History, Literature, Music and Government that are offered at the other centers. Although the floor in the main room has been improved, it is still not as good a floor for exercise as can be found at other centers. I know we are in Columbia, but that doesn't mean that we join the CA exercise programs any more than it means people outside of Columbia join the similarly private exercise programs in other parts of the County. I know there are many other seniors in Owen Brown who find the present facility in East Columbia an insulting joke when compared to what is provided to other parts of Howard County.

I urge you to reconsider eliminating plans to build this much needed facility. Please think about making cuts from elsewhere, not just the 50+ center so that seniors are not the segment of our population making sacrifices.

I appreciate the difficult decisions that you must make when so much change has occurred in our finances. Please consider the welfare of seniors when you make your final decisions we are a very large component of the people you serve. Our welfare is important to the younger members of the community who live around us.

Sincerely,

Margaret Golibersuch
9498 Sylvan Dell
Columbia, Maryland 21045

mgolib@gmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Kathy Ohalloran <kohall@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 10:08 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: East Columbia 50+ Center

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

Dear County Council Member,

I just learned of an amendment being presented on May 20 that would cut funds for many capital projects in the FY2021 budget, particularly the new East Columbia 50+ Center.

I applaud you for taking quick action to make adjustments to the budget - necessitated by unexpected expenses relative to the county's response to the COVID-19 virus. I agree that cuts to capital projects are an appropriate response (instead of increasing taxes.)

However, as one of the many Seniors living in Howard County who regularly use the Center, I urge you to give this project priority and retain full or partial funding. The County is already behind the curve in responding to our need. The existing Center is tiny and insufficient to support the growing Senior population.

We appreciate the difficult decisions that you must make in these trying times. Please consider Seniors when you make your final decisions and quit kicking this can down the road. We're not getting younger.

Sincerely,
Kathleen O'Halloran
14090 Howard Rd, Dayton, MD 20136
Kohall@hotmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Doris Rausch <darcyrau@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 9:56 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: 50+ Center in Jeopardy--Emergency request for your email to County Council (list 2)

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

I am writing (again) in support of expansion of the E.Columbia 50+ center. I don't think I can expand on the letter below. This project is very important to seniors in Howard County.

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

Dear County Council Member,

I just learned of an amendment being presented on May 20 that would cut funds for many capital projects in the FY2021 budget, particularly the new East Columbia 50+ Center.

As one of the many seniors living in Howard County who regularly uses this center (along with others who live throughout Howard County in all five Districts), I urge you to reconsider eliminating plans to build this much needed facility. Please think about making cuts from several of the proposed capital projects, not just the 50+ center so that seniors are not the only segment of our population making sacrifices.

We appreciate the difficult decisions that you must make in these trying times. Please consider seniors when you make your final decisions.

Sincerely,

(your Name)

(Address)

(Email address)

Sayers, Margery

From: Robert Golibersuch <bobgolib@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 9:50 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: East Columbia 50+ Center

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

Dear council members,

As a senior citizen in Owen Brown, I was distressed to learn of the potential reduction in funding for building the senior center. We have worked hard to advance the center to this stage, and finally had hope to be able to enjoy it while we were still healthy and able enough to be able to use it. Please do your best to keep us from losing this opportunity.

Respectfully,

Robert (Bob) Golibersuch

Sayers, Margery

From: Violet Baxter <vabaxter69@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 9:50 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Save the Proposed New 50 Plus Center

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

Dear Councilmen,

I have been living in Columbia since 1971. I am now asking that you not strike the proposed new 50 Plus Center from the upcoming budget. Even though I live in Town Center, I use the senior center in East Columbia in addition to the Bain Center. They each have different activities/events. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Ms. Violet Baxter

Sayers, Margery

From: Helen Thomas <hstturtle1@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 9:37 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Amendment concerning East Columbia 50+ Center

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

Dear County Council Member,

I just learned of an amendment being presented on May 20 that would cut funds for many capital projects in the FY2021 budget, particularly the new East Columbia 50+ Center.

As one of the many seniors living in Howard County who regularly uses this center, I urge you to reconsider eliminating plans to build this much needed facility. Please think about making cuts from several of the proposed capital projects, not just the 50+ center so that seniors are not the only segment of our population making sacrifices.

We appreciate the difficult decisions that you must make in these trying times. Please consider seniors when you make your final decisions.

Sincerely,

Helen Thomas

6101 Covington Rd, Columbia 21044

Hstturtle1@gmail.com

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: henrietta.milward <henrietta.milward@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 9:32 AM
To: Claire Femiano; CouncilMail
Cc: Allison Korn; Pearl Atkinson-Stewart; Fran LoPresti; Nelson Pollack
Subject: RE: FY 2021 Budget amendment

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

Looks good. Thanks for the Intel and staying on top of things.
Henrietta

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Claire Femiano <cfemiano@fastmail.com>
Date: 5/19/20 10:33 PM (GMT-05:00)
To: councilmail@howardcountymd.gov
Cc: Allison Korn <allisonkorn@comcast.net>, Pearl Atkinson-Stewart <pastewart4@gmail.com>, Fran LoPresti <fflopresti@gmail.com>, Nelson Pollack <npollack@comcast.net>, Henrietta Milward <henrietta.milward@gmail.com>
Subject: FY 2021 Budget amendment

Council Members,

We are writing on behalf of over 200 seniors living in all 5 districts of Howard County that comprise the New East Columbia 50+ Center Advocacy Group. We just learned of an amendment being proposed tomorrow by several County Council members to cut several capital budget projects in the FY2021 budget including the proposed new 50+ Center.

While acknowledging that these extraordinary times may require deep cuts in County capital projects, we urge you not to eliminate plans for our new senior center. As one of the fastest growing segments of the population providing a great source of income to the county (many seniors are property owners) requiring the least from our government (ie.no school children), it is inequitable to expect seniors to bear a large portion of the cuts. We ask that, at the very least, if cuts need to be made, they be spread across the board with many projects taking a small reduction.

In addition, capital projects like the new senior center will provide needed employment for Howard County citizens in the year to come.

Seniors have put forth an enormous effort to see this new center be realized. We've waited over 6 years for a center to be funded (the current one is hardly qualifies as a center), we have testified at every budget hearing, we've signed petitions and written letters. Seniors from all districts of the County- not just East Columbians want and need this center. It would be devastating for many of us to come this far and not see the center built.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter that is so important to Howard County seniors.

Sincerely,
Steering Committee for the East Columbia 50+ Advocacy Group

Allison Korn
Henrietta Milwand
Fran LoPresti
Nelson Pollack
Pearl Atkinson Stewart
Claire Femiano

Sayers, Margery

From: NELSON Pollack <npollack@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 9:03 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Fwd: Support Funding for New East Columbia Senior Center

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

Dear Council Members ...

Please consider the content of the e-mail below ... and support continued funding for a new 50+ Center ...

Thanks

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

From: NELSON Pollack <npollack@comcast.net>
To: ojones@howardcountymd.gov
Date: May 20, 2020 at 8:59 AM
Subject: Support Funding for New East Columbia Senior Center

Dear Council Member Jones ...

I learned last night of an amendment being presented on May 20 that would cut funds for many capital projects in the FY2021 budget, particularly the new East Columbia 50+ Center.

As one of the many District 2 seniors living in Howard County who regularly uses this center (along with others who live throughout Howard County's five districts), I urge you to reconsider eliminating plans to build this much needed facility. I urge you to think about making cuts from several of the proposed capital projects, not just the 50+ Center so that seniors, who are the most vulnerable population in these trying times, are not the only segment of our population making sacrifices.

Over the past eight years we seniors have testified many times in person - and recently remotely - about the importance of replacing the current inadequate facility with one that can much better serve the needs of a much broader segment of Howard County's population.

As engaged citizens, we appreciate the difficult decisions that you must make in these trying times.

Please consider your diverse senior population when you make your final decisions.

Sincerely,

Nelson Pollack

6252 Golden Coin Court
Columbia, MD 21045
npollack@comcast.net

Sayers, Margery

From: BRUCE WHITAKER <bruz@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 9:02 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: FY2021 funding for East Columbia 50+ Center

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

Dear County Council Member,

Early this morning we learned of an amendment being presented today that would cut funds for many capital projects in the FY2021 budget, and in particular the new East Columbia 50+ Center.

My wife and I are among the many seniors living in Howard County who regularly use this center. Consequently, we urge you to not entirely scrap the plans to build this much needed facility. As an alternative, please consider making cuts to several of the proposed capital projects, rather than the 50+ center alone, so that seniors are not the only segment of our county population making a sacrifice.

We appreciate the difficult decisions that you must make in these challenging times. Please consider the welfare of seniors when you make your final decisions.

Sincerely,

Bruce and Robin Whitaker

7382 Broken Staff
Columbia, MD 21045

bruz@comcast.net

Sayers, Margery

From: Toshiko Baer <tkb6261@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 8:53 AM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Allison Korn
Subject: East Columbia 50+ Senior Center

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

I am writing to encourage you to not stop the building of the 50+ East Columbia Senior Center. This center has been in need of expansion for over 10 years! While other Senior Centers have been built, refurbished/remodeled, this center has been neglected. I realize that the monies for the restructuring of the East Columbia library was from a different budget, it would have been financially prudent to have also taken care of the attached senior center. Of course that's hindsight.

I do understand that the coronavirus has stretched the county's budget; however, continuing to neglect the physical, mental, social and emotional well-being of seniors in the area surrounding the center is appalling! And while I personally don't rely on the "cold" lunch that is provided (please note: other centers provide hot meals), many do and more could be helped. These men and women have worked and paid taxes, and some still are, but Howard county continues to push their needs aside.

How you are treating the seniors today especially in regards to the East Columbia 50+ Senior Center is an example to the youth of today in how you will be treated in your senior years. I do hope you will consider these thoughts and make plans to build the center.

Respectfully,
Mrs. Toshiko Baer

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

Sayers, Margery

From: FRANK HERRON <amfjherron@msn.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 8:49 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: East Columbia Senior Center Funding

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

Dear County Council Member,

We just learned of an amendment being presented on May 20 that would cut funds for many capital projects in the FY2021 budget, particularly the new East Columbia 50+ Center.

As two of the many seniors living in Howard County who regularly uses this center, we strongly urge you to reconsider eliminating plans to build this critically needed facility. Please consider making proportional cuts from several of the proposed capital projects, not just the 50+ center, so that seniors are not the only segment of our population making sacrifices. The tragedy of the virus hitting nursing homes clearly demonstrates the value of seniors remaining in their homes in the community and staying healthy. The East Columbia Senior Center directly supports this concept and is a life-saving and cost-saving initiative in the long term.

We appreciate the difficult decisions that you must make in these trying times. Please consider seniors when you make your final decisions.

Sincerely,

Ann and Frank Herron

9506 Angelina Circle, Columbia MD, 21045

amfjherron@msn.com

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Sayers, Margery

From: Peter Stoloff <pstoloff@verizon.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 8:47 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: East Columbia 50+ Center

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

Dear County Council Members,

I just learned of an amendment being presented on May 20 that would cut funds for many capital projects in the FY2021 budget, particularly the new East Columbia 50+ Center.

As one of the many seniors living in Howard County who regularly uses this center, I urge you to reconsider eliminating plans to build this much needed facility. Please think about making cuts from several of the proposed capital projects, not just the 50+ center so that seniors are not the only segment of our population making sacrifices.

We appreciate the difficult decisions that you must make in these trying times. Please consider seniors when you make your final decisions.

Sincerely,

Peter & Susanne Stoloff

6332 Guilford Road

Clarksville MD 21029

Sayers, Margery

From: Stan Segawa <digitalmagic2@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 8:05 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: FY2021 budget (new East Columbia 50+ Center)

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

Dear County Council Member,

I just learned of an amendment being presented on May 20 that would cut funds for many capital projects in the FY2021 budget, particularly the new East Columbia 50+ Center.

As one of the many seniors living in Howard County who regularly uses this center (along with others who live throughout Howard County in all five Districts), I urge you to reconsider eliminating plans to build this much needed facility. Please think about making cuts from several of the proposed capital projects, not just the 50+ center so that seniors are not the only segment of our population making sacrifices.

We appreciate the difficult decisions that you must make in these trying times. Please consider seniors when you make your final decisions.

Sincerely,

Stanley Segawa

6390 Windharp Way, Columbia, MD 21045

digitalmagic2@comcast.net

Sent from Xfinity Connect Application

Sayers, Margery

From: Frances Moroz <fhmoroz@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 7:53 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: East Columbia 50+ Center

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

Dear County Council Member,

I just learned of an amendment being presented on May 20 that would cut funds for many capital projects in the FY2021 budget, particularly the new East Columbia 50+ Center.

As one of the many seniors living in Howard County who regularly uses this center (along with others who live throughout Howard County in all five Districts), I urge you to reconsider eliminating plans to build this much needed facility. Please think about making cuts from several of the proposed capital projects, not just the 50+ center so that seniors are not the only segment of our population making sacrifices.

We appreciate the difficult decisions that you must make in these trying times. Please consider seniors when you make your final decisions.

Sincerely,

Frances H Moroz

6184 Old Washington Rd, Elkridge, MD 21075

fhmoroz@gmail.com

--
Frances H Moroz
6184 Old Washington Road
Elkridge, MD 21075
fhmoroz@gmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: PC Segawa <pcsegawa@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 7:50 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: FY2021 Budget & New East Columbia 50+ Center.

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

Dear County Council Member,

I just learned of an amendment being presented on May 20 that would cut funds for many capital projects in the FY2021 budget, particularly the new East Columbia 50+ Center.

As one of the many seniors living in Howard County who regularly uses this center (along with others who live throughout Howard County in all five Districts), I urge you to reconsider eliminating plans to build this much needed facility. Please think about making cuts from several of the proposed capital projects, not just the 50+ center so that seniors are not the only segment of our population making sacrifices.

We appreciate the difficult decisions that you must make in these trying times. Please consider seniors when you make your final decisions.

Sincerely,
Pamela Segawa
6390 Windharp Way
Columbia, MD 21045
Email : pcsegawa@yahoo.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Allison Korn <allisonkorn@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 7:43 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: East Columbia 50+ Center Project

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

Howard County Council Members:

I am a member of the East Columbia 50+ Advocacy Steering Committee. We represent seniors (from all over the County) who have expressed strong support for an expanded 50+ center to replace the current 3 room center. I am writing to urge you to NOT support the proposed amendment to cut the project from the capital budget.

The inequity of facilities and services for east Columbia needs to be addressed; Federal stimulus money to support municipalities is still possible. Howard County will bounce back from this economic setback. Moving forward with funding construction will provide infrastructure jobs immediately and will also provide ongoing employment opportunities for staff while addressing the well documented needs of seniors who rely heavily on the 50+ Center.

Thank you for your consideration.

Allison Korn
6550 Carlinda Avenue
Columbia 21046
allisonkorn@comcast.net
35 year Howard County resident

Allison Korn
Sent from my iPad

Sayers, Margery

From: Davlynjagdeo@yahoo.com
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 2:29 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Reconsider plans to build community center in Howard Community

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

Dear County Council Member,

I just learned of an amendment being presented on May 20 that would cut funds for many capital projects in the FY2021 budget, particularly the new East Columbia 50+ Center.

I am one of the seniors that live in Howard County and regularly use this center. I urge you to reconsider eliminating plans to build this much needed facility. Please consider about making cuts from several of the proposed capital projects, not just the 50+ center so that seniors are not the only segment of our population making sacrifices.

We appreciate the difficult decisions that you must make in these trying times. Please consider seniors when you make your final decisions.

The senior center has a direct positive impact on my physical and mental health. My blood pressure has decreased. The scheduled health activities keeps me motivated to stay active in the community.

Sincerely,

Davlyn McKeith
North Laurel, MD

Davlynjagdeo@yahoo.com
404-579-8251

Sayers, Margery

From: Carol Zika <zikacarol@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 2:00 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please consider the seniors!

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

Dear County Council Members,

I just learned of an amendment being presented on May 20 that would cut funds for many capital projects in the FY2021 budget, particularly the new East Columbia 50+ Center.

As one of the many seniors living in Howard County who regularly uses and teaches in this center, I urge you to reconsider eliminating plans to build this much needed facility. Please think about making cuts from several of the proposed capital projects, not just the 50+ center so that seniors are not the only segment of our population making sacrifices.

We appreciate the difficult decisions that you must make, but please consider seniors when you make your final decisions.

Sincerely,
Carol Zika
2550 Kensington Gardens, Unit 406, Ellicott City 21043
zikacarol@hotmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Wanda Daye <wrdaye@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 12:43 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Fwd: URGENT request to keep budget for East Columbia 50+ Center

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

From: Wanda Daye <Wrdaye@aol.com>
Date: May 20, 2020 at 12:18:22 AM EDT
To: council@howardcountymd.gov
Cc: Wanda Daye <Wrdaye@aol.com>
Subject: URGENT request to keep budget for East Columbia 50+ Center

Dear County Council Member,

I just learned of an amendment being presented on May 20 that would cut funds for many capital projects in the FY2021 budget, particularly the new East Columbia 50+ Center.

As one of the many seniors living in Howard County who regularly uses this center (along with others who live throughout Howard County in all five Districts), I urge you to reconsider eliminating plans to build this much needed facility. Please think about making cuts from several of the proposed capital projects, not just the 50+ center so that seniors are not the only segment of our population making sacrifices.

We appreciate the difficult decisions that you must make in these trying times. Please consider seniors when you make your final decisions.

Sincerely,

Wanda Daye
5705 Little Bells Row
Clarksville MD 21029

Sent from my iPad

Sayers, Margery

From: Wanda Daye <wrdaye@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 12:22 AM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: M Mama ICE2 Joan Branch; Wanda Daye
Subject: Urgent - new East Columbia 50+ Center

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

Dear County Council Member,

I just learned of an amendment being presented on May 20 that would cut funds for many capital projects in the FY2021 budget, particularly the new East Columbia 50+ Center.

As one of the many seniors living in Howard County who regularly uses this center (along with others who live throughout Howard County in all five Districts), I urge you to reconsider eliminating plans to build this much needed facility. Please think about making cuts from several of the proposed capital projects, not just the 50+ center so that seniors are not the only segment of our population making sacrifices.

We appreciate the difficult decisions that you must make in these trying times. Please consider seniors when you make your final decisions.

Sincerely,

Joan Branch
9895 Palace Hall Dr

Apt 413
Laurel MD 20723

Sent from my iPad

Sayers, Margery

From: Liz Larson <ealarson1@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 11:42 PM
To: Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail; Rigby, Christiana
Cc: ealarson1@verizon.net; 'Lew's Mail'
Subject: Re Proposed East Columbia 50-Plus Center

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

Dr Ball and Howard County Council Members –

Having just learned of the measure to be proposed on 20 May 2020 to cut from the FY 2021 budget funding for the long-promised East Columbia 50-Plus Center, we are writing to beg you to stay the course and build the Center as promised. We understand the awful toll the COVID-19 pandemic has had (and will continue to have for some time) on Howard County's finances, but this is one project that should be funded. Our current 2200 sq ft of activity space is on every level inadequate for the large East Columbia Senior population. Many of us are tired of being bottom of the list when it comes to County projects and repeatedly have done all we can to justify our needs. We remain tax-payers and good citizens who have spent a lifetime contributing to society and feel strongly that it is time for us to be considered on an equal footing with other categories of residents. As all are aware, the COVID toll nation-wide has been highest on those who fall into the "50-Plus" category, and we implore you to ensure the East Columbia 50-Plus center is not yet another casualty. Please find a way to fund and build the Center in the upcoming fiscal year. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Elisabeth and Lewis Larson
9774 Polished Stone
Columbia, MD 21046

Sayers, Margery

From: George Laniado <glaniado179@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 11:32 PM
To: Sharonlee Vogel
Cc: CouncilMail
Subject: Re: SAVE East Columbia 50+ Center!

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

Thanks for the heads up.

On Tue, May 19, 2020 at 10:21 PM Sharonlee Vogel <sharonleevogel@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear County Council Members,

I just learned an amendment being presented tomorrow, May 20, that would cut funds for many capital projects in the FY2021 budget, particularly the new East Columbia 50+ Center.

As one of the many seniors living in Howard County who regularly uses this center (along with others who live throughout Howard County's five districts), I urge you to support the East Columbia 50+ Center. This East Columbia site has for decades been far, far too small.

Seniors are an important, tax paying asset to Howard County and need our support to live here.

Please think about making cuts from several of the proposed capital projects, not just the 50+ center so that seniors are not the only segment of our population making sacrifices.

We appreciate the difficult decisions that you must make in these trying times. Please consider seniors when you make your final decisions.

Sincerely,

Sharonlee J. Vogel

[8725 Warm Waves Way, Columbia, MD 21045](#)

sharonleevogel@gmail.com

--

George

glaniado179@gmail.com

410-992-3187

Sayers, Margery

From: Patricia A Shannon <intruder54@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 11:18 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Easy Columbia 50+ Center

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

Dear County Council Member,

I just learned of an amendment being presented on May 20 that would cut funds for many capital projects in the FY2021 budget, particularly the new East Columbia 50+ Center.

As one of the many seniors living in Howard County who regularly uses this center (along with others who live throughout Howard County's five districts), I urge you to reconsider eliminating plans to build this much needed facility. Please think about making cuts from several of the proposed capital projects, not just the 50+ center so that seniors are not the only segment of our population making sacrifices.

Might I suggest not going forth with building a new cultural center when other already built facilities could be used for that purpose.

We appreciate the difficult decisions that you must make in these trying times. Please consider seniors when you make your final decisions. There are so many of us that have paid our taxes for decades. The new 50+ center will allow us to live out our years with a healthier physical and mental health and curb the isolation that occurs in later years.

Sincerely,

Patricia A Shannon

7503B Weather worn Way
Columbia , MD 21046

Intruder54@verizon.net

Sayers, Margery

From: Fran LoPresti <fflopresti@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 10:50 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Fran LoPresti
Subject: East Columbia 50+ Center construction in FY21 Capital 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 Fran LoPresti and I have lived in Howard County for more than 40 years and have advocated for the construction of the East Columbia 50 + for the past 4 years.

I have become aware that some council members are considering delaying or cutting back substantially from this project. This is not welcome news. Seniors from all 5 Council Districts have written letters, made calls, signed petitions, and attended County Executive Budget meetings and County Council Budget meetings to advocate for this project over the last 4 years.

I know these are trying times but we urge you not to eliminate plans for our new senior center. As one of the fastest growing segments of the population, seniors provide a great source of income to the county (many seniors are property owners) and require the least from our government ([ie. no](#) school children). Thus, it is inequitable to expect seniors to bear a large portion of the cuts. We ask that, at the very least, if cuts need to be made, they be spread across the board with many projects taking a small reduction. In addition, capital projects like the new senior center will provide needed employment for Howard County citizens in the next fiscal year.

I urge you to fully fund the East Columbia 50+ Center and preserve the already delayed timetable. Remember, seniors don't have all that much time left.

--

Fran LoPresti
6985 Deep Cup
Columbia, MD 21045
410-995-6160

Sayers, Margery

From: Peter Doob <padoob@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 10:38 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Funding for East Columbia 50+ Center

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

Dear County Council Member,

I just learned of an amendment being presented [on May 20](#) that would cut funds for many capital projects in the FY2021 budget, particularly the new East Columbia 50+ Center.

As one of the many seniors living in Howard County who regularly uses this center (along with others who live throughout Howard County in all five Districts), I urge you to reconsider eliminating plans to build this much needed facility. Please think about making cuts from several of the proposed capital projects, not just the 50+ center so that seniors are not the only segment of our population making sacrifices.

We appreciate the difficult decisions that you must make in these trying times.

Please consider seniors when you make your final decisions. We are very reliable voters. And our numbers are growing. And with incentives like the 50+ Center we will age in place and keep paying taxes.

Sincerely,

Pete Doob
7122 Smooth Path
padoob@comcast.net

Sayers, Margery

From: Ping Mao <jpingmao@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 10:35 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: request not to cut funds for the new East Columbia 50+ Center

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

Dear County Council Member,

I just learned of an amendment being presented on May 20 that would cut funds for many capital projects in the FY2021 budget, particularly the new East Columbia 50+ Center.

As one of the many seniors living in Howard County who regularly uses this center (along with others who live throughout Howard County in all five Districts), I urge you to reconsider eliminating plans to build this much needed facility. Please think about making cuts from several of the proposed capital projects, not just the 50+ center so that seniors are not the only segment of our population making sacrifices.

We appreciate the difficult decisions that you must make in these trying times. Please consider seniors when you make your final decisions. As you know, seniors are the most vulnerable group during this pandemic and we need more support and protection.

Sincerely,

Jianping Mao
6507 River Run
Columbia, MD 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Claire Femiano <cfemiano@fastmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 10:33 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Allison Korn; Pearl Atkinson-Stewart; Fran LoPresti; Nelson Pollack; Henrietta Milward
Subject: FY 2021 Budget amendment

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

Council Members,

We are writing on behalf of over 200 seniors living in all 5 districts of Howard County that comprise the New East Columbia 50+ Center Advocacy Group. We just learned of an amendment being proposed tomorrow by several County Council members to cut several capital budget projects in the FY2021 budget including the proposed new 50+ Center.

While acknowledging that these extraordinary times may require deep cuts in County capital projects, we urge you not to eliminate plans for our new senior center. As one of the fastest growing segments of the population providing a great source of income to the county (many seniors are property owners) requiring the least from our government (ie. no school children), it is inequitable to expect seniors to bear a large portion of the cuts. We ask that, at the very least, if cuts need to be made, they be spread across the board with many projects taking a small reduction.

In addition, capital projects like the new senior center will provide needed employment for Howard County citizens in the year to come.

Seniors have put forth an enormous effort to see this new center be realized. We've waited over 6 years for a center to be funded (the current one is hardly qualifies as a center), we have testified at every budget hearing, we've signed petitions and written letters. Seniors from all districts of the County- not just East Columbians want and need this center. It would be devastating for many of us to come this far and not see the center built.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter that is so important to Howard County seniors.

Sincerely,
Steering Committee for the East Columbia 50+ Advocacy Group

Allison Korn
Henrietta Milward
Fran LoPresti
Nelson Pollack
Pearl Atkinson Stewart
Claire Femiano

Sayers, Margery

From: J Stanley <joyhatsta@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 10:28 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Fwd: 50+ Center in Jeopardy--Emergency Request for your Email to County Council (list 3)

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

Dear County Council Member,

I just learned of an amendment being presented on May 20 that would cut funds for many capital projects in the FY2021 budget, particularly the new East Columbia 50+ Center.

As one of the many seniors living in Howard County who regularly uses this center (along with others who live throughout Howard County's five districts), I urge you to reconsider eliminating plans to build this much needed facility. Please think about making cuts from several of the proposed capital projects, not just the 50+ center so that seniors are not the only segment of our population making sacrifices.

We appreciate the difficult decisions that you must make in these trying times. Please consider seniors when you make your final decisions.

Sincerely,

Joyce H. Stanley

5982 Grand Banks Road

joyhatsta@gmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Pearl Stewart <pastewart4@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 10:26 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Pearl Stewart
Subject: Fwd: East Columbia 50 + center

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

Dear Council Member(s)

We are writing on behalf of 170 Howard County seniors that comprise the New East Columbia 50+ Center Advocacy Group. We just learned of an amendment being proposed tomorrow by several County Council members to cut several capital budget projects in the FY2021 budget including the proposed new 50+ Center.

While acknowledging that these extraordinary times may require deep cuts in County capital projects, we urge you not to eliminate plans for our new senior center. As one of the fastest growing segments of the population providing a great source of income to the county (many seniors are property owners) requiring the least from our government (ie. no school children), it is inequitable to expect seniors to bear a large portion of the cuts. We ask that, at the very least, if cuts need to be made, they be spread across the board with many projects taking a small reduction.

In addition, capital projects like the new senior center will provide needed employment for Howard County citizens in the year to come.

Seniors have put forth an enormous effort to see this new center be realized. We've waited over 6 years for a center to be funded (the current one is hardly qualifies as a center), we have testified at every budget hearing, we've signed petitions and written letters. Seniors from all areas of the County- not just East Columbians want and need this center. It would be devastating for many of us to come this far and not see the center built.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter that is so important to Howard County seniors.

Sincerely,

Pearline Atkinson-Stewart, member

Steering Committee East

Pastewart4@Verizon.net

Sent from my iPad

Sayers, Margery

From: Sharonlee Vogel <sharonleevogel@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 10:21 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: SAVE East Columbia 50+ Center!

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

Dear County Council Members,

I just learned an amendment being presented tomorrow, May 20, that would cut funds for many capital projects in the FY2021 budget, particularly the new East Columbia 50+ Center.

As one of the many seniors living in Howard County who regularly uses this center (along with others who live throughout Howard County's five districts), I urge you to support the East Columbia 50+ Center. This East Columbia site has for decades been far, far too small.

Seniors are an important, tax paying asset to Howard County and need our support to live here.

Please think about making cuts from several of the proposed capital projects, not just the 50+ center so that seniors are not the only segment of our population making sacrifices.

We appreciate the difficult decisions that you must make in these trying times. Please consider seniors when you make your final decisions.

Sincerely,

Sharonlee J. Vogel

8725 Warm Waves Way, Columbia, MD 21045

sharonleevogel@[gmail.com](mailto:sharonleevogel@gmail.com)

Sayers, Margery

From: Pearl Stewart <pastewart4@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 10:14 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Henrietta Milward; Evette Young; Wanda Daye; Cheryl Miller; Erma; Harold & Ophelia Payne; Deborah Flowers
Subject: East Columbia 50+ Center

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

Dear County Council Member,

I just learned of an amendment being presented on May 20 that would cut funds for many capital projects in the FY2021 budget, particularly the new East Columbia 50+ Center.

As one of the many seniors living in Howard County who regularly uses this center, I urge you to reconsider eliminating plans to build this much needed facility. Please think about making cuts from several of the proposed capital projects, not just the 50+ center so that seniors are not the only segment of our population making sacrifices.

We appreciate the difficult decisions that you must make in these trying times. Please consider seniors when you make your final decisions.

Sincerely,

Pearline Atkinson-Stewart

7190 Lasting Light Way
Columbia, Md 21045
Pastewart4@verizon.net

Sayers, Margery

From: Lisa Schlossnagle <lisabmrss@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 4:23 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Downtown Columbia affordable housing and cultural center

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

Dear Council,

Please approve the capital budget request that constructs the critically needed first affordable housing units in Downtown. We have an unacceptable shortage of affordable housing in our county, and your support of this project is necessary. In fact, after spending the better part of the last 15 years creating, revising, approving, and enacting a redevelopment plan for Downtown Columbia, we now have funding partners for this project and are about to realize real benefits to our community's housing needs.

To vote against this project is to abandon those funding partners and the residents of Howard County, causing both immediate and long-term negative consequences for our county.

Please vote yes on funding the New Cultural Center project.

All the best,
Lisa Schlossnagle
District 4

Sayers, Margery

From: Stephanie Mummert <skmummert@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 1:17 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: More input regarding the budget

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

Good afternoon council,

First, I want to acknowledge how hard you all are working during this pandemic. I watched a few hours of the legislative session that ended before midnight. I know how much you all want to bring the budget over the finish line with funds for all of the people of Howard County.

I thank you sincerely. This is long, mentally draining work, I'm sure.

In advance of the budget work session this afternoon I just wanted to give my thoughts on the cultural center. I love Toby's, I love theater, I love the investment and interest and support of the arts, but now is not the time. I can save you guys a lot of time and angst. At a time where we know things will be austere and I listened to you guys wrestle with moving money around, funding an arts center is a luxury that can wait until better days when our financial outlook is more certain. This budget season we need to fund needs not wants. Needs like schools, safety, infrastructure.

I heard you all wrestling, at almost midnight, over changing classification of a rainy day fund so you could use it this year. I don't know how much is in that fund. I heard a few numbers thrown around, but it doesn't really matter. You understandably feel compelled to break open that fund because today is that rainy day.

You all know how dire our fiscal outlook appears while we're still in the middle of a pandemic and trying to find our feet to make a path forward to save our residents and our economy. We need to fund our needs. We don't *need* a cultural center. Some may want a cultural center but it does not meet a basic, fundamental function of government, so it must wait until we are not in the middle of a pandemic. As hard as it is to disappoint supporters and shelve plans many years in the making, it is the responsible choice.

Thank you all again for all of the work you are putting into the budget.

Stephanie Mummert
District 3

Sayers, Margery

From: Frank Hecker <frank@frankhecker.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 12:44 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: I support funding for the New Cultural Center

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

Dear Councilmembers,

I'm writing this quick note to express my support for full funding of the New Cultural Center, as well as for proposed tax increases, including the recordation tax, necessary to ensure that the NCC and other proposed projects are funded properly.

In my opinion the New Cultural Center is a win-win for all concerned: It provides a modern facility for a cherished Howard County cultural institution, can support other arts and culture uses, and will provide affordable housing in an area convenient to downtown Columbia amenities, transportation, and job opportunities. It's practically a textbook case of the kind of housing initiatives we should be encouraging.

While no one likes tax increases, I think the proposed recordation tax increase makes sense: It puts more of a burden on those who can afford it, and (if I understand the rate scale correctly) lessens the burden on those buying smaller and less expensive houses.

I urge all of you to support the NCC and ensure it has adequate funding via whatever sources are appropriate.

Frank

--

Frank Hecker
frank@frankhecker.com