



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

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

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

County Council regarding **FY21 Capital Budget** to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

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

Printed Name: Jennifer Arice White

Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

Date: April 15, 2020

Organization: Horizon Foundation

Organization Address: 10221 Wincopin Cir. #200 Columbia, MD 21044

10221 Wincopin Cir. #200 Columbia, MD 21044

Number of Members: 18

Name of Chair/President: Nikki Highsmith-Vernick

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

Sayers, Margery

From: Jennifer White <jwhite@thehorizonfoundation.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2020 3:11 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Glenn Schneider; Kerry Darragh
Subject: Testimony - FY21 Capital Budget
Attachments: Streets for All Sign-On Letter for County Council Budget Hearing_Final_Signed.pdf

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

Good Afternoon,

Attached you may find testimony for the FY21 capital budget.

Thank you,

Jennifer Arice White, MSPH

Senior Community Engagement Officer, Horizon Foundation

Direct: 443-766-1223 | Mobile: 248-345-3030

jwhite@thehorizonfoundation.org

www.thehorizonfoundation.org

10221 Wincopin Circle, Suite 200, Columbia, MD 21044



April 16, 2020

FY 2021 Budget: Funding for Bicycle and Pedestrian Infrastructure Projects
Position: SUPPORT

Dear Madam Chair and members of the County Council,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of vital projects within the FY 2021 capital budget. If funded, these projects will benefit our community both now and in the future.

This is a stressful time for all of us – but we are reminded of what we share in common. All of us are deeply concerned for the health and wellbeing of our loved ones and our community. In times like these, we learned that the best way for us to deal with fear and uncertainty is to lean in and take action. There is no time like the present to ensure we are building the active transportation infrastructure needed to make Howard County a more connected place where people can easily and safely walk, bike or access public transportation.

The undersigned members and partners of Streets for All, a coalition of community, business and faith groups that advocate for complete streets in Howard County, are thrilled that County Executive Calvin Ball designated \$7.38 million (not including grants) for projects that will make walking and biking in Howard County better, easier and safer. These projects, outlined in the Office of Transportation's "Complete Streets Policy-Six Month Implementation Update" memorandum, include new and improved bike lanes, street lights, paths, bus stops, sidewalks and pedestrian crossings across Howard County.

With the passage of WalkHoward earlier this year, the proposed budget reflects significant investments in sidewalks, paths and other projects to improve pedestrian safety and connectivity.

The need for a better active transportation infrastructure has become even more apparent during the COVID-19 crisis. In the era of physical distancing, many of us are relying on sidewalks, paths and bike lanes for both physical activity and a mental reprieve from isolation. And while some of us have the ability to work from home, many members of our community work at essential businesses and still need to get around safely and easily as they work to keep our community operating.

The lack of active transportation infrastructure – like sidewalks, bike lanes, crosswalks, paths and bus stops – disproportionately affects communities of color, low-income families, older adults and people with disabilities. Consequently, the lack of connectivity limits their ability to access resources and services to sustain their health and wellbeing at this critical time. Because of these persistent gaps in our active transportation infrastructure, we urge Howard County to identify, study and complete projects with high vulnerable population index (VPI) scores as outlined in CR 120-2019. This will ensure all residents are able to bike, walk, take public transportation and get to where they need to go safely and easily.

We thank County Executive Ball for his leadership and we strongly support these designated investments to make Howard County a more bikeable and walkable community. We urge you to pass this budget that reflects this vision. These investments are critical to ensure our community is a healthy,

safe and connected place for all – now and in the future. We must provide tangible changes that people can see and use, creating healthier communities where all people can thrive, no matter who they are or where they live.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Hank Greenberg, State Director
AARP Maryland

Nikki Highsmith Vernick, President and CEO
Horizon Foundation

Laura Hale, Government Relations Director
American Heart Association

Melissa Rosenberg, Executive Director
Howard County Autism Society

Katherine Kraft, PhD, Executive Director
America Walks

Tina Addo, Village Manager and Executive Director
Long Reach Village Board

Brian O'Malley, President and CEO
Central Maryland Transportation Alliance

Rev. Paige Getty & Rev. Tyrone Jones, IV, Co-Chairs
People Acting Together in Howard (PATH)

Sheila Young, Director of Development,
Howard County
Gilchrist

Wilde Lake Community Association



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

I, Nelson Pollack, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

New East Columbia 50+ Center Advocacy Committee to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

Capital Budget Project C0335-FY2014 to express the organization's
County Council regarding
(bill or resolution number)

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

Printed Name: Nelson Pollack

Signature: Pollack

Date: 9 APR 2020

Organization: New East Columbia 50+ Center Advocacy Committee

Organization Address: 6252 Golden Gate Ct
Columbia, MD 21045

Number of Members: 210

Name of Chair/President: Ms. Fran LoPresti

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

Sayers, Margery

From: Nelson Pollack <npollack@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2020 1:15 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: New East Columbia 50+ Center Advisory Committee Capital Budget Testimony (April 2020)
Attachments: New East Columbia 50+ Center Advisory Committee Testimony Council Budget Hearing - 16 April 2020).docx

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

Please find attached the testimony of the New East Columbia 50+ Center Advisory Committee for today's Capital Budget Hearing.

Thanks

<<...>>

New East Columbia 50+ Center Advisory Committee Testimony
16 April 2020

Good afternoon distinguished Council members.

My name is Nelson Pollack and I currently live at 6252 Golden Coin Ct in District 2 Columbia. I'm testifying this evening on my behalf – and on the behalf all the seniors represented by the New East Columbia 50+ Center Advocacy Committee. We deeply appreciate the \$16.2 million line item in the Executive's FY 2021 budget for the construction of a new Senior 50+ Center facility in East Columbia, under Construction Project CO335-FY2014. We are advocating that, even in the face of today's grim medical and health challenges, the funding be maintained so construction can begin as soon as possible. Delaying this project will only cost the county more money in the future as material costs escalate ... and, given the increasing Howard County senior population, scaling it back now will only cost the county additional money for future needed expansions.

The senior community of Howard County thanks the County Executive and Council for all its efforts making this county a quality place for all residents. We especially want to thank the County for embracing the goal of making Howard County an "AARP Age-Friendly Community to Live" ... a goal that will allow many more of us to age-in-place near our friends and relatives ... and remain a part of the County's tax base.

We are glad that, in line with these and other initiatives, the County has taken steps toward the construction of a new world-class East Columbia 50+ Center. We are grateful that the county has funded the generation of a detailed set of initial architectural design plans. We appreciate the hard work and transparency of the professional staff of the Department of Public Works and the Office of Aging and Independence.

It has been 8 long years since we first became aware of the initial concepts for a new East Columbia 50+ Center. During that time seniors from every one of Howard County's council districts have taken full advantage of the limited three small room capacity of the current facility with our many classes and other activities. We've also frequently testified, met with individual Council members, written letters, sent e-mails, met with your staffs, and generally made our voices politely - but firmly - heard. We also offer you an invitation to visit the present facility. If you do, you'll see that it is not a center- it's a corridor with three rooms.

Many of us are on fixed incomes and we are very aware of Howard County's many fiscal challenges – including those detailed by others at this and other Hearings.

However, enough time has passed. No one in is getting any younger. Now is the time to finish the journey ... Now is the time to drive those shovels into the Earth and turn promises and paper blueprints into the multi-function meeting rooms, lounges, corridors, office spaces, etc., of a world-class, state-of-the art, "jewel in the crown", 50+ Senior facility that all Howard County residents can all be proud of ... and more, importantly, actually enjoy.

New East Columbia 50+ Center Advisory Committee Testimony
16 April 2020

The senior community of Howard County is more than eager to help start with the construction ... so, as strong, independent, politically-active seniors, to help jump start the process we're more than willing to go out today and start digging the foundations ... we even have our own shovels ... we only ask that you blow the whistle ... and finalize the funding ... we'll be there in a heartbeat ... Thankyou



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

I, Susan Garber, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

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

County Council regarding FY2021 Budget to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

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

Printed Name: Susan Garber

Signature: _____

Date: April 16, 2020

Organization: Savage Community Association

Organization Address: P.O. Box 222, Savage 20763

P.O. Box 222, Savage 20763

Number of Members: 350

Name of Chair/President: Susan Garber

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



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

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

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

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

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

Printed Name: Lori Lilly

Signature: Lori S

Date: 4/16/20

Organization: Howard EcoWorks

Organization Address: 9770 Patuxent Woods Dr.

Columbia, MD 21046

Number of Members: _____

Name of Chair/President: Bill Withers and Dick Hesse

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

Sayers, Margery

From: Alan Schneider <ajs333@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, April 17, 2020 2:27 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Testimony on Capital Budget – New Fire Station. Proposed Location on Rt. 108 Violates Expense Requirements and Fire Station Standards.

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

Honorable Council Members:

Thank you for requesting my written information after my oral testimony on the Fire Department Capital Budget item.

Request that you deny the Planning Board recommendation for adding to the capital budget a Route 108 fire station. The Planning Board met on Thursday evening, April 9, 2020.

The \$13 million capital budget expense was not properly, nor fully disclosed. National Standards for fire station location were not followed.

A. Required \$13 million project costs and details were not available to the Public.

1. Missing Information and Inadequate Public Notice.

- a. **Missing Expense information.** “Greater detail” of the capital project is required to be available to the public. Code § 22.402 and 22.403. Total estimate is \$13 million.
- b. **Missing Funding information.** Current and five year plan not included as required by Code § 22.402 and 22.403
- c. **Missing Required Notification.**
 - i. **Meeting time and location** was not posted at the sign at the East Area of Cedar Lane Park. The posted time and place was April 9, 7 PM at the “George Howard Building”.
 - ii. **NO required sign was posted** at the location where the displaced ball fields were to be relocated.
 - iii. **Mailings and meetings with the several affected communities** did not occur.
 - iv. **Planning Board website Information** did not provide a link to details. Initially it provided a link to a site location off Snowden River Parkway.

B. Public Input was not considered. Section 22.403(c) **requires** that public input be considered. At the Planning Board public meeting on April 9 a member of the Planning Board stated, “**We are told you cannot take their input. We are told you cannot rely on Community input.**”

C. Vital Information was not considered by the Planning Board.

1. **Response Time.** No fire engine response times were provided to the Planning Board.
2. **Density.** Fire station was needed for “density”, but current and forecast density was not provided.
3. **Dense traffic on Route 108.** No study of delayed response times due to Route 108 congestion and limited road shoulders.

D. National Standards for Fire Station Location were not provided.

- a. Three National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards contain response time requirements. **See:** GIS for Fire Station Locations, January 2007. None provided.

- E. Open space/parkland is diminished.** No analysis of loss of open space, nor analysis of relocation of soccer fields, and no public input on that subject.
- F. Planning Board Decision was not “Planning”.** Comment after testimony and before deciding was “We are just approving funding. We don’t recommend on planning, just on funding.” “Our job is to make a recommendation for funding, and priority.”
- a. Definition of “planning”. Planning consists of service to the public in an efficient and fair manner, to ensure consistency with the General Plan, and to provide accurate information, creative and effective planning recommendations.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Schneider
Route 108
Clarksville, Md.

Sayers, Margery

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

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

Dear Council;

Please see attached testimony.

Ted Markle

Ted Markle

6281 Amherst Ave.

Columbia, Md 21046

RE: Project T7107 Downtown Columbia Patuxent Branch Trail Extension

Dear Planning Board;

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

TED MARKLE

Sayers, Margery

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

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

Dear County Council,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,
C. Bombick

Sayers, Margery

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

First Name: Marie

Last Name: Dodge

Email: mariedodge@comcast.net

Street Address: 4724 Yorkshire Drive

City: Ellicott City

Subject: Capital Project K5043 for Sidewalk Repair

Message:

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

Sayers, Margery

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

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

Sayers, Margery

From: Carolyn Zimmerman <zimmercm@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 10:32 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please Support Construction of the East Columbia 50+ Center

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

To: All County Council Representatives

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

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

Thank you!

--

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

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

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

Christiana-

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

-Wendy Alberg

Sayers, Margery

From: brenstokess@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 2:50 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: New East Columbia 50+ Center

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

Dear Council,
Once again I implore you to support the efforts being made to build us a new center - apart from the East Columbia library. Before the current closures due to the Covid-19 virus, I visited the senior center at least twice a week for classes. It is simply not big enough to adequately satisfy the needs of the seniors who regularly attend. Thank you for considering.

Sincerely,
Carollyn Alexander
5063 Thunder Hill Rd
Columbia MD 21045

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

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

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

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

Linda Wengel, writing for myself
Columbia, MD

Sayers, Margery

From: allison korn <allisonkorn@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 1:02 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Allison Korn
Subject: New East Columbia 50+ Center

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

Dear Members of the County Council:

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

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

Allison Korn (6550 Carlinda Avenue, Columbia 21046)

Sayers, Margery

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

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

This is excellent Pearl. Point about social isolation and the center was something I hadn't considered.
Hope you're ok.
Claire

--

Claire Femiano
cfemiano@fastmail.com

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

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

Sayers, Margery

From: Leannah Allen <leannah.allen23@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 12, 2020 3:01 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: The building of a Stand-alone East Columbia 50+Center.

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

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

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

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

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

Lheannah Allen

A member of The East Columbia 50+ Center.

April 11, 2020.

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

Sent from my iPhone
Pearline Atkinson Stewart

Sayers, Margery

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

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

To: County Council Representatives

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

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

Sayers, Margery

From: Ping Mao <jpingmao@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 11, 2020 8:51 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support for Project C0335, the building of a new stand-alone East Columbia 50+ Center

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

Dear County Council Representatives:

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Dr. Jianping Mao
6507 River Run
Columbia, MD 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Paul Verchinski <verchinski@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 11, 2020 5:00 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Paul L Verchinski
Subject: Project C0335, East Columbia 50+ Center

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

To: County Council Representatives

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

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

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

Best
Paul Verchinski
5475 Sleeping Dog Lane
Columbia, MD 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: Sharonlee Vogel <sharonleevogel@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 11, 2020 4:31 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: New East Columbia 50+ Center

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

Dear County Council Members,I

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you!

Sharonlee Vogel
8725 Warm Waves Way, Columbia, MD 21045

Sayers, Margery

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

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

Hello,

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

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

Thanks for your time.

Kristine

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

Lou Weber
9934 winter sun road
Laurel MD 20723
2028155139

Sayers, Margery

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

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

To all,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

Dear County Executive Ball,

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

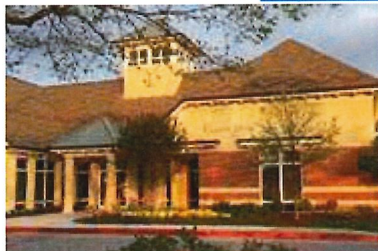
Thank you for your consideration of the community's requests.

Sincerely,

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

www.villageofriverhill.org

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



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March 11, 2020

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

Dear County Executive Ball,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

pp Susan M. Smith.

Tony Miceli
Board Chair

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

Sayers, Margery

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

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

SUGGESTIONS FOR ENHANCEMENT TO OOAI AGING IN PLACE RESOURCES

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

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

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

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

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

It's now time to fully implement this recommendation:

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

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

This assessment should include:

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

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

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

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

Hello,

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

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

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



HOWARD COUNTY AUTISM SOCIETY

March 12, 2020

To: Dr. Calvin Ball, Howard County Executive

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

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

Subject: HCAS Testimony regarding the Howard County FY21 Budget

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

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

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

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

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

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

Providing Support • Promoting Awareness • Advocating for Change

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410-290-3466 • www.howard-autism.org • info@howard-autism.org

Howard County Autism Society

- Support of many education-related conferences and meetings,
- Continued partnership with Disability Rights Maryland, and
- One-on-one support services we offer the community through our educational consultant.

Through the multitude of feedback we receive, we know these services are making a significant impact in the lives of those families we are serving. We are hopeful that this year's budget includes the funding that will allow us to continue supporting these programs into FY21 without having to reduce our services to the community.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Howard County Autism Society

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

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

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

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

Yours sincerely,



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



Melissa Rosenberg
Executive Director
Howard County Autism Society



Patrick Boxall
President, Board of Directors
Howard County Autism Society

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

Dear County Executive Ball and Council Member Jung,

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

Capital Budget

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

Operating Budget:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Revenues

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

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

Population growth

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

Thank you for your service to Howard County.

Respectfully,
C. B. Russell

Sayers, Margery

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

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



SUPPORT CASE

Case Number: CS0006026

Case Opened: 03-11-2020

Short Description: Watch Chain Way

Constituent: Stephen Hall

Priority: 3 - Moderate

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

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

To All:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you for this opportunity.

Sincerely,

Stephen P. Hall

6069 Watch Chain Way
Columbia, MD 21044-4715



www.howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG1005500

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

Jeryl Baker

Village Manager, Executive Director

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



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

COLUMBIA COUNCIL
Lin Eagan

Town Center Community Association

March 10, 2020

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

To the Honorable Dr. Calvin Ball,

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

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

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

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

Thank you for your attention and support.
Sincerely,

Board of Directors, Town Center Community Association

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

Angie Boyter

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

410 465-1444

January 15, 2020

Dr. Calvin Ball

Howard County Executive

George Howard Building

Ellicott City MD 21043

Dear Calvin,

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Angie Boyter





Sayers, Margery

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

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

Please see attached letter regarding FY21 budget testimony.

Thank you,

Craig Barton

Village Manager

Owen Brown Community Association, Inc.

6800 Cradlerock Way

Columbia, MD 21045

T -410-381-0202

F -410-381-0235

www.owenbrownvillage.org

Sayers, Margery

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

Thank you for contacting me with this important request.

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

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

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

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

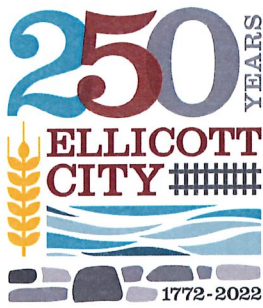
Dear Ms Jung

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

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

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

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



CELEBRATING 250 YEARS

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

December 9, 2019

County Executive Ball,

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

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

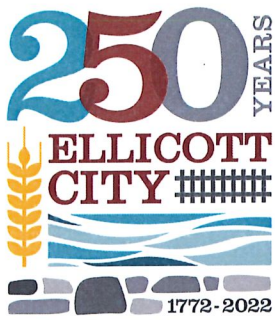
Much like the Howard County Sesquicentennial Celebration that occurred during my tenure as Howard County Executive, Ellicott City's 250th Anniversary Celebration will not be possible without the support of Howard County Government. I hope your administration will step forward, as I did, to make this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

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Robey'.

Jim Robey,
Chairman, EC250 Honorary Committee



CELEBRATING 250 YEARS

**EC250, Inc.
Board of
Directors**

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

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

December 9, 2019

County Executive Ball,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

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

Hello All,

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

The horticulture in the circle needs to be better maintained.

Sincerely,
Bibi H. Perrotte-Foston

Sayers, Margery

From: larc4@comcast.net
Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2019 11:00 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Project C0335

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

Dear County Council members,

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

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

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

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

Thank you for your support of this project.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Arena
5033 Broken Oak Lane
Columbia, MD 21044

Sayers, Margery

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

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

Dear County Executive Ball,

I am writing to support Project C0335, the building of a new stand-alone East Columbia 50+ Center. I am a senior Howard County resident and a frequent user of the East Columbia center. The current center is seriously inadequate to support services and activities for the growing senior population in East Columbia. I urge you to support full funding for the project on an accelerated timetable, specifically that it be started in FY21. Further delays will only cost the County more money.

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

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

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

Dear Howard County Council,

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

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Thank you for sharing your perspective. I appreciate it.

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

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

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

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

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

Dear County Executive Ball,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely

Genie L. Wessel RN, BSN, MSN

District 4

CC:

Liz Walsh at ewalsh@howardcountymd.gov

Opel Jones at ojones@howardcountymd.gov

Christiana Mercer Rigby at crigby@howardcountymd.gov

Deb Jung at djung@howardcountymd.gov

David Yungman at dyungmann@howardcountymd.gov

Sayers, Margery

From: allison korn <allisonkorn@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 6:59 PM
To: Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail; Allison Korn
Subject: Writing in support of the new East Columbia 50+ Center

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

Dear County Executive and members of the County Council:

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

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

Sincerely,

Allison Korn

6550 Carlinda Avenue, Columbia 21046

Sayers, Margery

From: Sharonlee Vogel <sharonleevogel@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 25, 2019 9:42 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support - New East Columbia 50+ Center

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

Dear County Council Members,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you for your support of this project.

Sincerely,

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

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

With gratitude,

Risa Garon

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

Sayers, Margery

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

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

Dear Margery,

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

Best regards,

Elizabeth

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

410-215-3630

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

Good Afternoon

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

Sincerely,

Margery

Margery Sayers

Executive Assistant

Howard County Council

410-313-0832

--

Elizabeth G Chazottes
President

EGC Consulting LLC
410-215-3630
elizabeth@egcconsultingllc.com



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Elizabeth Chazottes, President, Board of Directors

Mediation & Conflict Resolution Center (MCRC)

Sayers, Margery

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

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

Hello,

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

Thank you,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Joanne Antoine
Executive Director, Common Cause Maryland

Summary of Program

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

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

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

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

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

| Assumptions |
|---|
| Goal is <u>not</u> to ensure a candidate using matching can outspend all competitors; goal is to stay competitive with enough funding to get message out. |

Projections for 2022

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Anticipated Cost to County

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

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

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



May 1, 2020

Public Comment
Common Cause Maryland
County Council Operating Budget Work Session

Dear Howard County Council

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

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

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

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

Thank you,

Tierra Bradford, Policy Manager for Common Cause Maryland

Sayers, Margery

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

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

Dear County Council,

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

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

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

Thank you for your dedication to Howard County.

Sincerely,
Cate Bombick

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

Sayers, Margery

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

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

Good afternoon Council Members,

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

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

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

Lisa May
HCAR



Housing Market Update

April 24, 2020

Howard County Market Conditions (March 2020)

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

Regional and National Market Outlook

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

Additional Considerations

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

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

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

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

Council Members;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5. Maryland Governor's Grants Office

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

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

Respectfully submitted,
Alan Schneider
Clarksville, Md.

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

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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
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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)



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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

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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

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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

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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

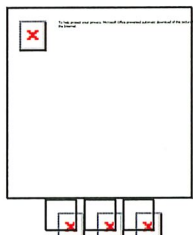
[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

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,

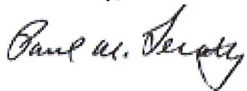
I hope and pray you and your loved ones are safe and in good health during this very challenging time.

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



ELLICOTT 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;



**ELLICOTT 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 past 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 save 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 giving 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@nfrcfamily.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:+14438522960) | [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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jennifer Broderick". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jennifer" and last name "Broderick" clearly legible.

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

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*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', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

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

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CB 25 - 2020

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 appox. 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: amccartrn@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

amccartrn@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 Yungmann's 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 Feniano

—
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](mailto: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 buildings 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

CB 25-2020
6/1-5/20

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Monday, June 1, 2020 2:42 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Howard County Councilwoman Christiana Rigby posts online about the proposed amendments to the FY21 Budgets - Scott E's Blog

Deb Jung
Council Chair, District 4
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-2001

Sign up for my newsletter here.

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

From: Ann De Lacy <anndelacy@icloud.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2020 5:51 PM
To: Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Howard County Councilwoman Christiana Rigby posts online about the proposed amendments to the FY21 Budgets - Scott E's Blog

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

I was hoping you would be less afraid and more progressive. I agree with Rigby, you are just another privileged white woman.
<https://scotteblog.com/2020/05/21/howard-county-councilwoman-christiana-rigby-posts-online-about-the-proposed-amendments-to-the-fy21-budgets/>

Sent from my iPad

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Monday, June 1, 2020 2:41 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: CB 25 Cuts to Vital Transportation
Attachments: A12CB25-2020_LJS.pdf; A2CR60-2020_LJS.pdf

Deb Jung

Council Chair, District 4
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-2001

Sign up for my newsletter [here](#).



From: Larry Schoen <larryschoen@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 12:02 PM
To: Williams, China <ccwilliams@howardcountymd.gov>; Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>
Cc: Ted Cochran <tedcochran55409@gmail.com>
Subject: CB 25 Cuts to Vital Transportation

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

China, thanks for taking my calls in the midst of all the other things going on.

I see cuts on Amendment 12 to CB25 and A2 to CB60 in several specific line items related to Pedestrian, Bicycle, ADA. See highlights on the attached. These may look like new programs, but many are not - some are in progress and even those that are new are catch up from our previous low funding and effort levels. **It is so disheartening to see the Council cutting items that we have fought for so hard to get funded and that this new Administration supports.**

Of particular concern to me are:

J4219 Engineering Study Program reduces Pay-Go funding by \$380,000 THIS IS THE FUNDING zeroed out FOR THE DESIGN MANUAL UPDATES. This is an ongoing project and is how we put in place the criteria for both County and private developer projects.

K5035 School Route Sidewalks reduces bond funding by \$480,000 We need to make it safer for kids to get to school. Buses may cost even more if we need to maintain social distancing. Plus it creates infrastructure for all to use.

Deep cuts to pedestrian programs - So untimely given that we just passed the Pedestrian Master Plan and PEOPLE NEED TO WALK AROUND THEIR NEIGHBORHOODS IN THE PANDEMIC.

K5043 **Sidewalk** Repair Prog reduces Pay-Go funding by \$1,000,000

K5061 **Pedestrian** Plan Projects reduces bond funding by \$500,000 .

K5066 **Bicycle** Plan reduces Bond funding by \$500,000

K5068 **ADA** ramps reduces bond funding by \$750,000

T7106 **Intersection** Safety reduces bond funding by \$1,000,000.) - We recently had a **pedestrian fatality** and had **testimony** at a recent MTB meeting about **signal and intersection concerns**.

I know we talked about Road resurfacing continuing as I write this in River Hill. There are also deep cuts next year to road surfacing. The latter is our primary opportunity to get bicycle lanes added.

Please do everything possible to keep funding for transportation. Our **economic development, property and developer community** understand the new emphasis on multimodal transportation. Commercial property listings now show **walking and biking SCORES**. **Let's prepare for the future together!**

Larry

Larry Schoen, P.E., chair Howard County Multimodal Transportation Board

work: 410-730-9797

mobile: 410-340-1525

larryschoen@gmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Monday, June 1, 2020 2:41 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: CB 25 Cuts to Vital Transportation
Attachments: A12CB25-2020_LJS.pdf; A2CR60-2020_LJS.pdf

Deb Jung

Council Chair, District 4
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-2001

Sign up for my newsletter [here](#).



From: Larry Schoen <larryschoen@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 12:02 PM
To: Williams, China <ccwilliams@howardcountymd.gov>; Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>
Cc: Ted Cochran <tedcochran55409@gmail.com>
Subject: CB 25 Cuts to Vital Transportation

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

China, thanks for taking my calls in the midst of all the other things going on.

I see cuts on Amendment 12 to CB25 and A2 to CB60 in several specific line items related to Pedestrian, Bicycle, ADA. See highlights on the attached. These may look like new programs, but many are not - some are in progress and even those that are new are catch up from our previous low funding and effort levels. **It is so disheartening to see the Council cutting items that we have fought for so hard to get funded and that this new Administration supports.**

Of particular concern to me are:

J4219 Engineering Study Program reduces Pay-Go funding by \$380,000 THIS IS THE FUNDING zeroed out FOR THE DESIGN MANUAL UPDATES. This is an ongoing project and is how we put in place the criteria for both County and private developer projects.

K5035 School Route Sidewalks reduces bond funding by \$480,000 We need to make it safer for kids to get to school. Buses may cost even more if we need to maintain social distancing. Plus it creates infrastructure for all to use.

Deep cuts to pedestrian programs - So untimely given that we just passed the Pedestrian Master Plan and PEOPLE NEED TO WALK AROUND THEIR NEIGHBORHOODS IN THE PANDEMIC.

K5043 **Sidewalk** Repair Prog reduces Pay-Go funding by \$1,000,000

K5061 **Pedestrian** Plan Projects reduces bond funding by \$500,000

K5066 **Bicycle** Plan reduces Bond funding by \$500,000

K5068 **ADA** ramps reduces bond funding by \$750,000

T7106 **Intersection** Safety reduces bond funding by \$1,000,000.) - We recently had a **pedestrian fatality** and had **testimony** at a recent MTB meeting about **signal and intersection concerns**.

I know we talked about Road resurfacing continuing as I write this in River Hill. There are also deep cuts next year to road surfacing. The latter is our primary opportunity to get bicycle lanes added.

Please do everything possible to keep funding for transportation. Our **economic development, property and developer community** understand the new emphasis on multimodal transportation. Commercial property listings now show **walking and biking SCORES**. **Let's prepare for the future together!**

Larry

Larry Schoen, P.E., chair Howard County Multimodal Transportation Board

work: 410-730-9797

mobile: 410-340-1525

larryschoen@gmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Antonio Tavares <ttavares1@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2020 7:47 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: NCC SUPPORT

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

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,
I am emailing today to ask you to support FY21 Capital Budget funding for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC) and Affordable Housing Project.
Delaying the project would threaten the already secured \$62 million in Federal funding for affordable housing, dollars that must be used or be lost forever. We are therefore asking you to include funding in the FY21 Capital Budget for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC).

If the NCC project isn't funded in the FY21 Capital Budget and the \$62 million Federal dollars have been lost, it will be impossible to see Toby's dream of the NCC happen in the future.

This project will bring together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages and walks of life right here in Howard County.

At the same time, the multi-purpose facility will add 87 residential units that will assist the County in closing its affordable housing gap. As mentioned above, the Federal dollars will not be available without the NCC project being funded in the FY21 Capital budget cycle. Also, failure to approve this project now will threaten development of four additional multi-use projects that are to include almost half of the 900 affordable units the County committed to develop in the 2016 Downtown Redevelopment Plan.

We understand that there is no certainty about when and how the country's and our county's economy will rebound from the current economic crisis. There is certainty, however, that low and moderate-income renters will need housing now more than ever. Should the NCC project not advance in FY21, low and moderate wage earners, seniors on fixed incomes, and persons with disabilities with limited or no earning capacity will continue to be denied the opportunity to live in Columbia. Thus our community will be denied the opportunity to experience the vibrancy of disparate communities.

Please approve FY21 Capital Budget funding for the NCC and Affordable Housing Project!

Sincerely,
Tony Tavares

Sayers, Margery

From: Barbara Hale <bhale3130@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2020 2:22 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: FY21 Capital Budget for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC)

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

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I am emailing today to ask you to support FY21 Capital Budget funding for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC) and Affordable Housing Project.

Delaying the project would threaten the already secured \$62 million in Federal funding for affordable housing, dollars that must be used or be lost forever. We are therefore asking you to include funding in the FY21 Capital Budget for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC).

If the NCC project isn't funded in the FY21 Capital Budget and the \$62 million Federal dollars have been lost, it will be impossible to see Toby's dream of the NCC happen in the future.

This project will bring together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages and walks of life right here in Howard County.

At the same time, the multi-purpose facility will add 87 residential units that will assist the County in closing its affordable housing gap. As mentioned above, the Federal dollars will not be available without the NCC project being funded in the FY21 Capital budget cycle. Also, failure to approve this project now will threaten development of four additional multi-use projects that are to include almost half of the 900 affordable units the County committed to develop in the 2016 Downtown Redevelopment Plan.

We understand that there is no certainty about when and how the country's and our county's economy will rebound from the current economic crisis. There is certainty, however, that low and moderate-income renters will need housing now more than ever. Should the NCC project not advance in FY21, low and moderate wage earners, seniors on fixed incomes, and persons with disabilities with limited or no earning capacity will continue to be denied the opportunity to live in Columbia. Thus our community will be denied the opportunity to experience the vibrancy of disparate communities.

Please approve FY21 Capital Budget funding for the NCC and Affordable Housing Project! Thank you in advance for your approval.

Sincerely,
Barbara Hale-Johnson

Sayers, Margery

From: S Gould <sherrydgould@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2020 12:15 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: NCC SUPPORT

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

Dear Members of the Howard County Council, I am emailing today to ask you to support FY21 Capital Budget funding for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC) and Affordable Housing Project.

Delaying the project would threaten the already secured \$62 million in Federal funding for affordable housing—dollars that must be used or be lost to us forever.

This project will bring together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages and walks of life right here in Howard County.

At the same time, the multi-purpose facility will add 87 residential units that will assist the County in closing its affordable housing gap. As mentioned above, the Federal dollars have been secured but must be expended in the upcoming budget cycle. Also, failure to approve the remainder of the capital budget would threaten development of four additional multi-use projects that are to include almost half of the 900 affordable units the County committed to develop in the 2016 Downtown Development Plan.

We understand that there is no certainty about when and how the country's and our county's economy will rebound from the current economic crisis. There is certainty, however, that low and moderate-income renters will need housing now more than ever. Should the NCC project not advance in FY21, low and moderate wage earners, seniors on fixed incomes, and persons with disabilities with limited or no earning capacity will continue to be denied the opportunity to live in Columbia. And our community will be denied the opportunity to experience the vibrancy of disparate communities.

Please approve FY21 Capital Budget funding for the NCC and Affordable Housing Project!

Thank you

Sayers, Margery

From: DeSales Lacy <fdcl2@verizon.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 3:58 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Vote "No" on FY 21 Funding of New Cultural Center

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

All,

I am a registered Democrat in District 1 who votes. Please vote "No" on the FY 21 funding of the New Cultural Center (NCC). While the NCC may be a worthy project during times of revenue increases, it is not an essential project and should not be funded during our current times of revenue decline. We do not not the full extent of the revenue decline because we are only slowly beginning to go back to work in Howard County. It would be fiscally irresponsible to allocate money for a "nice to have" project when there are "must have" projects to be funded.

Regards,

DeSales Lacy
3437 Jay Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Ann Larry McDonald <annlarrymc@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 1:09 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,

We just learned of an amendment 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 I urge you to support the East Columbia 50+ Center. Support for this East Columbia site has for many years been lacking.

Seniors are the fastest growing age group in the county, and importantly pay taxes to Howard County. They need support to live and thrive 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,

Ann & Larry McDonald

8854 Warm Granite Drive

Long Reach Village

Columbia MD 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: jackie schiffer <jjschiffer@verizon.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 1:04 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Supporting FY21

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

We are sending on our thoughts about supporting FY21 - As we understand it, it is an important thing to do so that the following projects can take place - Toby's has been a part of our lives since we moved to Columbia 48 years ago. We have always been enthusiastic about the arts & theater & have supported Toby's Theater, in particular, wonderful performances through the years. The other important reason for supporting FY21 is to include the low-cost housing that was proposed for the people who so badly need it available to them.

Thank you for anything that you can do to make sure that FY21 will go though Jackie & Bob Schiffer

Sayers, Margery

From: Jeryl Baker <villagemanager@columbiatowncenter.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 12:59 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Amendment 13 to CB25
Attachments: TCCA Cultural Center Amendment Support .pdf

[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,
Please read the attached letter from the Board of Directors of the Town Center Community association asking the County Council to support Amendment 13 to CB25. Thank you.

Jeryl Baker

Village Manager, Executive Director

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



Town Center Community Association

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lynn Foehrkolb
Joel Broida
Kevin Fitzgerald
Jamie Hibbard
Dean Dworkin

COLUMBIA COUNCIL

Lin Eagan

May 27, 2020

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

Dear Howard County Council,

This letter is in support of Amendment 13 to CB25 proposed by Christiana Rigby. The Town Center Community Association sees this at the very least as a compromise to the bill instead of as a complete veto. The affordable housing component is an essential part of this project and a promise to the people of Downtown Columbia. We understand that the County is facing tough decisions regarding budget issues in the light of the corona virus pandemic, but this project is not conceivable without the affordable housing component.

Sincerely,

Lynn Foehrkolb for the Town Center Village Board

Lynn Foehrkolb
Village Board Chair
Town Center Community Association

Sayers, Margery

From: barbara lebson <barbdog3@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 12:05 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Amendment 13 CB25

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

I would like to ask the council to please support Amendment 13 / CB25 for this very important project.

Please don't let Howard County become like Baltimore. This is a way to help prevent that.

Thank you

Barbara Lebson

Sayers, Margery

From: Maurice Haynes <mh192j@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 10:55 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Amendment 13 to CB25.

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

I sincerely request that the Howard County Council support Amendment 13 to CB25.

Thank you for your consideration.

Oswald Maurice Haynes
7427 Hickory Log Circle, Columbia, MD 21045
Email: mh192j@gmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Katherine Marek <kat.l.marek@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 10:41 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: The NCC serves the most essential of us

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

To the County Council, respectfully:

I got an email today from my kid's daycare detailing the many precautions they would be taking as they reopen for the children of essential workers, and it drove home to me once again how completely we rely upon people who earn very little money.

The teachers at the daycare drive cars that are falling apart and live with their parents, because they can't afford to have their own residence in Columbia. Housing costs here are through the roof. And we will be relying on them to keep our children safe and well.

As a landlord working with the voucher system in Howard County Housing, I know that there's more demand than we can ever meet. The NCC, particularly the affordable housing component, is not only an urgent community need, but a moral imperative if we are to continue leaning on the services of the poorest of us.

Please keep the NCC and protect the most vulnerable among us. It's our duty as a community.

Thank you for your time,

Katherine Marek
Owen Brown

Sayers, Margery

From: Chelsea Hagerty <chelrose4@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 10:38 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Fwd: Howard County Council Letter

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

Dear Councilmembers Jung, Walsh and Yungmann,

I am deeply concerned by your amendments and proposed cuts to the FY21 Capital and Operating Budgets. Please invest in our community, seniors, education and infrastructure and commit to public safety, affordable housing and job creation. Our county can be a catalyst for reviving our community and long-term economic recovery. But these proposed budget cuts are not it. Short-term savings will not create long-term solutions and will deny our community the resources and projects we depend on.

Please **VOTE NO** to:

- **Cutting** funding to implement Complete Streets programs which includes pedestrian safety projects like installing crosswalks, path improvements and installing ADA compliant ramps
- **Delaying** the long-awaited construction 50+ Senior Center in East Columbia
- **Jeopardizing** affordable housing and the New Cultural Center by forgoing \$61.6M in federal tax credits
- **Reducing** funding for community resources for seniors, residents with developmental disabilities and services to our most vulnerable populations
- **Removing** all funding for road resurfacing and sidewalks across the county harming fundamental infrastructure and safety needs, with over \$52 million backlog in road work already
- **Minimizing** efforts of environmental compliance programs and delaying storm water management projects
- **Eliminating** all vacancies and the opportunity of growing and maintaining a workforce when people need jobs and core services the most.
- **Reducing** public safety budget significantly, removing support for public safety positions and community outreach efforts
- **Removing** funding for systemic improvements with deferred maintenance including critical renovations to address security needs at the Detention center

Councilwoman Jung, Councilwoman Walsh and Councilman Yungmann, I ask that you support our residents and **VOTE NO** to divesting in our community.

Please **VOTE YES** to approve the proposed progressive reform to our county's recordation fees proposed by Council Members Opel Jones and Christiana Mercer Rigby.

Please **VOTE YES** for the FY21 Capital Budget funding for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC) and Affordable Housing Project.

Delaying the project would threaten the already secured \$62 million in Federal funding for affordable housing, dollars that must be used or be lost forever. We are therefore asking you to include funding in the FY21 Capital Budget for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC).

If the NCC project isn't funded in the FY21 Capital Budget and the \$62 million Federal dollars have been lost, it will be impossible to see Toby's dream of the NCC happen in the future.

This project will bring together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages and walks of life right here in Howard County.

At the same time, the multi-purpose facility will add 87 residential units that will assist the County in closing its affordable housing gap. As mentioned above, the Federal dollars will not be available without the NCC project being funded in the FY21 Capital budget cycle. Also, failure to approve this project now will threaten development of four additional multi-use projects that are to include almost half of the 900 affordable units the County committed to develop in the 2016 Downtown Redevelopment Plan.

We understand that there is no certainty about when and how the country's and our county's economy will rebound from the current economic crisis. There is certainty, however, that low and moderate-income renters will need housing now more than ever. Should the NCC project not advance in FY21, low and moderate wage earners, seniors on fixed incomes, and persons with disabilities with limited or no earning capacity will continue to be denied the opportunity to live in Columbia. Thus our community will be denied the opportunity to experience the vibrancy of disparate communities.

Please approve FY21 Capital Budget funding for the NCC and Affordable Housing Project!

Thank you,

Chelsea Hagerty

Long Reach Resident

Sayers, Margery

From: Barbara Lawson <bklawson@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 10:00 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Amendment 13

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

I'm in favor. Must keep going on downtown for all the economic, housing and cultural imperatives.

Thxs Barbara K. Lawson

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: James Cecil <jamescecil02@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 9:59 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: The Greater Good

[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 will keep this brief, because I believe the arguments necessary in regards to proposed amendments to our budget are clear.

History has shown us that austerity, while grand in concept, is failure in practice. Recoveries past have been fueled by the investment of our government. The government is the largest consumer and removing government spending from the marketplace disrupts true trickle down economics. Recovery will fund the investments made now, while there is no recovery without the investment.

Further, there are cuts to programs that will disproportionately impact those most vulnerable in our community. I was in the room when you were presented with the dire situation of affordable housing last year and observed the concern some of you expressed. There is a solution on the table that has an unfortunate title of being a cultural center. It is so much more. It is opportunity. It is access. It is equity. Failure to support this now could kill it forever and the viability of any projects that were to come. There could be no "next time" for future councils because of the impact of your actions today.

I came before you all twice to express the need to move our capital education projects forward and the need for increased special education funding. I truly hope you do not tinker with school construction funds and wish you would make a stand for students with disabilities. You know the outcomes our current budget destinies them to. It is not enough, which makes the opposition to raise funds in the out years via the transfer tax all that more disheartening.

The proposed transfer tax adjustment (as it is not an increase for many) will benefit us all while not adding another financial hardship to those disproportionately feeling negative impacts of this crisis already. The transfer tax can soften the cuts, keep programs running, keep hard working people in their jobs and build in the flexibility necessary down the line. There is so much unknown and having no revenue to offset future cuts if recovery is delayed will hurt us all even more.

I hope that you will come to broad support that keeps our most vulnerable in mind and use your personal capital for the greater good.

Stay safe and be well.

Sincerely,
James Cecil

Sayers, Margery

From: Nirmala Mallya <nirmala.mallya@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 9:52 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: East Columbia 50+ center

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

I am a senior living in Columbia and asking you to please restore the original funding plans for the new 50+ center which we are desperately in need of .

Please reconsider our needs .

Thank you .

Nirmala Mallya

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Ralph Paradiso <ralphparadiso@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 9:52 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please vote for Amendment 13 to CB25

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

We so desperately need this. Thank you.

Ralph Paradiso
Esen Paradiso

5440 High Tor Hill 21045

Sent from my iPad

Sayers, Margery

From: C JEAN Parker <jsp4k3d@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 9:46 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Vote for Amendment 13 to CB25

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

Hello HC Council,

Please vote favorably for AMENDMENT 13 to CB25.

As a Howard County resident since 1965, this is a great addition to our Arts community while also approaching the project as fiscally as possible.

Cordially,
Jean S. Parker
773 Chessie Crossing Way
Woodbine, MD 21797

Sayers, Margery

From: Deborah Clutts <deborahclutts@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 9:34 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Re: NCC Support

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

Good Morning, Council Members

I appreciate your consideration of my request for supporting the FY 21 Capital Budget request for the NCC. I also am requesting that you support Amendment 13 to CB 25, which would assist in moving this project forward in a responsible manner this year!

Thank you for your consideration.

Wishing you peace and health!

Debbie Clutts

Sent from my iPhone

On May 26, 2020, at 9:28 PM, Deborah Clutts <deborahclutts@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I am emailing today to ask you to support FY21 Capital Budget funding for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC) and Affordable Housing Project. One of the capstones of the downtown Columbia revitalization project is the New Cultural Center.

If the project is delayed, it is likely the already secured \$62 million in Federal funding for affordable housing will be lost forever. I am respectfully asking you to include funding in the FY21 Capital Budget for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC).

If the NCC project isn't funded in the FY21 Capital Budget and the \$62 million Federal dollars have been lost, it will be impossible to see Toby's dream and our hopes for the development of the NCC come to fruition. This would be a serious and disappointing loss for Columbia and for all of Howard County.

This project will bring together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages and walks of life right here in Howard County. As well, it will assist Howard County in offering additional affordable housing, which is sorely needed in our community.

At the same time, the multi-purpose facility will add 87 residential units that will assist the County in closing its affordable housing gap. As mentioned above, the Federal dollars will not be available without the NCC project being funded in the FY21 Capital budget cycle. Also, failure to approve this project now will threaten development of four additional multi-use projects that are to include almost half of the 900 affordable units the County committed to develop in the

2016 Downtown Redevelopment Plan.

There is no certainty about when and how the country's and our county's economy will rebound from the current economic crisis. There is certainty, however, that low and moderate-income renters will need housing now more than ever. Should the NCC project not advance in FY21, low and moderate wage earners, seniors on fixed incomes, and persons with disabilities with limited or no earning capacity will continue to be denied the opportunity to live in Columbia. Thus our community will be denied the opportunity to experience the vibrancy of disparate communities.

I understand these are extremely difficult times, and that there are serious and unique stressors on the County's budget. But this is one project that cannot afford to be delayed. Please approve FY21 Capital Budget funding for the NCC and Affordable Housing Project!

Best regards,

Deborah Clutts
10607 Millet Seed Hill
Columbia, MD 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Diane Dunn <diane.dunn3@verizon.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 9:30 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Amendment 13 to CB25 - in support of going forward with Cultural Arts Center and artist flats

[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,

I'm writing to ask you to support Amendment 13 to CB25 to allow the new cultural arts center and artist flats to go forward, with the suggested reduction in costs.
Howard County has been one of the best in supporting the local art scene and this project will be an important way to keep that support going!!

Thanks for your consideration,

Diane

Sayers, Margery

From: Jon Lemich <jonlemich@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 9:05 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: County Budget FY21 - No on Cuts

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

Ahoy, Council;

I understand members **Jung, Walsh, and Yungman** want to impose austerity cuts in the face of a crisis. I beg them to change their minds. I ask you all to vote NO on affordable housing cuts, NO on public safety cuts and NO on cutting community services. The people you're snatching security from are your own voters.

I thought, in one of the richest counties in the country, we were past dangerous and irresponsible austerity cuts. Austerity measures in times of crisis have done **irreparable harm** to other counties across the US.

I understand budgets are tight due to COVID-19, but wise government policy is to invest **more in times of crisis**, help your citizens *more* in the months following a crisis, and **make up for it in times of plenty** -- not the other way around.

Vote NO on austerity, please.

Sincerely,

Jon A. Lemich
9568 Patchin Ct., Columbia, MD 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: Becky Ripley <becky@beckyripley.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 8:49 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Amendment 13

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

I want to ask the County Council to support Amendment 13 to CB25 and express my support. Given these times, a reduction in spending may be needed, but the project must move forward.

Best always,

Rebecca Ripley
Hickory Ridge Resident since 1990

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Sayers, Margery

From: Sara Via <svia@umd.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 8:47 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Pls restore funds for energy improvement fund
Attachments: Via_County Council budget 5.27.20.docx

[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 write to urge you to reject Amendment 12 to the Budget. I attach a letter explaining my request and also copy it below.

Thank you!
Sara Via

May 27, 2020
To: Members of the Howard County Council
From: Dr. Sara Via
4811 Manor Lane
Ellicott City, MD 21042
svia@umd.edu

re: Budget (CB25-2020, Amendment 12)

I strongly urge you to reject Amendment 12 and restore full funding for the energy improvement fund (CO329).

The proposed energy improvements are important contributions to Howard County's commitment to meaningful climate action. Energy efficiency is the [cheapest source of "new" power](#) and is one of the most effective ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Energy efficiency is also the healthiest way to satisfy energy requirements because it reduces the need to generate power [from nuclear \(34% in 2018\) or dirty sources such as natural gas \(22%\) or coal \(23%\)](#). For every kWh of power we don't use because of energy efficiency, we avoid the carbon pollution and environmental damage from electricity generation.

It is my understanding that the following projects would be eliminated by Amendment 12:

- Retro commissioning of Grassroots Center, Central Library, Ascend One, George Howard Building (payback time: 5 months)
- Relamp Long Reach Village Center and Other Critical Buildings with Outdated Lighting (payback time: 2 years)
- EV Charging Stations and Annual Charger Maintenance
- Generator conversion in Ascend one, Scaggsville Public Safety Center, Detention Center, & Public Safety Training Center (payback time: 3-6 years).

These projects will reduce power use by 2.85 million kWh, save 73,000 gallons of fuel and reduce greenhouse gas emissions (in CO2 equivalents) by 2595 metric tons. This is equal to removing the pollution caused by 552 cars for a year. These projects will clean the air and reduce the pace of climate change.

But the best thing about energy efficiency is how quickly it pays for itself. These projects have a payback time ranging from 5 months to just a few years. After that, the savings accrue year after year with no additional costs! After the short payback period, the savings from energy efficiency is like getting money **added** to the budget for up to 20 or 30 years.

I understand that this is a tough time and that someone is advocating for every single item in the budget. But abandoning energy efficiency upgrades to solve a short-term budget problem is shortsighted financially. These upgrades pay for themselves relatively quickly and after that they pay you.

--

Dr. Sara Via
Professor and Climate Extension Specialist
Dept. of Entomology &
University of Maryland Extension
UMD, College Park
svia@umd.edu

Interested in natural climate solutions or climate change and agriculture? Check out my webinars:

"Carbon sequestration in agricultural soils":

<http://www.climatewebinars.net/webinars/sequestering-carbon-in-agricultural-soils-what-works/>

"Managing agricultural risk in a changing environment":

<https://extension.umd.edu/anmp/climate-change>

May 27, 2020

To: Members of the Howard County Council

From: Dr. Sara Via
4811 Manor Lane
Ellicott City, MD 21042
svia@umd.edu

re: Budget (CB25-2020, Amendment 12)

I strongly urge you to reject Amendment 12 and restore full funding for the energy improvement fund (CO329).

The proposed energy improvements are important contributions to Howard County's commitment to meaningful climate action. Energy efficiency is the [cheapest source of "new" power](#) and is one of the most effective ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Energy efficiency is also the healthiest way to satisfy energy requirements because it reduces the need to generate power [from nuclear \(34% in 2018\) or dirty sources such as natural gas \(22%\) or coal \(23%\)](#). For every kWh of power we don't use because of energy efficiency, we avoid the carbon pollution and environmental damage from electricity generation.

It is my understanding that the following projects would be eliminated by Amendment 12:

- Retro commissioning of Grassroots Center, Central Library, Ascend One, George Howard Building (payback time: 5 months)
- Relamp Long Reach Village Center and Other Critical Buildings with Outdated Lighting (payback time: 2 years)
- EV Charging Stations and Annual Charger Maintenance
- Generator conversion in Ascend one, Scaggsville Public Safety Center, Detention Center, & Public Safety Training Center (payback time: 3-6 years).

These projects will reduce power use by 2.85 million kWh, save 73,000 gallons of fuel and reduce greenhouse gas emissions (in CO2 equivalents) by 2595 metric tons. This is equal to removing the pollution caused by 552 cars for a year. These projects will clean the air and reduce the pace of climate change.

But the best thing about energy efficiency is how quickly it pays for itself. These projects have a payback time ranging from 5 months to just a few years. After that, the savings accrue year after year with no additional costs! After the short payback period, the savings from energy efficiency is like getting money **added** to the budget for up to 20 or 30 years.

I understand that this is a tough time and that someone is advocating for every single item in the budget. But abandoning energy efficiency upgrades to solve a short-term budget problem is shortsighted financially. These upgrades pay for themselves relatively quickly and after that they pay you.

Sayers, Margery

From: Richard Wasserkrug <rmwasserkrug@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 8:42 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: NCC SUPPORT

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

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I am emailing today to ask you to support FY21 Capital Budget funding for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC) and Affordable Housing Project.

Delaying the project would threaten the already secured \$62 million in Federal funding for affordable housing, dollars that must be used or be lost forever. We are therefore asking you to include funding in the FY21 Capital Budget for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC).

If the NCC project isn't funded in the FY21 Capital Budget and the \$62 million Federal dollars have been lost, it will be impossible to see Toby's dream of the NCC happen in the future.

This project will bring together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages and walks of life right here in Howard County.

At the same time, the multi-purpose facility will add 87 residential units that will assist the County in closing its affordable housing gap. As mentioned above, the Federal dollars will not be available without the NCC project being funded in the FY21 Capital budget cycle. Also, failure to approve this project now will threaten development of four additional multi-use projects that are to include almost half of the 900 affordable units the County committed to develop in the 2016 Downtown Redevelopment Plan.

We understand that there is no certainty about when and how the country's and our county's economy will rebound from the current economic crisis. There is certainty, however, that low and moderate-income renters will need housing now more than ever. Should the NCC project not advance in FY21, low and moderate wage earners, seniors on fixed incomes, and persons with disabilities with limited or no earning capacity will continue to be denied the opportunity to live in Columbia. Thus our community will be denied the opportunity to experience the vibrancy of disparate communities.

Please approve FY21 Capital Budget funding for the NCC and Affordable Housing Project!

Sincerely,

Richard Wasserkrug
9414 Book Row
Columbia, MD 21046

Sayers, Margery

From: Rene C. Wasserkrug <mmewass@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 8:37 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: NCC and AHP

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

Dear Members of the Howard County Council, I am emailing today to ask you to support FY21 Capital Budget funding for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC) and Affordable Housing Project.

Delaying the project would threaten the already secured \$62 million in Federal funding for affordable housing, dollars that must be used or be lost forever. We are therefore asking you to include funding in the FY21 Capital Budget for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC).

If the NCC project isn't funded in the FY21 Capital Budget and the \$62 million Federal dollars have been lost, it will be impossible to see Toby's dream of the NCC happen in the future.

This project will bring together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages and walks of life right here in Howard County.

At the same time, the multi-purpose facility will add 87 residential units that will assist the County in closing its affordable housing gap. As mentioned above, the Federal dollars will not be available without the NCC project being funded in the FY21 Capital budget cycle. Also, failure to approve this project now will threaten development of four additional multi-use projects that are to include almost half of the 900 affordable units the County committed to develop in the 2016 Downtown Redevelopment Plan.

We understand that there is no certainty about when and how the country's and our county's economy will rebound from the current economic crisis. There is certainty, however, that low and moderate-income renters will need housing now more than ever. Should the NCC project not advance in FY21, low and moderate wage earners, seniors on fixed incomes, and persons with disabilities with limited or no earning capacity will continue to be denied the opportunity to live in Columbia. Thus our community will be denied the opportunity to experience the vibrancy of disparate communities.

Please approve FY21 Capital Budget funding for the NCC and Affordable Housing Project!

Sincerely,

Rene Wasserkrug
9414 Book Row
Columbia, MD 21046

Sayers, Margery

From: Risa Kipnis <rckipnis@kipnislaw.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 8:26 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: URGENT - NCC SUPPORT

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

Dear Members of the Howard County Council, I am emailing today to ask you to support FY21 Capital Budget funding for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC) and Affordable Housing Project.

Delaying the project would threaten the already secured \$62 million in Federal funding for affordable housing, dollars that must be used or be lost forever. We are therefore asking you to include funding in the FY21 Capital Budget for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC).

If the NCC project isn't funded in the FY21 Capital Budget and the \$62 million Federal dollars have been lost, it will be impossible to see Toby's dream of the NCC happen in the future. This would be sad, disgraceful and unfortunate for Columbia, Howard County, Maryland and BEYOND!

This project will bring together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages and walks of life right here in Howard County.

At the same time, the multi-purpose facility will add 87 residential units that will assist the County in closing its affordable housing gap. As mentioned above, the Federal dollars will not be available without the NCC project being funded in the FY21 Capital budget cycle. Also, failure to approve this project now will threaten development of four additional multi-use projects that are to include almost half of the 900 affordable units the County committed to develop in the 2016 Downtown Redevelopment Plan.

We understand that there is no certainty about when and how the country's and our county's economy will rebound from the current economic crisis. There is certainty, however, that low and moderate-income renters will need housing now more than ever. Should the NCC project not advance in FY21, low and moderate wage earners, seniors on fixed incomes, and persons with disabilities with limited or no earning capacity will continue to be denied the opportunity to live in Columbia. Thus our community will be denied the opportunity to experience the vibrancy of disparate communities.

Please approve FY21 Capital Budget funding for the NCC and Affordable Housing Project!

Sincerely,
Risa Kipnis
6938 Tolling Bells Ct
Columbia, MD 21044

Please approve!

So many positives if approved.

If not approved, so many negatives: sad, disgraceful and unfortunate for Columbia, Howard County, Maryland and BEYOND!

Sayers, Margery

From: MARILYN HOLLAND <mjlavie@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 8:16 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Cultural Center

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

Please keep the funding for The Cultural Center in Columbia! This is a vital part of our community, on which many people in Howard County depend. It's what makes our community the envy of America. Many of us enjoy the programs that will be provided by this center. It would really be a shame if this does not get funding. Please keep James Rouse in mind, as you make this decision. His vision for our community has enriched us all. Sincerely, Marilyn Holland (Long time resident and proud member of Howard County)

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: no-reply@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 8:14 AM
To: lapazulski@gmail.com
Subject: District 3 - Proposed tax increase

First Name: Lee Ann
Last Name: Pazulski
Email: lapazulski@gmail.com
Street Address: 7323 Rocky Creek Drive
City: Columbia
Subject: Proposed tax increase

Message:

Good Morning Ms. Rigby, I learned last night from some neighbors that the County Council is discussing/voting today on a proposed tax increase to cover the deficits that have been created due to the Covid-19 pandemic. I implore you to vote against this proposal. Instead, I suggest that the county reduce spending (such as delaying construction of the cultural center, eliminating vacant positions) instead. I strongly believe that fiscal responsibility is required during times of crisis. Many residents within this county have been effected financially due to loss of employment and have had to adjust spending. I have personally been effected due to loss of summer school hours, and need to tighten my household budget. Again, please vote against increasing taxes to address the shortfall, and instead take projects off the table that are not essential to our county now. Thank you so much for your attention, and your consideration to this crucial and time sensitive matter, Lee Ann Pazulski

Sayers, Margery

From: Debramore <debramore@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 8:13 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please pass Amendment 13 to CB25

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

Thank you Council for your work; stretching our budget to include worthy projects during tough times.

Please pass Amendment 13 to CB25.

May 27, 2013 7:00 a.m. Rigby, Christiana (crigby@howardcountymd.gov) To: you Detail Dear Debra,

Thank you for your email in support of funding for the New Cultural Center and the East Columbia 50+ Center in Howard County's FY21 Capital Budget. As you may know, both projects have been planned for many years and would bring a much needed space for seniors and much-needed arts spaces and affordable housing opportunities to our community.

I wholeheartedly support both projects, and I will continue to advocate for them in Howard County's Capital Budget. Regarding the New Cultural Center, last summer, I wrote a [letter](#) to the State of Maryland to encourage their approval of a Low-income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) for this project. I was pleased to see that \$64 million in state & federal funding were approved for the New Cultural Center, allowing it to move forward in the County budget this year. If this project is cut from the budget, I expect that construction costs will continue to increase in future years, driving up the price of this project. Additionally, delaying and deferring this project further may jeopardize the state and federal funding that the New Cultural Center has already received.

Last week, I introduced an amendment to the New Cultural Center which would reduce spending by \$7 million and still allow the project to move forward this year. I believe that this is the most fiscally responsible approach to funding the New Cultural Center this year. In addition, I have also introduced an amendment to the budget cuts to restore funding for the East Columbia 50+ Center in the FY21 Capital Budget. If you would like to voice your support for either of these, I encourage you to email CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov and ask the County Council to support Amendment 13 to CB25.

The Council is scheduled to take final votes on the FY2021 Operating and Capital Budget today, May 27th, at 10am. You can watch the vote online here: <https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/Online-Tools/Watch-Us>.

Once again, thank you for your advocacy for the New Cultural Center and the East Columbia 50+ Center. Ultimately, our budgets are a reflection of our priorities and our values. I truly appreciate you sharing your voice and priorities with the County Council.

Hoping you remain healthy and safe in this difficult time,

Christiana

Christiana Rigby – she/her/hers
Councilwoman, District 3
Serving North Laurel, Savage, Columbia, Jessup and Guilford

Howard County Council
3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043
crigby@howardcountymd.gov
410.313.4101



[Sign up for our newsletter!](#)

From: Debramore <debramore@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 4:35 PM
To: CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject:

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

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

Thank you for all your time and work, as well as for the many difficult decisions you have to make. I have two requests for your thoughtful consideration. Best of success in stretching our dollars to accommodate many. Thank you!

#1

I am emailing today to ask you to **support FY21 Capital Budget funding for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC) and Affordable Housing Project.**

Delaying the project would threaten the already secured \$64 million in federal and state funding for affordable housing, dollars that must be used or be lost forever. We are therefore asking you to include funding in the FY21 Capital Budget for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC).

If the NCC project isn't funded in the FY21 Capital Budget and the \$64 million federal and state dollars have been lost, it will be impossible to see Toby's dream of the NCC happen in the future.

This project will bring together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages and walks of life right here in Howard County.

At the same time, the multi-purpose facility will add **87 residential units that will assist the County in closing its affordable housing gap.** As mentioned above, the Federal dollars will not be available without the NCC project being funded in the FY21 Capital budget cycle. Also, **failure to approve this project now will threaten development of four additional multi-use projects that are to include almost half of the 900 affordable units the County committed to develop in the 2016 Downtown Redevelopment Plan.**

We understand that there is no certainty about when and how the country's and our county's economy will rebound from the current economic crisis. **There is certainty, however, that low and moderate-income renters will need housing now more than ever.** Should the NCC project not advance in FY21, **low and moderate wage earners, seniors on fixed incomes, and persons with disabilities with limited or no earning capacity will continue to be denied the opportunity to live in Columbia.** Thus our community will be denied the opportunity to experience the vibrancy of disparate communities.

Please approve FY21 Capital Budget funding for the NCC and Affordable Housing Project!

#2

I urge you to reconsider the budget cuts outlined in the budget amendment that you will vote on Wednesday, May 27. Specifically, the **drastic reduction in the funding for construction of the new East Columbia 50+ Center**. While I recognize that these are difficult times requiring difficult solutions, it is unwise and unwarranted to cut the Center funding now for the following reasons:

- The construction on the East Columbia 50+ Center was set to begin this summer (2020). Reduced funding means that the Center cannot be built now causing a delay for the project of at least a year, perhaps longer. **Delaying the project will increase the overall costs of construction. It has already been delayed resulting in a construction cost increase of \$4 million.** In fact, **seniors have been waiting over 6 years for that center to be built.** Isn't that long enough?
- The planned **50+ Center** is not "an unnecessary or un-vetted project." The East Columbia 50+ Center is a necessity which will **provide much needed services to under-served seniors** and the heavily populated community at large. Among other services, plans for the new center would include services for memory-challenged seniors in our community (there are currently no such services in this part of the County)
- A **28% reduction in this project funding represented one of the most severe cuts compared to other projects.** Why are seniors being targeted for disproportional sacrifice? They are the **fastest growing segment** of the population, they **pay taxes**, and **contribute all that is asked of them.** How is this equitable and fiscally fair?

Please reconsider this drastic reduction and restore full funding to the East Columbia 50+ Center. If Howard County is to remain a vibrant, wonderful place to live, it must provide for all its residents. **Seniors under consideration helped develop and support the growth and prosperity of Columbia.** Perhaps, **they need care and consideration now that they are aging?** They have raised their families and assured the vibrant Columbia that we now enjoy and need to secure for everyone's future.

Sincerely,

Debra L. Morehouse M.A.S., Business
**Organization, Leadership and Team
Assessment, Development and Effectiveness
OD / OE Consultant and Coach**
7339 Swan Point Way
Columbia, MD 21045

(410) 312-5085 Office
(410) 312-7390 Fax
(703) 405-3380 Cell
debramore@aol.com

Debra L. Morehouse. M.A.S., Business
**Organization, Leadership and Team
Assessment, Development and Effectiveness**

OD / OE Consultant and Coach

7339 Swan Point Way
Columbia, MD 21045

(410) 312-5085 Office

(410) 312-7390 Fax

(703) 405-3380 Cell

debramore@aol.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Gail Goldstein <gjgoldstein1@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 8:13 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Keep Funding for the New Cultural Center in Howard County

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

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I am emailing today to ask you to support FY21 Capital Budget funding for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC) and Affordable Housing Project.

Delaying the project would threaten the already secured \$62 million in Federal funding for affordable housing, dollars that must be used or be lost forever. We are therefore asking you to include funding in the FY21 Capital Budget for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC).

If the NCC project isn't funded in the FY21 Capital Budget and the \$62 million Federal dollars have been lost, it will be impossible to see Toby's dream of the NCC happen in the future.

This project will bring together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages and walks of life right here in Howard County. The arts, and especially Toby's Dinner Theatre have been a haven for my children growing up in Howard County. They wouldn't be the adults they are today with their incredible accomplishments without the opportunities they received from growing up in a county that has always emphasized the Arts!

At the same time, the multi-purpose facility will add 87 residential units that will assist the County in closing its affordable housing gap. As mentioned above, the Federal dollars will not be available without the NCC project being funded in the FY21 Capital budget cycle. Also, failure to approve this project now will threaten development of four additional multi-use projects that are to include almost half of the 900 affordable units the County committed to develop in the 2016 Downtown Redevelopment Plan.

We understand that there is no certainty about when and how the country's and our county's economy will rebound from the current economic crisis. There is certainty, however, that low and moderate-income renters will need housing now more than ever. Should the NCC project not advance in FY21, low and moderate wage earners, seniors on fixed incomes, and persons with disabilities with limited or no earning capacity will continue to be denied

the opportunity to live in Columbia. Thus our community will be denied the opportunity to experience the vibrancy of disparate communities.

Please approve FY21 Capital Budget funding for the NCC and Affordable Housing Project!

Sincerely,

Gail Goldstein

Sayers, Margery

From: The Smiths <byusmiths@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 8:11 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: support Amendment 13 to CB25

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

I ask the County Council to support Amendment 13 to CB25.
Thank you.
Christy Smith

Sayers, Margery

From: sarahpick648@gmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 7:17 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: support for NCC.....

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

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,
I am emailing today to ask you to support FY21 Capital Budget funding for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC) and Affordable Housing Project.

Delaying the project would threaten the already secured \$62 million in Federal funding for affordable housing, dollars that must be used or be lost forever. We are therefore asking you to include funding in the FY21 Capital Budget for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC).

If the NCC project isn't funded in the FY21 Capital Budget and the \$62 million Federal dollars have been lost, it will be impossible to see Toby's dream of the NCC happen in the future.

This project will bring together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages and walks of life right here in Howard County.

At the same time, the multi-purpose facility will add 87 residential units that will assist the County in closing its affordable housing gap. As mentioned above, the Federal dollars will not be available without the NCC project being funded in the FY21 Capital budget cycle. Also, failure to approve this project now will threaten development of four additional multi-use projects that are to include almost half of the 900 affordable units the County committed to develop in the 2016 Downtown Redevelopment Plan.

We understand that there is no certainty about when and how the country's and our county's economy will rebound from the current economic crisis. There is certainty, however, that low and moderate-income renters will need housing now more than ever. Should the NCC project not advance in FY21, low and moderate wage earners, seniors on fixed incomes, and persons with disabilities with limited or no earning capacity will continue to be denied the opportunity to live in Columbia. Thus our community will be denied the opportunity to experience the vibrancy of disparate communities.

Please approve FY21 Capital Budget funding for the NCC and Affordable Housing Project!

Sincerely,

Sarah Pick
7165 Deer Valley Road
Highland, MD 20777

Sayers, Margery

From: no-reply@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 7:07 AM
To: jasonabooms@gmail.com
Subject: District 4 - Budget

First Name: Jason
Last Name: Booms
Email: jasonabooms@gmail.com
Street Address: 10363 Cullen Terrace
City: Columbia
Subject: Budget

Message: Spartan Considerations here. Still haven't received a reply. I am going to be watching this vote very closely. I want to be on record here. I: - Support investment in our community - Oppose austerity measures - Want affordable housing in Downtown Columbia - Oppose job cuts (especially now!) - Support funding for vital community services Jason Booms

Sayers, Margery

From: Melva Lowry <mlowry@baltimorepresbytery.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 7:01 AM
To: CouncilMail

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

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I am emailing today to ask you to support FY21 Capital Budget funding for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC) and Affordable Housing Project.

Delaying the project would threaten the already secured \$62 million in Federal funding for affordable housing, dollars that must be used or be lost forever. We are therefore asking you to include funding in the FY21 Capital Budget for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC).

If the NCC project isn't funded in the FY21 Capital Budget and the \$62 million Federal dollars have been lost, it would be a disgrace to Howard County. As one who works with the at-risk and homeless population, there is already so little affordable housing available!

In addition, this project will bring together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages and walks of life right here in Howard County.

At the same time, the multi-purpose facility will add 87 residential units that will assist the County in closing its affordable housing gap. As mentioned above, the Federal dollars will not be available without the NCC project being funded in the FY21 Capital budget cycle. Also, failure to approve this project now will threaten development of four additional multi-use projects that are to include almost half of the 900 affordable units the County committed to develop in the 2016 Downtown Redevelopment Plan.

We understand that there is no certainty about when and how the country's and our county's economy will rebound from the current economic crisis. There is certainty, however, that low and moderate-income renters will need housing now more than ever. Should the NCC project not advance in FY21, low and moderate wage earners, seniors on fixed incomes, and persons with disabilities with limited or no earning capacity will continue to be denied the opportunity to live in Columbia. Thus our community will be denied the opportunity to experience the vibrancy of disparate communities.

Please approve FY21 Capital Budget funding for the NCC and Affordable Housing Project!

Sincerely,

Melva Lowry
Board Member, Bridge of Hope Greater Baltimore Region

Sayers, Margery

From: Glenn Rolph <gdrpadre@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 6:36 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support Amendment 13 to CB25

[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 request that you support Amendment 13 to CB25, which includes funding in the FY21 Capital Budget for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC).

Glenn Rolph

Sayers, Margery

From: Cheryle Wharton <cherylewharton@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 5:17 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: New Cultural Center in Columbia

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

Please VOTE YES for the FY21 Capital Budget funding for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC) and Affordable Housing Project.

Delaying the project would threaten the already secured \$62 million in Federal funding for affordable housing, dollars that must be used or be lost forever. We are therefore asking you to include funding in the FY21 Capital Budget for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC).

If the NCC project isn't funded in the FY21 Capital Budget and the \$62 million Federal dollars have been lost, it will be impossible to see Toby's dream of the NCC happen in the future.

This project will bring together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages and walks of life right here in Howard County.

At the same time, the multi-purpose facility will add 87 residential units that will assist the County in closing its affordable housing gap. As mentioned above, the Federal dollars will not be available without the NCC project being funded in the FY21 Capital budget cycle. Also, failure to approve this project now will threaten development of four additional multi-use projects that are to include almost half of the 900 affordable units the County committed to develop in the 2016 Downtown Redevelopment Plan.

We understand that there is no certainty about when and how the country's and our county's economy will rebound from the current economic crisis. There is certainty, however, that low and moderate-income renters will need housing now more than ever. Should the NCC project not advance in FY21, low and moderate wage earners, seniors on fixed incomes, and persons with disabilities with limited or no earning capacity will continue to be denied the opportunity to live in Columbia. Thus our community will be denied the opportunity to experience the vibrancy of disparate communities.

Please approve FY21 Capital Budget funding for the NCC and Affordable Housing Project!

Cheryle Wharton

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Pam Stevens <pamelacstevens@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 3:19 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support Amendment 13 to CB25

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

I write to ask your support of amendment 13 to CB25.
Thank you,

Pam

--

Pam Stevens

Pam Stevens GRI, CRB, ePro
Associate Broker
RE/MAX Advantage Realty
6021 University Blvd
Suite 250
Columbia/Ellicott City, MD 21043
Off: (410) 740-1200 Ext 1106
DL: (443) 656-0570
Toll-Free: (800) 548-3416

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Sayers, Margery

From: joel hurewitz <joelhurewitz@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 1:11 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support Amendment 14 to CR25-2020

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

Dear Council,

I write to ask for your support for Amendment 14 to CR25-2020 which will separate the North Columbia Fire Station from the project for the fields at Harper's Choice Middle School. You may recall, this was my request when I testified at the budget hearing. The projects are about a half-mile apart and having been separated in location have little relationship to one another in scope.

After watching the work session, it is still unclear how much of the price increase in the fire station was due to the increased square footage, increases in construction costs, or the costs for the fields, parking areas, driveways, and intersection improvements at Cedar Lane and Rivendell Lane. It also remains unclear regarding the funding source for the fields, parking and intersection improvements; are the funds coming from the fire tax and the fire portion of the transfer tax or from other sources?

It also remains unclear on the need for the fields or whether Harper's Choice is the appropriate place for the fields. The fields unlike those proposed for the East Columbia Library, Troy Park, or Blandair Park are not in the Recreation and Parks master plan.

Separation will clarify the sources of funding and the steps in the development process. The middle school is in New Town while the Cedar Lane Park properties are not.

Community Outreach

The County's community outreach for the project is rather mixed. As I have stated previously, I serve on the Harper's Choice Village Board. County presentations to the Village Board last fall and winter were canceled without explanation or detail. On March 3, 2020, Kim Pruim was on the agenda to give an update. A presentation from the County Executive's staff was not unexpected. During the prior administration, Grace Fielhaur came to a Board meeting and discussed the status of the fire station project. However, rather than a low-key update, Ms. Pruim came with an entourage including, the Director of Public Works, the Acting Fire Chief, the Assistant Fire Chief, HCDFRS staff, the fire station consultant, the Director of Recreation and Parks, and Mark Stromdahl. Councilmember Jung also attended. Neither the Village Manager nor Board were given prior notice of the County officials that would be attending the meeting.

At this Board meeting, the community was first informed that the fire station was being moved to the East Area of Cedar Lane Park and that fields would be constructed at the middle school. The previous iteration of the plan had the fire station AND the fields at the middle school—as an offer of appeasement to the community for the loss of the open space. At that time, the fire station project also included the demolition of the Old Cedar Lane School. However, when Mark Stromdahl testified to the Planning Board for the capital project, he incorrectly stated that the fields had community support. This is just not true; the COMMUNITY, other than those attending the Village Board meeting, had never had an opportunity to comment on the latest plan with the fire station at Cedar Lane Park and only new fields at the middle school.

In addition, though the Harper's Choice Community Association and the Heritage Green Townhouse Association were involved in the planning and hosting of previous community meetings for the fire station, neither received notice of the Planning Board's Capital Project Hearings.

The March 19, 2020 Planning Board Capital Project Public Hearing

The newspaper notice for the first planned Planning Board hearing was fatally defective as it stated the date of the meeting was March 5 (the publication date) and not March 19, 2020.

Notice of Public Hearing

The Howard County Planning Board will hold a public hearing on new and substantially modified capital projects that have been requested by County agencies to be included in the County Executive's proposed FY2021 Capital Budget and the FY2022-FY2031 Ten-Year Capital Improvement Master Plan. The hearing is scheduled for March 5, 2020 at 7:00 PM in the Banneker Room of the George Howard Building, 3430 Courthouse Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043. This notice is provided as required by Section 22.403(b)(3) (iii) of the Howard County Code. A brief description follows of the proposed new and substantially modified capital projects:

NEW CAPITAL PROJECTS

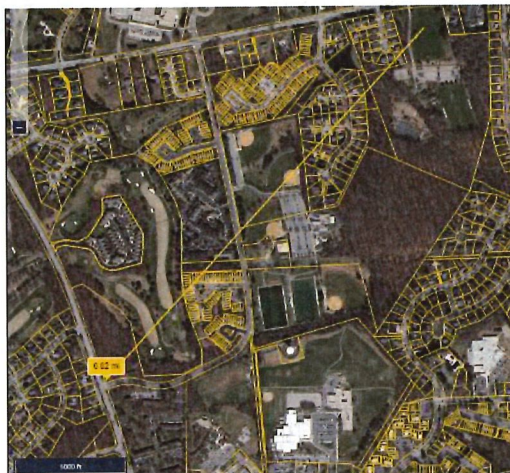
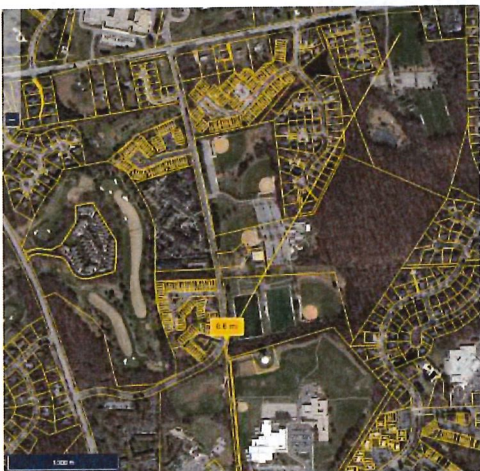
F5976 A new project to construct a 13,500 SF fire station on Route 108 to establish emergency services in a strategic position in the North Columbia area to relieve the demands associated with increased population density and call demands.

3/5, 3/12/2020 6622275

Though the newspaper stated that the project was on Route 108, the signs were posted in Harper's Choice. The project at the Harpers Choice Middle School no longer involved a fire station. It was a misstatement of material fact to refer to a "fire station" near Harper's Choice Middle School when it is now only planned to be athletic fields.



The sign placed at Rivendell and Cedar Lane was located 0.6 miles as the crow flies from the actual location of the fire station.



Section 22.403 of the Howard County Code requires that the sign be posted on the County property or on a public right-of-way. The sign in the photo was on Columbia Association property. The sign was not posted on either the right-of-way, on the Recreation and Park property, or on the DPW water tower property. Furthermore, the sign at the intersection of Rivendell and Harpers Farm Road was not the nearest public right-of-way to the property. It was 0.82 miles from the location of the fire station.

For the March 19, 2020 hearing, a sign was never observed posted at the actual location of the fire station in East Cedar Lane Park.

The April 9, 2020 Planning Board Capital Project Public Hearing

The March 19, 2020 Planning Board meeting having been canceled, the hearing was rescheduled for April 9, 2020. The sign placement for the Planning Board's hearing on April 9, 2020 were the reverse of those for the March 19 meeting. There were no signs for the capital project near the Harper's Choice Middle School. The sign below was at the East Area of Cedar Lane Park on or about March 26, 2020.



On April 9, 2020, I made formal motions and objections regarding the notice for the Planning Board. The Planning Board rejected the concerns and denied the motions.

At the next meeting of the Planning Board on April 23, 2020, Director of Planning and Zoning, Amy Gowan, though the motion had previously been denied, was given an opportunity to respond to the objections in the April 9 motions. During her presentation, Director Gowan deceptively told the Planning Board that the sign stated that the meeting would be held virtually and not at the George Howard Building. However, as can be seen the sign at East Area of Cedar Lane Park did not have the virtual location for the meeting. As some unknown time subsequent to March 26, the sign was amended to cross out the George Howard Building address lines and add the virtual information. It is unknown whether these changes were made prior to or after the April 9, 2020 hearing before the Planning Board.



Required Signage Posted at the Proposed Site off MD 108

Conclusion

For the reasons and issues discussed above, I urge the Council to adopt Amendment 14. The Amendment will separate the projects which will actually benefit the fire station project by not having it burdened by issues of the Harper's Choice Middle School fields. Furthermore, the amendment will assure that the community is involved and that the HCPSS grants its approval for the use of its school fields.

Sayers, Margery

From: Amy h kimble <Amyhkimble@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 1:05 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Funding for the Arts -Columbia Md.

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

Dear Members of the Howard County Council, I am emailing today to ask you to support FY21 Capital Budget funding for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC) and Affordable Housing Project.

Delaying the project would threaten the already secured \$62 million in Federal funding for affordable housing, dollars that must be used or be lost forever. We are therefore asking you to include funding in the FY21 Capital Budget for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC).

If the NCC project isn't funded in the FY21 Capital Budget and the \$62 million Federal dollars have been lost, it will be impossible to see Toby's dream of the NCC happen in the future.

This project will bring together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages and walks of life right here in Howard County.

Toby's Dinner Theatre is such a gift to our society and is huge asset to the county offering educational programs as well as excellent theatrical presentations for Pleasure and Entertainment.

At the same time, the multi-purpose facility will add 87 residential units that will assist the County in closing its affordable housing gap. As mentioned above, the Federal dollars will not be available without the NCC project being funded in the FY21 Capital budget cycle. Also, failure to approve this project now will threaten development of four additional multi-use projects that are to include almost half of the 900 affordable units the County committed to develop in the 2016 Downtown Redevelopment Plan.

We understand that there is no certainty about when and how the country's and our county's economy will rebound from the current economic crisis. There is certainty, however, that low and moderate-income renters will need housing now more than ever. Should the NCC project not advance in FY21, low and moderate wage earners, seniors on fixed incomes, and persons with disabilities with limited or no earning capacity will continue to be denied the opportunity to live in Columbia. Thus our community will be denied the opportunity to experience the vibrancy of disparate communities.

Please approve FY21 Capital Budget funding for the NCC and Affordable Housing Project!

Sincerely,
Amy Kimble

Sent from my iPad

Sayers, Margery

From: DEEBA Jafri <deebajafri@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 12:32 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: NCC budget testimony.
Attachments: Budget testimony 2020-21.docx

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

Please see attached.

Thank you.

Kind regards

Deeba Jafri
Elkridge, MD

Dear County Council Members,

By now you have probably received a lot of email in favor of building the NCC and the affordable housing units that come with it.

I believe that we are at a historical inflection point, with Covid-19. What we do now in this year's budget will have repercussions for decades to come.

Not so long ago we celebrated 50 years of Columbia and the values of this special place. I hope that at our 100th anniversary we will be celebrating those same Rouse values too.

NCC and all of downtown has been put together with community spaces in mind, and again, mixed income community spaces because that's what Columbia is all about.

I fear that by delaying the NCC and the affordable housing component, we won't be able to regain that ground for many years, if ever. The Housing Commission will be handicapped in obtaining LIHTCs as its rating will be negatively impacted.

We will be like Palo Alto, an incredibly wealthy county with no affordable housing happening. I don't want the headline of this news story to be our future. "First affordable-housing project in seven years wins approval."

https://www.paloaltoonline.com/news/2019/01/14/affordable-housing-project-wins-approval-in-palo-alto?fbclid=IwAR19Kq6GNUy_W6oa2skNXJAZGOrmD5la5yM04vewgv5VG_MrYgpp4UaMdvE

I see the work that all of us are helping with in Columbia Community Care and think about how many families would benefit from those 80+ units. How this housing has the power to change lives and lifetime trajectories. The current Mayor of London was a beneficiary of affordable housing as a child. Who knows what the achievements of children in those affordable housing units could be?

Housing and community gathering spaces lie at the center of Rouse's vision for an integrated diverse community in Columbia. NCC brings both of these ideas together to be an important piece of downtown Columbia.

Please don't cast a shadow across that dream and please support the NCC and the affordable housing units that come with it.

Thank you.

Deeba Jafri, Elkridge, MD.

Sayers, Margery

From: Kosmas, Michael <MKosmas@KelleyDrye.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 12:24 AM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Kosmas, Michael
Subject: Clark's Crossing Community - Columbia, Maryland - Please Support Budget Cuts

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

Dear Councilperson Rigby and Howard County Council Members:

I am the President of the Clark's Crossing Community in Columbia, Maryland, and I am writing to respectfully request your support for the budget cuts proposed by Councilpersons Walsh, Jung and Yungmann which will be voted on later today. I address Councilperson Rigby first because our community is within Council District 3, but as we are a small tight knit county, I also share our thoughts with the entire council. I am sorry that this entire process has moved so quickly right before a holiday weekend that we did not have an opportunity to address you prior to this time, and we understand that this request is contrary to the current position of our councilperson. Nevertheless we request that you keep an open mind and consider our opinions as a community as you move to a final vote.

Our community is a middle-class townhouse community in Columbia. We are neither a rich nor a poor community. Our median home sale price is approximately \$40,000 less than the median price for Howard County as a whole. And we are comprised of young families with children, retirees on fixed incomes, white collar workers, blue collar workers, government employees and private sector employees, and today, unemployed people as well. We are comprised of immigrant families from all parts of the world who immigrated at many different times over many generations. We are white and black, Christian, Jewish and Muslim. In short, we are a microcosm of this wonderful county.

Despite our great diversity, when we learned very recently about this upcoming vote and I reached out to my Board and our residents for their opinions, of everyone who responded, the response on this issue was uniform and without a single exception. During this time of great crisis and uncertainty, as many of us are facing loss of incomes and even jobs altogether, we are pulling our belts tighter and adjusting our spending to meet our in many cases reduced incomes. We do not have a switch we can pull and increase our incomes, so we are adjusting our spending. This is both at our individual household level, as well as at our community association level.

Respectfully, we request that Howard County government do the same thing. Many of us are making spending cuts in our homes of things that could be valuable and important. We are cutting more than just frivolous expenses. If we are making the hard choices in our homes, Howard County government should do the same thing. It is hard for us to understand how in operating and capex budgets of nearly \$2 Billion, prudent spending cuts cannot be found to make spending match revenue, rather than the reverse.

Many of our owners have expressed special concern that the county is pushing forward with the cultural center in the budget at a time of such great economic crisis. The concerns are not so much with the project itself as with the timing. We love the arts as much as any community, and understand that low and income median housing can be a valuable thing, not only in preventing concentrations of poverty, but also in making sure public servants such as teachers, fire fighters, police officers and nurses who protect us, especially in these difficult times, are not priced out of living in our great county. But the timing is not this year, and we do not have the right to mortgage our children's future by spending more money than we have. This is how we run our households. This is how we should run our county. And we should absolutely only spend within the constraints set by the Howard County spending affordability committee. Fiscal discipline and prudence requires this.

I know the hour is late and the vote is close at hand. But we respectfully request that our elected officials keep an open mind and consider our community's opinion, even received at this late hour. Many thanks to each of you for your dedication and service to this great county.

Respectfully,

Michael S. Kosmas
President, Clark's Crossing Community
Columbia, Maryland
(410) 925-1150

This message is subject to Kelley Drye & Warren LLP's email communication policy.

[KDW-Disclaimer](#)

Sayers, Margery

From: Marianne Otto-Smith <mottosmith@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 11:35 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: FY 2021 budget for REC and Parks

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

*Dear Members of the Howard County Council,
I am emailing you today on behalf of my daughter, Kirsten, and all her friends with disabilities currently living in Howard County, who are not able to advocate for themselves. I am asking you to support the FY2021 Operating Budget **to fund the Recreation & Parks Department**. The purposed cuts to the Recreation and Parks Department will threaten the services and programs for individuals with disabilities.*

*The need for Therapeutic programs is overwhelming, and oftentimes programs are full and waiting lists are created just 30 minutes after registration has opened for classes and programs serving people with disabilities.
Cuts to the Funding of the Parks and Rec Operating Budget would threaten much needed and relatively scarce programs here in Howard County!*

We understand that there is no specific timeline for when and how the county and our county's economy will rebound from the current crisis. But we do know that without programs and services for individuals with disabilities, this demographic will not have the opportunities that their peers have to be a vital part of the Howard County community. This traditionally under represented population relies on others to be their voice or advocate. Should the Recreation and Parks Department Budget and positions be cut, vital services will not be provided in FY21. Social engagement, sports activities, arts and vital respiratory families will be denied.

Please approve FY21 Operating Budget funding for Recreation and Parks Department!

*Sincerely,
Marianne Otto-Smith and Jeffrey Smith
Parents of Kirsten Smith*

Sayers, Margery

From: Carol Carrico <carolfrancies@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 11:35 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please fund HCRP services

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

*Dear Members of the Howard County Council,
I am emailing you today to ask you to support the FY2021 Operating Budget to fully fund the Recreation & Parks Department. The purposed cuts to the Recreation and Parks Department will threaten the services and programs for individuals with disabilities.*

We understand that there is no specific timeline for when and how the country's and our county's economy will rebound from the current crisis. But we do know that without programs and services for individuals with disabilities, this demographic will not have the opportunities that their peers have to be a vital part of the Howard County community. This traditionally under represented population relies on others to be their voice or advocate. Should the Recreation and Parks Department Budget and positions be cut, vital services will not be provided in FY21. Social engagement, sports activities, arts and vital respite for families will be denied.

These activities are my sons only form of social engagement in the community. To cut them would be devastating for him.

*There are so few activities available for people with disabilities as it is so this cut would mean even fewer opportunities for social engagement
Please approve FY21 Operating Budget funding for Recreation and Parks Department!*

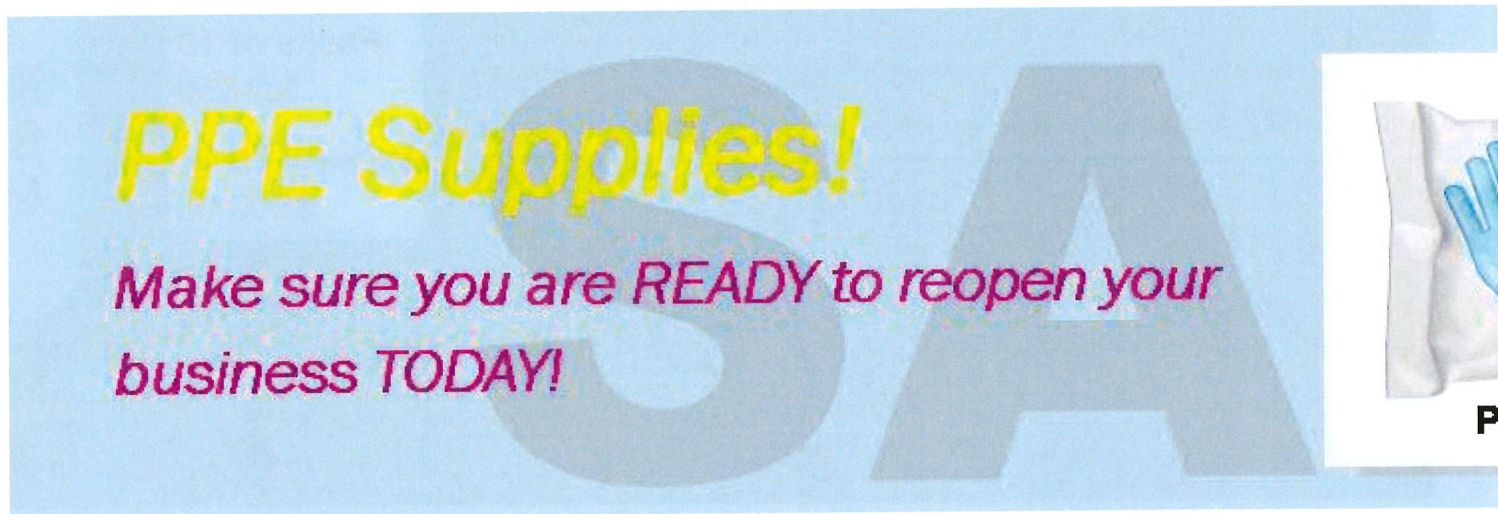
*Sincerely,
Carol Carrico*

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Lewis Buchanan <Lb@lewlewinc.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 11:34 PM
To: Sales
Cc: Sales
Subject: REOPENING YOUR BUSINESS - GET YOUR Masks - Disposable & KN95


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



PPE Supplies!

*Make sure you are **READY** to reopen your business **TODAY!***

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- ◆ APPROVED FOR PROFESSIONAL USE BY HEALTHCARE WORKERS
- ◆ NON-TOXIC, ODORLESS AND NON-IRRITATING TO THE SKIN
- ◆ SUPERIOR AT BLOCKING OUT TINY MICRONS IN THE AIR
- ◆ PACKS OF 10 OR 50

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for \$50**

**Packs of 50 for
\$200.00**

**KN95
Resp
Mask**

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Sayers, Margery

From: Melanie Bartlett <melaniebartlett@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 11:32 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support for Amendment 13 to CB25

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

County Council Members,

As an advocate for the New Cultural Center in Howard County's Capital Budget, I want to urge you to support Christiana Rigby's amendment to the Capital Budget. If this project is cut from the budget, I expect that construction costs will continue to increase in future years, driving up the price of this project. Additionally, delaying and deferring this project further may jeopardize the state and federal funding that the New Cultural Center has already received. The amendment, which would reduce spending by \$7 million, would still allow the project to move forward this year. Therefore I urge you to support Amendment 13 to CB25.

Thank you,

Melanie S. Bartlett
Toby's Member.

Sayers, Margery

From: Ellen Bartlett <ellenbartlett@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 11:25 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support for Amendment 13 to CB25

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

County Council Members,

As an advocate for the New Cultural Center in Howard County's Capital Budget, I want to urge you to support Christiana Rigby's amendment to the Capital Budget. If this project is cut from the budget, I expect that construction costs will continue to increase in future years, driving up the price of this project. Additionally, delaying and deferring this project further may jeopardize the state and federal funding that the New Cultural Center has already received. The amendment, which would reduce spending by \$7 million, would still allow the project to move forward this year. Therefore I urge you to support Amendment 13 to CB25.

Thank you,

Ellen Bartlett
Toby's Supporter

Sayers, Margery

From: Penny Rice <pennysrice@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 11:08 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: VOTE YES

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

Please VOTE YES for the FY21 Capital Budget funding for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC) and Affordable Housing Project.

Delaying the project would threaten the already secured \$62 million in Federal funding for affordable housing, dollars that must be used or be lost forever. We are therefore asking you to include funding in the FY21 Capital Budget for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC).

If the NCC project isn't funded in the FY21 Capital Budget and the \$62 million Federal dollars have been lost, it will be impossible to see Toby's dream of the NCC happen in the future.

This project will bring together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages and walks of life right here in Howard County.

At the same time, the multi-purpose facility will add 87 residential units that will assist the County in closing its affordable housing gap. As mentioned above, the Federal dollars will not be available without the NCC project being funded in the FY21 Capital budget cycle. Also, failure to approve this project now will threaten development of four additional multi-use projects that are to include almost half of the 900 affordable units the County committed to develop in the 2016 Downtown Redevelopment Plan.

We understand that there is no certainty about when and how the country's and our county's economy will rebound from the current economic crisis. There is certainty, however, that low and moderate-income renters will need housing now more than ever. Should the NCC project not advance in FY21, low and moderate wage earners, seniors on fixed incomes, and persons with disabilities with limited or no earning capacity will continue to be denied the opportunity to live in Columbia. Thus our community will be denied the opportunity to experience the vibrancy of disparate communities.

Please approve FY21 Capital Budget funding for the NCC and Affordable Housing Project!

Penelope S Rice
Columbia Resident

Sayers, Margery

From: Misty Greficz <misty.greficz@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 11:02 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Vote on May 27

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

To Councilmembers Jung, Walsh and Yungmann,

We need long-term solutions that protect the future of our county and keep it the vibrant, exciting community it is today. As someone who lives and works and hopes to raise a family here, please:

VOTE NO to:

- **Divesting** in our community
- **Cutting** funding to implement Complete Streets programs which includes pedestrian safety projects like installing crosswalks, path improvements and installing ADA compliant ramps
- **Delaying** the long-awaited construction 50+ Senior Center in East Columbia
- **Jeopardizing** affordable housing and the New Cultural Center by forgoing \$61.6M in federal tax credits
- **Reducing** funding for community resources for seniors, residents with developmental disabilities and services to our most vulnerable populations
- **Removing** all funding for road resurfacing and sidewalks across the county harming fundamental infrastructure and safety needs, with over \$52 million backlog in road work already
- **Minimizing** efforts of environmental compliance programs and delaying storm water management projects
- **Eliminating** all vacancies and the opportunity of growing and maintaining a workforce when people need jobs and core services the most.
- **Reducing** public safety budget significantly, removing support for public safety positions and community outreach efforts
- **Removing** funding for systemic improvements with deferred maintenance including critical renovations to address security needs at the Detention center.

VOTE YES to approve the proposed progressive reform to our county's recordation fees proposed by Council Members Opel Jones and Christiana Mercer Rigby.

VOTE YES for the FY21 Capital Budget funding for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC) and Affordable Housing Project.

Thank you for your service in the best interest of our entire community!

Sayers, Margery

From: Alex Greficz <alexgreficz@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 11:02 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Urgent

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

Dear Councilmembers Jung, Walsh and Yungmann,

I am deeply concerned by your amendments and proposed cuts to the FY21 Capital and Operating Budgets. Please invest in our community, seniors, education and infrastructure and commit to public safety, affordable housing and job creation. Our county can be a catalyst for reviving our community and long-term economic recovery. But these proposed budget cuts are not it. Short-term savings will not create long-term solutions and will deny our community the resources and projects we depend on.

Please **VOTE NO** to:

- **Cutting** funding to implement Complete Streets programs which includes pedestrian safety projects like installing crosswalks, path improvements and installing ADA compliant ramps
- **Delaying** the long-awaited construction 50+ Senior Center in East Columbia
- **Jeopardizing** affordable housing and the New Cultural Center by forgoing \$61.6M in federal tax credits
- **Reducing** funding for community resources for seniors, residents with developmental disabilities and services to our most vulnerable populations
- **Removing** all funding for road resurfacing and sidewalks across the county harming fundamental infrastructure and safety needs, with over \$52 million backlog in road work already
- **Minimizing** efforts of environmental compliance programs and delaying storm water management projects
- **Eliminating** all vacancies and the opportunity of growing and maintaining a workforce when people need jobs and core services the most.
- **Reducing** public safety budget significantly, removing support for public safety positions and community outreach efforts
- **Removing** funding for systemic improvements with deferred maintenance including critical renovations to address security needs at the Detention center

Councilwoman Jung, Councilwoman Walsh and Councilman Yungmann, I ask that you support our residents and **VOTE NO** to divesting in our community.

Please **VOTE YES** to approve the proposed progressive reform to our county's recordation fees proposed by Council Members Opel Jones and Christiana Mercer Rigby.

Please **VOTE YES** for the FY21 Capital Budget funding for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC) and Affordable Housing Project.

Delaying the project would threaten the already secured \$62 million in Federal funding for affordable housing, dollars that must be used or be lost forever. We are therefore asking you to include funding in the FY21 Capital Budget for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC).

If the NCC project isn't funded in the FY21 Capital Budget and the \$62 million Federal dollars have been lost, it will be impossible to see Toby's dream of the NCC happen in the future.

This project will bring together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages and walks of life right here in Howard County.

At the same time, the multi-purpose facility will add 87 residential units that will assist the County in closing its affordable housing gap. As mentioned above, the Federal dollars will not be available without the NCC project being funded in the FY21 Capital budget cycle. Also, failure to approve this project now will threaten development of four additional multi-use projects that are to include almost half of the 900 affordable units the County committed to develop in the 2016 Downtown Redevelopment Plan.

We understand that there is no certainty about when and how the country's and our county's economy will rebound from the current economic crisis. There is certainty, however, that low and moderate-income renters will need housing now more than ever. Should the NCC project not advance in FY21, low and moderate wage earners, seniors on fixed incomes, and persons with disabilities with limited or no earning capacity will continue to be denied the opportunity to live in Columbia. Thus our community will be denied the opportunity to experience the vibrancy of disparate communities.

Please approve FY21 Capital Budget funding for the NCC and Affordable Housing Project!

--

Alexander Greficz III
Attorney at Law
9520 Berger Road, Suite 212
Columbia, MD 21046
(410) 921-0006
alexgreficz@gmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: FRANK HERRON <amfjherron@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 10:49 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Allisonkorn
Subject: Amendment to Add Back Capital Funding for 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.]

We urge you to strongly support the Amendment to restore Capital Funding for the East Columbia Senior Center in the upcoming Budget. This project is of vital importance to support the concept of seniors remaining in their homes in the community. The COVID-19 pandemic has clearly demonstrated the downside of other senior living arrangements. The Senior Center will empower a diverse community of seniors to stay in the community and remain healthy. The initiative to make drastic cuts to the future budget in the face of the pandemic seems premature given the potential for a rapid return to normalcy!

Support the amendment to fund the East Columbia Senior Center!!

Thank You,
Ann and Frank Herron
9506 Angelina Circle
Columbia, MD 21045

amfjherron@msn.com
410-381-6797

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Sayers, Margery

From: Diane Cohen <dianedcohen22@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 10:27 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Funding for New Cultural Center and housing

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

Dear Members of the Howard County Council, I am asking you to please pass the funding for the New Cultural Center in Columbia and affordable housing project in the FY 21 Budget. The arts are a major factor in my love for living in Columbia. Toby's is an institution here for entertaining us and the new spaces will be instrumental in educating students in the arts, outside of school, with a place to perform. The addition of affordable housing in our Downtown is urgent. This is an excellent project to continue the values of Columbia.

The \$62 million in Federal funding for this project is secured and will be lost without the funding from the Howard County FY 21 Capital Budget. Please fund this outstanding project for the New Cultural Center and affordable housing in this new area.

Thank you for your consideration.

Diane Cohen
10671 Quarterstaff Rd.
Columbia, MD 21044

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Kat Dash <katdash5@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 10:14 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: VOTE YES for the FY21 Capital Budget funding for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC) and Affordable Housing Project

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

To do anything else goes against everything that Columbia was created for, and made Howard County what it is.

Policies and beliefs like these are why my family moved to Columbia and why I've decided to stay and start my own family.

Katherine Dash

Sayers, Margery

From: life192124 <life192124@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 10:10 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Ncc support

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

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,
I am emailing [today](#) to ask you to support FY21 Capital Budget funding for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC) and Affordable Housing Project.

Delaying the project would threaten the already secured \$62 million in Federal funding for affordable housing, dollars that must be used or be lost forever. We are therefore asking you to include funding in the FY21 Capital Budget for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC).

If the NCC project isn't funded in the FY21 Capital Budget and the \$62 million Federal dollars have been lost, it will be impossible to see Toby's dream of the NCC happen in the future.

This project will bring together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages and walks of life right here in Howard County.

At the same time, the multi-purpose facility will add 87 residential units that will assist the County in closing its affordable housing gap. As mentioned above, the Federal dollars will not be available without the NCC project being funded in the FY21 Capital budget cycle. Also, failure to approve this project now will threaten development of four additional multi-use projects that are to include almost half of the 900 affordable units the County committed to develop in the 2016 Downtown Redevelopment Plan.

We understand that there is no certainty about when and how the country's and our county's economy will rebound from the current economic crisis. There is certainty, however, that low and moderate-income renters will need housing now more than ever. Should the NCC project not advance in FY21, low and moderate wage earners, seniors on fixed incomes, and persons with disabilities with limited or no earning capacity will continue to be denied the opportunity to live in Columbia. Thus our community will be denied the opportunity to experience the vibrancy of disparate communities.

Please approve FY21 Capital Budget funding for the NCC and Affordable Housing Project!

Sincerely,

Jesse Knox
Theater and community supporter at a time when both are needed most

Sayers, Margery

From: Babette Silverman <babette13@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 9:49 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: NCC SUPPORT

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

Dear Members of the Howard County Council, I am emailing today to ask you to support FY21 Capital Budget funding for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC) and Affordable Housing Project. Delaying the project would threaten the already secured \$62 million in Federal funding for affordable housing, dollars that must be used or be lost forever. We are therefore asking you to include funding in the FY21 Capital Budget for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC).

If the NCC project isn't funded in the FY21 Capital Budget and the \$62 million Federal dollars have been lost, it will be impossible to see Toby's dream of the NCC happen in the future.

This project will bring together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages and walks of life right here in Howard County.

At the same time, the multi-purpose facility will add 87 residential units that will assist the County in closing its affordable housing gap. As mentioned above, the Federal dollars will not be available without the NCC project being funded in the FY21 Capital budget cycle. Also, failure to approve this project now will threaten development of four additional multi-use projects that are to include almost half of the 900 affordable units the County committed to develop in the 2016 Downtown Redevelopment Plan.

We understand that there is no certainty about when and how the country's and our county's economy will rebound from the current economic crisis. There is certainty, however, that low and moderate-income renters will need housing now more than ever. Should the NCC project not advance in FY21, low and moderate wage earners, seniors on fixed incomes, and persons with disabilities with limited or no earning capacity will continue to be denied the opportunity to live in Columbia. Thus our community will be denied the opportunity to experience the vibrancy of disparate communities.

Please approve FY21 Capital Budget funding for the NCC and Affordable Housing Project!

Sincerely,
Babette Silverman

Sent from my iPad

Sayers, Margery

From: Betty Myers <bettymyers@mac.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 9:44 PM
To: Jung, Deb; Walsh, Elizabeth; Yungmann, David
Cc: CouncilMail
Subject: FY21 Capital Budget-restore 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 Council members Jung, Walsh and Yungmann,
Sadly you have proposed a \$4.5 million cut to the East Columbia 50+ Center funding. As seniors in East Columbia, we deserve better, and the need for this Center will only increase after the COVID-19 pandemic has ended. We have worked tirelessly to raise awareness of the importance of this resource. You likely would be pushing to ensure funding for this if your loved one suffered from dementia and you needed respite care, and a safe space for your parent, or wife or husband. Or you lived alone, and this center was vital to your wellbeing through needed services.

I realize you have tough decisions, and need to develop strategies for funding all the promises that have been made over the years. Maybe you realize, too, that many of those needing this resource have contributed their tax dollars for a variety of things that have little direct benefit. It's our turn to be respected and supported, and not pushed aside yet again.

Therefore, I urge you to support Councilwoman Rigby's amendment to the budget cuts to restore funding for the East Columbia 50+ Center in the FY21 Capital Budget.

CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov

It's shameful dishonor the commitment of us seniors over the years by severely cutting the one feature that could enhance our lives greatly.

Please support the amendment, and find creative ways to fund this project.

Betty Myers

**5238 Raccoon Court
Columbia, MD 21045
410-715-1175**

Only the curious will learn and only the resolute overcome the obstacles to learning. The quest quotient has always excited me more than the intelligence quotient. -Eugene S. Wilson

Sayers, Margery

From: Jennifer Solpietro <jennygrlrocks@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 9:42 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: FY21 Budget Decisions

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

Dear Councilmembers Jung, Walsh, and Yungmann:

I am deeply concerned by your amendments and proposed cuts to the FY21 Capital and Operating Budgets. Please invest in our community, seniors, education and infrastructure and commit to public safety, affordable housing and job creation. Our county can be a catalyst for reviving our community and long-term economic recovery. But these proposed budget cuts are not it. Short-term savings will not create long-term solutions and will deny our community the resources and projects we depend on.

Please VOTE NO to:

Cutting funding to implement Complete Streets programs which includes pedestrian safety projects like installing crosswalks, path improvements and installing ADA compliant ramps

Delaying the long-awaited construction 50+ Senior Center in East Columbia

Jeopardizing affordable housing and the New Cultural Center by forgoing \$61.6M in federal tax credits

Reducing funding for community resources for seniors, residents with developmental disabilities and services to our most vulnerable populations

Removing all funding for road resurfacing and sidewalks across the county harming fundamental infrastructure and safety needs, with over \$52 million backlog in road work already

Minimizing efforts of environmental compliance programs and delaying storm water management projects

Eliminating all vacancies and the opportunity of growing and maintaining a workforce when people need jobs and core services the most.

Reducing public safety budget significantly, removing support for public safety positions and community outreach efforts

Removing funding for systemic improvements with deferred maintenance including critical renovations to address security needs at the Detention center

Councilwoman Jung, Councilwoman Walsh and Councilman Yungmann, I ask that you support our residents and VOTE NO to divesting in our community.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Solpietro

District 4

Sayers, Margery

From: Steven Sachs <swsachs@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 9:30 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: New Cultural Center and Affordable Housing

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

Council Persons,

I hope that the Amendment proposed by Councilperson Rigby will allow you to support this project.

Last week, Councilperson Rigby, introduced an amendment to the New Cultural Center which would reduce spending by \$7 million and still allow the project to move forward this year. I hope that you will find this to be a fiscally responsible approach to funding the New Cultural Center/Affordable Housing.

Respectfully,

Steven Sachs

Swsachs@icloud.com
410-209-0712

2811 English Bond Court
Woodstock, MD. 21163

Sent from my iPad

Sayers, Margery

From: Deborah Clutts <deborahclutts@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 9:29 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: NCC Support

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

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I am emailing today to ask you to support FY21 Capital Budget funding for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC) and Affordable Housing Project. One of the capstones of the downtown Columbia revitalization project is the New Cultural Center.

If the project is delayed, it is likely the already secured \$62 million in Federal funding for affordable housing will be lost forever. I am respectfully asking you to include funding in the FY21 Capital Budget for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC).

If the NCC project isn't funded in the FY21 Capital Budget and the \$62 million Federal dollars have been lost, it will be impossible to see Toby's dream and our hopes for the development of the NCC come to fruition. This would be a serious and disappointing loss for Columbia and for all of Howard County.

This project will bring together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages and walks of life right here in Howard County. As well, it will assist Howard County in offering additional affordable housing, which is sorely needed in our community.

At the same time, the multi-purpose facility will add 87 residential units that will assist the County in closing its affordable housing gap. As mentioned above, the Federal dollars will not be available without the NCC project being funded in the FY21 Capital budget cycle. Also, failure to approve this project now will threaten development of four additional multi-use projects that are to include almost half of the 900 affordable units the County committed to develop in the 2016 Downtown Redevelopment Plan.

There is no certainty about when and how the country's and our county's economy will rebound from the current economic crisis. There is certainty, however, that low and moderate-income renters will need housing now more than ever. Should the NCC project not advance in FY21, low and moderate wage earners, seniors on fixed incomes, and persons with disabilities with limited or no earning capacity will continue to be denied the opportunity to live in Columbia. Thus our community will be denied the opportunity to experience the vibrancy of disparate communities.

I understand these are extremely difficult times, and that there are serious and unique stressors on the County's budget. But this is one project that cannot afford to be delayed. Please approve FY21 Capital Budget funding for the NCC and Affordable Housing Project!

Best regards,

Deborah Clutts
10607 Millet Seed Hill
Columbia, MD 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Khaleda Hasan <shahidkhaleda@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 9:18 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Reconsider the devastating cuts in the FY21 and support the recordation tax increase

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

Dear Councilmembers,

I am writing to express my dismay and frustration regarding the budget cuts for FY21 Capital and Operating Budgets. I tuned in a few times to the work sessions in between working on the volunteer projects I continue to work on for the PTA and for my community and helping my kids with their online learning. Frankly, I'm disappointed by how sloppily this is being handled. The massive cuts being proposed clearly have not been carefully considered by some of you and I urge you to think about the long-term impacts of your decisions. Not knowing how many positions your budget cuts impact in each department is unacceptable.

I am writing as a private citizen, but to give a little background, I have served on the SAAC for two years in a row and I understand the big picture (at least slightly better than the average resident) when it comes to how complex the counties needs are and how much our wonderful amenities cost. I understand that the County already has a challenging time reigning in spending. The SAAC has suggested that the County examine multiple sources for increasing revenue and the County Council has acted on some of those suggestions in the past. The recordation tax increase is one of those suggestions that should be a no brainer. With the potential to bring in over \$20 million, I'm left wondering what any Councilmember is thinking in not supporting this. I hope you've already changed your mind on this, but if you haven't, please provide an explanation because I just don't understand.

I want to reiterate the importance of balancing fiscal responsibility with recognizing the need for economic growth. I shouldn't have to remind elected officials that a county budget is not the same as a household budget. The level of cuts proposed will lead to extreme negligence and will end up costing more in the long run.

As an education advocate, I'm disheartened that after so many years of advocacy from local communities and individual community members that you are considering taking away Complete Streets funding for safer walking paths to school for children (who would then no longer need bus transportation, i.e., savings in transportation costs). I am in disbelief that THREE of you are considering delaying ADA compliance across the county.

Looking through the proposed cuts, I'm frankly terrified at the downstream effects of cutting funding for long delayed improvements to infrastructure, like our roads and sidewalks, which as relayed to the SAAC and I'm sure to you, is already backlogged by over \$50 million.

It's unconscionable that some of you have proposed cuts that will eliminate vacancies and opportunities for jobs within the county. We should be providing as much opportunity for our residents to find employment within our county, especially when so many are already facing new or prolonged unemployment.

While a new cultural center may seem frivolous by name, surely you understand that you would be jeopardizing a potential increase in the much-needed stock in the affordable housing and that you would be leaving tens of millions of federal tax credits on the table. The fact that many teachers and first responders who work in the county can't even afford to live here without a supplemental income should tell you how badly needed affordable housing is for the more vulnerable residents.

Finally, having heard two years in a row, the budget proposal from the Department of Corrections, I cannot fathom what makes you think the detention center can handle any MORE deferred maintenance than it has already been suffering from for years. I was haunted the first time I heard the bare bones budget proposal last year and I continue to worry about the building that is literally falling apart.

In closing, I hope you vote keeping in mind the downstream and long-term effects of your decisions will on the county's growth and health. You will have to make tough decisions, but start with the easiest one and support the increase in the progressive recordation tax.

Respectfully,

Khaleda Hasan, PhD

Sayers, Margery

From: Rebecca Yorinks <rebeccayorinks@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 9:12 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC) and Affordable Housing Project

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

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I am emailing today to ask you to support FY21 Capital Budget funding for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC) and Affordable Housing Project. Delaying the project would threaten the already secured \$62 million in Federal funding for affordable housing, dollars that must be used or be lost forever. We are therefore asking you to include funding in the FY21 Capital Budget for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC).

If the NCC project isn't funded in the FY21 Capital Budget and the \$62 million Federal dollars have been lost, it will be impossible to see Toby's dream of the NCC happen in the future.

This project will bring together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages and walks of life right here in Howard County.

At the same time, the multi-purpose facility will add 87 residential units that will assist the County in closing its affordable housing gap. As mentioned above, the Federal dollars will not be available without the NCC project being funded in the FY21 Capital budget cycle. Also, failure to approve this project now will threaten development of four additional multi-use projects that are to include almost half of the 900 affordable units the County committed to develop in the 2016 Downtown Redevelopment Plan.

We understand that there is no certainty about when and how the country's and our county's economy will rebound from the current economic crisis. There is certainty, however, that low and moderate-income renters will need housing now more than ever. Should the NCC project not advance in FY21, low and moderate wage earners, seniors on fixed incomes, and persons with disabilities with limited or no earning capacity will continue to be denied the opportunity to live in Columbia. Thus our community will be denied the opportunity to experience the vibrancy of disparate communities.

Please approve FY21 Capital Budget funding for the NCC and Affordable Housing Project!

Sincerely,

Becca Yorinks

Sayers, Margery

From: Patrick Albright <pdsa1983@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 9:11 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Affordable Housing and Arts Center

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

Dear Howard County Council,

I'm writing to you, on the night before the vote, to voice my opinion on the affordable housing and cultural center project in downtown Columbia. I 100% believe that this affordable housing project is a necessity. I work in the arts. The arts are my passion and the arts are my career choice. It is next to impossible to find affordable housing in Howard County. Especially affordable housing that is not deplorable and run down. One can go to a neighboring county and find affordable housing but that adds expenses with having to own a car and commute to Columbia, MD for employment. According to US Today, Howard County is the third wealthiest county in the United States. Third out of 3,142 counties in the United States. I can understand if there were a discrepancy for funding in a low population county in central West Virginia or on the Bayou of Louisiana, but Howard county is neither of these types of places. And I am not saying that places like West Virginia don't deserve government funding because the most certainly do. That being said, not everyone in Howard County has a 6 figure job. People that only make \$28,000 a year or less do deserve to have the opportunity to live in a place that has class without breaking the bank. That is what I understand and see this project being. That is why I think this affordable housing project is very important to the new cultural district of Columbia, MD. Thank you so much for taking the time to read this.

Sincerely,

Patrick Albright

Sayers, Margery

From: Laurie Diener <diener.lauren@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 9:08 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: NCC/Affordable Housing Project Funding

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

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I am emailing today to ask you to support FY21 Capital Budget funding for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC) and Affordable Housing Project. Delaying the project would threaten the already secured \$62 million in Federal funding for affordable housing, dollars that must be used or be lost forever. We are therefore asking you to include funding in the FY21 Capital Budget for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC).

If the NCC project isn't funded in the FY21 Capital Budget and the \$62 million Federal dollars have been lost, it will be impossible to see Toby's dream of the NCC happen in the future.

This project will bring together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages and walks of life right here in Howard County.

At the same time, the multi-purpose facility will add 87 residential units that will assist the County in closing its affordable housing gap. As mentioned above, the Federal dollars will not be available without the NCC project being funded in the FY21 Capital budget cycle. Also, failure to approve this project now will threaten development of four additional multi-use projects that are to include almost half of the 900 affordable units the County committed to develop in the 2016 Downtown Redevelopment Plan.

We understand that there is no certainty about when and how the country's and our county's economy will rebound from the current economic crisis. There is certainty, however, that low and moderate-income renters will need housing now more than ever. Should the NCC project not advance in FY21, low and moderate wage earners, seniors on fixed incomes, and persons with disabilities with limited or no earning capacity will continue to be denied the opportunity to live in Columbia. Thus our community will be denied the opportunity to experience the vibrancy of disparate communities.

Please approve FY21 Capital Budget funding for the NCC and Affordable Housing Project!

Sincerely,

Laurie & Steve Diener
10622 Millet Seed Hill
Columbia, MD 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: barbara lebson <barbdog3@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 8:57 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: FY21 capital Budget

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

Council:

How can one proposal have so many advantages at the same time? To provide culture, arts, education, affordable housing, and recreation to prevent crime and get the youth of Howard County interested in things that are so beneficial to them?

Many of us who raised children in Baltimore turned to Howard County for these very things. Please keep them available with this brilliant proposal that miraculously has funding available.

Keep Jim Rouse's intentions alive.

My daughter benefited from teen experiences involved with Toby's summer program that shaped her entire character and life.

Sincere thanks for reading this.

Barbara Lebson

Sayers, Margery

From: Anthony Neenan <campyman@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 8:51 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: County Ciuncil Support of Amendment 13 to CB25

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

To the Howard County Council :

I Strongly encourage the County Council to support Amendment 13 to CB25 to fund the New Cultural Center in Howard County's FY21 Capital Budget. In these trying times low income housing is needed more than ever.
Please vote yes on Amendment 13 to CB25.

Sincerely

Anthony Neenan

Anthony Neenan
campyman@verizon.net
cell: 443-756-0065

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Linda Eisenberg <eisenbhouse@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 8:33 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Funding for New Cultural Center and Affordable Housing Project

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

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I am emailing today to ask you to support FY21 Capital Budget funding for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC) and Affordable Housing Project.

Delaying the project would threaten the already secured \$62 million in Federal funding for affordable housing, dollars that must be used or be lost forever. We are therefore asking you to include funding in the FY21 Capital Budget for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC).

If the NCC project isn't funded in the FY21 Capital Budget and the \$62 million Federal dollars have been lost, it will be impossible to see Toby's dream of the NCC happen in the future.

This project will bring together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages and walks of life right here in Howard County.

At the same time, the multi-purpose facility will add 87 residential units that will assist the County in closing its affordable housing gap. As mentioned above, the Federal dollars will not be available without the NCC project being funded in the FY21 Capital budget cycle. Also, failure to approve this project now will threaten development of four additional multi-use projects that are to include almost half of the 900 affordable units the County committed to develop in the 2016 Downtown Redevelopment Plan.

We understand that there is no certainty about when and how the country's and our county's economy will rebound from the current economic crisis. There is certainty, however, that low and moderate-income renters will need housing now more than ever. Should the NCC project not advance in FY21, low and moderate wage earners, seniors on fixed incomes, and persons with disabilities with limited or no earning capacity will continue to be denied the opportunity to live in Columbia. Thus our community will be denied the opportunity to experience the vibrancy of disparate communities.

Please approve FY21 Capital Budget funding for the NCC and Affordable Housing Project!

Sincerely,

Linda Eisenberg
10417 Blue Arrow Court
Columbia, MD 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Katherine Lewis <katherinelewis40@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 8:23 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Recreation & Parks Support

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

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I am emailing you today to ask you to support the FY2021 Operating Budget to fully fund the Recreation & Parks Department. The purposed cuts to the Recreation and Parks Department will threaten the services and programs for individuals with disabilities.

We understand that there is no specific timeline for when and how the country's and our county's economy will rebound from the current crisis. But we do know that without programs and services for individuals with disabilities, this demographic will not have the opportunities that their peers have to be a vital part of the Howard County community. As a mother of a 27 year old daughter with autism, I know there is a tremendous need for these services. In fact the last two sessions I attempted to register my daughter, I was unable to enroll her. These classes filled up within minutes. Without these classes my daughter would be more isolated than she is now. Please do not take away the few services that are now available for her population. My daughter health, safety and quality of life depends on them.

Please approve FY21 Operating Budget funding for Recreation and Parks Department!

Regards

Katherine Lewis

Sayers, Margery

From: Nathan Rosen <nathan.h.rosen@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 8:11 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: NCC Support

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

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I am emailing today to ask you to support FY21 Capital Budget funding for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC) and Affordable Housing Project.

Delaying the project would threaten the already secured \$62 million in Federal funding for affordable housing—dollars that must be used or be lost to us forever.

This project will bring together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages and walks of life right here in Howard County.

At the same time, the multi-purpose facility will add 87 residential units that will assist the County in closing its affordable housing gap. As mentioned above, the Federal dollars have been secured but must be expended in the upcoming budget cycle. Also, failure to approve the remainder of the capital budget would threaten development of four additional multi-use projects that are to include almost half of the 900 affordable units the County committed to develop in the 2016 Downtown Development Plan.

We understand that there is no certainty about when and how the country's and our county's economy will rebound from the current economic crisis. There is certainty, however, that low and moderate-income renters will need housing now more than ever. Should the NCC project not advance in FY21, low and moderate wage earners, seniors on fixed incomes, and persons with disabilities with limited or no earning capacity will continue to be denied the opportunity to live in Columbia. And our community will be denied the opportunity to experience the vibrancy of disparate communities.

Please approve FY21 Capital Budget funding for the NCC and Affordable Housing Project!

Sincerely,

Nathan H. Rosen

Sayers, Margery

From: Larry Corsa <president@heritagegreen.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 8:08 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana; Jones, Opel; Yungmann, David
Cc: Jung, Deb; CouncilMail
Subject: Re: Testimony in Support of CB25-2020 Amendment 14
Attachments: extract from Budget Work Session 5_22 re Fire Station.docx

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

Please find attached a transcript from the May 22, 2020 Budget Work Session regarding Amendment 14. I would like this information to be made part of the public record.

Best regards,

Larry Corsa, President
Heritage Green Townhouse Association
5253 Lightfoot Path, Columbia, MD 21044
443-745-0703

On Tue, May 26, 2020 at 4:12 PM Larry Corsa <president@heritagegreen.net> wrote:

My name is Larry Corsa and I am president of the Heritage Green Townhouse Association. Our neighborhood is located directly across Cedar and Rivendell Lanes from Cedar Lane Park and the Harpers Choice MS grounds. I represent approximately 200 residents who have been following the North Columbia Fire Station project since we were made aware of it in 2017.

My community supports the need for a fire station serving northern Columbia, and agrees that a site on Route 108 offers the best access, despite traffic concerns. The proposed site for the fire station facility is located within the boundaries of Cedar Lane Park, and uses land from an existing turf field to save time and money; yet there is \$3M available in a contingency fund to build a replacement field and much more a half mile away on Harpers Choice MS grounds.

I am writing to support Amendment 14 to Council Bill CB25-2020 to require a "community outreach meeting including a public presentation and comment process on preliminary site plans". Friday's discussion of this amendment centered around the need for an open and transparent process that provides opportunity for community involvement. Councilman Jones indicated that he was not aware of any non-transparency in the process to date; Chief Anuszewski indicated that there was no intent to be non-transparent; Mr. Delorme stated that "we always have transparency on all our projects."; and Mr. Stromdahl said "I guess I don't necessarily agree that the process really hasn't been transparent" and later added that "we did push to get it into the planning board, so we could get it in this budget this year".

While I have lived in Howard County for twenty years, this fire station project has been my first exposure to the workings of Howard County Government. As an outside observer, the processes seem to be designed almost exclusively around the internal needs of the government participants, and are anything but transparent. I do not mean to imply any ill intent, but it has been a challenge the past three years to stay abreast of events to react in a timely manner, never mind to observe or affect the process in motion. I testified to the Planning Board on March 19th regarding the lack of proper notice and the need to take extraordinary measures in these extraordinary times, rather than as an excuse to do the minimum required.

I appreciate that the new site takes away a soccer field from the east area of Cedar Lane Park and I support the idea that replacement facilities and parking will be added to the west area by the Harpers Choice Middle School. However, the new fields bring along new roads and reconfigured intersections to the school grounds, and these impacts require much more information. I urge the Council to pass Amendment 14 to assure that these additional funds are spent in a manner that includes a large measure of community involvement.

Sincerely,

Larry Corsa, President
Heritage Green Townhouse Association
5253 Lightfoot Path, Columbia, MD 21044
443-745-0703

Transcript from the May 22, 2020 Budget Work Session <https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/Online-Tools/Watch-Us>. Time 0:00 in this extract is relative to time 35:47 in video transcript http://archive-media.granicus.com:443/OnDemand/howardcounty/howardcounty_33c1dad8b-8855-4954-a226-f46fc006eacb.mp4

Ms. Jung (00:02):

Oh, the North Columbia Fire Station. Okay, so... CD 25, number 12... just wanna go to that page. Oh.

Chairwoman Rigby (00:21):

I think next is your fire station one.

Ms. Jung (00:37):

14. Oh, right, okay. I thought we were still looking at the cultural center. Okay. 14, which is the fire station. This is really weird, I need people to help me label things. Well, I'll just talk about it without looking at it, 'cause I know what it's about. This is to put \$3 million in contingency for the, um, the field, uh, for the, um, the turf field that was attached to the new fire station. The fire station money remains in the fund but the \$3 million goes into contingency, and the contingency is to ensure that there is a transparent public process regarding the, uh, field, the addition of the field in the back of Harper's Choice Middle School, and that the, um, administration is also transparent in the process of its agreements with the Board of Education and in MOU.

Ms. Jung (02:01):

You're smiling, Ms. Rigby. You're like, "This woman is never gonna let this fire station go." I know Mr. Yungmann is thinking the same thing. I- I am happy to let the fire station move, but I wanna make sure that when it moves, it moves in a very open and transparent process. I have not seen that so far and I really would like to see that for the sake of the community. So, whatever happens, happens. But I would like to see it be open and transparent. That's it.

Dr. Jones (02:42):

Since, uh, we have dozens of people either on the line or waiting to speak, can someone speak to it? Um, the supposed non-transparency of this field? I know I've read about it, and I don't even live over there.

Ms. Jung (02:56):

Well, I know... I know that in order to get the agreement between the Board of Education and the county administration, um, we had to do an MPIA. So... that's not exactly what I call transparent.

Chairwoman Rigby (03:13):

Are we doing the time for questions? So, I- I just don't wanna... I wanna make sure that I'm only talking...

Ms. Jung (03:18):

Yes, we are. We're timing. Yes.

Chairwoman Rigby (03:20):

Okay. So who, whose turn is it? Who's on first?

Ms. Jung (03:22):

Um, well, uh, I didn't set up a who goes first, second, and third. But, um, you can feel free to ask a question.

Chairwoman Rigby (03:37):

Is Dr. Jones going... is it... is it Dr. Jones' turn, so that he can ask the questions [crosstalk 00:03:43].

Ms. Jung (03:42):

Okay. Dr. Jones, would you like to ask any other questions?

Dr. Jones (03:47):

No, I mean, I was just curious to see if anyone had anything to say about it. Um, you- you mentioned that it was not transparent. You mentioned, uh, an MPIA. There may be someone here to talk about that. If not, then okay, but I don't know. I just, I'm- I don't know of too many things, if anything at all, happening in a non-transparent way. So, that's just me, though. I mean, you have a different take, you're more invested on that side of the county, which I appreciate, 'cause I'm paying more attention to things on this side of the county. But maybe someone could say that it is or it isn't. I'm not sure.

Raul Delorme (04:23):

Do you want to start off? Or do you want me to start?

Chief William Anuszewski (04:29):

No, I- I was just- just leaning in trying to get a breath in, but uh, first let me say thank you to, uh, Chairman Jung, Chairwoman Jung, for the little acknowledgement in the beginning. I couldn't unmute myself to say thank you, so I say thank you now.

Ms. Jung (04:42):

Aw, well, we're really excited that you're the new chief, and we're very, very happy that you have secured this job. And I know that we already enjoy working with you, and I know.... I- I wanna say it to your... I was gonna say to your face, but to the screen, to your face on the screen, um, that, um, we're- we're really glad that, uh, you- you will be the new chief. So, yay.

Chief William Anuszewski (05:08):

Look forward to the- the continued partnership. Uh, first, let's- let's talk about... I'm not sure about the transparency either. I know that, um, you know, that- that my involvement in it with the community meeting. I know there was good to be more meetings going on with the public as far as the direction of the station, input as far as where it was going.

Chief William Anuszewski (05:26):

Um, unfortunately, COVID's kinda derailed us a little bit there. So, um, that is more into the DPW side of things. [inaudible 00:05:36] as far as meetings, but I don't think we are... there's no intent to be non-

transparent with this process at all. We know there needs to be a fire station there, um, to help protect the public. We know we have response time issues into that area. Uh, so we know it's needed.

Chief William Anuszewski (05:52):

Now, the... as far as the \$3 million transfer to the, um, uh, to the contingency plan, these are kinda protected funds as they are, because they are fire tax funds. So they- they can't really be spent in other areas of, uh, funding throughout the county, because... 'cause they're tied back to the fire tax. I'm not sure the- the need to put into the contingency line elsewhere.

Chief William Anuszewski (06:17):

Uh, I think once we have the Waterloo plan finalized, we will have a great, uh, consideration for what the cost of construction of a fire station will be, 'cause it's gonna be the same fire station minus a, uh, the police hub that we had built into this fire station at Waterloo. So we'll have a better idea of what the standard footprint fire station will look like once that's done.

Chief William Anuszewski (06:39):

As far as the- the planning meetings and everything else, I would have to ask, uh, Mr. [Stromdahl 00:06:44] to speak on that part.

Ms. Jung (06:46):

Mis-... okay.

Raul Delerme (06:52):

I can go ahead and start until Mark is... and this is Raoul. Um, we always, uh, have transparency on all of our projects. Um, you know, one... when we were asked and talked to the, you know, fire department, Mark Stromdahl about this project, uh, to be placed on the Cedar Lane Park.

Raul Delerme (07:08):

Um, one of our goals was, you know, to get that field replaced, and- and we looked at the area behind the school, and- and it seemed to work out really well, so we did a conceptual plan of that layout, we- we presented it to the village board there, and... as well as, um, you know, to the board, uh, to the Howard County Public School System. And, um, we haven't gone any further to date, you know, we're waiting through the... for this process, and, um, you know, I think it's been looked at by the- the chief there, and- and Mark, and it seemed to work out really well, where- where they're locating along Cedar Lane Road... I mean, not Cedar Lane Road, Route 108.

Raul Delerme (07:44):

So, um, our next step will be to take it to the public. So, for further transparency. So, Mark, I'll let you speak on that behalf.

Mark Stromdahl (07:52):

Okay, yeah. Um, appreciate that. So, um, I guess I don't necessarily agree that- that the process really hasn't been transparent. Um, with the original scheme, where the fire station was down, uh, off of Cedar Lane, I mean, we had, uh, we began with, you know, the sort of, um, required public meetings, starting the SDP process, and that led to a number of public meetings, to present the project and gather

input from the public, and, um, and as a result of those public meetings, we actually... I think that's when we came up with, uh, the relocation, you know, in Cedar Lane Park East, and, um, and just with the fields down by, uh, down off of Cedar Lane.

Mark Stromdahl (08:40):

So, I think, um, you know, as far as the school board goes, we never could get that project far enough along to where we could begin to really develop the agreement at that time with the school board, because we couldn't define what the property was gonna be. So there wasn't anything to share. Certainly that would be shared once we were able to get to some kind of an agreement, and in this situation, I know, um, I mean, we've been accused of, uh, or it's been suggested, that we, you know, haven't been transparent with the new direction that the project has taken.

Mark Stromdahl (09:17):

But I mean, we did push to get it into the planning board, so we could get it in this budget this year, but there's certainly no intention not to have, you know, all the public meetings required to discuss both the fire station, um, and the park. Um, and whatever it is... and, you know, be hoping about what we're... we would be talking to the school board about, though.

Ms. Jung (09:37):

Good. Thank you.

Mark Stromdahl (09:40):

Thank you so much.

Ms. Jung (09:46):

All right. And then, these other... uh, CR-60 is the resolution that goes along with CB-25, amendment 14. Um, so next is capital...

Chairwoman Rigby (10:01):

Sorry, I did... I did have a question.

Ms. Jung (10:03):

Oh, I'm sorry. Go ahead.

Chairwoman Rigby (10:05):

Sorry, I was just waiting my turn.

Ms. Jung (10:06):

Okay.

Chairwoman Rigby (10:06):

Um, so, my question is about the cost of the fire station, and the cost of delay. Um, so, Mr. Stromdahl, could you talk about what the delays have cost county taxpayers already? And then if this... if this

amendment doesn't cause any additional delay, then that's fine. I just wanna if there is a cost to- to this amendment or not.

Mark Stromdahl ([10:31](#)):

Um, well, I'd have to go back and look at some past budget years to see where we were with this project. But I would say, um, 'cause we've been working on this for a long time. So this is a rough number, I'd have to verify it, but I mean, we could be in the one to two million dollar range of additional costs, say from the time that we, you know, really first began working on this a few years ago.

Mark Stromdahl ([10:55](#)):

Um, going forward, I mean, typically, um, any time you delay a project, it always gets more expensive. Uh, construction costs typically go up, and a lot of times, there's changes in regulations, and, um, and then you have to go back and, um, you know, adjust the site plan or the building plan to comply with new regulations. You know, this is a case with what's going on in the economy now, it's- it's hard to predict. You know, we might catch a break, and things could be less. But, you know, you really can't count on that. So, um, and generally, you know, they- they do cost more, uh, each year that you delay it, so.

Chairwoman Rigby ([11:35](#)):

Well, I think just this year's delay was about \$2.6 million, if I'm looking in the capital budget correctly. Um, so...

Mark Stromdahl ([11:46](#)):

So I wasn't too far off with my guesstimate there, I think. So, yeah.

Chairwoman Rigby ([11:50](#)):

Yeah. Um, so, but would putting it... would taking a portion of the funds and putting it in contingency cause a delay or not cause a delay?

Mark Stromdahl ([12:00](#)):

Um, I'm not sure what the rules are, as far as our ability to spend, if... I mean, if we're able to- to spend them...

Chairwoman Rigby ([12:07](#)):

Okay. I can follow up later on that part. Um, just it was on the agenda, so I wanted to make sure I- I took the time to ask. So thank you.

Ms. Jung ([12:17](#)):

Mr. Yungmann has a question.

Mr. Yungmann ([12:20](#)):

Um, so the project has gone up two and a half million dollars, Mark? In a year?

Mark Stromdahl ([12:29](#)):

Um, I guess... I guess I'm going on Ms. Rigby's word on that, but I- I think it's gone up. I'd have to look back at the older versions of the capital budget.

Mr. Yungmann (12:39):

And is that just the passage of time? Or has the project itself changed? I mean, construction costs are not up that percentage.

Mark Stromdahl (12:50):

Well, we started the project, I forget what the year on it is. Um, we started it, um, a few years ago, and in those intervening years, construction costs in this region have risen, um, for a year or two, well above the typical sort of 3% that we factor in each year.

Mark Stromdahl (13:11):

Um, the project itself, um, it did change... well, and that is a good point, it did change scope, um, I guess the year before last. Um, you know, the fire chief at the time, uh, Chief Butler, had wanted to, um, add some additional space to the station, so that we could have a tow truck there in the future. And so the scope, the size of the building, did increase by, um, it was around 1500 square feet. And since it's not a real big building, I mean, that went from like 12.5 to 14, or 13.5 to 15, something in- in the... in that range, so.

Mr. Yungmann (13:56):

And then you also... is that two and a half, call it, also include this rec and parks piece of replacing these multipurpose fields?

Mark Stromdahl (14:06):

I don't think so. Um, that's, uh, um, that was why we wanted to add an additional \$3 million, um, to the project. Um...

Mr. Yungmann (14:15):

Right.

Mark Stromdahl (14:15):

On top of just building, yeah.

Mr. Yungmann (14:17):

How much is the project now, before the- the turf field addition?

Mark Stromdahl (14:22):

Um, bear with me a second here.

Mr. Yungmann (14:27):

It can be... it can be round numbers, Mark. I- I should know too. Look to the budget.

Mark Stromdahl (14:32):

I think without the turf fields, it's in the 10.5 range, something like that.

Mr. Yungmann ([14:38](#)):

So, just simple math, we're- we're suggesting that delays alone, inflation of construction costs, have added 25% to the cost of the project, except for the... this additional 1500 square feet, which may have contributed to it. And we might assume, you know, construction cost escalations in the next year similar to that?

Mark Stromdahl ([15:08](#)):

Well, I can, you know, um, I would say, though, probably...

Mr. Yungmann ([15:09](#)):

I mean, I know you can't predict the future.

Mark Stromdahl ([15:14](#)):

Yeah, yeah.

Mr. Yungmann ([15:14](#)):

I know you can't predict the future.

Mark Stromdahl ([15:15](#)):

Yeah.

Mr. Yungmann ([15:15](#)):

But let- let me dial that back. So you said that construction costs generally- generally outpace normal cost of living. So let's say CPI's been two, three, four percent.

Mark Stromdahl ([15:24](#)):

Right.

Mr. Yungmann ([15:25](#)):

Maybe construction costs are five or six. So, you know, on a \$10 million project, the cost of this project could go up a half million bucks if we delay it. And that's assuming that- that the slowdown in the economy doesn't flatten construction costs.

Mark Stromdahl ([15:40](#)):

Correct, that's right.

Mr. Yungmann ([15:41](#)):

Okay. I gotcha. I just, that number jumped out at me, and I just wanted to dig a little deeper. Thank you.

Mark Stromdahl ([15:46](#)):

I mean, in very round terms, you know, I mean, um, yes, I wouldn't argue with what we're talking about here.

Ms. Jung ([16:03](#)):

Are there any other questions? No? Okay. Uh, let's see. We are onto CB-25, amendment 12, which is a very lengthy amendment to the capital budget.

Ms. Jung ([16:36](#)):

Oh. Okay.

Sayers, Margery

From: Carol Zika <zikacarol@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 8:03 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support for Rigby's amendment to the budget cuts

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

I support Christina Rigby's amendment to the budget cuts to restore funding for the East Columbia 50+ Center in the FY21 Capital Budget.

I ask how many members of the Council have visited the current 50+ Center? Mr. Ball stopped by one day when he was scheduled for something in the library, and admitted he'd never been there. It is in a corner of the library building and it is tiny! The staff does a terrific job with programming, given the space available, and I guarantee you, if you build it, they will come. The growing demographic of tax paying 50+ citizens in Columbia will flock to the new facility, and it will be a shining star in the county. The area desperately needs the day center for memory impaired citizens.

I have taught in the 50+ Centers for at least 20 years. Bain has been renovated, upgraded, and received flood remediation several times during my tenure. We're overdue for a comparable and larger facility in E. Columbia.

Please restore funding for the East Columbia 50+ Center.

Carol Zika
2550 Kensington Gardens, Unit 406
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Wanda Daye <wrdaye@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 7:55 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.]

City Council,

Please **restore funding** for the East Columbia 50+ Center. It is much needed and over due.

Thank you,
Wanda Daye
(for Parent Joan Branch)
9895 Palace Hall Dr.
Apt 413
Laurel MD 20723

Sent from my iPad

Sayers, Margery

From: Wanda Daye <wrdaye@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 7:47 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Wanda Daye
Subject: Funding for the East Columbia 50+ Center

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

Dear All,

As a senior resident in Howard County, I ask that you restore funding for the East Columbia 50+ Center. I am disappointed with a proposed \$4.5 million cut to the East Columbia 50+ Center funding. East Columbia Seniors deserve better.

Thank you,

Wanda Daye
5705 Little Bells Row
Clarksville MD 21029

Sent from my iPad

Sayers, Margery

From: Janis Wasser <janis.wasser@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 7:45 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: cultural arts

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

Dear Members of the Howard County Council, I am emailing today to ask you to support FY21 Capital Budget funding for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC) and Affordable Housing Project.

Delaying the project would threaten the already secured \$62 million in Federal funding for affordable housing, dollars that must be used or be lost forever. We are therefore asking you to include funding in the FY21 Capital Budget for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC).

If the NCC project isn't funded in the FY21 Capital Budget and the \$62 million Federal dollars have been lost, it will be impossible to see Toby's dream of the NCC happen in the future.

This project will bring together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages and walks of life right here in Howard County.

At the same time, the multi-purpose facility will add 87 residential units that will assist the County in closing its affordable housing gap. As mentioned above, the Federal dollars will not be available without the NCC project being funded in the FY21 Capital budget cycle. Also, failure to approve this project now will threaten development of four additional multi-use projects that are to include almost half of the 900 affordable units the County committed to develop in the 2016 Downtown Redevelopment Plan.

We understand that there is no certainty about when and how the country's and our county's economy will rebound from the current economic crisis. There is certainty, however, that low and moderate-income renters will need housing now more than ever. Should the NCC project not advance in FY21, low and moderate wage earners, seniors on fixed incomes, and persons with disabilities with limited or no earning capacity will continue to be denied the opportunity to live in Columbia. Thus our community will be denied the opportunity to experience the vibrancy of disparate communities.

Please approve FY21 Capital Budget funding for the NCC and Affordable Housing Project!

Sincerely,

Janis Wassser

Sayers, Margery

From: Howard Lobl <howard.lobl@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 7:28 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Columbia Center for Theatrical Arts

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

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I am emailing today to ask you to support FY21 Capital Budget funding for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC) and Affordable Housing Project.

Delaying the project would threaten the already secured \$62 million in Federal funding for affordable housing, dollars that must be used or be lost forever. We are therefore asking you to include funding in the FY21 Capital Budget for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC).

If the NCC project isn't funded in the FY21 Capital Budget and the \$62 million Federal dollars have been lost, it will be impossible to see Toby's dream of the NCC happen in the future.

This project will bring together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages and walks of life right here in Howard County.

At the same time, the multi-purpose facility will add 87 residential units that will assist the County in closing its affordable housing gap. As mentioned above, the Federal dollars will not be available without the NCC project being funded in the FY21 Capital budget cycle. Also, failure to approve this project now will threaten development of four additional multi-use projects that are to include almost half of the 900 affordable units the County committed to develop in the 2016 Downtown Redevelopment Plan.

We understand that there is no certainty about when and how the country's and our county's economy will rebound from the current economic crisis. There is certainty, however, that low and moderate-income renters will need housing now more than ever. Should the NCC project not advance in FY21, low and moderate wage earners, seniors on fixed incomes, and persons with disabilities with limited or no earning capacity will continue to be denied the opportunity to live in Columbia. Thus our community will be denied the opportunity to experience the vibrancy of disparate communities.

Please approve FY21 Capital Budget funding for the NCC and Affordable Housing Project!

Sincerely,

Howard Lobl
Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Sayers, Margery

From: Monica Targonski <targonski4@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 7:17 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: NCC- Amendment 13 to CB25

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

Dear Howard County Council-

I am writing to express my support and urge you as well to support Amendment 13 to CB25. As a county resident and home owner for 24+ years, I consider it very important for Howard County to continue their support of the arts and affordable housing. I believe this amendment is a fiscally responsible approach for funding the NCC this year.

Sincerely,

Monica Targonski

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Gerald W von Mayer <fvonmaye@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 7:17 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Amendment 13 to CB25.

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

Dear Council Members

Last week, Amendment 13 to CB25 New Cultural Center was introduced. This amendment would reduce spending by \$7 million and still allow that project to move forward this year. I believe that this represents the most fiscally responsible approach to funding the New Cultural Center this year.

Please support Amendment 13 to CB25.

Gerald W von Mayer
10384 Barcan Circle
Columbia, MD 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Allison Korn <allisonkorn@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 7:16 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please support Christiana Rigby's amendment

[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'm writing to urge support of Christiana Rigby's budget amendment to restore funding for the East Columbia 50+ Center project. Seniors in this part of the county have waited long enough and full funding is essential for the project to proceed on schedule.

Allison Korn
6550 Carlinda Avenue
Columbia

Sayers, Margery

From: Amy R Brooks <amyreeneebrooks@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 7:14 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: affordable housing

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

We want affordable housing in Columbia and we NEED it now.

Please VOTE NO to:

Cutting funding to implement Complete Streets programs which includes pedestrian safety projects like installing crosswalks, path improvements and installing ADA compliant ramps
Delaying the long-awaited construction 50+ Senior Center in East Columbia
Jeopardizing affordable housing and the New Cultural Center by forgoing \$61.6M in federal tax credits
Reducing funding for community resources for seniors, residents with developmental disabilities and services to our most vulnerable populations
Removing all funding for road resurfacing and sidewalks across the county harming fundamental infrastructure and safety needs, with over \$52 million backlog in road work already
Minimizing efforts of environmental compliance programs and delaying storm water management projects
Eliminating all vacancies and the opportunity of growing and maintaining a workforce when people need jobs and core services the most.
Reducing public safety budget significantly, removing support for public safety positions and community outreach efforts
Removing funding for systemic improvements with deferred maintenance including critical renovations to address security needs at the detention center

Thank you!!

Amy Brooks

Sayers, Margery

From: Charles Scott <CScott@loyola.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 7:06 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: In Support of Capital Budget 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.]

May 26, 2020

5681 Thicket Lane
Columbia, Maryland 21044

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

We are emailing today to ask you to support FY21 Capital Budget funding for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC) and Affordable Housing Project.

It is our understanding that delaying the project would threaten the already secured \$62 million in Federal funding for affordable housing, dollars that must be used or be lost forever. We are therefore asking you to include funding in the FY21 Capital Budget for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC).

If the NCC project isn't funded in the FY21 Capital Budget and the \$62 million Federal dollars have been lost, it will be impossible to see Toby's dream of the NCC happen in the future.

This project commits to bring together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages and walks of life right here in Howard County.

At the same time, the multi-purpose facility definitely intends to add 87 residential units that will assist the County in closing its affordable housing gap. As mentioned above, the Federal dollars will not be available without the NCC project being funded in the FY21 Capital budget cycle. Also, failure to approve this project now will threaten development of four additional multi-use projects that are to include almost half of the 900 affordable units the County committed to develop in the 2016 Downtown Redevelopment Plan.

We understand that there is no certainty about when and how the country's and our county's economy will rebound from the current economic crisis. There is certainty, however, that low and moderate-income renters need housing now more than ever. Should the NCC project not advance in FY21, low and moderate wage earners, seniors on fixed incomes, and persons with disabilities with limited or no earning capacity will continue to be denied the opportunity to live in Columbia. Thus our community will be denied the opportunity to experience the vibrancy of disparate communities.

Please approve FY21 Capital Budget funding for the NCC and Affordable Housing Project!

Sincerely,
Charles Scott and Barbara Wright

Sayers, Margery

From: Stephanie Helline <stephanie@strategic.health>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 6:52 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: support

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

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I am emailing today to ask you to support FY21 Capital Budget funding for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC) and Affordable Housing Project.

Delaying the project would threaten the already secured \$62 million in Federal funding for affordable housing—dollars that must be used or be lost to us forever.

This project will bring together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages and walks of life right here in Howard County.

At the same time, the multi-purpose facility will add 87 residential units that will assist the County in closing its affordable housing gap. As mentioned above, the Federal dollars have been secured but must be expended in the upcoming budget cycle. Also, failure to approve the remainder of the capital budget would threaten development of four additional multi-use projects that are to include almost half of the 900 affordable units the County committed to develop in the 2016 Downtown Development Plan.

We understand that there is no certainty about when and how the country's and our county's economy will rebound from the current economic crisis. There is certainty, however, that low and moderate-income renters will need housing now more than ever. Should the NCC project not advance in FY21, low and moderate wage earners, seniors on fixed incomes, and persons with disabilities with limited or no earning capacity will continue to be denied the opportunity to live in Columbia. And our community will be denied the opportunity to experience the vibrancy of disparate communities.

Please approve FY21 Capital Budget funding for the NCC and Affordable Housing Project!

Sincerely,

Stephanie Helline
Creative Director + Owner
stephanie@strategic.health
p: 443-315-1282
c: 410-608-3562



INVIGORATING HEALTHCARE
COMMUNICATIONS +
VISUAL SOLUTIONS

Sayers, Margery

From: Mary Garratt <garrattmaryk@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 6:52 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please restore 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

East Columbia 50+ Center needs the building funds that have been previously allocated. Please don't reverse course and make seniors in our county go to the back of the line again.

Budgets are difficult to balance, I know, but when this current crisis passes, the need for a new center will be even greater. There will always be unforeseen challenges. The needs of older adults should not be brushed aside as not important whenever the budget is limited. Please restore funding.

Sincerely,
Mary Garratt
Howard County resident of 40 years
Garrattmaryk@aol.com
13445 Forsythe Rd, Sykesville, MD
21784

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Carolyn Kelemen <docndancer@earthlink.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 6:51 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: another plea

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

I am emailing today to ask you to support FY21 Capital Budget funding for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC) and Affordable Housing Project.

Delaying the project would threaten the already secured \$62 million in Federal funding for affordable housing, dollars that must be used or be lost forever. We are therefore asking you to include funding in the FY21 Capital Budget for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC).

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We understand that there is no certainty about when and how the country's and our county's economy will rebound from the current economic crisis. There is certainty, however, that low and moderate-income renters will need housing now more than ever. Should the NCC project not advance in FY21, low and moderate wage earners, seniors on fixed incomes, and persons with disabilities with limited or no earning capacity will continue to be denied the opportunity to live in Columbia. Thus our community will be denied the opportunity to experience the vibrancy of disparate communities.

Please approve FY21 Capital Budget funding for the NCC and Affordable Housing Project!

Sincerely,

Sayers, Margery

From: Jim Morsberger <jim.morsberger@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 6:48 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please support Amendment 13 to CB25...

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

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

In support of the Columbia New Cultural Center (NCC) and its funding in FY21 please consider supporting Amendment 13 to CB25. It would be most appreciated. Thank you.

James Morsberger
Catonsville, MD 21228

Sayers, Margery

From: Steven Beck <stevenbeck@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 6:38 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: 2021 Budget regarding Therapeutic Recreation

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

To Whom it May Concern,

The disabled are very often at a disadvantage, which we have learned through raising our son. While we all have to deal with COVID-19, the disabled require services and the help of others that many others don't have to think about. While all of us understand the budget difficulties faced by the County due to the epidemic, a reduction in the budget for **these citizens** can negatively affect the their limited socialization and community interaction.

I would ask you to please look for other sources for your savings due to the personal issues that would arise out of a negative decision.

I'm sure that most citizens of Howard County (I've lived here for over 42 years) would fully understand if the Budget of Therapeutic Recreation was NOT reduced.

Sincerely,

Steven and Pamela Beck
7326 Bobolink Court
Columbia, MD. 21046

Sayers, Margery

From: Justine Schaeffer <justschaeffer@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 6:38 PM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth; CouncilMail
Subject: Budget Cuts--FULLY FUND THERAPEUTIC RECREATION

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

Dear Ms Walsh and Members of the Howard County Council,

I am emailing you today concerning proposed cuts to Therapeutic Recreation services offered through the Department of Recreation and Parks. PLEASE DO NOT CUT TR.

My daughter with an intellectual disability is a young adult. Her social opportunities are limited to those planned and chaperoned by HCRP Therapeutic Recreation staff. My other children and other young adults can make their own fun, their own plans with friends, their own outings in the community. My disabled daughter cannot. Without HCRP programs and services for individuals with disabilities, she and others in this vulnerable community will not have the opportunities that their peers have to be a vital part of the Howard County community.

The Therapeutic Recreation opportunities from HCRP are an absolute life line for her. There has been much disappointment in the past when the TR outings have filled and she has been wait-listed. This has happened far too many times. We register at 6:00 on the given day, and by 6:01 all the vacancies are filled. We have been put on a wait list, but openings never occur. When I inquire, I learn that the limiting factor is hiring good staff. Please don't make any cuts to TR staff. Incidentally, we pay for the Therapeutic Recreation programs, and they are worth it.

HCRP has built a wonderful Therapeutic Recreation program that does not currently meet the growing needs for socialization and community outings for people with disabilities. This is a growing population in Howard County. Please don't cut these services.

I fully realize the affect of Covid 19 on the County's budget, but cutting Therapeutic Recreation will have a terrible effect on a very vulnerable population.

Thank you,

Justine Schaeffer
4209 Bright Bay Way
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: William Deming <wdeming21045@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 6:37 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: "I support Amendment 13"

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

"I support Amendment 13 to CB25 which would reduce spending by \$7 million and still allow the New Cultural Center project to move forward this year."

Thank you for considering my input.

Bill Deming

Sayers, Margery

From: TAG Design II <gorettag29@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 6:32 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: NCC SUPPORT

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

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,
I am emailing today to ask you to support FY21 Capital Budget funding for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC) and Affordable Housing Project.
Delaying the project would threaten the already secured \$62 million in Federal funding for affordable housing, dollars that must be used or be lost forever. We are therefore asking you to include funding in the FY21 Capital Budget for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC).

If the NCC project isn't funded in the FY21 Capital Budget and the \$62 million Federal dollars have been lost, it will be impossible to see Toby's dream of the NCC happen in the future.

This project will bring together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages and walks of life right here in Howard County.

At the same time, the multi-purpose facility will add 87 residential units that will assist the County in closing its affordable housing gap. As mentioned above, the Federal dollars will not be available without the NCC project being funded in the FY21 Capital budget cycle. Also, failure to approve this project now will threaten development of four additional multi-use projects that are to include almost half of the 900 affordable units the County committed to develop in the 2016 Downtown Redevelopment Plan.

We understand that there is no certainty about when and how the country's and our county's economy will rebound from the current economic crisis. There is certainty, however, that low and moderate-income renters will need housing now more than ever. Should the NCC project not advance in FY21, low and moderate wage earners, seniors on fixed incomes, and persons with disabilities with limited or no earning capacity will continue to be denied the opportunity to live in Columbia. Thus our community will be denied the opportunity to experience the vibrancy of disparate communities.

Please approve FY21 Capital Budget funding for the NCC and Affordable Housing Project!

Sincerely,
MS. T. Gordon

Sayers, Margery

From: o <srbuswell@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 6:28 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Amednment 13 to CB25

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

Hello again,

It has been brought to my attention that Amendment 13 has been offered to the New Cultural Center bill. I feel very strongly that Art and especially affordable housing are both very important in Howard County. This amendment allows a reduction in this year's budget, but will permit the construction to begin. Because of the very difficult times, this seems a wise way to save the program and the State and Federal dollars pledged.

Sincerely,

Susan R. Buswell
5400Vantage Point Road #905
Columbia, MD 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: sonia truesdale <cleo46@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 6:21 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: NCC Support

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

Please support Amendment 13 to CB25.

Thank you,
Sonia Truesdale
Concerned Citizen our Howard county

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Kimberlee Drake <kimdrakeenv@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 6:21 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Ball, Calvin
Subject: Amendment 12 of CB25-2020

[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,

Thank you for all your efforts working on the annual budget and all legislation. I appreciate your dedication and long hours. I realize this is an unprecedented time and the economic outcomes are unimaginable. The county will need to adjust the budget accordingly. However, I do not agree with some of the line items in Amendment 12 that are to be cut.

The state of Maryland has a law with a goal of reducing Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions 40% below 2006 levels by 2030. Howard County has committed to reducing GHG emission 45% below 2010 levels by 2030 and to reach zero emissions by 2050.

The impact of zeroing out FY21 funding for C0329 "Energy Management Improvements" would mean nearly 2600 metric tons of GHG emissions that we could have eliminated will be released into our atmosphere each year until those projects are completed. In addition, while these projects have upfront costs, they will save the county money in the future with an average annual savings of \$550,000. See below for breakdown and details.

Additionally, I do not believe funding should be taken away from Environmental compliance (CO313), Watershed drainage and stormwater management projects D1180 and D1181, funding for complete streets projects like school route sidewalks, and funding to create pedestrian and bicycle plans that will lead to increased active transportation, again, reducing GHG emissions.

Thank you again for your time and service,

Kim Drake,

Climate change specialist in the Climate Change program at the Maryland Department of the Environment
Secretary, Climate Change and Sustainability Advisory Committee
member, Steering committee of the Howard County Climate Collaboration
Secretary, HoCo Sierra Club
member, HoCo Smarter Growth Alliance
District 2

I speak for myself as a resident of Howard County and not on behalf of the State of Maryland or any boards/committees I am on.

Retro commissioning of Grassroots Center, Central Library, Ascend One, George Howard Building

This is tune-up of HVAC and has a very fast payback in energy savings of 1-2 years. County investment is matched with BGE incentives and MEA grant funds.

Average Annual Energy Savings: 2,500,000 kWh
Average Annual Cost Savings: \$242,000
Average Annual CO2e reduction: 1,700 metric tons
Simple Payback: 5 months

Relamp Long Reach Village Center and Other Critical Buildings with Outdated Lighting

This is a key energy saving project for Long Reach Village Center and similar County buildings and also has a rapid payback of 2 years. This will replace outdated interior lighting with LEDs and include motion sensors and lighting controls to maximize energy savings. (Approximately \$70,000 for Long Reach Village Center lighting retrofit and \$60,000 for other critical facilities).

Average Annual Energy Savings: 325,000 kWh
Average Annual Cost Savings: \$65,000
Average Annual CO2e reduction: 230 metric tons
Simple Payback: 2 years

EV Charging Stations and Annual Charger Maintenance

This will provide EV charging stations for fleet vehicles and will allow us to expand the EV fleet – recent grants can not be used to build fleet vehicle charging stations. New Green Fleet policy includes replacing all administrative fleet vehicles with full electric vehicles when they reach end of life. In order to do this, we need to expand our EV charging network. These EV charging stations would also benefit the public.

Average Annual Fuel Consumption Savings: 73,000 gallons
Average Annual Cost Savings: \$470,000 (includes savings on maintenance and gasoline on 300 fleet vehicles replaced with all electric vehicles within 10 years)
Average Annual CO2e reduction: 650 metric tons

Generator conversion in Ascend one, Scaggsville Public Safety Center, Detention Center, & Public Safety Training Center

This upgrades generators to reduce their carbon emissions and allows us to use generators for load shedding on peak demand days, providing large dollar savings the County currently is unable to access because the generators emit too much Greenhouse Gas.

Average Annual Energy Savings: 21,000 kWh
Average Annual Cost Savings: \$15,000 - \$30,000
Average Annual CO2e reduction: 15 metric tons
Simple payback: 3-6 years (depending on number of peak energy demand days)

Sayers, Margery

From: John DiTomasso <john.ditomasso@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 6:14 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: NCC Support

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

Please don't do anything to delay funding for our Cultural Center!

John DiTomasso
9448 Farewell Rd
Columbia, MD. 21045

410 730 3071
Johndit@comcast.net

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Toni Tessler <tonistamps@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 6:09 PM
To: Toni Stamps; CouncilMail
Subject: NCC Support

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

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I am emailing today to ask you to support FY21 Capital Budget funding for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC) and Affordable Housing Project.

Delaying the project would threaten the already secured \$62 million in Federal funding for affordable housing, dollars that must be used or be lost forever. We are therefore asking you to include funding in the FY21 Capital Budget for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC).

If the NCC project isn't funded in the FY21 Capital Budget and the \$62 million Federal dollars have been lost, it will be impossible to see Toby's dream of the NCC happen in the future.

This project will bring together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages and walks of life right here in Howard County.

At the same time, the multi-purpose facility will add 87 residential units that will assist the County in closing its affordable housing gap. As mentioned above, the Federal dollars will not be available without the NCC project being funded in the FY21 Capital budget cycle. Also, failure to approve this project now will threaten development of four additional multi-use projects that are to include almost half of the 900 affordable units the County committed to develop in the 2016 Downtown Redevelopment Plan.

We understand that there is no certainty about when and how the country's and our county's economy will rebound from the current economic crisis. There is certainty, however, that low and moderate-income renters will need housing now more than ever. Should the NCC project not advance in FY21, low and moderate wage earners, seniors on fixed incomes, and persons with disabilities with limited or no earning capacity will continue to be denied the opportunity to live in Columbia. Thus our community will be denied the opportunity to experience the vibrancy of disparate communities.

Please approve FY21 Capital Budget funding for the NCC and Affordable Housing Project!

Sincerely,

Toni Tessler

Sayers, Margery

From: Kelly Balchunas <kjbalchunas@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 6:07 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support for Amendment 12 to CB25-2020z

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

I am writing in support of Amendment 12 to CB 25-2020. I appreciate the leadership of Council members Yungmann, Jung, and Walsh and their willingness to look critically at the county's budget, especially in this challenging time.

At every level of society, down to the individual family unit, we are being faced with difficult decisions. As a county, we are anticipating reduced revenues in the upcoming year, if not longer, and to move forward with a capital project of this magnitude without knowing what the future holds would be irresponsible.

Thank you,
Kelly Balchunas
District 5

Sayers, Margery

From: Kathy Ohalloran <kohall@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 6:06 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Columbia East 50+ Center

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

Dear Council Members- this is a followup to my earlier email requesting that you keep the construction of a new Columbia East 50+ Center in the current budget under discussion.

Furthermore, I encourage you to retain full funding and take necessary steps to expedite the schedule for the Center's completion.

Yes, it's a question of priorities- this is ours - please show us that it yours too!

Thank you.

Kathy O'Halloran

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Françoise Von Mayer <fvonmayer@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 5:53 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Columbia's New Cultural Center

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

Tuesday, 25 May, 2020

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I am emailing today to ask you to support FY21 Capital Budget funding for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC) and Affordable Housing Project.

Delaying the project would threaten the already secured \$62 million in Federal funding for affordable housing, dollars that must be used or be lost forever. We are therefore asking you to include funding in the FY21 Capital Budget for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC).

If the NCC project isn't funded in the FY21 Capital Budget and the \$62 million Federal dollars have been lost, it will be impossible to see Toby's dream of the NCC happen in the future.

This project will bring together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages and walks of life right here in Howard County.

At the same time, the multi-purpose facility will add 87 residential units that will assist the County in closing its affordable housing gap. As mentioned above, the Federal dollars will not be available without the NCC project being funded in the FY21 Capital budget cycle. Also, failure to approve this project now will threaten development of four additional multi-use projects that are to include almost half of the 900 affordable units the County committed to develop in the 2016 Downtown Redevelopment Plan.

We understand that there is no certainty about when and how the country's and our county's economy will rebound from the current economic crisis. There is certainty, however, that low and moderate-income renters will need housing now more than ever. Should the NCC project not advance in FY21, low and moderate wage earners, seniors on fixed incomes, and persons with disabilities with limited or no earning capacity will

continue to be denied the opportunity to live in Columbia. Thus our community will be denied the opportunity to experience the vibrancy of disparate communities.

Please approve FY21 Capital Budget funding for the NCC and Affordable Housing Project!

Sincerely,

Françoise von Mayer

Sayers, Margery

From: Andrew W. Nussbaum <andrew.w.nussbaum@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 5:47 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: NCC SUPPORT

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

Dear Members of the Howard County Council:

We are emailing today to ask you to support FY21 Capital Budget funding for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC) and Affordable Housing Project.

Delaying the project would threaten the already secured \$62 million in Federal funding for affordable housing, dollars that must be used or be lost forever. We are therefore asking you to include funding in the FY21 Capital Budget for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC).

If the NCC project isn't funded in the FY21 Capital Budget and the \$62 million Federal dollars have been lost, it will be impossible to see Toby's dream of the NCC happen in the future. We moved to "downtown Columbia" two years ago from River Hill and are so excited about all of the progress that has been made so far in the Merriweather District. We walk through the District, including Colorburst Park almost every day and we can't wait for the current crisis to be over, so that we can really enjoy the area!

This project will bring together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages and walks of life right here in Howard County.

At the same time, the multi-purpose facility will add 87 residential units that will assist the County in closing its affordable housing gap. As mentioned above, the Federal dollars will not be available without the NCC project being funded in the FY21 Capital budget cycle. Also, failure to approve this project now will threaten development of four additional multi-use projects that are to include almost half of the 900 affordable units the County committed to develop in the 2016 Downtown Redevelopment Plan.

We understand that there is no certainty about when and how the country's and our county's economy will rebound from the current economic crisis. There is certainty, however, that low and moderate-income renters will need housing now more than ever. Should the NCC project not advance in FY21, low and moderate wage earners, seniors on fixed incomes, and persons with disabilities with limited or no earning capacity will continue to be denied the opportunity to live in Columbia. Thus our community will be denied the opportunity to experience the vibrancy of disparate communities.

Please approve FY21 Capital Budget funding for the NCC and Affordable Housing Project!

Sincerely,

Andy and Sharon Nussbaum

Sayers, Margery

From: Margaret Desautelle <Margaret_Desautelle@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 5:44 PM
To: Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail; Yungmann, David
Subject: National Family Resiliency Center Funding
Attachments: NFRC -May25-2020.docx

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

Dear County Executive Ball, County Councilman Yungmann and all the Howard County Council Members,

Please see the attached letter that concerns the National Family Resiliency Center.

Respectfully,
Margaret May Desautelle

Peggy Desautelle, M.Ed
First Grade Teacher
Waverly Elementary School
410-313-2819

Margaret May Desautelle
11375 Barley Field Way
Marriottsville, MD 21104
(443) 794-4876

May 25, 2020

Dear County Executive Ball, Councilman Yungmann and County Council Members,

I am writing to you on behalf of the National Family Resiliency Center (NFRC) concerning reinstating a grant for the current fiscal year. During this unprecedented time, services of the NFRC are critical for the community of Howard County. I have witnessed first hand as an educator in HCPSS and as a peer counselor the services NFRC provides to the youth and adults of the community and lives they have positively touched and transformed. Howard County benefits from organizations like NFRC that foster cultural diversity, civility and acceptance among its cliental. They provide the much needed counseling and educational programs that help children, parents and families.

Covid19 has dealt our county and our nation a catastrophic blow to each and every individual. Today, more than ever, communities like Howard County are in great need of support from organizations such as NFRC to help people cope and heal with the current situation that is extremely emotional, such as Covid19.

Please reconsider fully funding NFRC. Your support is critical and will pay decades of dividends in the lives of our Howard County residence.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter!

Margaret May Desautelle

Sayers, Margery

From: duchess3802@verizon.net
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 5:43 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: FY21 Capital Budget funding for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC) and Affordable Housing Project.

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

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I am emailing today to ask you to support FY21 Capital Budget funding for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC) and Affordable Housing Project. Delaying the project would threaten the already secured \$62 million in Federal funding for affordable housing—dollars that must be used or be lost to us forever.

This project will bring together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages and walks of life right here in Howard County.

At the same time, the multi-purpose facility will add 87 residential units that will assist the County in closing its affordable housing gap. As mentioned above, the Federal dollars have been secured but must be expended in the upcoming budget cycle. Also, failure to approve the remainder of the capital budget would threaten development of four additional multi-use projects that are to include almost half of the 900 affordable units the County committed to develop in the 2016 Downtown Development Plan. We understand that there is no certainty about when and how the country's and our county's economy will rebound from the current economic crisis. There is certainty, however, that low and moderate-income renters will need housing now more than ever. Should the NCC project not advance in FY21, low and moderate wage earners, seniors on fixed incomes, and persons with disabilities with limited or no earning capacity will continue to be denied the opportunity to live in Columbia. And our community will be denied the opportunity to experience the vibrancy of disparate communities.

Please approve FY21 Capital Budget funding for the NCC and Affordable Housing Project!

Sincerely,

Lisa Hopkins

Sayers, Margery

From: Rosemary Fitzgerald <dcrugrad92@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 5:35 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: NCC SUPPORT

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

Members of the Howard County Council,

I am emailing today to ask you to support FY21 Capital Budget funding for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC) and Affordable Housing Project.

Delaying the project would threaten the already secured \$62 million in Federal funding for affordable housing, dollars that must be used or be lost forever. We are therefore asking you to include funding in the FY21 Capital Budget for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC).

If the NCC project isn't funded in the FY21 Capital Budget and the \$62 million Federal dollars have been lost, it will be impossible to see Toby's dream of the NCC happen in the future.

This project will bring together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages and walks of life right here in Howard County.

At the same time, the multi-purpose facility will add 87 residential units that will assist the County in closing its affordable housing gap. As mentioned above, the Federal dollars will not be available without the NCC project being funded in the FY21 Capital budget cycle. Also, failure to approve this project now will threaten development of four additional multi-use projects that are to include almost half of the 900 affordable units the County committed to develop in the 2016 Downtown Redevelopment Plan.

We understand that there is no certainty about when and how the country's and our county's economy will rebound from the current economic crisis. There is certainty, however, that low and moderate-income renters will need housing now more than ever. Should the NCC project not advance in FY21, low and moderate wage earners, seniors on fixed incomes, and persons with disabilities with limited or no earning capacity will continue to be denied the opportunity to live in Columbia. Thus our community will be denied the opportunity to experience the vibrancy of disparate communities. Please approve FY21 Capital Budget funding for the NCC and Affordable Housing Project!

Sincerely,
Rosemary Fitzgerald

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Alycia <alyciahansen@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 5:34 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Amendment support

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

To Whom it May Concern,

Please support amendment 13 to CB25 and do not risk the \$60 million in federal and state funding for the project included as part of the cultural center. Our local economy deserves to benefit from this funding at this time.

My daughters are college-aged and have been applying to jobs everywhere in the local area with no responses. This project would generate additional jobs for our economy, using non-county funds as a significant source - that we cannot afford to lose!

We cannot afford to let the pandemic derail this project and the funds it has already been awarded.

Sincerely,
Alycia Hansen
[6362 Early Red Court](#)
[Columbia, MD 21045](#)

Sayers, Margery

From: florenzobandl@verizon.net
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 5:30 PM
To: Regner, Robin; CouncilMail; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David
Subject: Request to Postpone Virtual Hearing re: ZB-1119 HRVC Ltd. Partnership, c/o Kimco Realty Corp.

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

Zoning Board:

Please delay virtual zoning hearing (ZB-1119M HRVC) until such time it can be conducted with people actually present. Kimco and the Village Board were allowed days to testify in conditions where all could hear what was going on and the reactions of those present. This request is simply in the same spirit of fairness. The only reason I can see why you would not delay the hearing is that you have already **PREDETERMINED YOUR VOTE** and your vote is **NOT** on the side of the opponents.

I have sat at most of the hearings and it seems as if Kimco has fed the information provided by various Howard County departments to the Board. It appears as if Kimco wants exceptions to everything including easements, the number of parking spaces allowed per square foot, and of course the zoning from single-family to over 230 apartments (which by the way the exact number of 1, 2, and 3 bedroom apartments has never been clarified). Kimco has also misinformed the board that people use Cedar Lane to get to Rts. 29 and 32. Actually, the quickest way to reach these highways is to drive by two schools (Clemens Crossing and the Seventh Day Adventist school) on Quarterstaff Rd. to Martin Rd. If you have ever driven by the schools when they are in session, you would understand residents' concerns about adding an additional 230+ cars to the mix.

Obviously, we want to ensure affordable housing is available in Howard County. However, the pandemic has given me ample time to walk the neighborhoods/areas of Clarys Forest, Columbia Mall, Merriweather Post Pavilion and Wilde Lake. For lease signs are everywhere. Why build more apartments when the ones already here are not at capacity even with projected county growth?

There has been a suggestion submitted to hold the hearings at Merriweather Post Pavilion or another open forum such as a high school stadium that would allow social distancing. I encourage you to consider this suggestion or postpone until such time that all parties can be heard under the same conditions. Also, why would you want the perception that you don't care about your constituents? Has Kimco given you money for your campaign war chest or tickets to events? Honestly, represent the people and let everyone's voices be heard – not in a live stream or where only limited people can hear what is going on. **BE FAIR – POSTPONE THE HEARINGS or PROVIDE** an alternative where all people who are interested can be present.

Sincerely,
Barb Florenzo – 10610 Millet Seed Hill, Columbia Md. 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Sharonlee Vogel <sharonleevogel@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 5:28 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Move FORWARD with East Columbia 50+ Center

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

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I am emailing today to ask you to support FY21 Capital Budget funding for East Columbia 50+ Center as planned. This project is fully vetted and absolutely necessary for this rapidly growing citizen and voter base.

This project has been in development for six years, stemming from the Master Plan for the Aging Population. Major design and development investments have been made on behalf of the densely populated and underserved, East Columbia area.

Such centers play a vital role in the service delivery system for seniors, opportunities for socialization that decrease social isolation, fitness, exercise and wellness programs to decrease chronic disease issues and daily meals to reduce food insecurity of seniors.

The need will only grow with the exponential growth of the County's older adult population. These services provide preventive benefits that reduce longer term costs associated with early transition to vastly more expensive congregate facilities at a time when the County/State Health Departments report daily on the vulnerability of such residents during the current pandemic. It is short-sighted to not move forward with enhancing and increasing space and services for the older adult population.

- Managed wisely and fairly, the senior tax base is a cash cow for the general fund contributing far more in local income and property taxes than it consumes in county services. Seniors are a critical asset to the County tax base; one entitled to claim a reasonable share of services.
-
- The County budget last year contained a significant tax increase to the property tax rate affecting the fire and rescue area as well as an increase to trash collection fees. Property tax rates for senior homeowners increased last year by hundreds of dollars. To follow up with a significant reduction in services is a double whammy.
-
- **Since seniors, as a whole, under-consume County services they comprise a major financial asset to the County general fund. This is a demographic the County must retain to finance vital services including our schools. We are taxpayers who have every right to expect a reasonable level of services that address our needs even as we expect to support services vital to other County demographic groups.**

Please approve FY21 Capital Budget funding for the East Columbia 50+ Center!

Sincerely,

Sharonlee J. Vogel
8725 Warm Waves Way, Columbia, MD 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: Allison Fedarko <stangfed@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 5:28 PM
To: Jung, Deb; Williams, China; Gick, Ginnie; Walsh, Elizabeth; Dvorak, Nicole; Jones, Opel; Harris, Michael; Rigby, Christiana; Gelwicks, Colette; Facchine, Felix; Yungmann, David; Knight, Karen; CouncilMail
Cc: fedarwi@gmail.com
Subject: Recreation & Parks Support

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

Dear Members and Aides of the Howard County Council,

I am emailing you today to ask you to support the FY2021 Operating Budget to fully fund the Recreation & Parks Department. The purposed cuts to the Recreation and Parks Department will threaten the services and programs for individuals with disabilities.

This traditionally under represented population relies on others to be their voice or advocate. Should the Recreation and Parks Department Budget and positions be cut, vital services will not be provided in FY21. Social engagement, sports activities, arts and vital respite for families will be denied.

Families of individuals with disabilities may seek inferior services elsewhere, with little satisfaction as well as potential safety problems. It is sufficient to say that, in sticking with HCRP programs for our family member with a disability, we ensure high quality, professional services in which we have great confidence. Our family member is safely and securely served, with enjoyment and appropriate learning and appreciation of our beautiful county, as well as crucially necessary social engagement with appropriate peers and the safe and unfailingly kind HCRP staff.

For individuals with disabilities in Howard County, the services of the Recreation and Parks Department are not only recreation, they are a vital part of life, and often the only safe means of social interaction. Individuals with disabilities are vulnerable to predators and scammers, but the Recreation and Parks Department staff are impeccably well chosen and well trained. The HCRP staff uniformly take an interest in meeting the needs of individuals with disabilities, and have an intuitive awareness of how to interact with these individuals in supportive and respectful ways.

These interactions with HCRP staff enhance each individual's confidence in himself and actively power the individual's sense of identity as a community citizen. Additionally, a more self-confident individual with a disability has less vulnerability, and is more likely to function at a higher level in future life -- to hold a job, to pay taxes, and to contribute in future years to the community as a productive adult with a disability.

I believe that the basis of HCRP's excellence in designing and implementing programs for all individuals, including those with disabilities, is a highly supportive corporate culture in which every staff member is respected and valued. The HCRP staff all give 120% -- meaning that they already function at high efficiency, making the most of the resources that they have. To diminish the resources of the Recreation and Parks Department would be to diminish the vital services which this essential organization provides.

Please approve FY21 Operating Budget funding for Recreation and Parks Department!

Sincerely,

Allison Fedarko
stangfed@verizon.net

Sayers, Margery

From: Amy Cervelloni <jamycerv@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 5:27 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please Fully Fund Howard County Parks and Recreation FY2021

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

Dear Councilman,

We adopted a baby boy 27 years ago. At a year of age he was diagnosed with multiple disabilities. We purposely moved to Howard County - as by far they offered the best services for people with disabilities. Howard County Parks and Recreation has offered many wonderful therapeutic programs. Our son is now 27 years old and still enjoys the social programs offered by Howard County Parks and Recreation. However, over the past few years, we have been discouraged as it is now almost impossible to register our son as there are not enough slots. I end up having to try to explain to my son that he is on the waiting list. He does not have any understanding as to what a waiting list is. The last couple years there is a mad dash to register at exactly 6 pm and then keep your fingers crossed you don't end up on the list. "The Out and About" and "Slice of Summer" are awesome social programs and all the parents are thrilled to have their child participate. I am hearing rumor that two more staff people may be cut from therapeutic programs. Quite honestly, you should be adding two or three more staff rather than cutting. I am saddened that my son will have no chance of attending these programs if you cut more staff. He has been on the waiting list for the last two sessions. If you saw how much fun they have in these programs - you would never consider cutting more staff from therapeutic programs. From the bottom of my heart I ask you do not to cut staff from therapeutic programs.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Amy Cervelloni

(Best friend and advocate for many people with disabilities in Howard County - both young and old)

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Wayne Bethards <bwbethards@outlook.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 5:25 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: NCC SUPPORT

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

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I am emailing today to ask you to support FY21 Capital Budget funding for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC) and Affordable Housing Project.

Delaying the project would threaten the already secured \$62 million in Federal funding for affordable housing, dollars that must be used or be lost forever. We are therefore asking you to include funding in the FY21 Capital Budget for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC).

If the NCC project isn't funded in the FY21 Capital Budget and the \$62 million Federal dollars have been lost, it will be impossible to see Toby's dream of the NCC happen in the future.

This project will bring together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages and walks of life right here in Howard County.

At the same time, the multi-purpose facility will add 87 residential units that will assist the County in closing its affordable housing gap. As mentioned above, the Federal dollars will not be available without the NCC project being funded in the FY21 Capital budget cycle. Also, failure to approve this project now will threaten development of four additional multi-use projects that are to include almost half of the 900 affordable units the County committed to develop in the 2016 Downtown Redevelopment Plan.

We understand that there is no certainty about when and how the country's and our county's economy will rebound from the current economic crisis. There is certainty, however, that low and moderate-income renters will need housing now more than ever. Should the NCC project not advance in FY21, low and moderate wage earners, seniors on fixed incomes, and persons with disabilities with limited or no earning capacity will continue to be denied the opportunity to live in Columbia. Thus our community will be denied the opportunity to experience the vibrancy of disparate communities.

Please approve FY21 Capital Budget funding for the NCC and Affordable Housing Project!

This is no time to relax Howard County's commitment to the arts and affordable housing. We consider this project to be very high priority.

Sincerely,

Wayne & Betty Bethards
10521 Morning Wind Lane
Columbia, MD 21044
410-730-2173

Sayers, Margery

From: Silhouette Stages <silhouettestages@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 5:24 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: NCC Support

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

Members of the Howard County Council:

We are Silhouette Stages, Inc., a non-profit performing arts organization in Howard County - we are the premiere community theater in the county and our mission to support the arts and artists in our area. Our organization became very concerned when we heard about the potential removal of funding for the NCC. This is a critically important project for Columbia and for the local arts community.

We are asking for your support for FY21 Capital Budget funding for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC) and Affordable Housing Project. Delaying the project would threaten the already secured \$62 million in Federal funding for affordable housing—dollars that must be used or be lost forever.

This project will bring together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages and walks of life right here in Howard County. At the same time, the multi-purpose facility will add 87 residential units that will assist the County in closing its affordable housing gap. As mentioned above, the Federal dollars have been secured but must be expended in the upcoming budget cycle. Also, failure to approve the remainder of the capital budget would threaten development of four additional multi-use projects that are to include almost half of the 900 affordable units the County committed to develop in the 2016 Downtown Development Plan.

We understand that there is no certainty about when and how the country's and our county's economy will rebound from the current economic crisis. There is certainty, however, that low and moderate-income renters will need housing now more than ever. Should the NCC project not advance in FY21, low and moderate wage earners, seniors on fixed incomes, and persons with disabilities with limited or no earning capacity will continue to be denied the opportunity to live in Columbia. And our community will be denied the opportunity to experience the vibrancy of disparate communities.

Please approve FY21 Capital Budget funding for the NCC and Affordable Housing Project!

Sincerely,
Jeremy Goldman, President
Silhouette Stages, Inc.

Silhouette Stages, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

<http://www.silhouettestages.com>

<http://www.facebook.com/silhouettestages>

<http://www.instagram.com/silhouettestages>

Sayers, Margery

From: Robert Gillespie <bobanddiane67@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 5:20 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Columbia 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 Members of the Howard County Council,

I am emailing today to ask you to support FY21 Capital Budget funding for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC) and Affordable Housing Project.

Delaying the project would threaten the already secured \$62 million in Federal funding for affordable housing, dollars that must be used or be lost forever. We are therefore asking you to include funding in the FY21 Capital Budget for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC).

If the NCC project isn't funded in the FY21 Capital Budget and the \$62 million Federal dollars have been lost, it will be impossible to see Toby's dream of the NCC happen in the future.

This project will bring together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages and walks of life right here in Howard County.

At the same time, the multi-purpose facility will add 87 residential units that will assist the County in closing its affordable housing gap. As mentioned above, the Federal dollars will not be available without the NCC project being funded in the FY21 Capital budget cycle. Also, failure to approve this project now will threaten development of four additional multi-use projects that are to include almost half of the 900 affordable units the County committed to develop in the 2016 Downtown Redevelopment Plan.

We understand that there is no certainty about when and how the country's and our county's economy will rebound from the current economic crisis. There is certainty, however, that low and moderate-income renters will need housing now more than ever. Should the NCC project not advance in FY21, low and moderate wage earners, seniors on fixed incomes, and persons with disabilities with limited or no earning capacity will continue to be denied the opportunity to live in Columbia. Thus our community will be denied the opportunity to experience the vibrancy of disparate communities.

Please approve FY21 Capital Budget funding for the NCC and Affordable Housing Project!

Sincerely,

Diane Gillespie

Sayers, Margery

From: joe_t1@verizon.net
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 5:18 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: NCC SUPPORT

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

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,
I am emailing today to ask you to support FY21 Capital Budget funding for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC) and Affordable Housing Project.
Delaying the project would threaten the already secured \$62 million in Federal funding for affordable housing, dollars that must be used or be lost forever. We are therefore asking you to include funding in the FY21 Capital Budget for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC).

If the NCC project isn't funded in the FY21 Capital Budget and the \$62 million Federal dollars have been lost, it will be impossible to see Toby's dream of the NCC happen in the future.

This project will bring together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages and walks of life right here in Howard County.

At the same time, the multi-purpose facility will add 87 residential units that will assist the County in closing its affordable housing gap. As mentioned above, the Federal dollars will not be available without the NCC project being funded in the FY21 Capital budget cycle. Also, failure to approve this project now will threaten development of four additional multi-use projects that are to include almost half of the 900 affordable units the County committed to develop in the 2016 Downtown Redevelopment Plan.

We understand that there is no certainty about when and how the country's and our county's economy will rebound from the current economic crisis. There is certainty, however, that low and moderate-income renters will need housing now more than ever. Should the NCC project not advance in FY21, low and moderate wage earners, seniors on fixed incomes, and persons with disabilities with limited or no earning capacity will continue to be denied the opportunity to live in Columbia. Thus our community will be denied the opportunity to experience the vibrancy of disparate communities.

Please approve FY21 Capital Budget funding for the NCC and Affordable Housing Project!

Sincerely,
J. Travis

Sayers, Margery

From: Robert McLaughlin <bmclaugh@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 5:08 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Toby's

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

Columbia has been enriched with the presence of Toby's dinner theater for many years. My wife and I make at least 2 trips a year to this unique cultural establishment. They deserve a new facility in our community. I am very much supportive of a new arts center to house them.

Sayers, Margery

From: Mary Gilmer <megilmer2000@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 5:07 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: allisonkorn@comcast.net
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,

I urge you to reconsider the budget cuts outlined in the budget amendment that you will vote on Wednesday, May 27, specifically the drastic reduction in the funding for construction of the new East Columbia 50+ Center. While I recognize that these are difficult times requiring difficult solutions, it is unwise and unwarranted to cut the Center funding now for the following reasons:

1. The construction on the East Columbia 50+ Center was set to begin this summer (2020). Reduced funding means that the Center cannot be built now causing a delay for the project of at least a year, perhaps longer. Delaying the project will increase the overall costs of construction. It has already been delayed resulting in a construction cost increase of \$4 million. In fact, seniors have been waiting over 6 years for that center to be built. Isn't that long enough?
2. The planned 50+ Center is not "an unnecessary or unvetted project." The East Columbia 50+ Center is a necessity which will provide much needed services to under-served seniors and the heavily populated community at large. Among other services, plans for the new center would include services for memory-challenged seniors in our community (there are currently no such services in this part of the County).
3. A 28% reduction in this project funding represented one of the most severe cuts compared to other projects. Why are seniors being targeted for disproportional sacrifice? We are the fastest growing segment of the population, we pay taxes yet we ask very little from our government. How is this equitable and fiscally fair?

Please reconsider this drastic reduction and restore full funding to the East Columbia 50+ Center. If Howard County is to remain a vibrant, wonderful place to live, it must provide for all its residents. Certainly we seniors are not getting any younger.

Mary Gilmer
4520 Doncaster Dr.
Ellicott City, Md. 21043
megilmer2000@yahoo.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Jeff Kaye <j1kaye@rcn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 5:01 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: FY21 Capital Budget 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 Members of the Howard County Council, I am emailing today to ask you to support FY21 Capital Budget funding for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC) and Affordable Housing Project. Delaying the project would threaten the already secured \$62 million in Federal funding for affordable housing, dollars that must be used or be lost forever. We are therefore asking you to include funding in the FY21 Capital Budget for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC).

If the NCC project isn't funded in the FY21 Capital Budget and the \$62 million Federal dollars have been lost, it will be impossible to see Toby's dream of the NCC happen in the future.

This project will bring together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages and walks of life right here in Howard County. At the same time, the multi-purpose facility will add 87 residential units that will assist the County in closing its affordable housing gap. As mentioned above, the Federal dollars will not be available without the NCC project being funded in the FY21 Capital budget cycle.

Also, failure to approve this project now will threaten development of four additional multi-use projects that are to include almost half of the 900 affordable units the County committed to develop in the 2016 Downtown Redevelopment Plan.

We understand that there is no certainty about when and how the country's and our county's economy will rebound from the current economic crisis. There is certainty, however, that low and moderate-income renters will need housing now more than ever. Should the NCC project not advance in FY21, low and moderate wage earners, seniors on fixed incomes, and persons with disabilities with limited or no earning capacity will continue to be denied the opportunity to live in Columbia. Thus our community will be denied the opportunity to experience the vibrancy of disparate communities.

Please approve FY21 Capital Budget funding for the NCC and Affordable Housing Project!

Sincerely,
Jeff Kaye

Sayers, Margery

From: Jonathan Kipnis <jkipnis@kipnislaw.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 4:58 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Howard County's FY21 Capital Budget

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

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I am emailing today to ask you to support FY21 Capital Budget funding for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC) and Affordable Housing Project.

Delaying the project would threaten the already secured \$62 million in Federal funding for affordable housing, dollars that must be used or be lost forever. We are therefore asking you to include funding in the FY21 Capital Budget for Columbia's New Cultural Center (NCC).

If the NCC project isn't funded in the FY21 Capital Budget and the \$62 million Federal dollars have been lost, it will be impossible to see Toby's dream of the NCC happen in the future. As a long-time resident of Columbia, I am aware of the positive impact of the work that Toby's has on the community, including its youth.

This project will bring together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages and walks of life right here in Howard County.

At the same time, the multi-purpose facility will add 87 residential units that will assist the County in closing its affordable housing gap. As mentioned above, the Federal dollars will not be available without the NCC project being funded in the FY21 Capital budget cycle. Also, failure to approve this project now will threaten development of four additional multi-use projects that are to include almost half of the 900 affordable units the County committed to develop in the 2016 Downtown Redevelopment Plan.

We understand that there is no certainty about when and how the country's and our county's economy will rebound from the current economic crisis. There is certainty, however, that low and moderate-income renters will need housing now more than ever. Should the NCC project not advance in FY21, low and moderate wage earners, seniors on fixed incomes, and persons with disabilities with limited or no earning capacity will continue to be denied the opportunity to live in Columbia. Thus our community will be denied the opportunity to experience the vibrancy of disparate communities.

Please approve FY21 Capital Budget funding for the NCC and Affordable Housing Project!

Sincerely,

Jonathan I. Kipnis