

**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** Joe Mason <jmason2stress@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 13, 2021 10:43 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David  
**Subject:** Cedar Lane Park East

[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 against building a fire station, adding lights for night games and sports press box in The Cedar Lane Park East. These changes will exceptionally disrupt Beech Creek and surrounding communities, such as:

Eliot's Oak  
Cottonwood as well as Beech Creek Dr.

In my view, these communities were overlooked. Placing a fire station on the current Cedar Lane Park soccer field and installing night lights with a news press box on the second field will tremendously disrupt our neighborhoods, such as:

1. The increase noise from fire trucks
2. Night games will increase traffic and create disturbing noise
3. Traffic safety issues on entering and exiting our various neighborhoods
4. Rt 108 is too narrow to accommodate emergency vehicles, plus increase recreational traffic.

Currently, during rush hour traffic Rt 108 is backed up from Centennial Lane and pass The Board of Education. I strongly recommend that the county select another location rather than Cedar Lane Park.

Thank you,

Joe

Joseph Mason  
10880 Beech Creek Dr.  
Columbia, MD 21044  
jmason2stress@yahoo.com  
(410) 884-1623

**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** Nelson Pollack <npollack@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 13, 2021 5:11 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Cc:** Ball, Calvin  
**Subject:** Howard County Age-Restricted Housing Statistics  
**Attachments:** Age-restricted Housing In Howard County.pptx

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

Dear Councilmembers;

You will soon vote on funding for a replacement East Columbia 50+ Center.

Using the Interactive Howard County web site ([Howard County, Maryland Interactive Map \(howardcountymd.gov\)](http://howardcountymd.gov)), I was able to generate a map and approximate statistics showing the location of age-restricted housing in each of your districts.

District	Representative	Number of Age-Restricted Facilities	Percent of Total
1	Walsh	9	22
2	Jones	11	26
3	Rigby	8	19
4	Jung	7	16
5	Yungmann	7	16
	<b>Total</b>	<b>42</b>	

A major conclusion I draw from counting the number of units in each of your districts is that **45%** of the county's age-restricted housing is located in District 2 and District 3, i.e. **East Columbia**. However, East Columbia's senior population is served by the smallest / least-equipped of all of the current 50+ Centers.

This statistic is just another factual indication that the current East Columbia 50+ Center should be replaced with a modern, more spacious facility.

Thank you for your attention.

Nelson Pollack

6252 Golden Coin Court

Columbia, MD

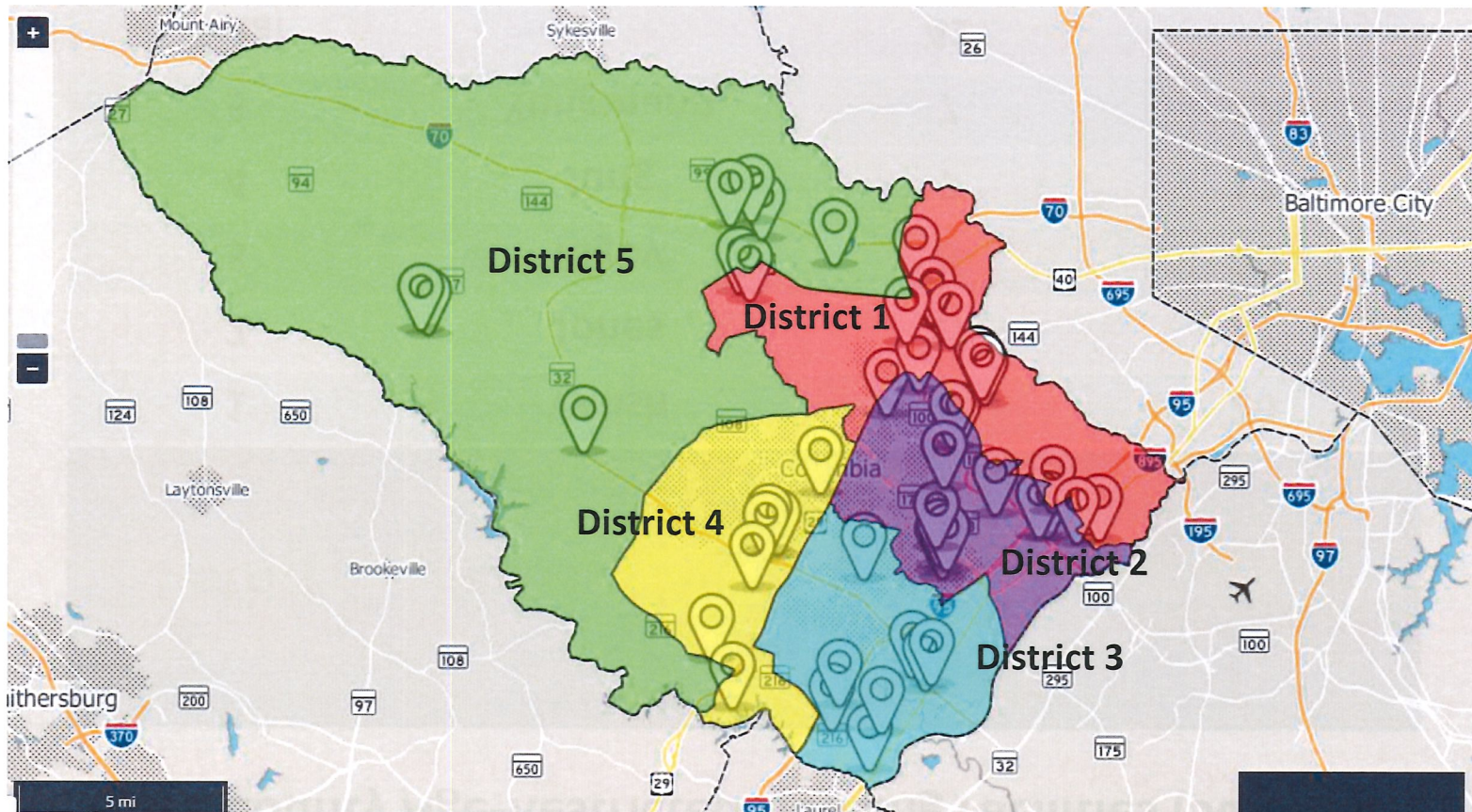
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## Howard County Age-Restricted Housing Facilities (Summary)

District	Representative	Number of Age-Restricted Facilities	Percent of Total
1	Walsh	8	20
2	Jones	11	27
3	Rigby	8	20
4	Jung	7	17
5	Yungmann	7	17
Total		41	

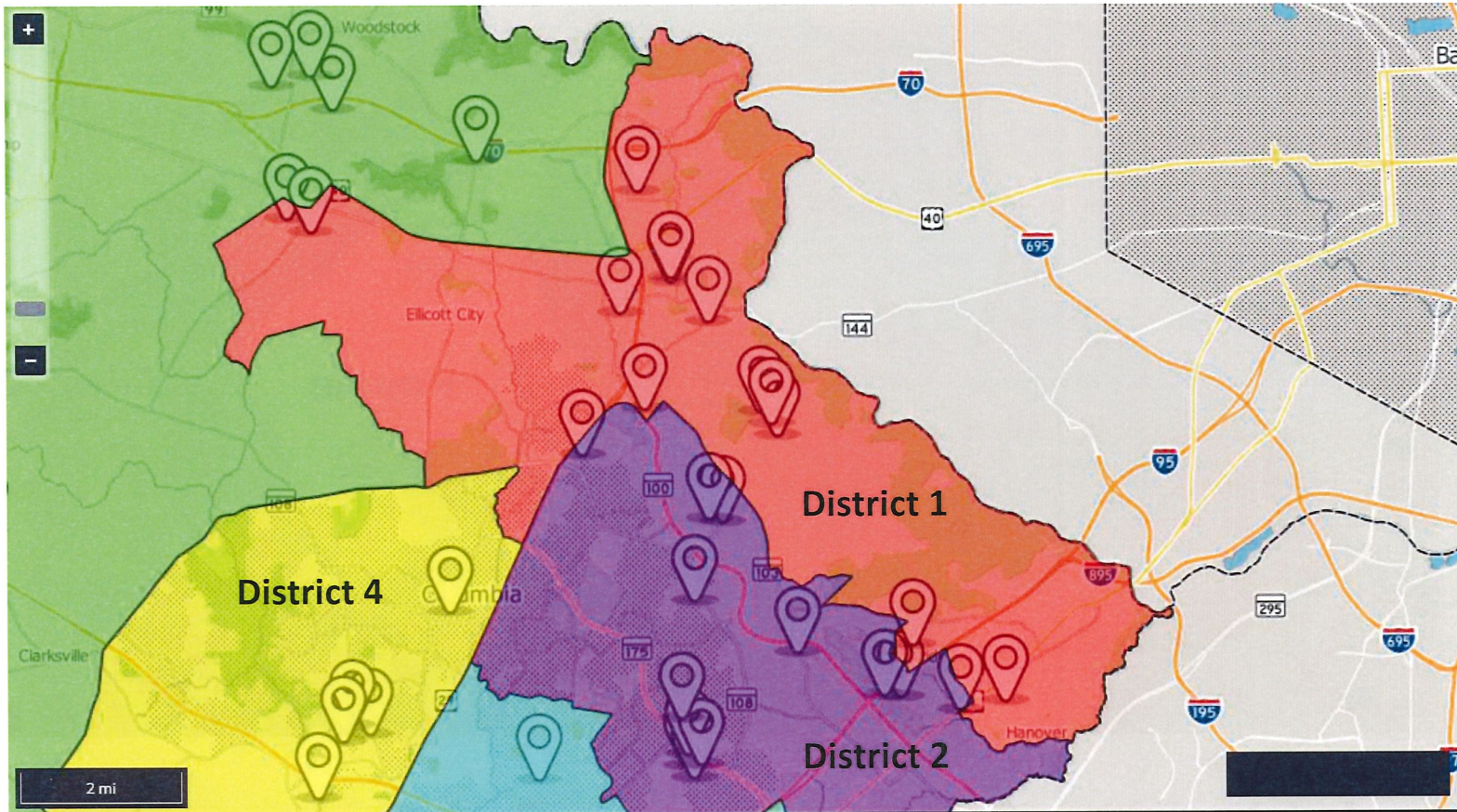
## Howard County Age-Restricted Housing Facilities (1/3)



Ref: [Howard County, Maryland Interactive Map \(howardcountymd.gov\)](http://howardcountymd.gov)



## Howard County Age-Restricted Housing Facilities (1/3)









## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Kristine Amari <kristine.amari@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 12, 2021 2:18 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** 2022 Proposed Budget

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

I'm writing to strongly encourage you to approve the green initiative items for a clean and sustainable environment in the 2022 proposed operating budget. I was really glad that a Clean and Sustainable Environment was a priority area in the proposed budget. These items will help in the fight against climate change by promoting green infrastructure and decreasing emissions.

I urge you to fund the following in the final 2022 operating budget:

--\$90,000 in PAYGO to enhance the County Climate Action Plan, providing a comprehensive greenhouse gas inventory to measure the success of mitigation and community adaptation strategies compared to the prior plan.

--\$52,000 to modernize the Green Infrastructure Network, evaluating and updating the existing map. In addition, an acre or more of forest would be planted to build on the existing green infrastructure network, especially in communities that lack access to the current network.

I have read Howard County's Climate Action Plan, which was last updated in 2015. In light of the most recent IPCC report and alarming data, I believe that the plan badly needs to be updated. HoCo Climate Action developed and circulated a letter calling for this critical funding to update the Climate Action Plan. In less than a week, 15 local organizations and faith communities as well as 29 individuals signed on to the group letter.

The state recently released a new climate plan. Montgomery and Frederick counties have passed Climate Emergency bills. Additionally, Montgomery, Frederick and Prince George's counties are developing new county level county actions plans that include avenues for community involvement. Howard County needs to take on this challenge, too.

In addition, I strongly support funding for the Green Infrastructure Network, which supports native plant and animal species while helping to clean the air and water, maintain natural ecological processes, and contribute to quality of life. Modernizing the Green Infrastructure Network is crucial to improving our air and water along with identifying communities that lack access to these ecological benefits. I have been certified as a weed warrior in Columbia and volunteered to help maintain part of the open space via the Adopt-a-Spot program, which has helped educate me on what huge problems exist and will continue to be introduced without more education and regulation on invasive species!

The above items are included in the Howard County Racial Equity Task Force's draft recommendations from the Public Health and Environmental Policy subgroup, page 22. Funding these critical projects will help ensure that Howard County develops policies to address environmental racism.

Finally, I support a capital budget item that was proposed but not funded last year: C0329 - Energy Management/Improvements - \$300,000. This project supports the county's commitment to energy savings and energy efficiency, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

I also support a more rapid transition to electric vehicles.

I feel an increasing sense of urgency that these problems be addressed, and increasing fear for the future my 2 daughters will inherit. Please position Howard County as a leader in protecting our environment and our

world. Thank you for your time!

Kristine



## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Ahmed S. Elsayed <ahmedselsayed@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 11, 2021 10:26 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David; Ball, Calvin  
**Subject:** 5/10/2021: Opposition to F5976 North Columbia Fire Station & N3108 Park Systemic Improvements - Public Hearing Testimony  
**Attachments:** Fire Station First Due Response Areas\_Current.pdf; 2nd Testimony - FS Data.pdf; 2021.04.06\_FireStation&TrafficData-108v2.pdf; NCFS community meeting 03.25.21 final (1).pdf

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

To County Executive Calvin Ball and All Members of County Council:

My name is Ahmed Elsayed and I have been a resident of the Columbia/Ellicott City area for 15 years. **I am writing today to urge the Council members to NOT move forward with providing funding for projects F5976:North Columbia Fire Station and N3108: Park Systemic Improvements, items in the proposed budget related to the destruction of Cedar Lane Park East.** On April 20th of this year, my testimony was primarily focused on the lack of outreach the county provided to the local residents as well as the lack of due diligence given this new location selection, in which no environmental, traffic, or alternative site analysis has been completed. In fact, since the money for these projects was placed into contingency a year ago to ensure the process related to these projects were fully transparent and community concerns were heard, the county sidestepped all due process and, I emphasize, **NOTHING** has changed in that time. This still holds true today. In an area as wealthy as Howard County, we should not be sacrificing precious open, green space, parkland for public safety nor should we be subsidizing big money developers with said park land for overdevelopment like the Downtown Columbia Plan.

Having a bit more time to review the data that the County shared with the local residents on 3/25/2021 and are using as rationale for selecting this location, I attempted to analyze the data presented by Fire & Rescue to determine how effective this location would be.

### **In summary:**

- If the goal of the North Columbia Fire Station is to BOTH improve response times in District 5 (between Rts. 32, 108, & 40) as well as improve response times in Downtown Columbia due to overdevelopment, this will fail on both fronts because of the physical distance from those areas in D5 that have the worst response times to the proposed location in Cedar Lane Park and the continued unfettered job/residential growth in Downtown Columbia as presented by Fire & Rescue. The stretched resources of the Banneker Fire Station would likely not be improved without a larger Banneker Fire Station redevelopment placed IN Downtown Columbia, considering that this is the area of greatest demand. If the goal is to have 2 "new" stations to meet the current demand, the placement at Cedar Lane Park would not solve this and would only kick the can down the road requiring 3 stations (with an additional one eventually built in the Folly's Quarter/Homewood Rd. location). As I stated during my public



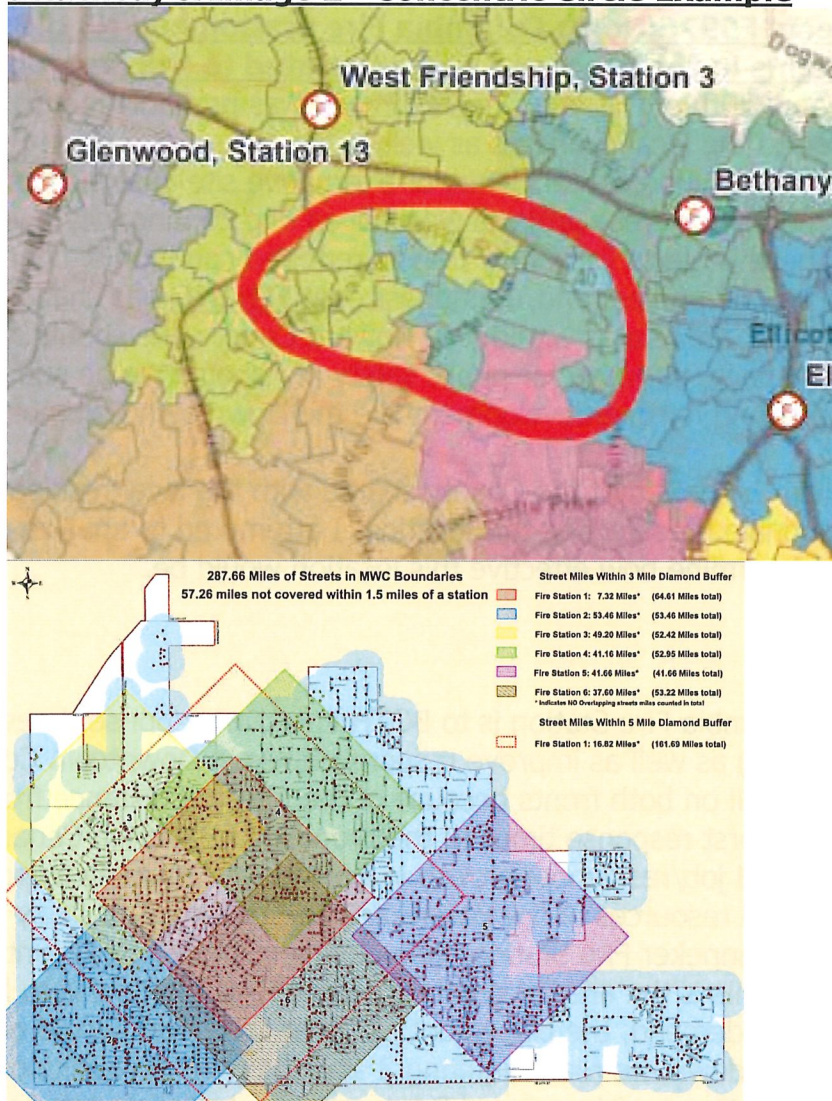
testimony yesterday, in an attempt to kill two birds with one stone, we are going to let both birds get away.

I'll walk through my analysis below with screenshots and have attached all the relevant documents below. It's always easier to speak to data as opposed to summarizing in writing so apologies in advance for the length. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have regarding the analysis below.

- **Why do we even have this problem?**

- Looking at the current poor response area, it's clear that it is on the edge of 4 different current Fire Station's "First Due Response" areas (Clarksville, W. Friendship, Bethany, & Banneker - See Image 1) Being on the very fringe of all 4 likely plays a part into why this area isn't as well-served. Considering the continued growth of residential neighborhoods within this area, planning ahead for a fire station within this area would drastically improve response times here due to physical distance improvements for D5 but would also assist those neighborhoods on or just south of Rt. 108 with the concentric circle approach (as shown as an example in Image 2)

- **Image 1 - Current Fire Stations and First Due Response Areas (full document attached) & Image 2 - Concentric Circle Example**

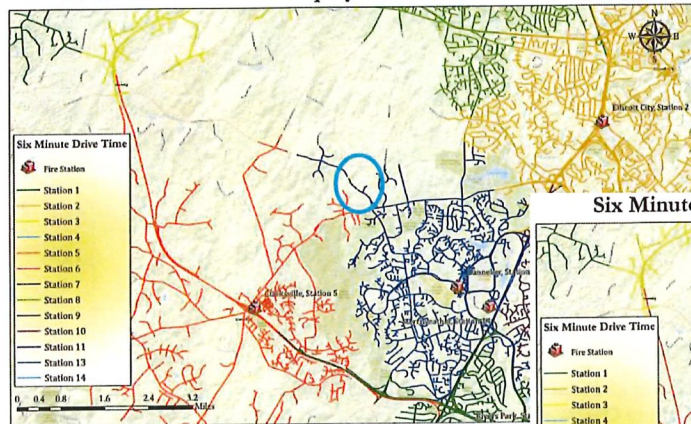




- **How do we know that the proposed North Columbia Fire Station wouldn't improve times for the Homewood/Folly Quarter area?**
  - Presented by Fire & Rescue, the "Six Minute Drive Time" map by Fire Station shows that the coverage areas primary in District 5, between Rts. 32, 108, and 40 desperately do need an improvement in response times for these residents. What added value would the proposed location of the N. Columbia Fire Station provide for this area? This is shown in the added light blue roads highlighted in red circles (See Image 3) and is the only additional "coverage" that this location would provide based on physical distance, and additionally does NOT take into account traffic and other factors that the local residents who travel 108 daily have mentioned repeatedly. This additional roadway (not radius) equals approximately 12.8 miles (tediously using Google Maps distance). The section in the light blue circles show a neighborhood that would still be expected to be in both images as reached by the Banneker Fire Station but was still (questionably) included as "added value"

- **Image 3 (Slide 1 of attached analysis "2nd Testimony - FS Data.pdf") - "Six Minute Drive Time Map"**

Six Minute Drive Time Map by Fire Station- Current Stations

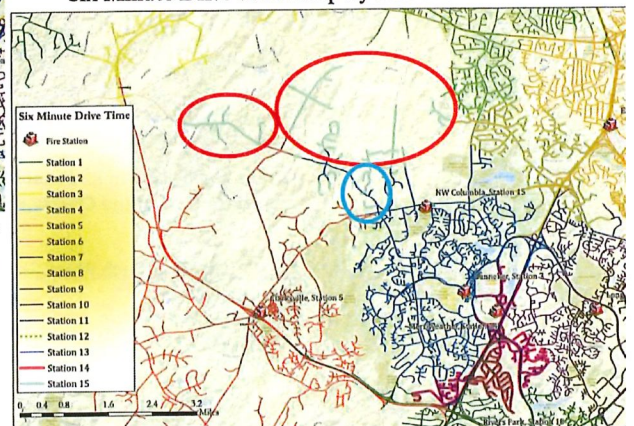


The above map shows the roads and properties in the North Columbia area that are outside of the six-minute drive time boundary. (It is very important to point out that the six-minute drive time analysis does NOT illustrate the whole response picture, as it does not account for traffic and the model assumes all responses originate from the station and not elsewhere in the County)

**Point Number 1:**

- The Six Minute Drive Time Map is a poor metric b
- Doesn't account for traffic (per their descripti
  - There are clear neighborhoods missing between image and right image (false "added value") – Circles

Six Minute Drive Time Map by Fire Station- NW Columb

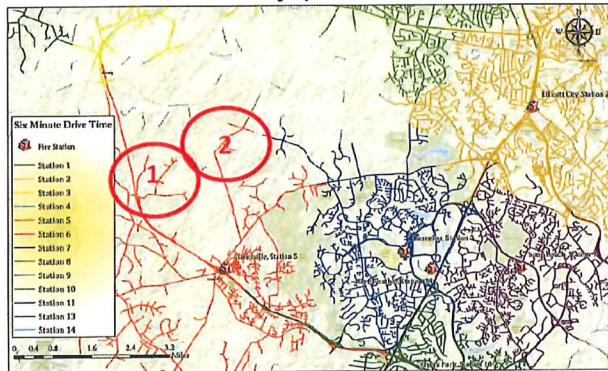


- Now, because this is only based on physical distance, we must adjust how much added value this may potentially contribute based on actual response times. Images 4 and 5 below show that despite Areas 1 and 2 (Red Circles - used an example) being within the Clarksville "Six Minute Drive Time", the actual response time is anywhere from approximately 8-12 minutes depending on the line of service (ALS, BLS, Fire). That would go to show that this so-called added value is overestimated by ~50-75%. Additionally, this addresses nothing for the Triadelphia Rd. corridor which has extremely dangerous response times (Green Circles).

- **Images 4 & 5 - (Slides 2/3 of attached analysis "2nd Testimony - FS Data.pdf") - "Actual Response Times (ALS, BLS, Fire)"**



Six Minute Drive Time Map by Fire Station- Current Stations



Areas highlighted in Red should easily be within the 6 minute response time of the Clarksville station according to their maps.

**Area 1 (Linden Church Road):**      **Area 2 (Homewood/Folly Qtr):**

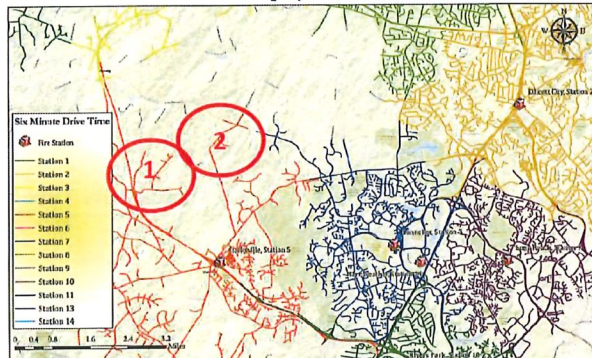
• BLS Dispatches:  
Average Time = 8.35 min  
(9.09,7.61)

• BLS Dispatches:  
Average Time = 10.78 min  
(9.77,11.88)

• ALS Unit Dispatches:  
Average Time = 8.29 min  
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• ALS Unit Dispatches:  
Average Time = 9.84 min  
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Six Minute Drive Time Map by Fire Station- Current Stations



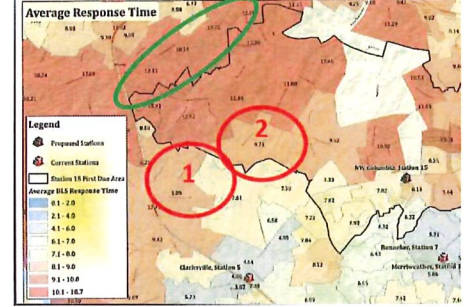
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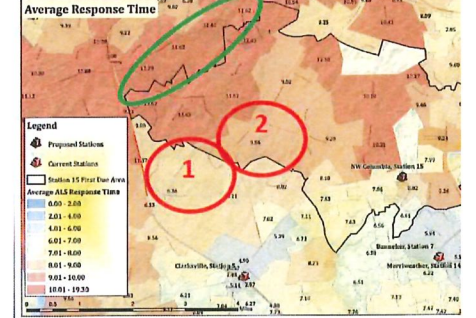
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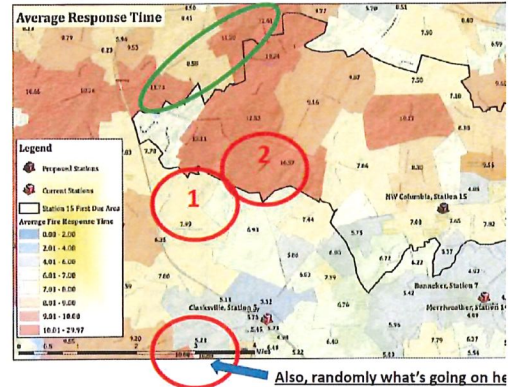
First Arriving ALS or BLS Unit to BLS Dispatched Incidents by Box Area 2015 - 2020 -- NW Colum



First Arriving ALS Unit to ALS Dispatched Incidents by Box Area 2015 - 2020 -- NW Colum



First Arriving Engine to Fire Dispatched Incidents by Box Area 2010 - 2020 -- NW Colum



**Key Takeaways:**

- Doesn't seem like Fire is the issue, mainly EMS as they
- For Folly's Quarter/Homewood Area, Cedar Lane Park the EMS issue because of distance plus lack of traffic s
- Despite First Due Area, still doesn't assist the Triadelpi Corridor (Green circles)
- Common sense states that in order to solve the respor in this area, a fire station needs to be located somewh Homewood or Folly's Quarter

• **So what is the added value?**

- Sadly, not much efficiency for a lot of money. Based on physical distance alone we'd be adding roughly 12.8 miles of additional coverage (total roadway, not radius) at a cost of 10.4 million dollars. This equals over **\$830,000 per additional mile** and is likely to be more per mile considering those other factors are not taken into account. Additionally, this issue is only based on physical distance and can't be fully attributed to Banneker redevelopment/overuse given that the current first due response for this area is split between Clarksville and W. Friendship.

• **So what is the solution? What about Banneker & affordable senior housing?**

- As mentioned during my public testimony, I noticed that during the 4/21 Capital Budget Worksession, Chief Anuszewski, seemingly out of frustration stated, "Where well do you propose we put this fire station?" And I emphasize with his frustration, as he's just



working with the cards that he's dealt. Despite not wanting the destruction of Cedar Lane Park East and the loss of our beloved park, I'm not opposing the need for a fire station, simply the location. I am extremely grateful for the jobs that our first responders do daily and have two very close family friends who are Howard County Firefighters themselves. So in response to the Chief's question, the data clearly shows, you place a fire station in the middle of where the need is. Place a fire station where the impact on the surrounding area is minimal and maintains, or better yet, IMPROVES quality of life for the citizens of the county. My proposed, common sense solution is outlined below:

- **Build a new Fire Station in D5 near Homewood Rd & Folly Quarter Rd:** There is an obvious need for a fire station in this area. There would be plenty of options for land acquisition that wouldn't directly affect local homeowners and allow those who do purchase a home near this fire station the CHOICE to do so.
  - **Rebuild Banneker Fire Station utilizing the Columbia Flier Property:** [Howard County already owns this property](#), it is surrounded by commercial properties and is not nestled between three long-established neighborhoods, directly adjacent to a traffic light the fire station could control, is 2.1 acres (larger than the footprint of the proposed plans for the NCFS; 1 soccer field = 1.86 acres), and is directly on a split dual-lane road.
  - **Utilize the old Banneker Station property for Affordable Senior Housing:** While I would certainly oppose living above a fire station as is planned for the Banneker redevelopment, this would allow for the site to not be built on top of it and utilize the original Banneker site for affordable senior housing.
- **[This seems like a win all around and a common sense solution for EVERYONE!](#)**

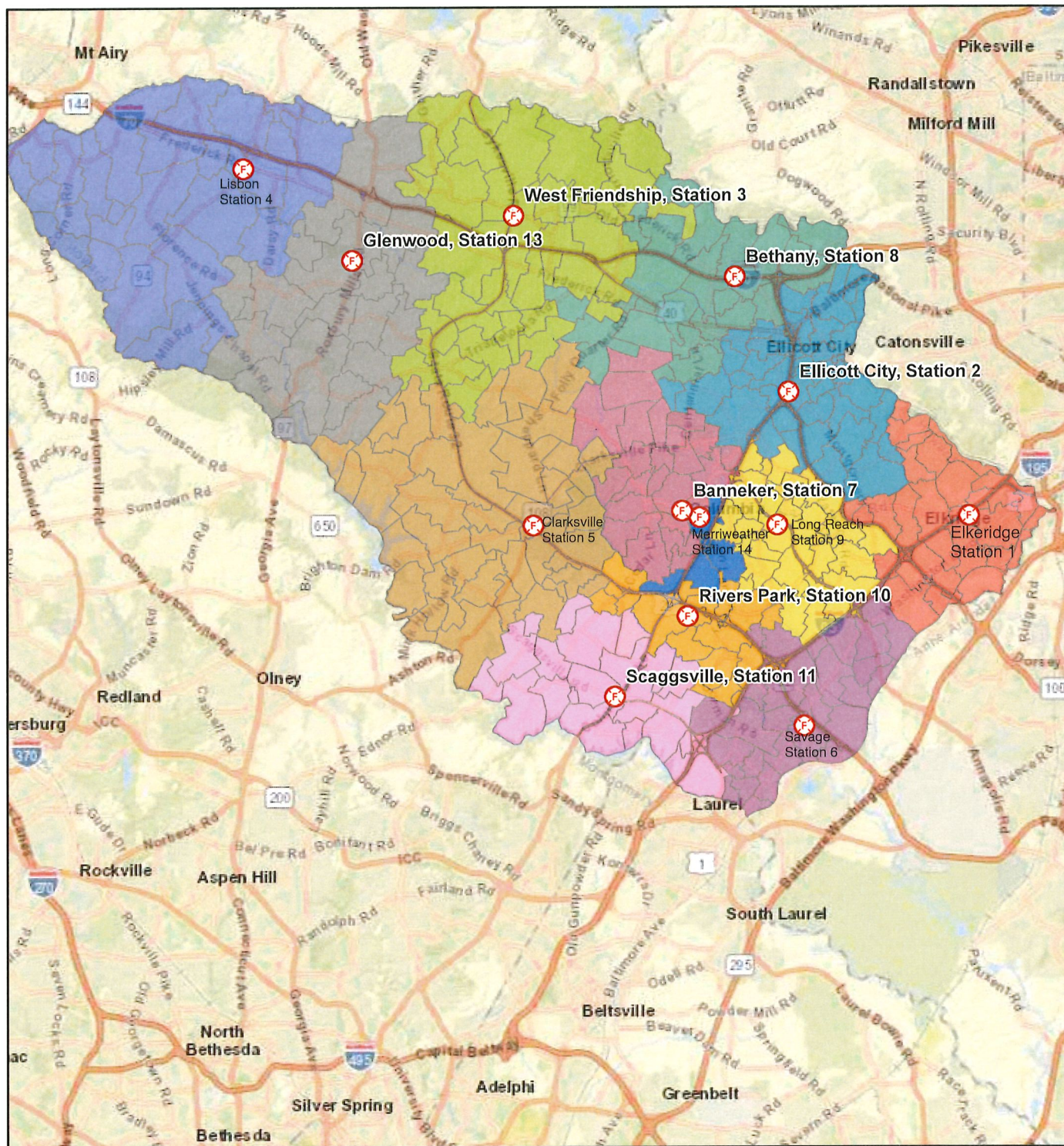
If you're even still reading this, one last thing. In the 6 weeks or so since we first learned about the County's plans for Cedar Lane Park East, we have been working 24/7 (on top of working full-time) to educate ourselves on how the County even came to this plan. I must say I have a lot of respect for members of the County Council for being this involved day in & out with project budgets and listening to their engaged citizens. There's a reason I never wanted to be involved in politics! I simply want to continue to go to work, provide for my family, and enjoy my home and community as everyone would expect to do. We specifically purchased our home in Columbia near this beloved park because we expected smart, planned growth & development and a sense of predictability and consistency knowing that at the end of day (realized more than ever since the pandemic began) my wife and I could take our 3 year old daughter for our daily walks through the park and enjoy these valued resources that Howard County [prides itself in and works to protect](#).

With that, I urge the County Council to allocate ZERO dollars to these projects and ask the County to go back to square one and come up with the BEST PLAN FOR THE COMMUNITY, not just the one that offers the path of least resistance.

Thanks,  
Ahmed

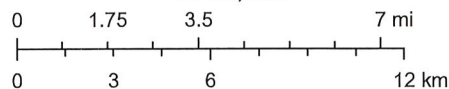
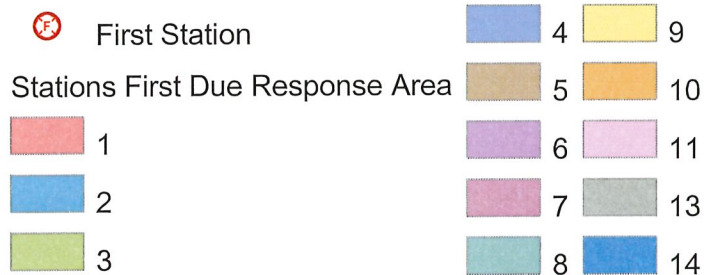


# ArcGIS Web Map



5/3/2021, 8:09:02 PM

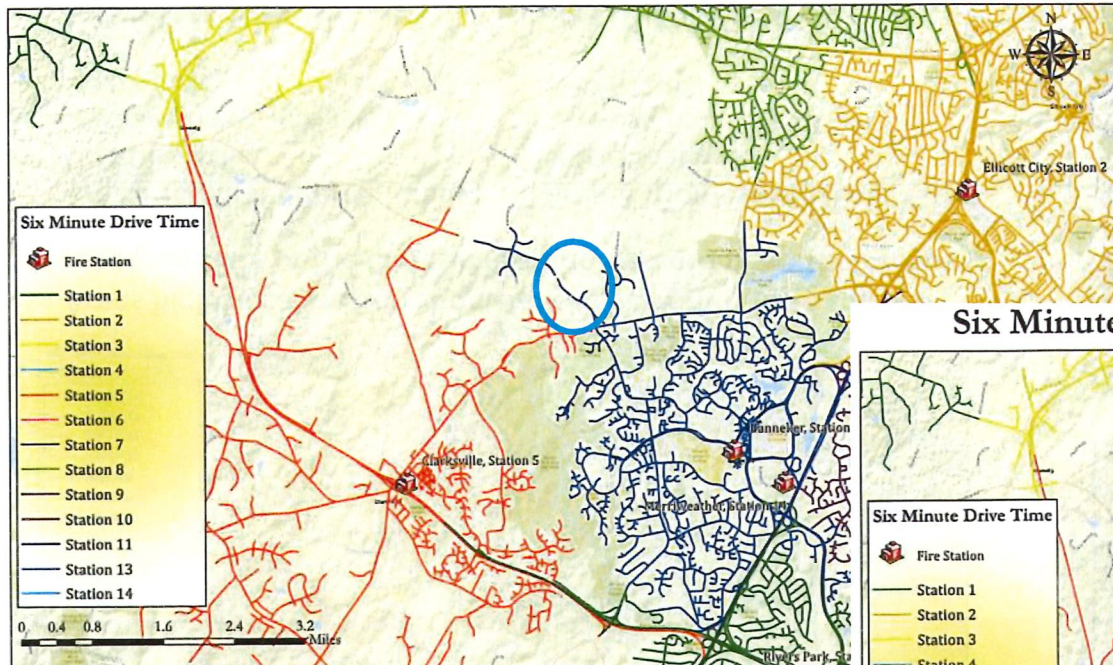
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Montgomery County, MD, MNCPPC, VITA, Esri, HERE, Garmin, NGA, USGS, NPS



## Six Minute Drive Time Map by Fire Station- Current Stations

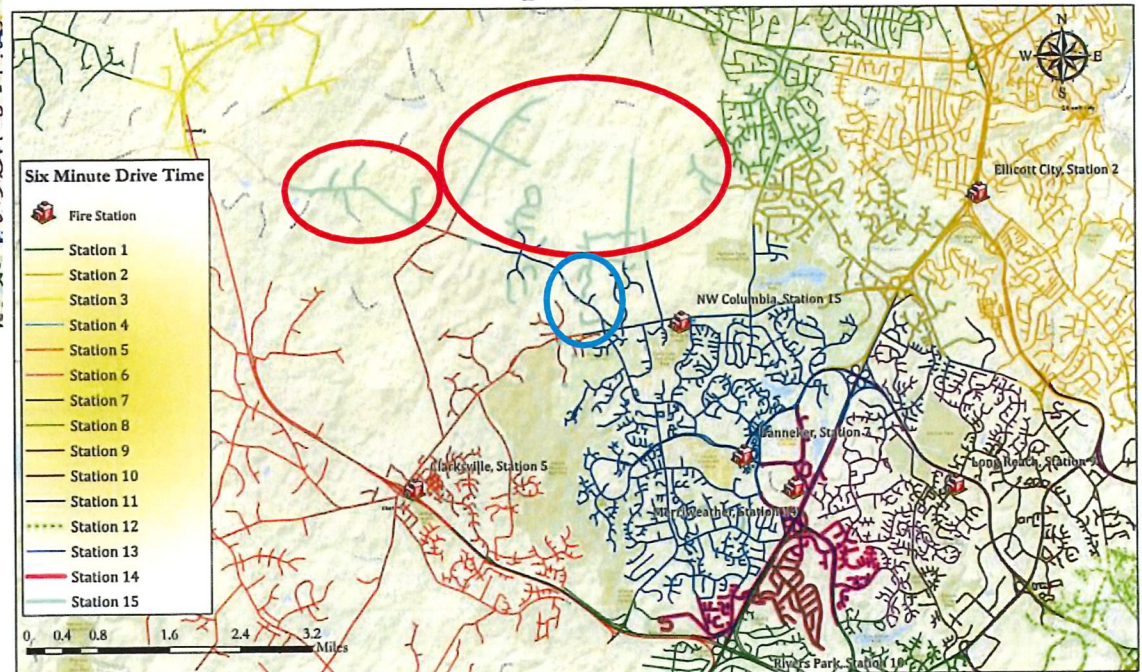


### Point Number 1:

The Six Minute Drive Time Map is a poor metric because:

- Doesn't account for traffic (per their description)
- There are clear neighborhoods missing between left image and right image (false "added value") – Blue Circles

## Six Minute Drive Time Map by Fire Station- NW Columbia

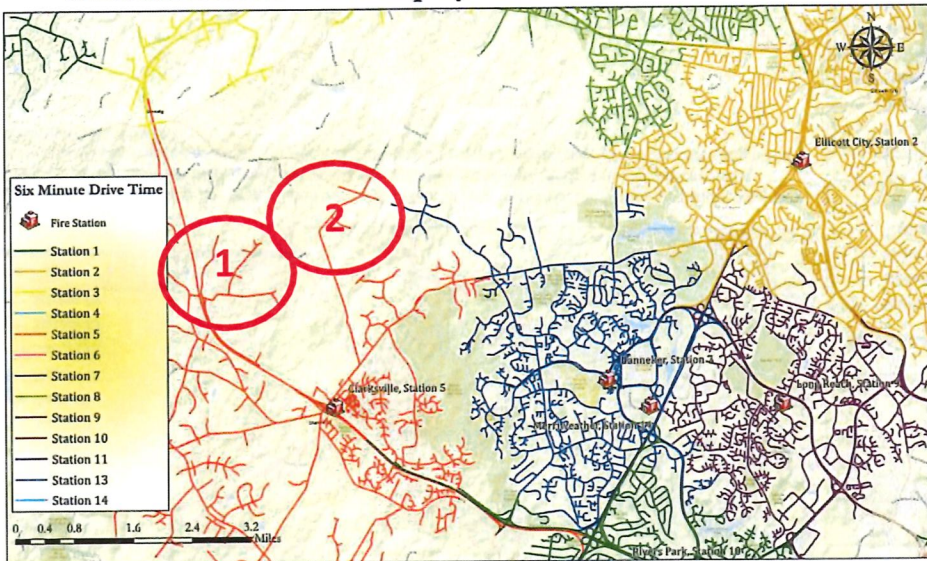


The above map shows the roads and properties in the North Columbia area that are outside of the six-minute drive time boundary. (It is very important to point out that the six-minute drive time analysis does NOT illustrate the whole response picture, as it does not account for traffic and the model assumes all responses originate from the station and not elsewhere in the County.)



# If the Six-Minute Drive Time is a bad metric, what is the right response time?

Six Minute Drive Time Map by Fire Station- Current Stations



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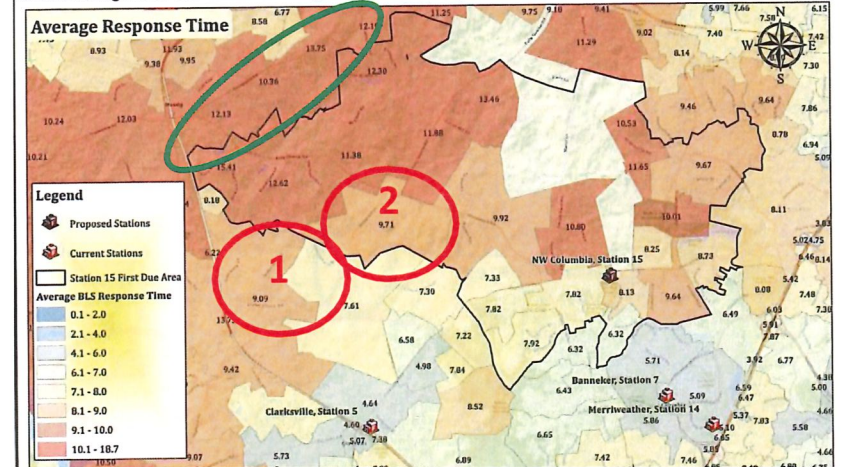
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Average Time = 8.35 min  
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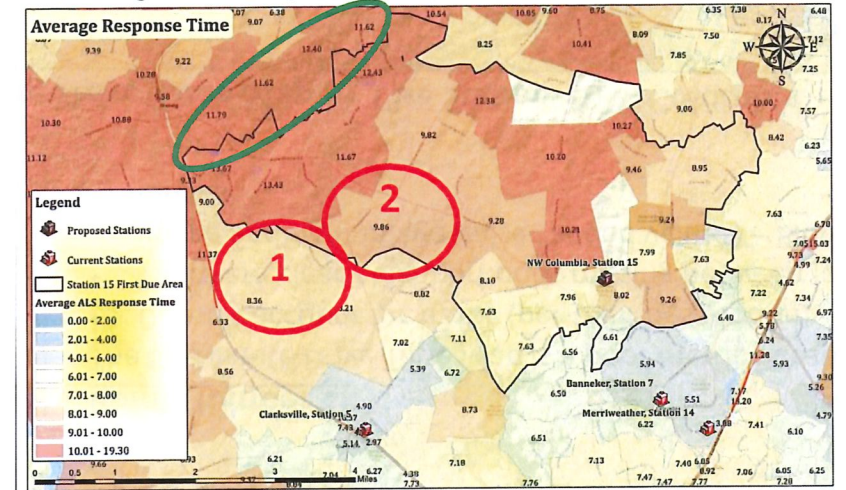
**Area 2 (Homewood/Folly Qtr):**

- BLS Dispatches:  
Average Time = 10.78 min  
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Average Time = 9.84 min  
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First Arriving ALS or BLS Unit to BLS Dispatched Incidents by Box Area 2015 - 2020 -- NW Columbia, Station 15



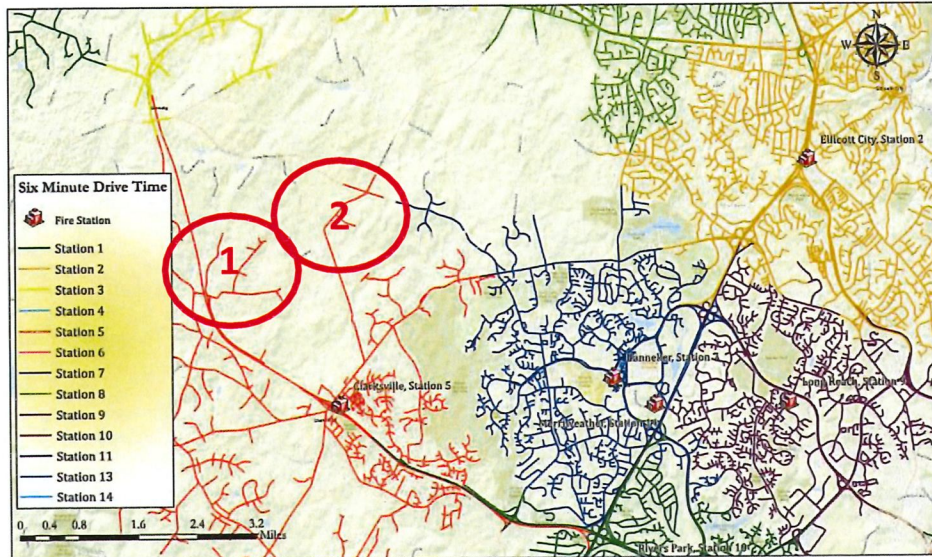
First Arriving ALS Unit to ALS Dispatched Incidents by Box Area 2015 - 2020 -- NW Columbia, Station 15





# If the Six-Minute Drive Time is a bad metric, what is the right response time?

Six Minute Drive Time Map by Fire Station- Current Stations



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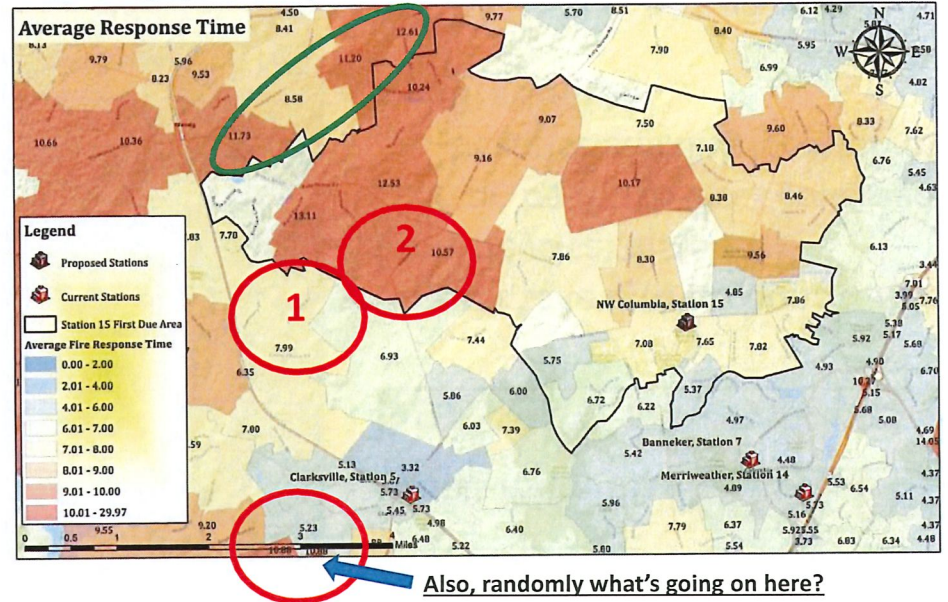
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First Arriving Engine to Fire Dispatched Incidents by Box Area 2010 - 2020 -- NW Columbia, Station 15



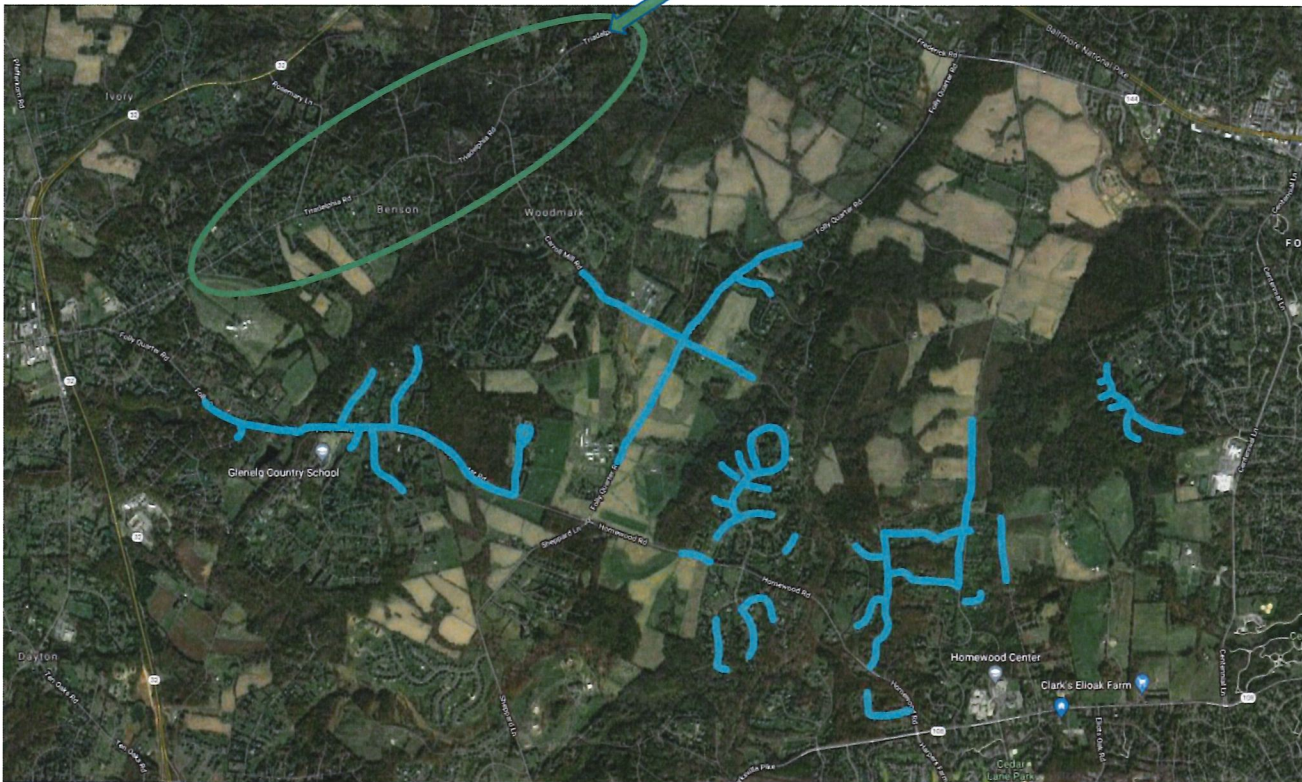
## Key Takeaways:

- Doesn't seem like Fire is the issue, mainly EMS as they stated.
- For Folly's Quarter/Homewood Area, Cedar Lane Park wouldn't solve the EMS issue because of distance plus lack of traffic study
- Despite First Due Area, still doesn't assist the Triadelphia Rd. Corridor (Green circles)
- Common sense states that in order to solve the response time issues in this area, a fire station needs to be located somewhere on Homewood or Folly's Quarter



## What is the added value for this location?

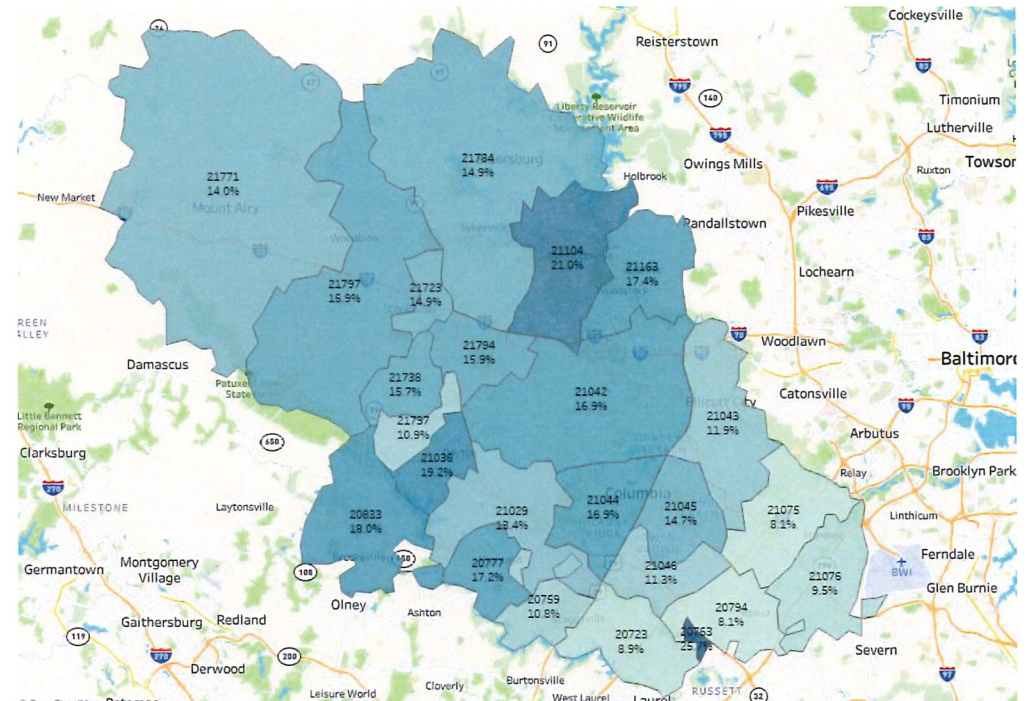
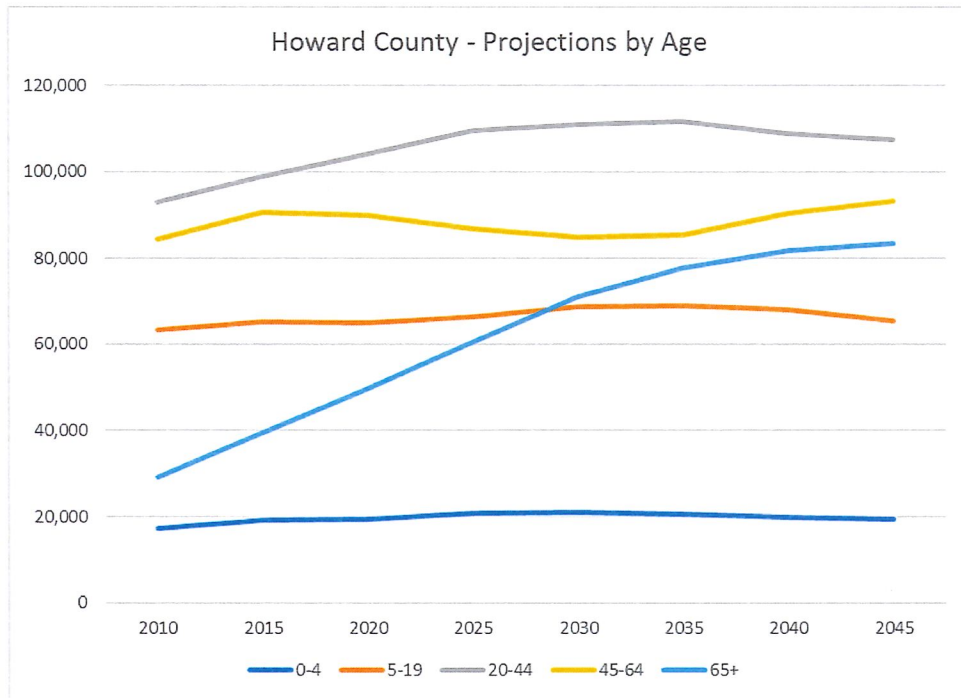
What about this underserved area?



- The added value distance of road covered to meet “Six-Minute Drive Time = ~ 12.4 miles
- At a budget of \$10.4 million this equals more than \$830,000 per mile of coverage
- Doesn’t take into account traffic (only physical distance)
  - can be much less “coverage” because starting location of fire station
- Doesn’t even solve the full problem of the region!!!



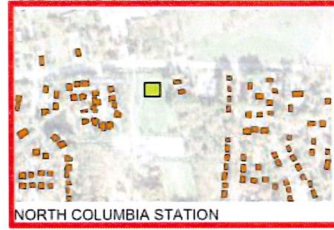
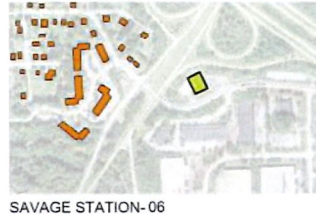
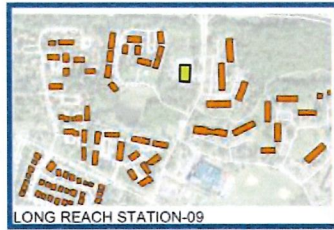
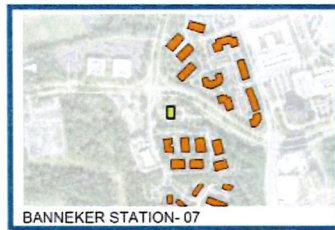
# 2019 - Percent of Population (Age 65+)



Source: American Community Survey – 5 Year Estimates

# Original Slide – 3/25/21 Presentation

## 02. Building Location

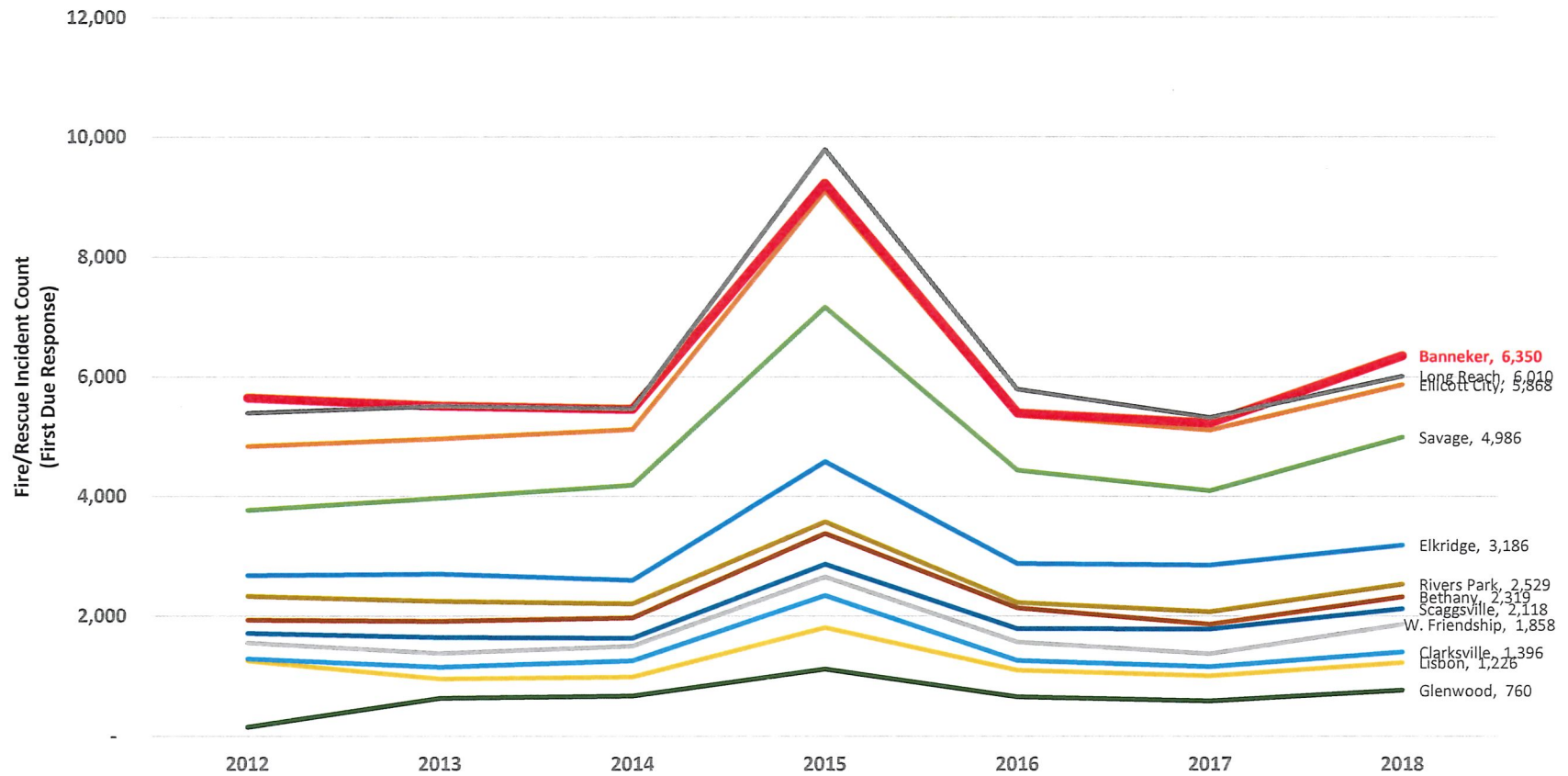


- Fire Station
- Residential Buildings



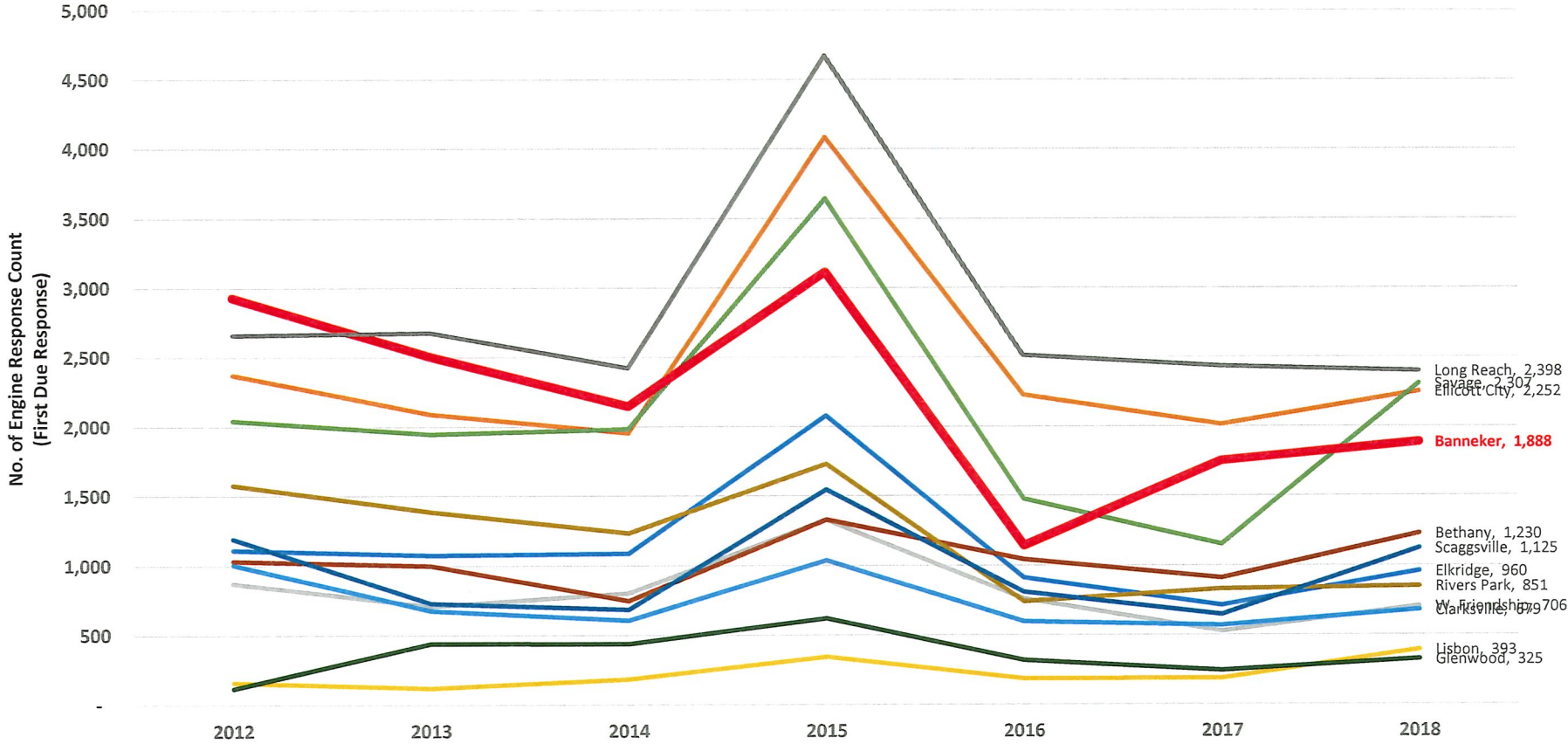


# Fire-Rescue Incidents 2012-2018 (First Due Station Response)



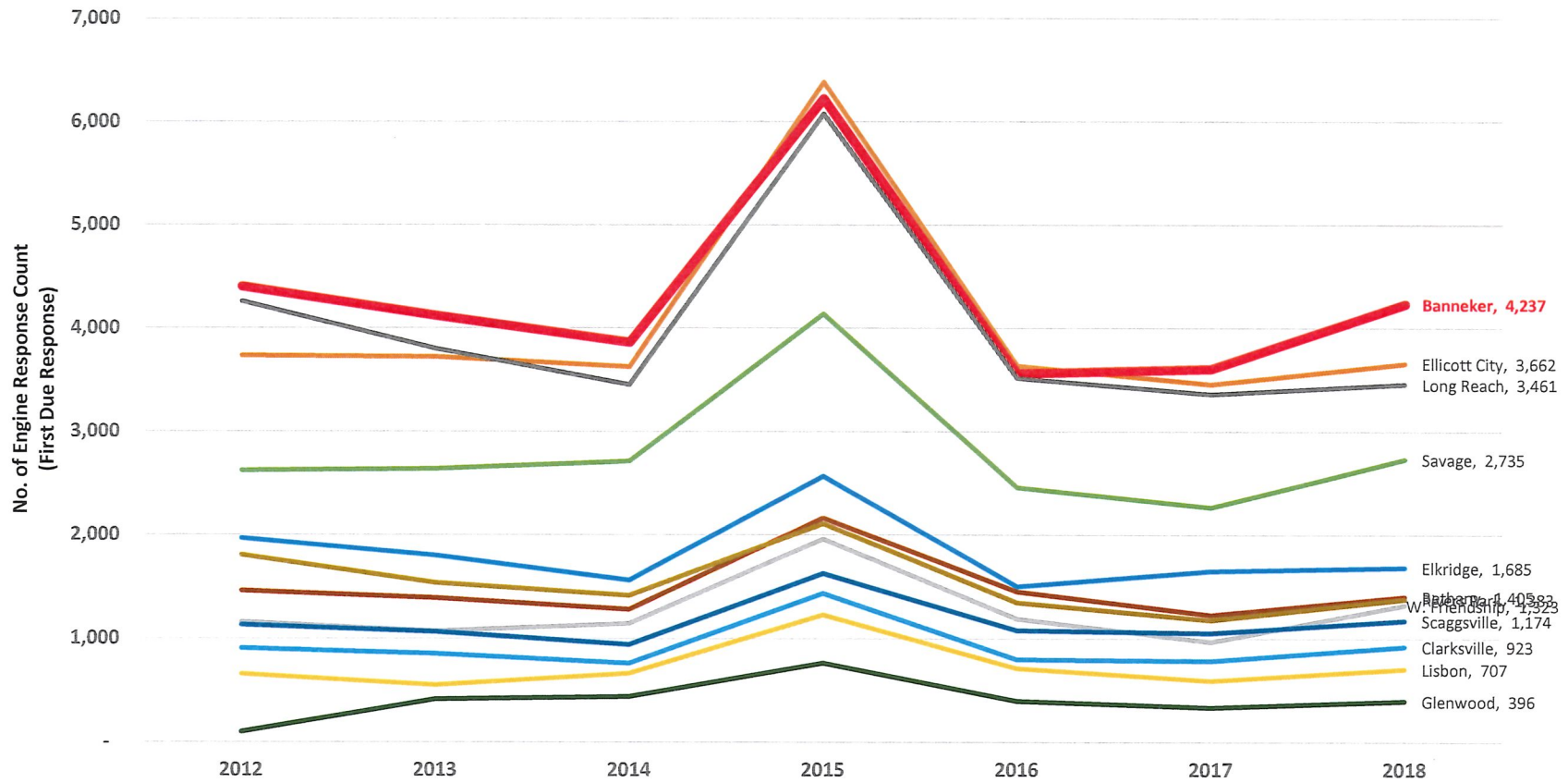


# No. of Fire Engines 2012-2018 (First Due Station Response)



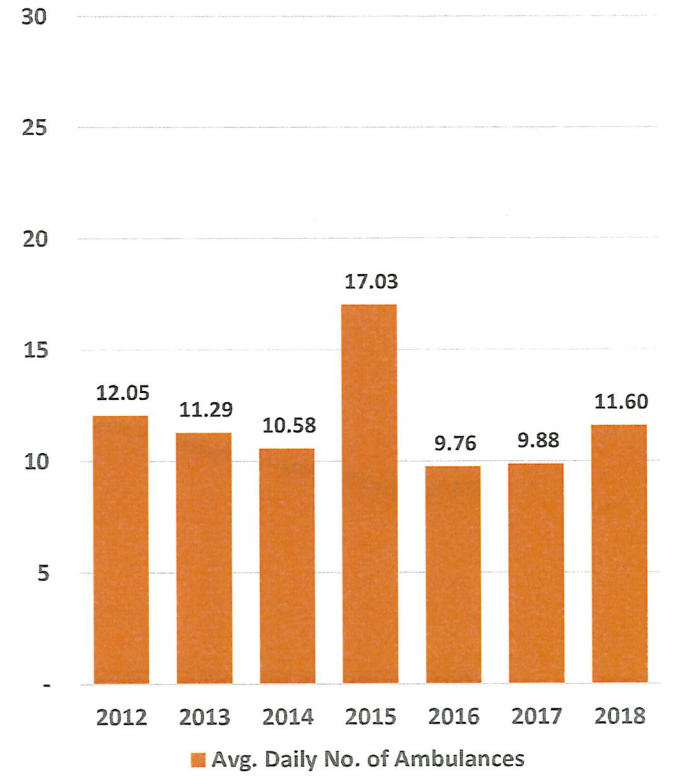
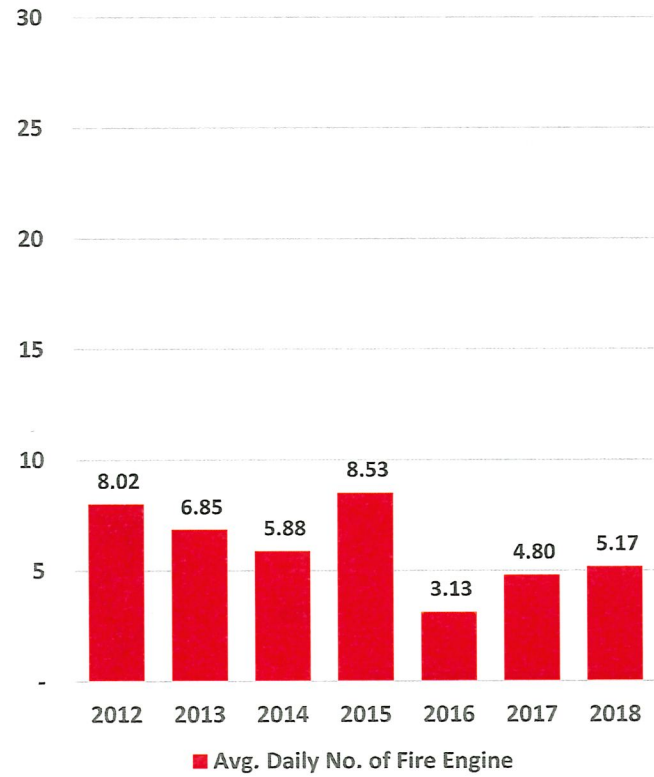
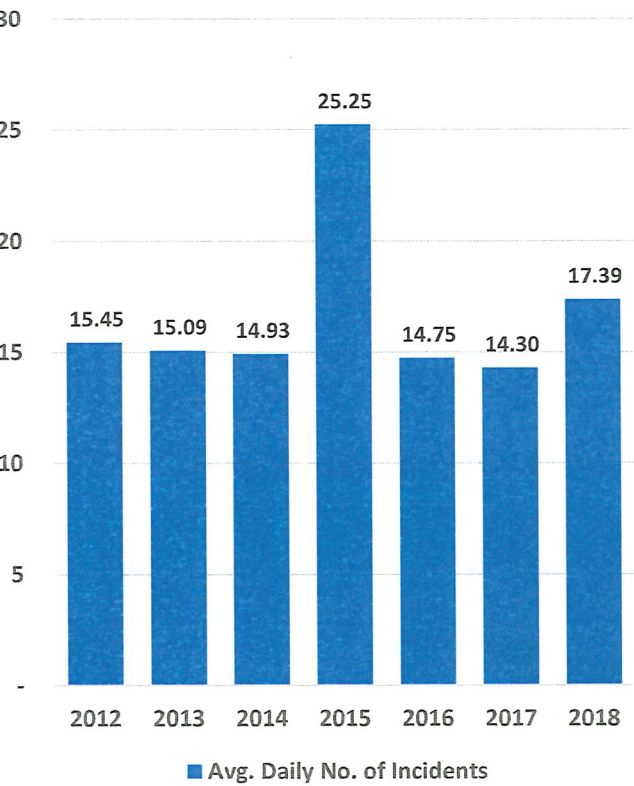
Source: Howard County Open Data Portal

## No. of Ambulances 2012-2018 (First Due Station Response)



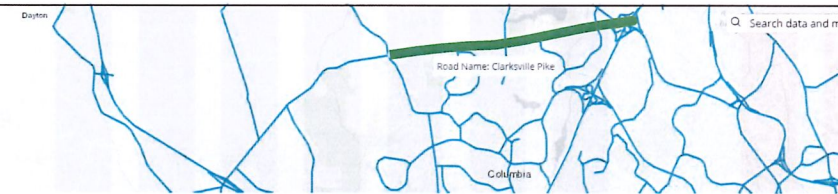


# Average Daily "Alarms"



# Average Annual Weighted Daily Traffic Route 108 Sections

Maryland Annual Average Daily Traffic - Annual Average Daily Traffic (SHA Statewide AADT Lines)  
Last updated 10 months ago | 10,665 Records



Md108-.35 Mi W Of Us29 (Proposed Location)

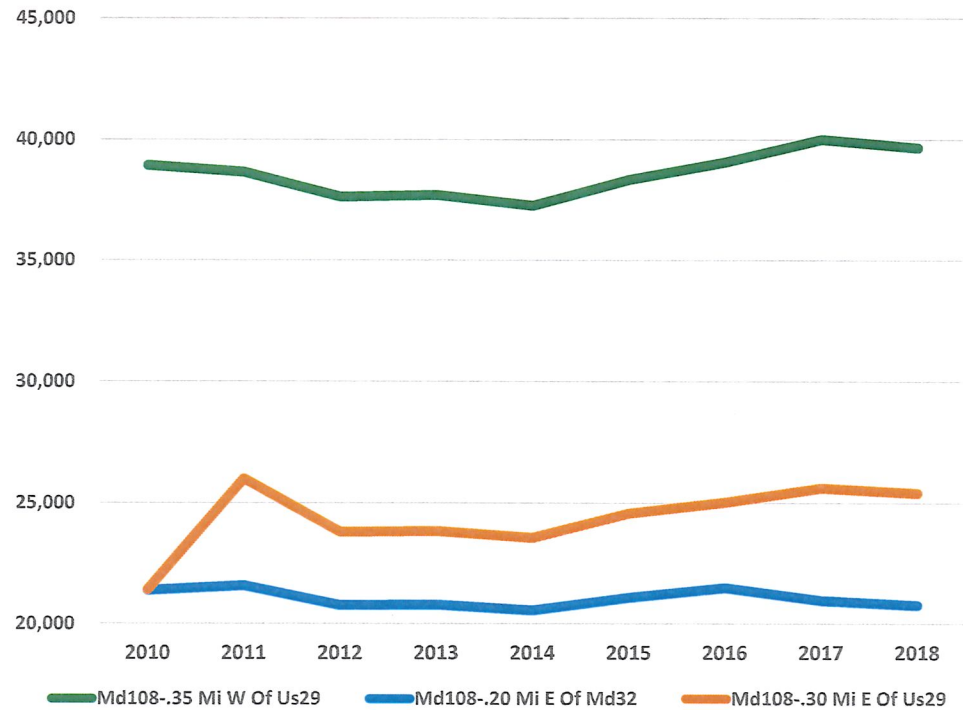


Md108-.20 Mi E Of Md32



Md108-.30 Mi E Of Us29

**Proposed Section is on the Narrowest and Busiest section of 108**





## Example of Increased Congestion/Danger of 108

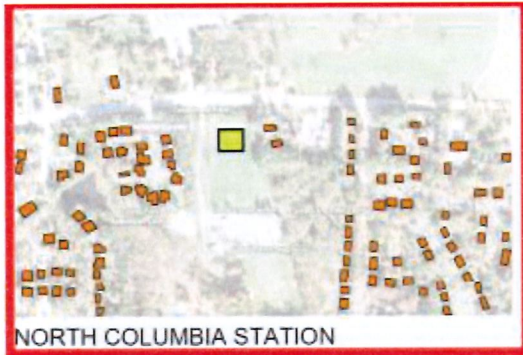
- March 29, 2021 – Shut down 108 all day (one lane passing later in the afternoon)
- Not uncommon – consistent dangers making left turn into and out of neighborhoods (Beech Creek & Cottonwood Way) because of speeding traffic and limited line of sight (variations in vertical aspect of road)





# Proposed North Columbia Fire Station

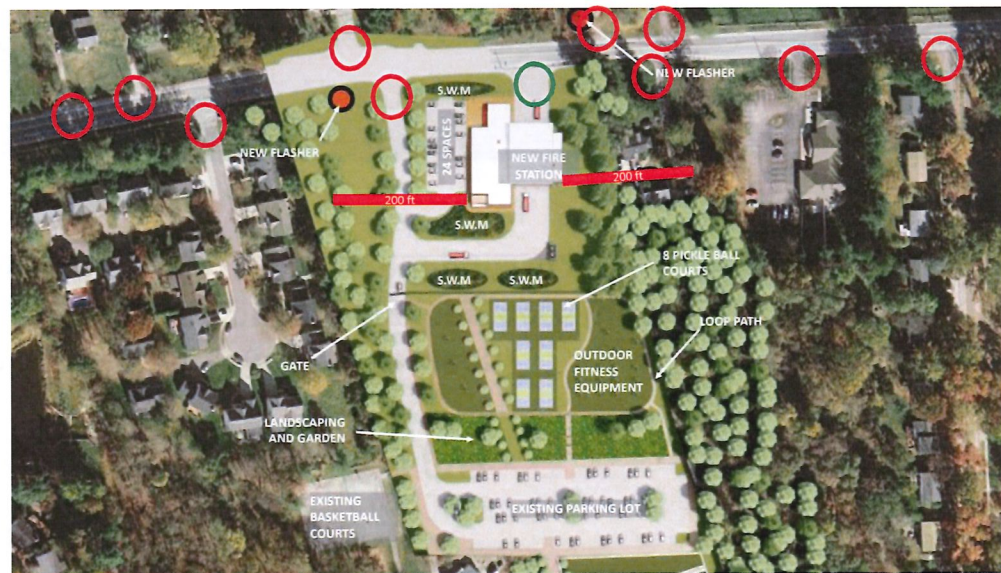
- Not built on land pre-home construction
- Single lane, dual access
- Full Station/24 hours (not Volunteer)
- Pure residential area with very limited commercial land
- Dangerous maneuvering required in this section of 108
  - 10 exit points within ~1,000 ft section of 108 (with proposed 11<sup>th</sup>).



2020 Aerial Photo



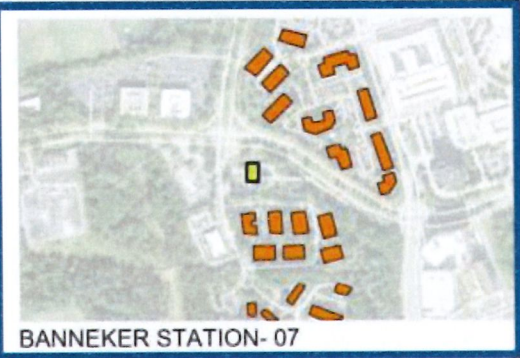
Proposed Fire Station





# Banneker Fire Station

Built 1969



- Multi lane, dual access road (Little Patuxent/Gov. Warfield)
- Built before homes built around
- Full Station/24 hours (not Volunteer)

2020 Aerial Photo



1984 Aerial Photo



Built 1972



## Long Reach Fire Station

- Multi lane, dual access road (Rt. 175)
- Built before homes built around
- Full Station/24 hours (not Volunteer)

2020 Aerial Photo



1984 Aerial Photo





# Bethany Fire Station

- Single lane, dual access road (Old Frederick Road)
- Built before many homes built around
- Volunteer Station
- June 1975 – Bethany Fire Station 8 eliminates the use of the fire siren due to neighborhood complaint

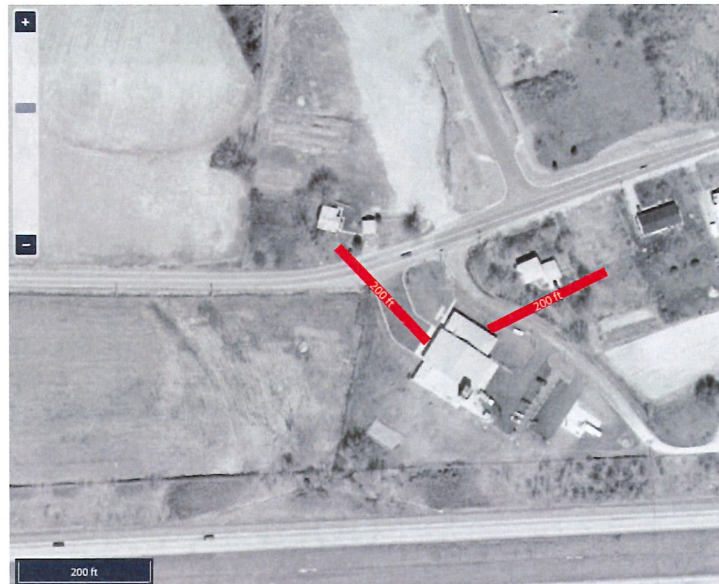
Built 1975



2020 Aerial Photo



1984 Aerial Photo



Built 2014



## Elkridge Fire Station

- Single lane, dual access road (Montgomery Road, ease of access to Rt. 1)
- Built on land originally with homes (purchased by County?)
- Volunteer Station

2020 Aerial Photo



2011 Aerial Photo





# North Columbia Fire Station Community Meeting Agenda

- 7:00 pm Introductions
- 7:10 pm Fire & Rescue Presentation
- 7:20 pm New Fire Station and Park Overview
- 7:30 pm Questions and Answers
- 8:20 pm Closing and Next Steps

# North Columbia Fire Station & Banneker Redevelopment



- Original Banneker Station opened in 1969
- Originally housed 1 Ambulance and 1 Engine
- Opened as Station 51, part of Fifth District Volunteer Fire Department
- Original staffing was 2 people per 24-hour shift.

- Current station after sleeping quarters addition on left side of building
- Now houses 1 Ambulance, 1 Engine, and 1 Ladder Truck
- 24-hour minimum staffing of 10 people



North Columbia Fire Station  
03/25/2021

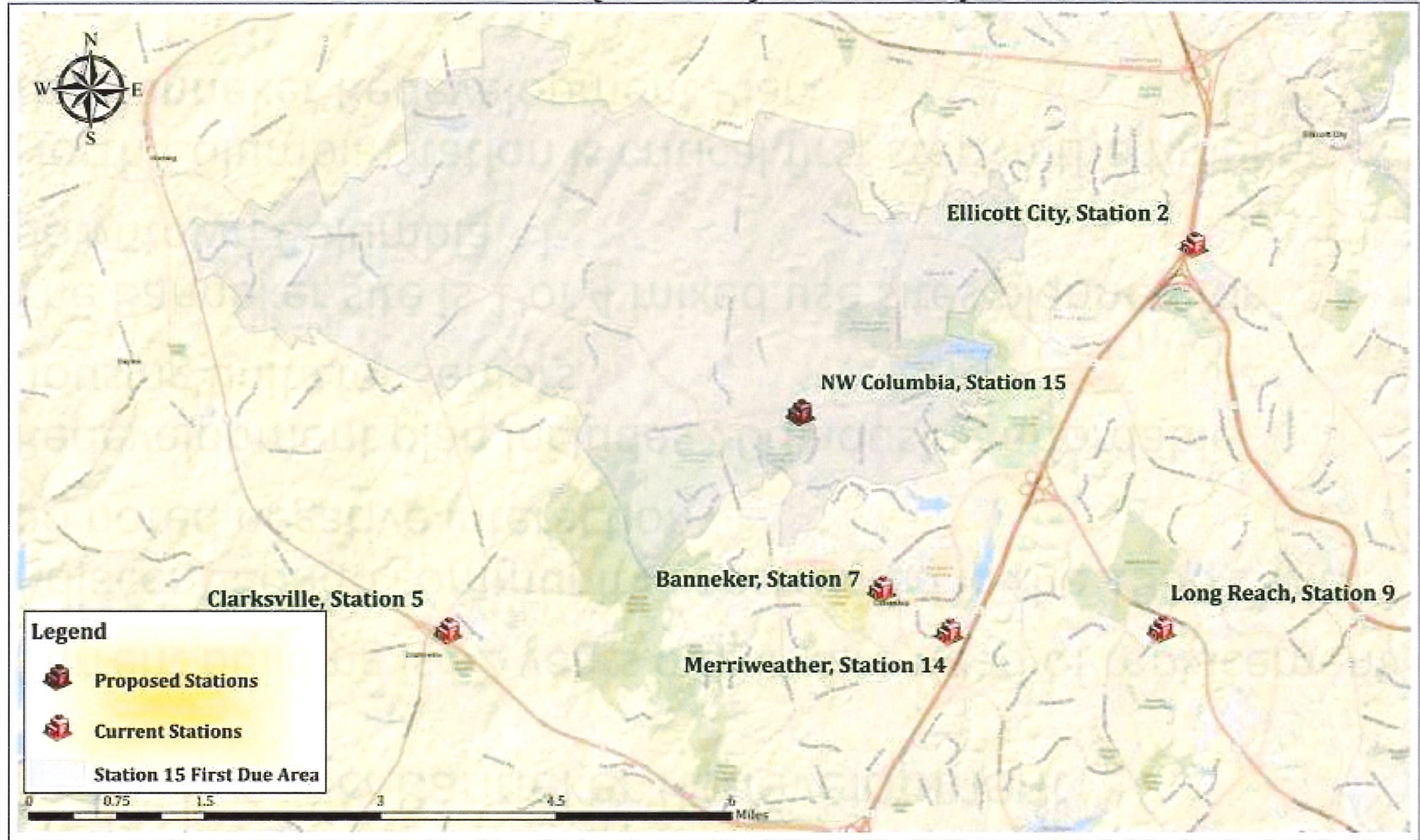


# North Columbia Fire Station & Banneker Redevelopment

- Current building is 52 years old, in dire need of replacement
- Adjacent Condo community constructed in the 1990's with no noted negative interactions
- Redevelopment plan includes 100 housing affordable housing units for seniors
- The Banneker site is 1 of 4 mixed use sites planned for downtown Columbia
- North Columbia Station is critical first step in the timeline of the Banneker Redevelopment Plan

# 01. Fire Station

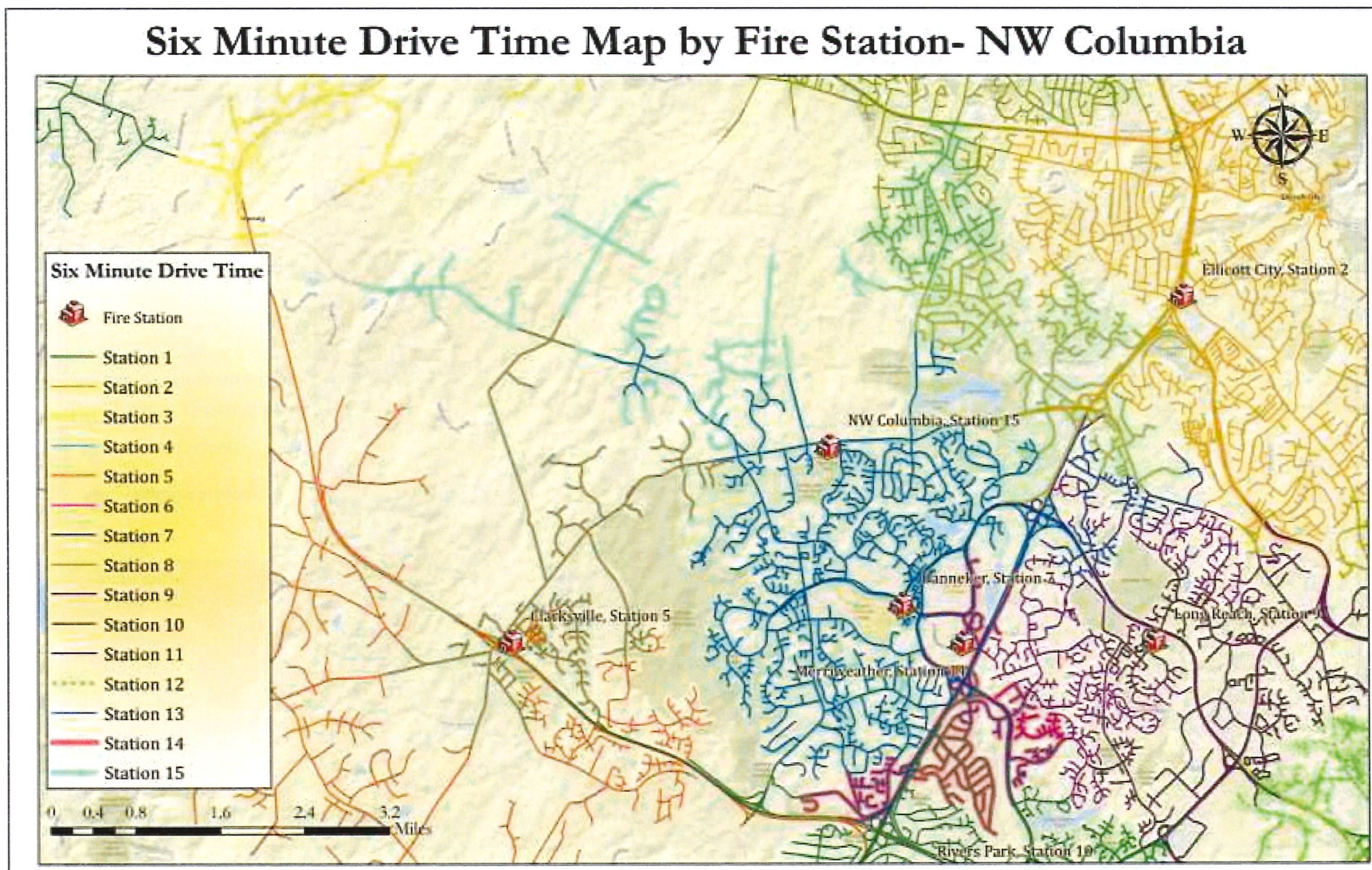
## Northwest Columbia (Station 15) First Due Response Area



Updated: March 4th, 2021

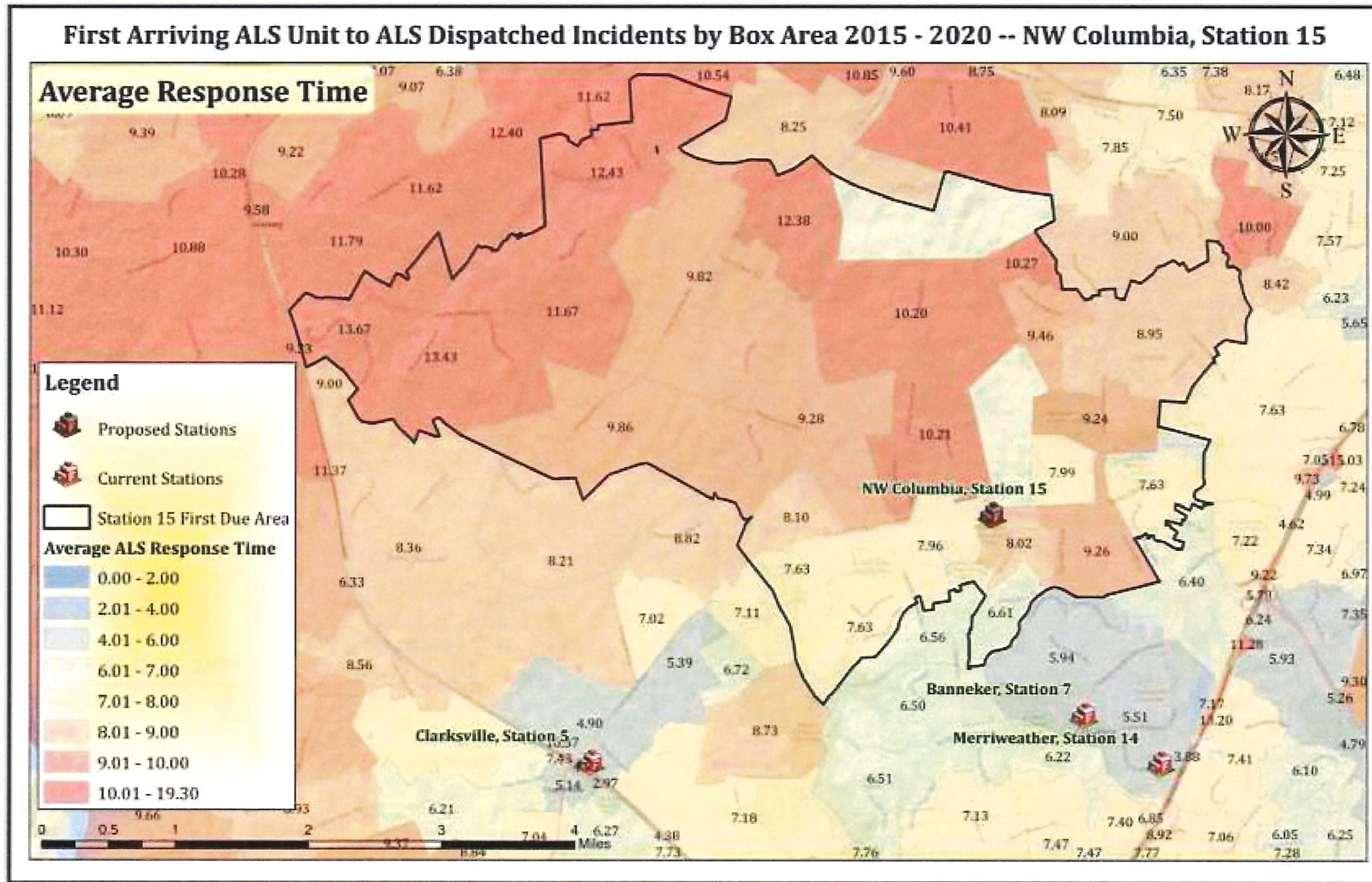


# 01. Fire Station



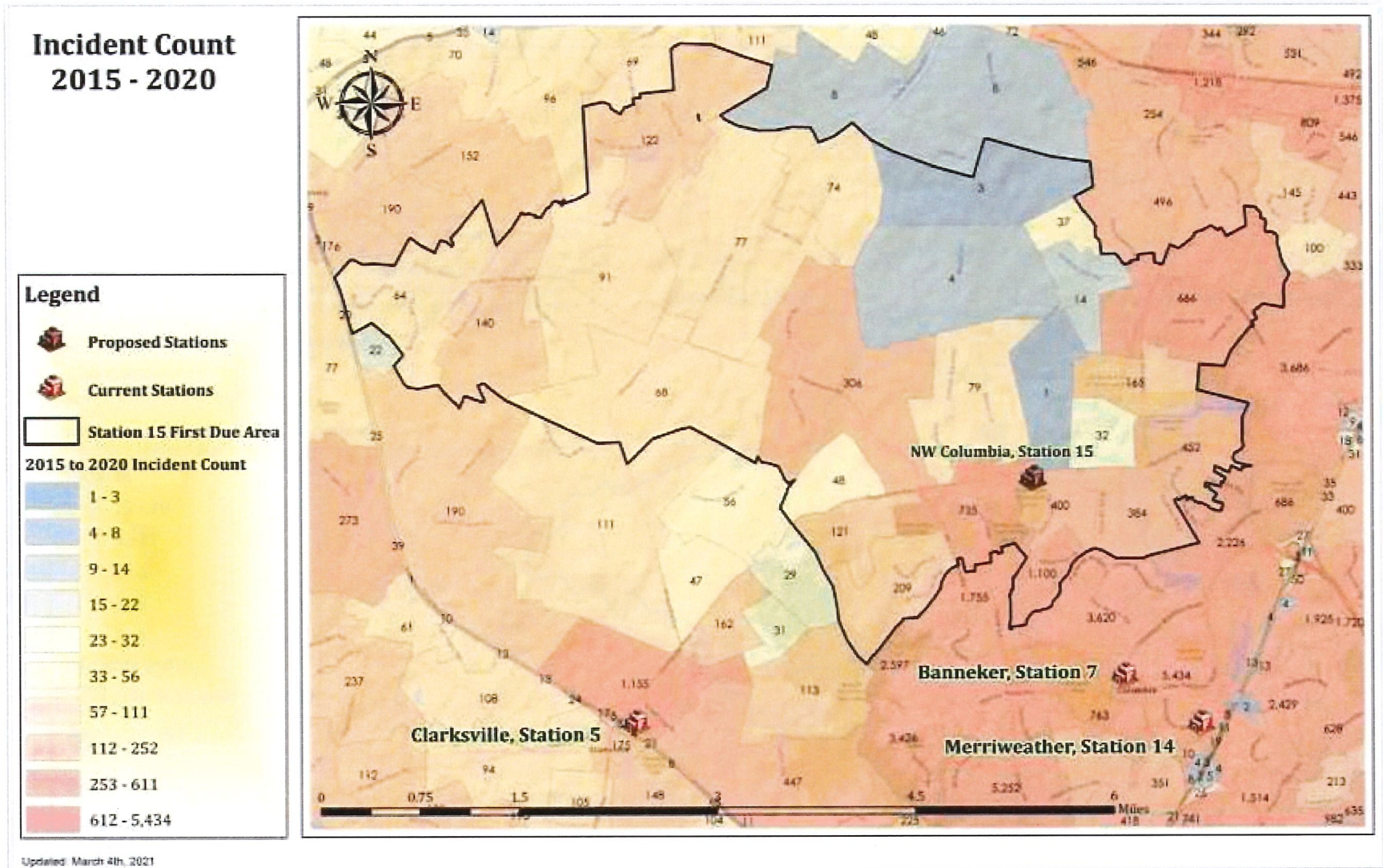


# 01. Fire Station





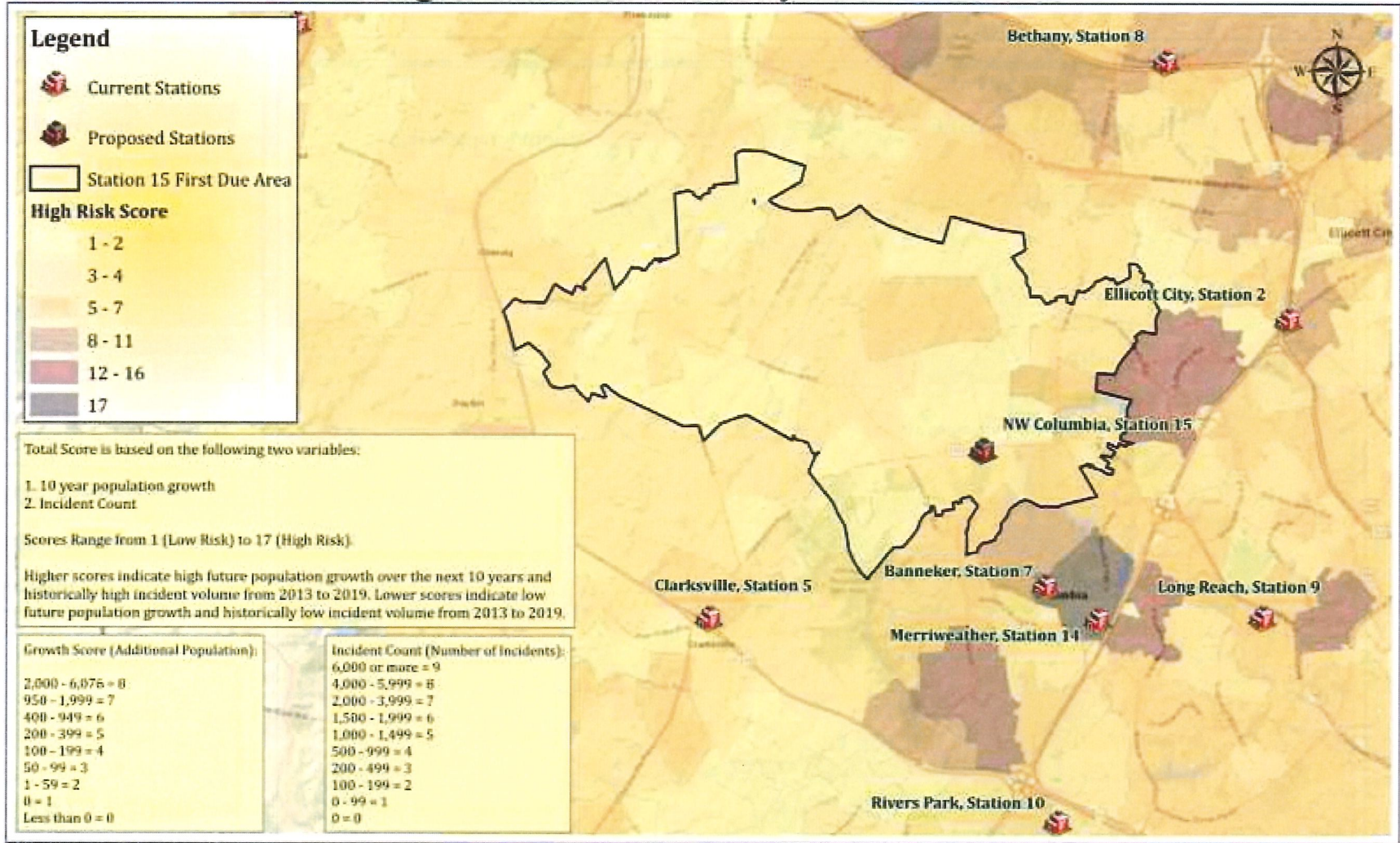
# 01. Fire Station





# 01. Fire Station

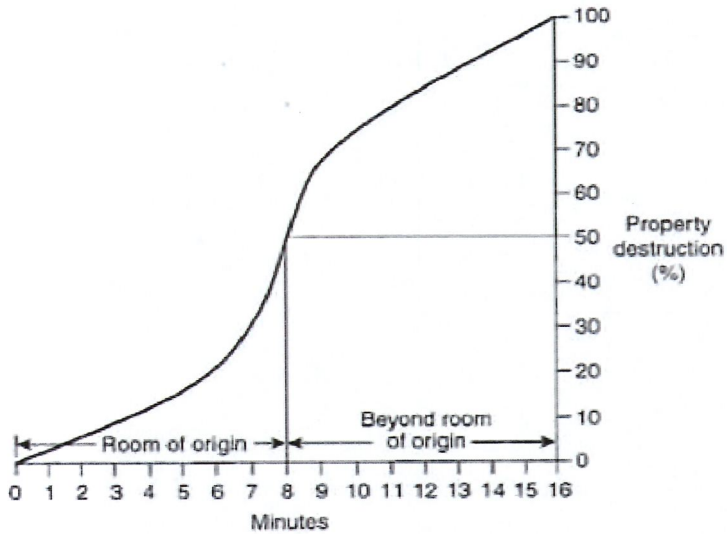
## High Risk Locations by Fire Box Area



Updated: 3/11/2021



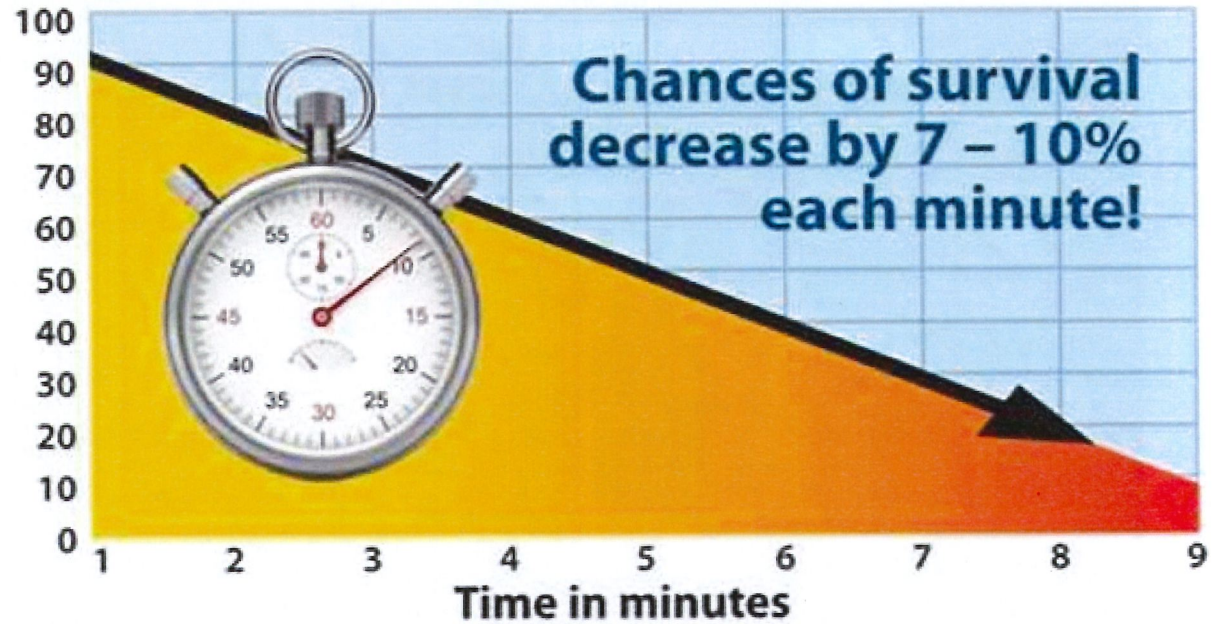
# 01. Fire Station



Fire Propagation Curve.

Fire Propagation Model shows the timeline of fire spread from ignition to complete destruction. In general, beyond 8 minutes the fire breaches beyond the room of origin increasing the amount of property damage

Chart to the right shows the chances of survival from a sudden cardiac arrest in minutes from incident without intervention









02. Facilities





## 02. Facilities





## 02. Facilities & Rec & Parks



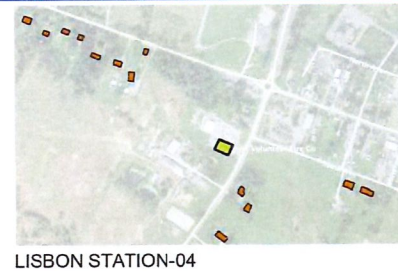
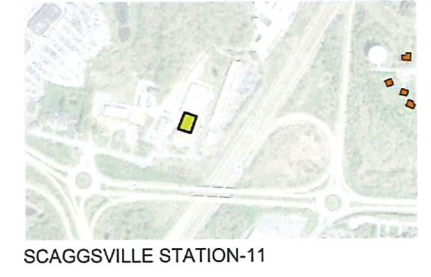
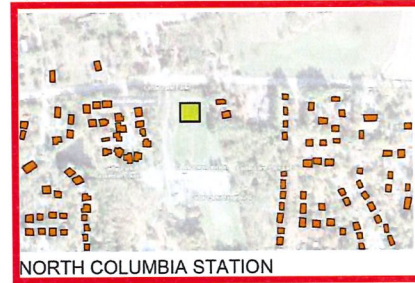
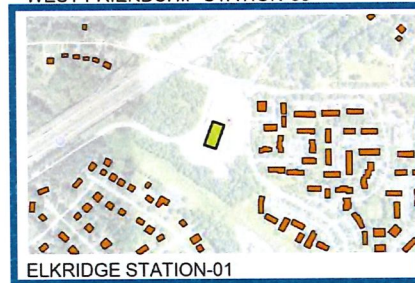
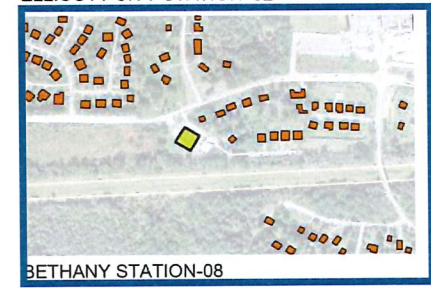
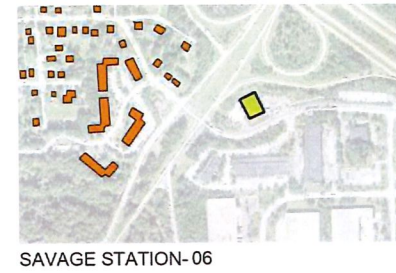
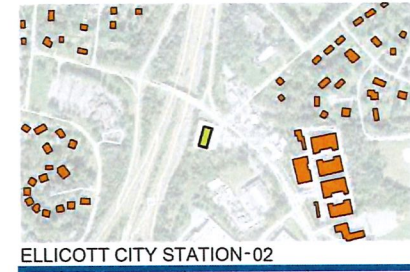
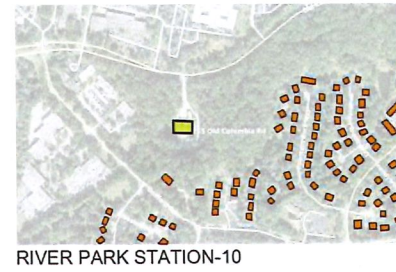
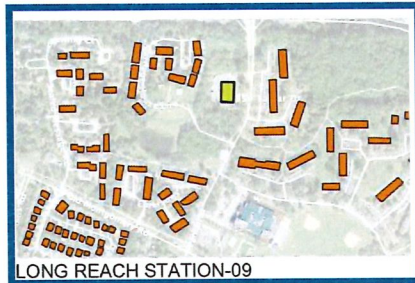
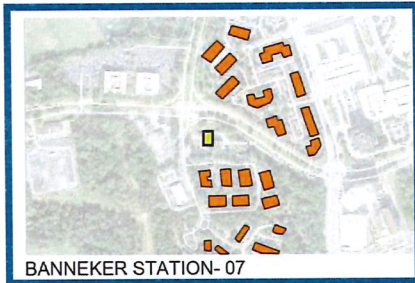


### 03. Rec & Parks





## 02. Building Location

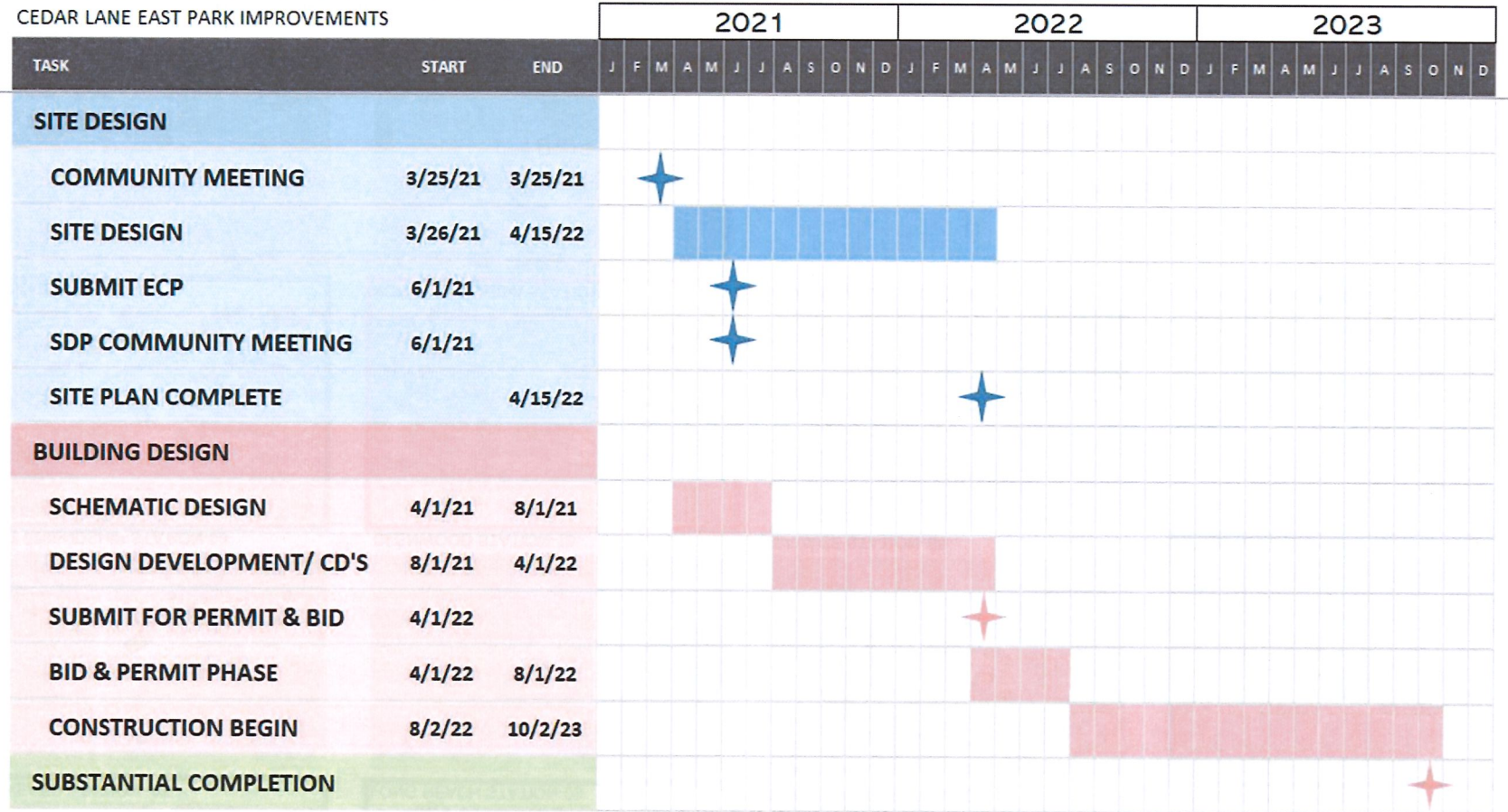


- Fire Station
- Residential Buildings



# NORTH COLUMBIA FIRE STATION

CEDAR LANE EAST PARK IMPROVEMENTS



**Milestones:**

- Community Meeting/ Site concept layout conformation - March 25,2021
- Site Design–March 2021 – April 2022
- Building Design – April 2021 – April 2022
- Bid/Permit – April 2022
- Construction – August 2022 – October 2023





Q/A

# Closing and Next Steps



## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Betsy Lew <blew7@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 10, 2021 6:07 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Cc:** Ping Mao; McCague, Meridy  
**Subject:** Please support 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 Council Member,

My name is Betsy Lew. I have lived in Howard County over 45 years. For the first 32 years I lived in the East Columbia area. In 2008 I moved to District 5. I am asking you to support the funding for the building of a larger East Columbia 50+ Center. I love the East Columbia 50+ Center. For 15 years, the East Columbia 50+ Center is where I have been going to meet other seniors, socialize, get information, exercise, dance, take classes, learn new skills and just have fun. I have been a member of the tai chi group for 14 years and a Chinese watercolor painting class for 3 years.

Through the years, I have attended events at other 50+ Centers in North Laurel, Ellicott City, Elkridge, Glenwood, and the Bain Center. All those locations have larger and/or newer facilities.

Senior Centers play a significant role in shaping the quality of life for senior citizens. Many seniors face physical and mental health challenges. Whether a person copes successfully with life's challenges depends on the support he or she receives from friends and family. Many seniors do not have relatives in the area so they need 50+ Centers for opportunities to build relationships with people who will share their joy when they have their first grandchild or ease their pain when they lose a loved one.

I have witnessed first-hand how lack of social interactions and isolation negatively affected a senior citizen near and dear to me, my mother.

My mother came from Michigan to visit me in early 2020. In March, when the Covid 19 pandemic was becoming a great concern, she left Maryland to return to Michigan just before airlines cancelled many flights. Once back in Michigan my mom was relieved to be home.

Soon Detroit, Michigan became a hot spot for Covid 19. Many people, including my mom were self-quarantined. The restrictions impacted my mom's ability to socialize, shop, and see people. She never left her house. As time passed, she became increasingly unhappy. Her spirit was broken and her thoughts were focused on how poorly she was feeling. Eventually, she passed away in February 2021. I believe that her social isolation was a key factor in the deterioration of her physical health.

Members of the Council, whether you represent Columbia or not, I hope that you will support this project. I know that you want to help Howard County be one of the best places to live in Maryland and, therefore, in the country. For seniors, having a place to interact with people who face similar life experiences is crucial to their mental health and happiness. Your support for this project will improve the quality of life for current and future seniors of Howard County.

I no longer live in Columbia, but I support the building of a larger 50+ Center in East Columbia because I believe that Howard County seniors should have access to similar resources no matter what their zip code is. Currently, estimates are over 33% of East Columbia residents are over the age of 50; in the future the percentage is expected to increase. Clearly, the current center will not be able to accommodate a larger population. It is already inadequate compared to other 50+ centers in the county. No senior in Howard County should be left without the benefits of a senior center.

Please support the project to build a larger 50+ Center in East Columbia so that current and future seniors will have a center to help them live a healthy, happy life and attain fulfillment in their golden years.

Thank you for your support.

Betsy Lew



## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Kayla Timmons <ms.krtimmons@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 10, 2021 4:07 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; calvinball@howardcounty.gov  
**Cc:** CouncilMail; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David; ahmedselsayed@gmail.com; ozfisch@gmail.com; hlugmayer@hotmail.com; pishnicki@gmail.com; jmason2stess@yahoo.com; maribel.sanchez08@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Saving Cedar Lane

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

Dear Howard County Councilmen, women, and the people closely related to it,

I am severely disappointed in the behavior presented. Not only did you keep the fire station project a secret for 2 years, you didn't allow the citizens of the surrounding area to have a say in this. The project is taking away a beautiful natural area where multiple people visit for a fire station. I don't know if you're aware, but less than six minutes away is a fully functional fire station called Banneker Firestation. To go further, there is a fire station in Clarksville and Merriweather. Adding a fire station increases traffic, loud construction disturbs families, and ruins the natural history of it all. Some people go to the park as an escape from their lives and you're taking the safe space away from them. Besides the personal connections to the park, there is barely any evidence of:

- How this will be built
- How long will the project take
- What areas are exactly being affected by this
- Do you have the approval of the county?
- Do you have the approval of the citizens? (Answer is no, by the way. There is a petition for the park not to be replaced which has been signed by over 1,000 people)
- What information are you willing to tell the public
- What is the purpose of the fire station being in this specific area
- What are the positive/negative impacts of this building?
- How come it has taken two years to inform citizens? [I and others had to find out from an article made two years which seemed concerned about this fire station affecting my school, Harpers Choice Middle School]

So many questions, yet so little answers. Hopefully they will all be answered soon. Again, very disappointed on how you have handled this situation. You, as a collective, have made an irrational decision affecting hundreds of people and this beautiful green earth. As a thirteen year old, I shouldn't have to tell you how to properly and respectfully do your job.

Sincerely Kayla Timmons, 8th grader at HCMS

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Steve Drakos <sdrakos51@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 10, 2021 3:11 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Cc:** Francie Drakos  
**Subject:** 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.]

I urge you to vote in favor of full funding included in the FY2022 capital budget to finally build the appropriately sized and fully equipped East Columbia 50+/Senior center facility with all associated resources needed in East Columbia.

I remain a constituent in Council member Jung's district as well as a senior voter. While I live on the west side of Columbia, I also use the East Columbia facility. One example is in support of the Columbia Festival of the Arts planning and training activities. Thus far East Columbia space and availability has been very limited, a better facility is needed.

I personally voted for Deb Jung as my Council representative and would appreciate her support to fully fund this project. Two other Council representatives have already indicated their positive support for this project. Spending county resources on this long term investment will better the lives of seniors is a very wise decision. Deferring funding to future years will only be more costly and would significantly delay providing necessary 50+ services in underserved areas like East Columbia. They have waited far too long to have equity in this county.

In conclusion, I would appreciate the Council to please vote to provide the funds needed to finally build a replacement 50+ center in East Columbia.

Thank you!  
Steve Drakos  
5182 Downwest Ride (Running Brook)  
Columbia, MD 21044



**May 5 2021**

**It is time to reinvest in this community': Hundreds rally in support of East Columbia 50+ Center renovation—Headline in Flier regarding the Seniors gathering to support the 50+ Center**

Dear Representative Young,

Once again, I write to ask for your support for the East Columbia 50+ Center renovation.

As we Seniors venture carefully back out of the house, we even more need the Center to help us recover our strength.

You know we support you. We want you to know you will continue to support us. Please support us by the funding for the New Center.

In the scheme of all things you have on your plate, it may seem small. However, remember how many Seniors rose to support your run for reelection.

Thank you for your support we know you are here for us and we will be there for you.

Sincerely ,

Genie L. Wessel

10517 Catterskill Ct 21044 B

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Hayden, Paul <PHayden@gtaeng.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 10, 2021 12:46 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Capital Budget for Howard EcoWorks' Programming

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

May 10, 2021

Dear Howard County Council Members,

As a member of the Howard EcoWorks Board of Directors, I am writing this letter of support for project D1164 in the Howard County Executive's capital budget for Howard EcoWorks' workforce development and environmental programming. Howard EcoWorks has a high impact in our community through the administration of green jobs programming, support services for the County's Safe and Sound Plan, maintenance of public infrastructure, leadership for achieving environmental sustainability, and rehabilitation programming at the Corrections Dept. These efforts have direct benefits to our community as a whole and represent a cost-effective investment in our local natural resources, public safety, career-readiness for young adults and disadvantaged populations, and overall economic development.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Paul Hayden  
9322 Furrow Avenue, Ellicott City



**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** john slater <jbs4993@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 10, 2021 12:08 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Columbia East 50+ Center  
**Attachments:** 50+ Center -John Slater.pdf

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

Thank you for taking the time to conduct the hearings about the fiscal year 2022 funding for the 50+ Center. Attached is a copy of my testimony earlier this morning.

Please approve the budget. This is a much needed amenity for the east side of Columbia.

Thank you.

John Slater  
4637 Willowgrove Drive  
Ellicott City, MD 21042  
410-302-2486

John Slater's Testimony re: 50+ Center

May 10, 2021

I'm John Slater. I live at 4637 Willowgrove Drive. District One, and I'm here to request your support for the East Columbia 50+ Center. I came to Howard County in 1971 to work as a site planner and landscape architect to help design a New Town. I strongly believe in the value of creating community amenities. It was a key element when designing Villages made up of neighborhoods. For the past 5 plus years I have been a regular user of the 50+ Center in Owen Brown.

I graduated from The Rouse Company in 1974 and I ran my own business for 42 years before I went into semi-retirement. Running a business one has to understand budgets. Budgets are flexible and need to reflect one's priorities. I also weathered several recessions, 2008 being the worst. What I realized over the years is that one must focus on the client, the user and not on equipment or overhead. You don't have to have new vehicles and copiers. You need to focus and work hard to make the client happy. Equity for your user. Do that and you will survive.

Well, in Howard County, a major client for you today are seniors.

- 38% of East Columbia population are seniors – highest % of seniors in entire county using a facility 1/10 of space found in other senior centers.  
HOW IS THIS NOT AN EQUITY ISSUE?!
- Seniors make up a third of our current population; they require few services like schools, athletic fields, even roads YET they pay taxes equal to those of other residents  
Seniors are asking for just ONE existing center to be replaced.  
HOW IS THIS NOT AN EQUITY ISSUE?!
- Yes, it costs money to operate ONE larger center but is a pittance compared to costs for operating schools, recreational facilities, libraries and a community college  
WHY ARE YOU QUIBBLING OVER THIS ONE PROJECT?



THE MESSAGE HERE: SENIORS AREN'T IMPORTANT, DON'T MATTER HOWEVER.....

- In a short time to come, it is seniors who will be paying for an EVER INCREASING education budget. It is this GROWING population of seniors who will keep the county finances secure.
- Maryland has the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest state rate of seniors leaving to live elsewhere. The Howard County senior population may be growing but the number of wealthier seniors could be part of that state statistic- leaving to live in other states.

Howard County needs to keep all its seniors here. Replacing a center that offers art classes, tai chi and other unique activities and amenities is more important than ever.

IT'S WHAT IS KEEPING ME HERE- PAYING HIGHER TAXES THAN DE OR NC !

In summary, replacing an existing pathetic senior center is a relatively cheap investment in the County's financial future.

Consider it a gesture of appreciation and OUTREACH to a key segment of our society that has contributed much in the past, pays much in the present and will continue to secure our County's future!

Thank you.

John Slater, 4637 Willowgrove Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21042

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Thank you.

John Slater, 4637 Willowgrove Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21042

My name is Ann Wing  
I live at 5400 Vantage Point Road  
Columbia, Md 21044

In 1982 our family moved to Owen Brown intentionally to become part of Rouse's dream. We have been active members of that community until last June when my husband and I moved across Rt 29 to Vantage Point, We love Columbia and want to remain here.

I am at this meeting to testify about the urgent need for a 51+ Center in Owen Brown. The current center is woefully inadequate for the activities needed by the existing community. What do we have?? East Columbia's 50+ center exists as 3 rooms in the East Columbia Library: one room big enough for 4 or so tables of bridge, one can hold a game of poker, and the largest allows about 18 people in my tai chi class to safely perform with swords. There's no sink in that room for washing up after art lessons. 2 tiny offices serve the staff. Other neighborhoods have real senior centers with space for dance groups, separate rooms for art, and include actual exercise equipment.

The process to build a new center began 8 years ago. The environmentally green plans have been drawn up. Land is available. A 1 million dollar grant has been secured from the State of Maryland. County Executive Calvin Ball has included \$5.6 million in the budget for construction. The only delay is approval from the County Council.

65 percent of residents in Owen Brown/Oakland Mills are minorities... the highest percentage in the county. I am hoping that this year we can, as my Councilwoman Deb Jung said on her campaign website "Focus on the adequacy of County *aging in place*, [and] senior center initiatives and programming."

Let's get this 50+ center built in Owen Brown, starting this summer.

Thank you for your time.



My name is Betsy Lew. I have lived in Howard County over 45 years. For the first 32 years I lived in the East Columbia area. In 2008 I moved to District 5. I am here to support the funding for the building of a larger East Columbia 50+ Center. I love the East Columbia 50+ Center. For 15 years, the East Columbia 50+ Center is where I have been going to meet other seniors, socialize, get information, exercise, dance, take classes, learn new skills and just have fun. I have been a member of the tai chi group for 14 years and a Chinese watercolor painting class for 3 years.

Through the years, I have attended events at other 50+ Centers in North Laurel, Ellicott City, Elkridge, Glenwood, and the Bain Center. All those locations have larger and/or newer facilities.

Senior Centers play a significant role in shaping the quality of life for senior citizens. Many seniors face physical and mental health challenges. Whether a person copes successfully with life's challenges depends on the support he or she receives from friends and family. Many seniors do not have relatives in the area so they need 50+ Centers for opportunities to build relationships with people who will share their joy when they have their first grandchild or ease their pain when they lose a loved one.

Members of the Council, whether you represent Columbia or not, I strongly urge you to support this project. I know that you want to help Howard County be one of the best places to live in Maryland and, therefore, in the country. Supporting this project is a step toward reaching that goal.

I support the funding of a larger 50+ Center in East Columbia because no matter where Howard County seniors live, they should have access to equal or similar resources. About one-third of East Columbia residents are over the age of 50; in the future the number is expected to increase. Clearly, the current center will not be able to serve a larger population. Compared to other 50+ centers in the county, it is under sized. No senior in Howard County should be left without access to the benefits a senior center provides.

**Please support this project so that current and future seniors will have a center to help them attain fulfillment in their golden years.**



**FY 2022 Operating Budget:** Funding for School-Based Mental Health Services

**Position:** Support

The Horizon Foundation is Howard County's community health foundation and the largest independent health philanthropy in the state of Maryland. We lead community change so everyone in Howard County can live a longer, better life.

We have all felt the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in many ways, both individually and collectively. In particular, both children and adults are experiencing increased anxiety, isolation, anger, sadness and uncertainty. In order to put this pandemic behind us and build resilience in our community for the future, we urge you to protect funding in the FY 2022 operating budget that will enable more Howard County students to access mental health services.

Lack of access to accessible, affordable mental health services has prevented many students and their families from finding the support they need. When students cannot thrive mentally or emotionally, they cannot thrive academically. As you know, a program jointly funded by the Horizon Foundation and the Howard County Public School System has worked to combat that problem by significantly expanding mental health services in 30 schools. This program, which has already provided personalized help to hundreds of students, makes it easier for students to access services, including one-on-one counseling, during the school day. Now, we must bring this program to every Howard County public school.

COVID-19 has brought significant disruptions, changes and challenges to our children's lives. As we continue to transition closer to full-time, in-person instruction, we must ensure every Howard County student has the opportunity to access mental health services if they need them. We are pleased to see an additional social worker included in the Superintendent's proposed FY22 operating budget. Children need a full range of school-based mental health services, especially now, whether offered in person or virtually and additional teacher training and supports may be necessary to deal with the social and emotional impacts of these trying times.

This program eliminates many barriers to students getting the help they need. Parents in these schools don't need to take off work to get their child to treatment, and students don't have to miss important instructional time waiting for and traveling to and from appointments. Nationally, more than 70 percent of students receiving mental health services access them in the school setting. Especially as we try to recover from the effects of this pandemic, now is the time to expand this school-based mental health program to every Howard County school. We must ensure our students have the ability to thrive inside and outside of the classroom, and have the ability to access support when they need it.

We not only support funding for school based mental health programs in the operating budget, but we also ask that you protect the \$5.375M in biking and walking towards advancing Howard County's complete streets policy and vision, which we have testified frequently about during the county's capital budget discussions.

Now is the time to invest in a healthier future for all of our citizens across Howard County.

Thank you for your consideration.



## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Tiffani Peguese <tpeguese@bflycollective.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 10, 2021 9:19 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Protect School-based Mental Health 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,

B. FLY Collective is a new organization that was launched in 2020. We are diligently encouraging collective wellness in and around our community. We lead community change so everyone in Howard County can live a longer, better life.

We have all felt the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in many ways, both individually and collectively. In particular, both children and adults are experiencing increased anxiety, isolation, anger, sadness and uncertainty. In order to put this pandemic behind us and continue to build resilience in our community, we urge you to protect funding in the FY 2022 operating budget that will enable more Howard County students to access mental health services. Lack of access to accessible, affordable mental health services has prevented many students and their families from finding the support they need. When students cannot thrive mentally or emotionally, they cannot thrive academically.

As you know, a program jointly funded by the Horizon Foundation and the Howard County Public School System has worked to combat that problem by significantly expanding mental health services in 35 schools. This program, which has already provided personalized help to hundreds of students, makes it easier for students to access services - including one-on-one counseling -during the school day. We must bring this program to every Howard County public school.

COVID-19 has ushered in significant disruptions, changes and challenges to our children's lives. As we continue to transition closer to full-time, in-person instruction, we must ensure every Howard County student has the opportunity to access mental health services if they need them. We are pleased to see an additional social worker included in the Superintendent's proposed FY22 operating budget - valuable addition.

Children need a full range of school-based mental health services, especially now, whether offered in-person or virtually, and additional teacher training and supports may be necessary to deal with the social and emotional impacts of these trying times.

This program eliminates many barriers to students getting the help they need. Parents in these schools don't need to take off work to get their child to treatment, and students don't have to miss important instructional time waiting for and traveling to and from appointments. Nationally, more than 70 percent of students receiving mental health services access them in the school setting.

As we try to recover from the effects of this pandemic, now is the time to expand this school-based mental health program to every Howard County school. We must ensure our students have the ability to thrive inside and outside of the classroom, and have the ability to access support when they need it.

Now is the time to invest in a healthier future for all of our citizens across Howard County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

-Tiffani Peguese

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**Tiffani Peguese, Founder and CEO**



*"To truly be free, we must choose beyond simply surviving adversity, we must dare to create lives of sustained optimal well-being and joy." ~bell hooks*



Hello, thank you for allowing me to testify.

I am Jacqueline Rose, Resident of 5010 Eliots Oak Rd

Please place my testimony on record.

I am in opposition to the proposed *upgrades* to Cedar Lane Park and the North Columbia Fire Station site.

Quite frankly, our Fire Fighters, EMTs and neighborhoods deserve better, than the proposed site of the North Columbia Fire Station. This proposed Station is located on a busy road and will have a questionable egress and ingress for the emergency vehicles as well as those backed up in traffic daily along this strip of road.

You, Howard County Council is again asked to make sense and judiciously reign in the County Budget. Your task has been made harder by the burden of poor decisions and deals made years ago. I look at the Fire Fighters and EMTs that serve this county and see how they have been overlooked by past and perhaps current administrations because their voting union is not as great as the school systems. Certainly, this appears to be the case as Kimberly Pruim pointed out to me in her response letter to my testimony, and I quote, "... the Banneker facility, which has aged past its useful life and has a poor Facility Conditions Index rating,

presenting a sub-standard working environment for first responders and other staff currently working at this station.”

No one deserves better than the EMT's and other first responders, especially after this pandemic year. They need space and a facility that is in a safe location and quality working conditions. Perhaps the additional tax revenue the county has received from the recent federal tax cuts would have help to purchase such a property.

As the Fire Fighters deserve better, so do we as a county and communities that surround Cedar Lane Park. The bad decisions of the past haunt us. I cringe when I think of subsidize housing above a fire station, the loss of green space, and the growth by developers without adequate support to the infrastructure causing long established neighborhoods and parkland to be sacrificed in the name of growth. These communities have not changed, why are they being asked to have their quality of life diminished? Howard County is one of the richest counties in the country, with a great quality of life. Certainly, our poor, our first responders and our long paying taxpayers deserve better than the proposals that are currently before you that have been done without due process.



Again, I will ask the questions not answered by Ms. Pruiim's form letter response to my earlier testimony. I would like to have a full disclosure of how the proposed site was selected and what has been done to ensure due process. If I need to be more specific, I am requesting a list of other possible sites looked at in the past 12 months, area of notification and meeting dates with the public to discuss this specific location.

Council, I thank you for hearing and addressing my concerns with due diligence.

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Maribel Sanchez <maribel.sanchez08@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 10, 2021 8:11 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail; Jones, Opel; Jung, Deb; Rigby, Christiana; Yungmann, David; Walsh, Elizabeth; Ball, Calvin  
**Subject:** May 10, 2021 Capital Budget Meeting - Opposed to funding projects F5976 North Columbia Fire Station and N3108 Park Systemic Improvements

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

To all members of Council,

My name is Maribel Sánchez, a resident of Howard County for 7 years, and I am opposed to funding the two sections within the Capital budget: the North Columbia Fire Station and Park Systemic Improvements.

I would like this testimony, in addition to this video footage <https://youtu.be/ExJfRjRACvc> which has been sent to all council member's emails, to be placed on the record.

As it has been mentioned during previous testimony, the County has side stepped due process and made the ability to get straightforward and transparent answers, and information exceedingly difficult. This whole process has been extremely enlightening as to the manner in which the County conducts business.

On April 29<sup>th</sup>, nine days after residents' testimonies opposing the County's proposed plans to alter the park, Calvin Ball held an Environmental Town Hall in which he stated and I quote: **"Our environment and sustainability are a priority for Howard County, all year long. We have prioritized green and open space. Together we will create a clean sustainable environment for our generation and generations to come."**

Following this statement, on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Calvin Ball shared the following on social media: **"Our parks and trails are one of our greatest resources as a County**, and we're making significant progress towards expanded green infrastructure and connectivity to communities throughout our region. Especially during the past year, our residents and community have utilized Howard County's parks and trails more than ever – getting outside to walk, bike, and more. **We know what an asset our parks and trails are to our community, which is why we're constantly working to protect and improve these resources for our residents."** These are not my words, but the words of our County Executive Calvin Ball. And yet here I am, along with many other concerned Howard County residents, standing in opposition to the proposed plans to destroy open, green parkland in our community. We are well aware and truly believe that this park is in fact an asset to this community.

Additionally, the Parks and Recs. Representative Raul Delerme, made statements in support of Mr. Ball's initiative and even made a request at the end of his Environmental Town Hall presentation **"Please protect and enhance our environment and natural resources, we can, and do make a difference."** Now I ask you, how are the park changes that he supports protecting and enhancing the environment? How does including installation of 50 to 60 ft tall lights, artificial turf, and a press box preserve the environment and the park's natural habitat? How is ripping up green fields and replacing them with impervious surfaces protecting the environment? The hypocrisy is appalling. Their words and action are contrary to the platform upon which they stand. How can these statements be upheld as so many residents are fighting and speaking up in opposition to this piece of open, green park land being taken away?



On April 27<sup>th</sup>, Columbia won the Livability *Top 100 Places To Live* list award, recognizing this area as being a wonderful place to live. Why would potential residents consider moving here knowing that the County can behave deviously in order to get away with their agenda, despite what it may do to the residents and the foundation upon which Columbia was founded? The County evokes nothing but distrust at this point and maybe those considering to move to this area will have second thoughts. The predictability of what to expect moving into this County is dwindling and if this is approved imagine what precedent this sets for those that failed to do their job. If they can do this to a long-standing community, what's to stop them in doing it to so many others. Sometimes, things are bigger than money and profit, and this is one of those times.

There have been several individuals in favor of a fire station stating that the fire station is needed and that it is a good thing for a community. Let me repeat this, as it seems to fall upon deaf ears, residents are not testifying in opposition to the fire department and the need for a fire station. We have a deep respect for those that put their life on the line to serve others. In fact, don't the firefighters deserve to be located in an ideal location? There is a very real need for a fire station to be built in order to serve the community along Homewood and Foley Quarter Road. I ask that the County stop hiding behind the pretense of reducing response times to that area and actually look into alternative locations that will serve that community and in fact improve the response times for those constituents. The 4 fire stations already surrounding this area of Rt. 108, serve this community well and we are grateful for them. Again, the open green space should not be sacrificed when there are several viable options for the County to consider, but hasn't, despite being given a year to do their jobs, reach out to the public, and conduct accurate studies. Just recently, upon hearing the testimonies from the public and the Council voicing those concerns, the County is poorly attempting to complete studies (alternative site, environmental, and traffic) in a rushed fashion. Why wasn't this done within the year window they were given with monies placed in contingency? It seems to be that the County did not take the Council members seriously and used the cover of the pandemic to slip this project through the cracks, and avoid involving the immediate community in order to get this passed.

I have grown tired of hearing County officials saying that multiple meetings were held regarding this location. They were not. Enough with the lies! Another interesting note to mention is that the minutes posted for the community meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March are falsely representing what was conveyed, as well as the reaction of the members of the park's surrounding communities. The indifference and manner in which the meeting progressed is not accurately represented through the minutes. I do not know what they are trying to pull with not releasing the video, but again this does not help residents have confidence in the County's actions. I question their every move due to their behavior with this whole process and request that the recording be released so that residents can see and judge the meeting for themselves.

As Liz Walsh mentioned at the Council meeting on April 21st; one would expect that there are intelligent individuals sitting at the table, making decisions, and presenting the facts. Why would the County present a plan to place the fire station in what they confessed to being a controversial area? Indeed Liz, it leaves us all flummoxed. And no, not every location is going to be controversial. There are several alternative sites. I am sure that unused commercial sites could be a consideration. Again, County officials, do your job. All of us that are speaking in opposition are also intelligent and engaged citizens that are tracking what is being done. The County is trying to bully us all into submission. We want, and will have our voice heard and are watching every step of the way.

I will repeat again that outreach was not conducted, and still to date there are so many that are unaware of these detrimental changes. It is worth mentioning that the petition on Change.org to Save Cedar Lane Park has reached over 1,000 signatures, despite the lack of outreach the County has conducted. Contrary to what some County officials may think, these voices matter, and they do count for something.

How can this request for monies be taken seriously, when this past year the County has sat on this and assumed it would be approved through pressure from developers like Howard Hughes and minimal objection due to lack of community outreach?

Let me once again quote words uttered by our County Executive Calvin Ball representing the platform upon which he was voted into the position he holds today: "Moving our community forward with innovative, transparent, proactive, and sensible leadership that remains rooted in the values and quality of life we cherish".

I am asking that you deny their request for monies. Hold them accountable for doing their jobs well, and serving the community in an upstanding fashion. Remember, this land they want to alter was purchased with tax payers hard earned money. I implore with all Council members to not support F5976 nor N3108.

I have signed up to provide testimony on May 10th, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. I want to document my position with all members of Council.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Maribel Sanchez



**From:** skontaxi@verizon.net,

**To:** cball@howardcountymd.gov, ewalsh@howardcountymd.gov, oJones@howardcountymd.gov, crigby@howardcountymd.gov, djung@howardcountymd.gov, dyungmann@howardcountymd.gov,

**Cc:** maribel.sanchez08@gmail.com, ahmed.s.elsayed@gmail.com, donjung1@gmail.com, cabassky@hotmail.com, konapel@verizon.net,

**Subject:** May 10, 2021 Budget Meeting. Opposed to funding new Route 108 Cedar Lane Park Fire Station

**Date:** Sun, May 9, 2021 7:13 am

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To all,

My wife and I have been residents of the Beech Creek Community in Howard County for 34 years and we are **opposed to funding the new Route 108 Cedar Lane Park Fire Station**. It appears the County Government has been working on this issue for several years and has only now informed local homeowners. To compound the problem is that the County Government is presenting this information as final and not providing any information on the process that brought them to that decision. When asked for details we have been directed to the contact the Office of Public Information. This is a cowardly response, considering the county started this process.

These poor planning efforts should not be rewarded with any budgetary money. In fact an independent audit should be done to document how poorly this study was done and what is required to correct the process.

Once again the community is concerned with the continued Lack of Transparency and Due Diligence from the county regarding this issue. We are not necessarily opposed to a legitimate fire station location, **but we vehemently oppose the way the county is trying to bully the homeowners and knowingly withhold information**. We had thought the present County Government was better than that, obviously that does not appear to be the case at this time.

We have signed up for the 05/19/21 Budget Meeting at 9:30 but there appears to be "firewall issues" the county has yet to resolve, per Margeree in the council's office.

David and Susan Kontaxis

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Maribel Sanchez <maribel.sanchez08@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 10, 2021 7:08 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail; Jones, Opel; Jung, Deb; Rigby, Christiana; Yungmann, David; Walsh, Elizabeth; Ball, Calvin  
**Subject:** May 10, 2021 Capital Budget Meeting - Opposed to funding projects F5976 North Columbia Fire Station and N3108 Park Systemic Improvements

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

To all members of Council,

My name is Maribel Sánchez, a resident of Howard County for 7 years, and I am opposed to funding the two sections within the Capital budget: the North Columbia Fire Station and Park Systemic Improvements.

I would like this testimony, in addition to this video footage <https://youtu.be/ExJfRjRACvc> which has been sent to all council member's emails, to be placed on the record.

As it has been mentioned during previous testimony, the County has side stepped due process and made the ability to get straightforward and transparent answers, and information exceedingly difficult. This whole process has been extremely enlightening as to the manner in which the County conducts business.

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Additionally, the Parks and Recs. Representative Raul Delerme, made statements in support of Mr. Ball's initiative and even made a request at the end of his Environmental Town Hall presentation **"Please protect and enhance our environment and natural resources, we can, and do make a difference."** Now I ask you, how are the park changes that he supports protecting and enhancing the environment? How does including installation of 50 to 60 ft tall lights, artificial turf, and a press box preserve the environment and the park's natural habitat? How is ripping up green fields and replacing them with impervious surfaces protecting the environment? The hypocrisy is appalling. Their words and action are contrary to the platform upon which



they stand. How can these statements be upheld as so many residents are fighting and speaking up in opposition to this piece of open, green park land being taken away?

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I have grown tired of hearing County officials saying that multiple meetings were held regarding this location. They were not. Enough with the lies! Another interesting note to mention is that the minutes posted for the community meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March are falsely representing what was conveyed, as well as the reaction of the members of the park's surrounding communities. The indifference and manner in which the meeting progressed is not accurately represented through the minutes. I do not know what they are trying to pull with not releasing the video, but again this does not help residents have confidence in the County's actions. I question their every move due to their behavior with this whole process and request that the recording be released so that residents can see and judge the meeting for themselves.

As Liz Walsh mentioned at the Council meeting on April 21<sup>st</sup>; one would expect that there are intelligent individuals sitting at the table, making decisions, and presenting the facts. Why would the County present a plan to place the fire station in what they confessed to being a controversial area? Indeed Liz, it leaves us all flummoxed. And no, not every location is going to be controversial. There are several alternative sites. I am sure that unused commercial sites could be a consideration. Again, County officials, do your job. All of us that are speaking in opposition are also intelligent and engaged citizens that are tracking what is being done. The County is trying to bully us all into submission. We want, and will have our voice heard and are watching every step of the way.

I will repeat again that outreach was not conducted, and still to date there are so many that are unaware of these detrimental changes. It is worth mentioning that the petition on Change.org to Save Cedar Lane Park has reached over 1,000 signatures, despite the lack of outreach the County has conducted. Contrary to what some County officials may think, these voices matter, and they do count for something.

How can this request for monies be taken seriously, when this past year the County has sat on this and assumed it would be approved through pressure from developers like Howard Hughes and minimal objection due to lack of community outreach?

Let me once again quote words uttered by our County Executive Calvin Ball representing the platform upon which he was voted into the position he holds today: "Moving our community forward with innovative, transparent, proactive, and sensible leadership that remains rooted in the values and quality of life we cherish".

I am asking that you deny their request for monies. Hold them accountable for doing their jobs well, and serving the community in an upstanding fashion. Remember, this land they want to alter was purchased with tax payers hard earned money. I implore with all Council members to not support F5976 nor N3108.

I have signed up to provide testimony on May 10th, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. I want to document my position with all members of Council.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Maribel Sanchez



## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Dawn Henninger <dawn.henninger@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 9, 2021 10:56 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David  
**Subject:** Save Cedar Lane Park

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

Dear Ms. Jung and Dr. Ball:

As a resident of Howard County District 4, I'm writing to register my concerns about the proposal to make changes to Cedar Lane Park and to situate a new firehouse on part of that land.

First, as a resident of the nearby Beaverbrook community and someone who must use Route 108 on a daily basis, I'm very concerned about the traffic congestion and dangerous driving situations that already exist on this road. Situating a fire house along this road will only add to the already difficult traffic problems. The proposed location is a very narrow and busy section of the road with no shoulder for cars to pull over for emergency vehicles to enter onto the road. People who live in adjacent neighborhoods and who worship at the Dar-Al-Taqwa mosque already have a very difficult time entering onto this section of Route 108, without adding the congestion that will increase with the addition of a fire station. For the most part, these roads or driveways that exit onto Route 108 are not controlled by traffic lights; left turns from these roads onto Route 108 are already very challenging and will be made more so as traffic halts and backs up to allow fire trucks to exit the station. For years, we've waited for improvements to Route 108, and while some improvements are currently in progress, they will not extend as far as the proposed firehouse location.

Second, taking away green space in a park that is used by many also does not seem to be a good decision. This space is used by schools and scout groups for field trips, as well as for organized sports for youth and – possibly – adults. Taking away space – and adding bright lighting into the evening hours and excessive noise from a public address system and the fire station is not a decision in the best interests of the community. I also cannot help but wonder how this will adversely affect the costly nearby stream restoration project recently undertaken as green space is taken over by more impermeable surfaces.

Third, Longfellow is a cohesive, generally affordable, community of families with young children as well as older families and senior citizen residents. The addition of the noise from the firehouse and the proposed changes to the park will adversely affect the quality of life in the neighborhood, as well as in other adjacent neighborhoods. These neighborhoods already suffer regular noise pollution from Merriweather Post Pavilion concerts – which will certainly resume when the pandemic eases. Adding additional noise and bright lights until late in the evening will only negatively affect current residents and deter potential new residents interested in houses that are priced within reach of many less affluent buyers in Howard County. At a time when Columbia purports to be interested in creating more affordable housing, denigrating the quality of a neighborhood that is already more-or-less affordable does not make sense. Rather, we should be preserving and enhancing the quality of life to draw new young families and retain older, tax-paying seniors who otherwise might be tempted to move out of the county.

Finally, this project appears to be taking place without adequate involvement of the community. I've been searching the [howardcountymd.gov](http://howardcountymd.gov) website and find very little information regarding this project. If it is there, it is not easy for an ordinary citizen to locate and become informed. Information has not been reported in the local newspaper to the best of my knowledge and there have been multiple problems with citizen participation in the Zoom meetings and hearings that have been held during the pandemic. With the new General Plan being prepared, why would such a change be made outside of that plan and without citizen input? It does nothing to instill trust between the citizens and the elected officials of the county.

For all of these reasons, I do not support the placement of a fire station in Cedar Lane Park East and urge the Howard County Council members to oppose this plan too.

Sincerely,

Dawn Henninger  
5094 Durham Rd West



## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Irina Chirtoaca Chlumsky <i.chirtoaca@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 9, 2021 9:57 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David; Ball, Calvin  
**Subject:** Testimony AGAINST North Columbia Fire Station at Cedar Lane Park

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

Dear Council members,

My name is Irina Chlumsky, I am a resident of Cottonwood Way, which is in the immediate vicinity of Cedar Lane Park East.

I am against the proposed location for the North Columbia Fire Station and the proposed changes to Cedar Lane Park East.

I would like to point out our County Executive's statements made on April 22, 2021 on official twitter and YouTube accounts:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4aoQxHfNX3k>

<https://twitter.com/HoCoGovExec/status/1385201726492352515>

Beginning of quote: *"On this Earth Day the trees are growing, the flowers are blooming, the bees are buzzing. This is what we celebrate in nature and also what we fight actively to preserve. Our environment and sustainability are priorities in Howard County all year long."* End of quote.

Beginning of next quote: *"My administration has been committed to planting more trees than any other. To date, we planted more than 51,000 trees."* End of quote.

Beginning of next quote: *"I also encourage you to get outside and enjoy our extensive parks and natural areas. Getting out to nature has wonderful physical and mental health benefits. I am excited for what we are doing to protect our planet and on this Earth day I encourage everyone to join in to protect and enjoy the gifts on nature"* End of pertinent quotes from the referenced video.

Mr Calvin Ball, why is your administration not on the same page with your statements?

Cedar Lane Park is being replaced with a Fire Station. You referred to the parks as having great benefit to mental health. Well, 24/7 noise coming from a Fire Station will clearly be a detriment to the residents that purchased a house next to a park, the residents are not prepared and never planned to be next to a Fire Station.

The natural fields at Cedar Lane park are being replaced with turf fields. As far as I know artificial fields are not good for the environment:

- They are made of plastic and then in-filled with pulverized tire particles.
- Both the synthetic turf and the shredded waste tire infill must be disposed of when the field reaches its life capacity.
- Synthetic fields do not help to filter air and water pollutants.
- Synthetic fields do not fix CO<sub>2</sub> (carbon-dioxide) and release O<sub>2</sub> (oxygen) as do natural grass fields.

So, I am confused as to why are the Howard County employees advocating for the turf fields at Cedar Lane Park?

For those not familiar with the park, I would like to mention that you can see beautiful cherry trees at the entrance from Route 108. Those trees were donated in memory of cancer victims. I heard that the county is going to either remove them and plant new trees in a different part of the park or try to replant them somewhere else. These trees are being removed and replaced with the hazards of a Fire Station. **This is absolutely contradicting everything Mr Ball encouraged us to do in his video.**

I am pleading with the county officials and employees to stand by the county Executive's statements regarding the environment and deliver them.

Please don't remove the natural fields at Cedar Lane Park, please find a suitable location for this Fire Station, please don't commercialize Cedar Lane Park.

Sincerely,

Irina Chlumsky

Cottonwood Way, Columbia, MD 21044



## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Denise and Mike Garvin <thegarvins3@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 9, 2021 9:22 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin  
**Subject:** May 10, 2021 Capital Budget Meeting - Opposed to funding projects F5976 North Columbia Fire Station and N3108 Park Systemic Improvements  
**Attachments:** Denise and Mike Garvin.mp4

[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 Council Members,

My name is Denise Garvin and my husband and I are residents of Cottonwood Way in Columbia, MD. We are writing to you in opposition to the proposed changes to Cedar Lane Park East including the addition of a fire station and park "enhancements". I would like this email and video attachment placed on the record in opposition to the proposed changes.

Our written testimony is below:

We are testifying today in opposition of the funding of the North Columbia Fire Station at the current proposed location of Cedar Lane Park East.

22 years ago when we bought this house on Cottonwood Way, our first home, one of our favorite things about it was its location next to a beautiful park with open green space. We envisioned raising a family here and that's exactly what we did. We raised our son in this park. We flew kites, we played on the tot lot, we hit golf balls and baseballs, kicked soccer balls, played lacrosse, sledded down the hill by the front field.

This isn't just our experience. We see families like ours in the park daily, especially since the start of the pandemic.

Aside from the obvious traffic and environmental problems with the county's plan, the saddest part will be the elimination of all of the green space in favor of parking lots and turf as well as the artificial lighting. The park is literally nestled in between neighborhoods that have existed for decades. At dusk the gates close and it is completely dark and peaceful. Stadium lighting has no place in the backyards of established homes.

The thought of losing this treasure is heartbreaking, especially since the surrounding neighborhoods weren't even included in any of the discussions and we found out about this project by accident from surveyors in the park. That is a very bitter pill to swallow.

The county needs a fire station, but there are better places to build it that apparently the county hasn't even explored yet.

More and more it seems our county is under the thumb of the Howard Hughes Corporation and its control of the downtown Columbia master plan. Something as important to the community as a fire station shouldn't be tied to or driven by developer interests. But unfortunately that is the perception, and, I believe, the reality. Our communities deserve better than to be the collateral damage of a poorly planned project that is inextricably linked to a powerful developer.

The Ball administration has put our brave fire fighters in a terrible position of having to lobby for what they rightly deserve. This is not about our fire fighters, whom we hold in the absolute highest regard. This is about the fact that

county officials chose an unsuitable location because it was “expedient”, and knowingly withheld this decision from the communities directly impacted by this choice.

I continue to be dismayed and frustrated by the non responsiveness of these same county officials when the council asks the legitimate questions brought to their attention by those of us who are directly impacted by this.

Open green space shouldn't be decimated simply because this administration failed to do the things the council asked of it last year when 3 of you voted to put the funding for this project in contingency. You saw then the potential problems that existed with this controversial location. Not only do those same problems still exist, but the administration seemingly thumbed its collective nose at what they were required to do in order to have the funds released from contingency.

I urge the council to hold the administration accountable for their failings with regard to this project, and to really think about what this will do to Cedar Lane Park and to the communities who will be directly impacted by this. Please hear us – we are not developers, we are not a special interest group. We are the people who actually live here, the people who can testify first hand to the many reasons why CLP East is an unsuitable location for this project, and how destructive and damaging it will be to the park and the community.

Denise and Mike Garvin  
10720 Cottonwood Way  
443-745-1769  
SaveCedarLanePark.org



## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Denise and Mike Garvin <thegarvins3@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 9, 2021 8:46 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin  
**Cc:** CouncilMail; Rigby, Christiana; Jones, Opel; Jung, Deb; Walsh, Elizabeth; Yungmann, David  
**Subject:** Banneker Fire Station Reallocation of Assetts

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

County Executive Ball,

The need for a temporary housing for the Banneker firehouse can offer the chance for smarter deployment of current truck resources. The Banneker station currently is home to Truck 7, Engine 71, and Medics 75 and 76. In my very basic understanding of firefighting, these vehicles are primarily designed to be utilized for specific circumstances. For example, Truck 7 would logically be dispatched for a call involving building with multiple floors (a classic downtown scenario), while Engine 71 being more nimble with better all-purpose functionality serves a more broad set of situations. The Medic vehicles likewise has a dedicated function.

In seeking to identify a temporary housing solution, rather than place all of the Banneker vehicles into 1 single, very large location, it makes sense to allocate and reconfigure engine resources based on areas of need. By placing the vehicles in proximity to the types of calls best suited to the functions, it allows for greater chances of success. At the same size, it makes identification of a suitable temporary location much more feasible.

It would make sense to leave Truck 7 and one Medic truck close to the current downtown location. Can Station 14 assist in housing these vehicles during the transition? As another alternative, there is current abandoned, vacant and unused commercial structures located in the Harpers Choice Village Center across from the Safeway store. The location has the space, infrastructure and traffic lights to allow for easy repurposing.

Engine 71 and the second Medic truck can be deployed out further from the downtown area to better address the decreased response times. These types of vehicles would be well suited to address the scenarios and calls encountered in a more rural environment. Potential locations could include a temporary structure on the Board of Education properties, or any number of commercial lots along Homewood road.

Finding a temporary location for 2 vehicles seems to be a much easier task than seeking to spend County money on a solution that fails both the short term need and long term vision.

Sincerely,

Mike Garvin  
10720 Cottonwood Way  
443-745-0769  
SaveCedarLanePark.org

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Mark Huang <markhuang@northroprealty.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 9, 2021 8:31 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Fire Station - Cedar Lane Park

[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 council members,

I hope this email finds you well and healthy this Spring season.

I am an area Realtor representing buyers and sellers in and around Howard County.

Several of my clients called and were extremely upset over the proposed fire station on 108 and cedar lane park.

This location would literally sit immediate to these residential homes and communities at Cedar Lane Park.

The home owners are extremely concerned over noise and property depreciation along with the increased traffic and parties at the park that will disturb their quiet enjoyment and privacy.

As we all love and respect our brave man and woman of the fire department, there must be a more suitable location that will not directly impact the lives that hard working ordinary American's have worked so hard to build upon.

Appraisers will most certainly take this into consideration thus impacting property value.

We all love Howard County and all that it stands for, but are most concerned that this will have a negative impact for home owners and the communities so nearby.

May it be possible to locate an alternate location?

Thank you for your generous time to read this email and hear of the concerns from my clients and the community.

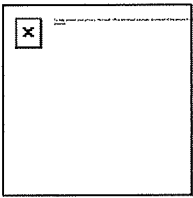
Sincerely,

**Mark Huang**

Northrop Realty A Long & Foster Company  
Lutherville | Ellicott City | Clarksville | Baltimore  
Cell: 443.801.5011 | O: 443.921.3900

[Website](#) | [Search Homes](#)





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## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Michael Garvin <michaelgarvin@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 9, 2021 8:25 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin  
**Cc:** CouncilMail; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David  
**Subject:** North Columbia Fire Station

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

County Executive Ball,

Promoting green infrastructure has been stated as a priority for your administration. Listening to and hearing the concerns of the communities are the cornerstones of successful elected officials.

Cedar Lane Park is a true natural green resource and an asset to the community. All the recreational, social and environmental significance that Cedar Lane park represents is a unique treasure for Howard County.

As a resident and daily, year-round user of the park, I can confirm firsthand the benefits and opportunities this space provides to all ages, communities and wildlife. In addition to use as a football, soccer, lacrosse and field hockey field, the upper field, which is scheduled to become the firehouse, is often used by parents to teach children how to hit baseballs and softballs, fly kites as part of a family outings, sledding in winter, dog training classes, and recently race drones. The lower field offers a very different space for park users. Because it is nestled in a more secluded confined space, surrounded on 3 sides by forested mature trees, this space is often utilized by nature enthusiasts including photographers, bird watchers, and those who wish to have a hiking experience.

The COVID-19 pandemic has elevated the critical importance of having an open, green, spacious environment for people to get outside safely and experience clean, fresh air and escape the often damaging mental effects of constant homebound existence. The recent trend is seen by the increased number of individuals either walking slowly along the sidewalks or sitting peacefully on the park benches. Whether it be the smell of green grass, the shade offered by mature trees, the sounds of birds or the ability to have this 'park experience', Cedar Lane park offers a sanctuary to individuals of all ages to decompress, destress and recharge.

If Cedar Lane Park is lost, all these precious resources will be lost forever. We as individuals, a community and a county will be worse off without this unique space and all the environmental, physical, mental and family benefits it so naturally offers.

Sincerely,

Mike Garvin  
10720 Cottonwood Way  
443-745-0769  
SaveCedarLanePark.org



## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Lesley <lesconslp@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 9, 2021 6:56 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Fwd: May 10, 2021 Capital Budget Meeting. Opposed to funding projects F5976 North Columbia Fire Station and N3108 Park Systemic Improvements  
**Attachments:** LesleyWofford.mp4

[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 Council Members,

My name is Lesley Wofford and I am a resident of Cottonwood Way in Columbia, MD. I am writing to you in opposition to the proposed changes to Cedar Lane Park East including the addition of a fire station and park "enhancements". I would like to testify on Monday, May 10th, but being that I work in healthcare, and the meeting is being held at 9:30am, I cannot attend. However, **I want my voice to be heard**. I would like this email and video attachment placed on the record in opposition to the proposed changes.

My written testimony is below:

I am writing to express my objection to the plan for the North Columbia Fire Station to be placed in what is currently Cedar Lange Park East. I live on the street adjacent to the park and am deeply concerned about the way the Department of Public Works has handled the plans for this project.

Our community was never notified of the potential placement of the station in the park. Some of our neighbors accidentally discovered the plans after noticing a survey crew marking trees for removal. It was not until our group of residents began making inquiries to Deb Jung and other council members that we discovered the plans. Only after those inquiries were started did the council offer a community outreach Zoom meeting in March 2021. During that meeting, we were informed that in addition to the fire station, the DPW was also planning to replace the open fields in the park with a turf field, lights and a press box.

Research by our residents has revealed that the DPW did not follow proper procedures including proper community outreach, traffic impact studies, environmental impact studies, noise impact studies and the consideration of alternative sites. The response we received from Mark Stromdahl was that the site was "expedient", without any other documentation that supports the appropriateness of this site.

The site selected is adjacent to one of the most narrow and congested sections of Route 108. This section is routinely backed up in both directions and police already are needed for assistance with the Mosque traffic. In addition, bicyclists routinely use this roadway and cause traffic to slow because of the lack of space for cars to safely pass. There is no shoulder space in this area for cars to allow emergency vehicles to pass. A fire station will only add to the congestion and danger on this road.

The park is also a very popular green space. The loss of half of the park to a fire station and the remaining part to a turf field would ruin the natural, green space that you have sworn to protect. Imagine buying a home that backs to park space only to have that replaced with stadium lights and a press box literally feet from your yard. The green space is also home to a variety of wildlife that would be adversely affected by the loss of the open grass field, as well as the noise and light pollution.

Please consider the placement of the North Columbia Fire Station to a more suitable and safe location and leaving the park fields as natural green space.

Thank you,  
Lesley Wofford



## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Denise and Mike Garvin <thegarvins3@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 9, 2021 6:55 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin  
**Cc:** CouncilMail; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David  
**Subject:** North Columbia Fire Station - Temporary Firehouse Structures

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

County Executive Ball,

By now you are aware of the community's strong objection to the controversial proposed location of the North Columbia Fire Station (NCFS). There are many compelling reasons for the argument against this project, including:

- Dangerous traffic conditions already exist along this most narrow stretch of Route 108.
- Almost all green space will be eliminated, leading to excess storm water runoff.
- The proposed turf field with stadium lighting and press box is literally in the back yards of homes on Eliots Oak Road. Artificial lighting and press box announcing do not belong in a park that is nestled in between quiet neighborhoods that have existed for decades.
- Perhaps what is the most upsetting to me personally, despite what your staff has apparently told you, there was absolutely no outreach to the Cottonwood Way or Longfellow neighborhoods before March of this year when we received a mailing about the March 25<sup>th</sup> community meeting. Engaging only the Harpers Choice Community Association excluded the portion of the community that is directly impacted by the decision to move this project to Cedar Lane Park East.

We are told the purpose of the NCFS is two-fold: 1) To house the Banneker station while it is being rebuilt as part of a Howard Hughes Corporation development project, and 2) To provide service to our neighbors to the north and west who experience longer response times. At the budget hearing on April 21<sup>st</sup>, there was discussion about how the needs of that part of the county are expected to continue to grow. I can appreciate the challenge of finding a temporary location that will be able to serve both downtown and north/west during the Banneker reconstruction.

It makes little sense to build a permanent fire station in an area that will only serve to minimally help those areas with slower response times. Why not consider building a temporary firehouse structure to house Banneker, and look to build another fire station that is actually located in the area in need? Temporary firehouse structures are used successfully all over the country for a variety of reasons. These structures are built by the same companies who build base camps and living facilities for the military and disaster relief efforts, temporary hospitals and medical facilities, and more. These are truly temporary and relocatable structures. This solution will also open up more suitable land locations, such as the Board of Education or the dog park in Harper's Choice.

Please listen to the legitimate concerns of the people who elected you to lead our county. We are not developers, we are not a special interest group. We are the people who actually live here, the people who can testify first hand to the many reasons why CLP East is an unsuitable location for this project, and how destructive and damaging it will be to the park and the community.

Sincerely,

Denise Garvin  
10720 Cottonwood Way  
443-745-1769  
SaveCedarLanePark.com

**Public Hearing Capital & Operating Budget**  
**Testimony - May 10 @930**

My name is Donald Jung; since 1992 my wife, special needs son & I have lived on Cottonwood Way in Columbia. **I am opposed to funding the North Columbia Fire Station as proposed.**

This fire station is being built at Cedar Lane Park East replacing a grass field. Oh, and I'll not talk about the so-called "enhancements" with this Project. Six weeks ago was the first briefing to our community. I assume that most County projects follow sound project management discipline. However, for this Project, there's been a serious lack of communication, transparency and due diligence process. Worse yet, I feel that officials have shown an indifferent and condescending attitude to their citizens.

I watched the Work Sessions a couple weeks ago and from last year. Both years are so eerily similar while shocking !!

Last year, when asked about alternative site locations; staff said "nothing was readily available ... the Park was the most expeditious site to build a fire station ... we have not made any formal land acquisition offers because we don't have the authority since we didn't identify any different sites ... the Park site was the most effective to implement in the short-term." Last year's switch to the Park was a "substantial change" and required a Planning Board hearing "because it had to get through the budget process to move forward." In the Planning Board video, the Board only voted for a new Fire Station as a "High" priority but raised significant objections against the Park location. And somehow, the budget document reflected that "the Cedar Lane Park East has been selected"?? **Something is wrong with this picture.**

Fast forward to now; just replay the tape from last year. When asked if other sites were pursued, staff said, "not really, we looked up & down 108; there's no written report; the Park was a more compact scheme". These officials wasted an entire year using last year's excuses. These same officials never informed our communities until 6 weeks ago and then have the gall to begin site design the day after this embarrassment of an "Outreach Meeting"? Obviously, this was just a checkbox to move into site design. **Seems a waste of citizen dollars.**

Consider this analogy:

Six weeks ago, the Federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission holds an Outreach Meeting announcing a "Columbia Lakefront Reactor." It's ideal because there's plenty of land and, better yet, the lake can efficiently cool down the nuclear reactor rods. They say Howard County has to have this beautiful reactor and site design starts tomorrow. So what's your reaction?

What did they just say? Did they just say the Lakefront? A site design starts tomorrow? That architectural rendition of the "Columbia Lakefront Reactor" was very slick; but what did they just say?



They say, don't worry about it. We had to find the most expedient site in the short term; it's a very compact scheme; we didn't look at any other sites, even though our advisory board disagreed with picking your Lakefront. Oh, but you have to understand. we had to force it through our budget process to move it forward !!

**Now that's good government !! Right??**

In conclusion, I suspect you would oppose the "Columbia Lakefront Reactor" just as I oppose funding for this Project as currently proposed.



## *Harper's Choice Community Association*

May 10, 2021

Dear Members of the Howard County Council:

On May 4, 2021, the Harper's Choice Community Association (HCCA) Board of Directors heard from nine residents of the community, plus a very eloquent letter from an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student read by her mother, regarding their opposition to the proposed North Columbia Fire Station in the East Cedar Lane Park and the associated park enhancements. The concerns included:

- **Due Process:** Residents would like to see due process followed regarding the proposed Fire Station and upgrades to the Cedar Lane Park. Homeowners in the immediate vicinity have said that they were not notified as to the proposals and meeting dates/times. Out of those who spoke at the recent HCCA Board meeting, only one had received the notification from the County ahead of the March 25 meeting.
- **Noise and Light Pollution:** Homeowners are concerned about the increased noise and light pollution, particularly from the enhancements to the Cedar Lane Park field. The added lights and press box speaker system will mean an increase in the noise level and the extended hours until 10:30 p.m. will negatively impact them and the values of their homes.
- **Reduction/Impact to Open Space:** There is great concern about the loss of Open Space, citing it as one of the characteristics that sets Columbia apart and a key aspect of our quality of life. Homeowners believe Open Space is part of Columbia's mission and is what makes Columbia a welcoming destination.
- **Traffic and Safety:** Homeowners are also extremely concerned about the traffic on Route 108 and the increased possibility of serious accidents. One resident noted that there have been many accidents on that local stretch of Route 108, including fatalities. Homeowners would like to see a traffic study conducted. Route 108 at that juncture has no shoulder, no emergency pull off, and is two lanes with residences on both sides with limited visibility. As the Fire Chief presented at the March 25, 2021 meeting, the north Columbia area is in the red zone; however, understanding the roads there, there is no

*Kahler Hall*

5440 Old Tucker Row • Columbia, MD 21044

410-730-0770 • fax 410-730-8046

[www.harperschoice.org](http://www.harperschoice.org)



indication of how turning left or right onto Route 108 to then go south into Columbia would provide direct access without going through neighborhoods with regularity, adding to noise, safety, and time concerns.

- **Other Fire Station Locations:** Homeowners would like to understand all of the options for locating the Fire Station and believe that there are better location options along Route 108.

*PlanHoward 2030* states that, “[t]he third aspect of sustainability is the community. The community is influenced and supported by both the environment and the economy.” (Page 97). Policy 8.12 is to “Expand the County park system and recreational facilities. . . . [by accelerating] land acquisition to meet long-term recreation needs while suitable sites are still available, particularly inside the Planned Service Area where population is greatest.” Reducing park lands and facilities in Columbia is the antithesis of Policy 8.12. Nor does the proposed development of East Cedar Lane Park with increased noise and light pollution on neighboring homes comply with Policy 10.1 which states, “Protect and enhance established communities through compatible infill, sustainability improvements.”

Further, under Policy 12.1: “Howard County Government will continue to lead by example as a good steward of the shared resources within the community and the region.” This proposal would force Howard County to actually reduce the size of a publicly-owned park athletic field.

Therefore, homeowners would like to see due process and resident notification regarding the proposed fire station and enhancements to the Cedar Lane Park. Community members also request that the County provide an analysis of the feasibility of siting the proposed fire station on other parcels along the Route 108 corridor, which would not impact the Park, including specifically the undeveloped two acre parcel immediately across the street from the Park, next to the Dar Al-Taqwa Mosque, and the grassy frontage at the Howard County Public School System Central Office. The Board of Education site has been independently suggested by several members of the community, including on the Save Cedar Lane Park Facebook page.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

On behalf of the HCCA Board,



Stephen J. Ingley  
Village Manager  
Harper's Choice Community Association

## **May 10, 2021 Testimony Against Capital Project F5976 (North Columbia Fire Station)**

**Submitted by:** Eileen Skidmore, 5220 Even Star PL, Columbia, MD 21044

There are 2 items I would like to address: Upgrades to Cedar Lane Park East and the proposed North Columbia Fire Station (Capital Project F5976), at the same location. It is my understanding that park redevelopment is being done to offset the loss of space for the fire station.

Change is inevitable, but to many of us redeveloping Cedar Lane Park East from a tranquil park with recreational spots by adding field lights, a press box, speakers and artificial turf is not a desirable change. I personally believe adding Pickle Ball Courts would help meet the growing demand for this sport without degrading the ambience of the park. However, the other proposed upgrades are not welcome. Please considering removing these undesirable items from the proposed redevelopment of the park.

The original site for the North Columbia Fire Station was near Harper's Choice Middle School. In FY2021 the County selected Cedar Lane Park East as a new site. I do NOT agree with placing the fire station at this location. I believe that the **entire** site should remain a park in perpetuity, just like Cedar Lane Park West.

There are 13 fire stations within Howard County; 7 volunteer fire companies and 6 career fire fighter stations, including the four with Columbia addresses. Career Fire fighters assigned to the Banneker Station will be temporarily moved to the proposed fire station while the Banneker Station is redeveloped.

While retaining its highly qualified volunteer fire companies the Fire Department has moved to a career fire fighter model for its stations in recent years. It appears quite likely that the proposed fire station would also be staffed by career fire fighters. If this

is the case, the station would **NOT** comply with the Howard County Zoning Regulations at Cedar Lane Park East.

***Howard County Zoning Regulations Section 108 R-20 District*** includes Volunteer Fire Departments.

**Section 103.0** defines a Volunteer Fire Department as a facility operated by a volunteer fire company and used principally for fire protection services.

Howard County zoning regulation R-20 **ONLY** includes Volunteer Fire Departments. The proposed Capital Project description does not define this fire station as a volunteer fire company.

I believe further investigation for a new site needs to be conducted, Cedar Lane Park East (in its entirety) should remain a park in perpetuity (excluding the undesirable items mentioned) and Capital Project F5976 should **NOT** be approved as proposed. Thank you!



## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** sarahsnook@sbcglobal.net  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 9, 2021 2:43 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail; Jones, Opel

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

cball@howardcountymd.gov  
" <cball@howardcountymd.gov>  
From: Sarah Mostafa <sarahsnook@sbcglobal.net>  
Subject: Testimony for 5/10 Public Hearing  
Date: Sun, 9 May 2021 14:43:18 -0400  
Importance: normal  
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My name is Sarah Mostafa and I have lived by the intersection of Tamar and = Old Montgomery for the past 2 years. In fact, I cross this intersection eve= ry day whether it's taking my daughter to the doctor or running any errand.= I can't tell you how many close calls I've seen and heard because of how d= angerous this intersection is. However, a round-about will not solve the is= sue as it does not slow down vehicles and poses a safety hazard for childre= n.=C2=AO If you look at the roundabout by Blandair Park, cars still speed t= hrough it and it does little to slow down vehicles. Recently, I was crossin= g this round-about using the crosswalk with my family, and we were almost h= it by a car that sped through the crosswalk and did not stop for us.

A better proposal that is more cost effective would be to make this a 4 way= stop intersection with crosswalks. Not only will this save tax-payer money= and solve the problem at hand, it will also make it safer for pedestrians = especially kids . Because this is a school zone as well, stop signs with cr= osswalks would make it safer for the kids crossing Tamar to get to the Colu= mbia Association pool and Jeffers Hill Elementary school.=C2=AO

Please make the right choice and add 4 way stop signs and crosswalks for ou= r children.

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family:"Helvetica",sans-serif;color:#333333;  
;letter-spacing:-.25pt'>My name is Sarah Mostafa and I have lived by the in= tersection of Tamar and Old Montgomery  
for the past 2 years. In fact, I cro= ss this intersection every day whether it's taking my daughter to the docto= r or  
running any errand. I can't tell you how many close calls I've seen an= d heard because of how dangerous this  
intersection is. However, a round-abo= ut will not solve the issue as it does not slow down vehicles and poses a s= afety  
hazard for children.</span><span style=3D'font-size:13.5pt'>&nbsp;</s=  
pan><span  
pan>style=3D'font-size:13.5pt;font-family:"Helvetica",sans-serif;colo=  
r:#333333;letter-spacing:-.25pt'> If you look at the roundabout by Blandair= Park, cars still speed through it and it does  
little to slow down vehicles= . Recently, I was crossing this round-about using the crosswalk with my fam= ily, and we  
were almost hit by a car that sped through the crosswalk and di= d not stop for us.<o:p></o:p></span></p><p  
class=3DMsoNormal><span style=3D= 'font-size:13.5pt;font-family:"Helvetica",sans-serif;color:#333333;lette= r-  
spacing:-.25pt'><o:p>&nbsp;</o:p></span></p><p class=3DMsoNormal><span style= =3D'font-size:13.5pt;font-  
family:"Helvetica",sans-serif;color:#333333;lette=  
r-spacing:-.25pt'>A better proposal that is more cost effective would be to= make this a 4 way stop intersection with  
crosswalks. Not only will this sa= ve tax-payer money and solve the problem at hand, it will also make it safe= r for  
pedestrians especially kids . </span><span style=3D'font-size:13.5pt'=

>Because this is a school zone as well, stop signs with crosswalks would

>ma=

ke it safer for the kids crossing Tamar to get to the Columbia Association = pool and Jeffers Hill Elementary

school.&nbsp;</span><o:p></o:p></p><p class= s=3DMsoNormal><o:p>&nbsp;</o:p></p><p

class=3DMsoNormal><span style=3D'font= -size:13.5pt;font-family:"Helvetica",sans-serif;color:#333333;letter-spacin=

g:-.25pt'>Please make the right choice and add 4 way stop signs and crosswa= lks for our children.</span></p><p

class=3DMsoNormal><o:p>&nbsp;</o:p></p><=

p class=3DMsoNormal><o:p>&nbsp;</o:p></p></div></body></html>=

--\_8E31CBE9-B00B-4A61-A64A-7966140F26BE\_--



## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Pam Ecker Interiors <interiorsbypam@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 9, 2021 2:29 PM  
**To:** tellhoco; Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David  
**Cc:** Maribel Sanchez; Ice Pam; Don Jung; Chris Chlumsky  
**Subject:** CEDAR LANE PARK EAST /FIRESTATION OPPOSITION TESTAMONY  
**Attachments:** Pamela Ecker.mp4

[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 Council Members,

My name is Pamela Ecker and I am a resident of Cottonwood Way in Columbia, MD. I am writing to you in opposition to the proposed changes to Cedar Lane Park East including the addition of a fire station and park "enhancements". I would like to testify on Monday, May 10th, but being that the meeting is being held at 9:30am and I have prior obligations to my elderly mother, I may not be able to attend. However, **I want my voice to be heard**. I would like this email and video attachment placed on the record in opposition to the proposed changes.

My written testimony is below:

Hello,

**My name is Pamela Ecker, I live at 10728 Cottonwood Way Columbia Maryland 21044 District #4**

**I am testifying today to say I am adamantly against the building of the North Columbia Fire station and the lighted turf fields at Cedar Lane Park East.**

**I have been a resident of Columbia for 53 years and I have owned a home on Cottonwood Way for the past 28 years . I moved here with my parents and brother in 1968 at the age of 8. I remember the main reason we moved here was for the open space, parks, bike paths and most important was the promise of controlled growth.**

**I have watched Columbia grow into a city. To say the least it has been a challenge at times to watch it's growth. So many trees cut down to build roads, houses and shopping centers but we always had our parks protected until the Rouse Company no longer ran Columbia's growth. When Merriweather was taken over I realised that the vision of Rouse was disappearing.**

**I found out by pure accident this past April when I was walking my dog at Cedar Lane Park. I saw surveyors marking trees. I asked them what was going on? This is how we found out about the plans for the firestation.**

The amount of congestion on 108 over the past 10 years has increased so much due to the over development in both directions on 108. Just in the past few years we have added Clarks Elliot Farm, The Mosque and numerous business up and down 108, new communities were built and we have Centennial Park and Convenient Park all emptying onto 108. We also have Cedar Lane Park West with numerous tournaments, and events that contribute to major congestion daily.

I can hardly get out of my neighbourhood between the hours of 7-9am and 4-7pm. This road has so many accidents along this stretch. I cant imagine what a mess this will be when you add a firestation, lighted turf fields and Pickleball courts to the existing basket ball courts, tennis courts , playground and picnic pavilion all with no additional parking. Plus were talking about another traffic light on 108!

I have a deep respect and LOVE for Columbia. I cant even to start to tell you the countless memories I have here attending events in the parks . All the Bike rides with my kids and hours spent just walking in nature with them. Future families should have the same opportunities I had.

Children and adults need to spend time in nature, on real grass with trees and parks spared from lights on all hours of the night.

As a long time resident I am asking you all to spare our precious park land and find another location for the this project.

Thank you.

PAMELA ECKER

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## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Mariam Agrama <mariam.agrama@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 9, 2021 2:30 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail; Jones, Opel; Ball, Calvin  
**Subject:** Please reconsider round-about at Tamar Drive & Old Montgomery Road

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

Hi,

I'm a resident of Columbia, MD and oppose a round-about at the intersection of Tamar Drive & Old Montgomery Road. I pass this intersection frequently to visit my son and granddaughter. It is a serious safety issue. However, a round-about will not solve the problem.

Instead, we need to add stop signs and crosswalks and make this a 4 way stop sign intersection. This is the only to ensure we keep pedestrians and our kids safe. Look at what happened at Brampton Hills, when the community requested stop signs and the county decided instead to add a circle. Cars still speed through defeating the purpose of ensuring public safety. This decision ended up costing tax payer money and does not ensure pedestrian safety.

Please don't make the same mistake again and save our taxpayer money and install a 4 way stop signs with crosswalks at this intersection.



## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Mahmoud Abouelrous <mahmoudabouelrous@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 9, 2021 11:37 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Testimony for 5/10 Cap and Oper Budget Public Hearing

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

My name is Mahmoud Abuelroos and I'm a resident of the Jeffers Hill neighborhood in the village of Long Reach. I have lived by this intersection for the past 3+ years. I can attest to how dangerous this intersection is.

However, I urge the county not to move forward with a traffic circle or roundabout as it will not effectively solve the issue because it does not slow down vehicles and poses a safety hazard for children. A more effective solution that saves tax-payer funds is to install 4 way stop signs with cross-walks. This ensures the safety of everyone, especially kids as this intersection is used by children daily whether it's to cross the street for school, the community center or the pool.

Please do not make the mistake of making this intersection a traffic circle as it will not do justice for our community and our children. A simple 4-way stop sign intersection with crosswalks will solve the safety issue and save our county much needed funds.

## Testimony Of Nelson Pollack In Support of Full Funding for a Replacement EC 50+ Center

My name is Nelson Pollack and I have lived on Golden Coin Court, Columbia, for the past 45 years.

I am testifying this morning in support of full funding for a *replacement* East Columbia 50+ Center. A *replacement* is needed because, as you all know, unlike other Centers, the current EC 50+ Center is not a stand-alone facility. It consists of a small appendage to the East Columbia library and has one activity room and two tiny rooms branching off of a narrow crowded corridor.

Despite its small size, the current facility supports a wide variety of vibrant activities crucial to maintaining the physical, social, and mental quality of life of the entire East Columbia community - not just seniors. Despite its name, the Center draws seniors from all of your Council districts.

The current design is comparable in cost to other county construction projects. Further delays in construction means the project would be even more expensive, due to, e.g., increasing building material costs. Given that it will be a Gold Standard LEEDS building, energy operating costs will be substantially lower than similar buildings in the County.

Over the years many of my friends have moved to neighboring states with lower taxes. A *replacement* EC 50+ Center would serve as an anchor to help keep seniors and retirees as part of the Howard County tax base.

This project will improve the infrastructure in our county, especially in older more populous areas like East Columbia that are often neglected and over looked.

Construction of a replacement East Columbia 50+ Center is supported by the Howard County senior community, the inter-faith religious community, and many community-service organizations. Two weeks ago, over 250 of us turned out at a rally on a blustery day to show support for construction of a replacement 50+ Center.

As seniors and taxpayers we are aware of the additional fiscal challenges COVID and other “must pay” items have brought to an already constrained county budget. We are also aware that the American Rescue Plan will provide much needed financial relief to Howard County and ... we are thrilled that that three of you were successful in obtaining an additional \$1M state bond.

Finally, you must be aware that in **each** of your districts there are a minimum of **19,000** registered tax-paying voters aged 50 and above.

So, we hope you will agree that now is the time to start construction of a *replacement* EC 50+ Center, especially as we come out of these trying times ... and try to enjoy the remaining years of our lives.

Thanks

ATTACHMENT



Current East Columbia 50+ Center

District	Total 2020 Estimated District Population	Total Number of <u>Registered Voters</u> Aged >50+	% of District Population that is >50+
1	67,841	22,604	33
2	70,644	19,328	27
3	63,688	18,279	29
4	64,451	22,228	34
5	64,261	26,772	42

Howard County Senior Voters by District



## Hundreds rally in support of East Columbia 50+ Center

By Ana Faguy

More than 250 people rallied in the parking lot of the East Columbia Branch library Friday afternoon in support of fully funding the renovation of the East Columbia 50+ Center proposed in the fiscal 2022 capital budget.

The rally — organized by People Acting Together Howard County, a community organization that looks to promote equity, diversity and inclusion in the county — featured passionate remarks from older adults who frequent the center. Elected officials such as former County Executive Liz Bobo, Del. Vanessa Atterbeary and council members Opel Jones and Christina Mercer Rigby attended.

The Rev. John West of St. John Baptist Church in Columbia served as emcee, asking the crowd, "What do we want?" and the people responding, "Build a center!"

"It's time for us to give back and to acknowledge all of our seniors for all they've given us," West said.

Seniors in attendance waived miniature shovels, an acknowledgment that the project is shovel ready for renovations to begin soon, and mini paint palettes in support of the painting classes offered at the center. There were also two performances, a soul line dance and a tai chi demonstration, two more activities available at the center.

At the end of March, Howard County



Hundreds of people rally Friday in support of fully funding the renovation of the East Columbia 50+ Center proposed in the Howard County fiscal 2022 capital budget. JEFFREY F. BILL/BALTIMORE SUN MEDIA

Executive Calvin Ball announced that the East Columbia 50+ Center would receive \$1 million in state funding and possibly \$5.5 million in county funding toward renovations, if the County Council approves his proposed fiscal 2022 capital budget.

Last year, Ball had initially included \$16.2 million in the fiscal 2021 budget for the design and construction of the expansion of the East Columbia center. At the time it was expected to be complete in fiscal 2021, which ends June 30.

Last year, after deliberations, the County Council cut \$23.4 million from Ball's proposed budget, citing economic concerns about the coronavirus pandemic. The East Columbia 50+ Center budget was reduced by \$4.5 million as part of those cuts.

In the final approved fiscal 2021 budget, Ball said that decision led to delays in scheduled projects including the 50+ center.

On Friday, Howard's six senior centers reopened for the first time since the coronavirus shutdown in March 2020 at 50% capacity and by appointment only.

The Rev. Paige Getty of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia, who is co-chair of People Acting Together Howard County, spoke about why funding the center's renovation is an "equitable and just decision."

"The East Columbia 50+ Center is a gathering place for members of this community who are often overlooked because of where they live, because of their race, because of limited resources or because they are otherwise vulnerable," Getty said.

Getty said the East Columbia 50+ Center serves more older adults of color than any other 50+ center in the county.

"It is time to reinvest in this community and to fulfill the promise of a new expanded 50+ center in East Columbia," she said.

Henrietta Milward, a Columbia resident who had been visiting the center for eight years, questioned why other centers in the county have been renovated but the East Columbia center has not.

"I just think we're under-served. I want to know why we're being treated like this?" Milward said during her remarks.

Bobo, who pushed for the center to be built nearly 30 years ago, also spoke.

"It does make me feel very good to see this building here, the library and the senior

center here, and I completely agree we need more space for the seniors in this part of the county," Bobo said.

The planned expansion would take the center from 3,800 square feet to 29,600 square feet. It will include a commercial kitchen, fitness equipment room and exercise studio, large community meeting space, technology hub and a social day program for at-risk adults in the area, among other features. The building will also have a generator so it can be used by the community during emergencies.

"Equity shouldn't be a buzzword here in Columbia, but intentional actions are necessary to create equity," Atterbeary said.

In a recent master plan for the Office on Aging and Independence, it was noted that 86% of the population of the neighborhood where the center is located is 60 or older. Forty percent of Howard's total older adult population resides in East Columbia, according to the report.

Jones and Rigby said they would support funding the center during budget deliberations.

"The funding is in the hands of the County Council. All [we've] got to do is say yes," Jones said.

The county said construction of the center could begin as early as August if the County Council approves the funding in its vote at the end of May. The projected opening is spring 2023.

Columbia Flyer Article

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** greg ault <aulthaus@bellsouth.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 8, 2021 4:25 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David  
**Subject:** Saving Cedar Lane Park

[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 Council Members,*

*Cedar Lane Park East provides immense value to the county. Losing the park to a fire station will cause serious safety issues by increasing the traffic on Route 108, environmental concerns for the local wildlife and increase in impervious surfaces, and light and noise pollution for neighboring constituents. This stretch of Rt. 108, between Harpers Farm Rd. and U.S. Route 29, is the narrowest and most busy section of road in comparison to the segments to the east and west. There is no shoulder for cars to pull over and depending on the time of the day, this road is virtually a parking lot. With 11 ingress and egress points within 1,200 feet of the proposed location of the fire station, including the lone exits for surrounding neighborhoods and the Dar-Al-Taqwa mosque across the street, this already congested and narrow section of road will only become worse. This proposed location for a new fire station simply does not make sense. Not only are you removing a valuable and well loved park, disturbing the long-established neighborhoods surrounding the park, but the goal of reducing response times to the area will most certainly be negated by the increased traffic. Why must park land be sacrificed for public safety? These proposed plans do not represent smart development, only a path of least resistance for county officials not interested in serving the communities they are entrusted to serve. I do not support the placement of a fire station in Cedar Lane Park East and urge the Howard County Council members to oppose this plan too.*

*Thank you,*

*Cindy Reppert Ault*

11106 Willow Bottom Drive  
Columbia, MD 21044

Dist/Prec - 5023

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Chris Bond <cebond2@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 8, 2021 12:55 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin  
**Cc:** CouncilMail; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David  
**Subject:** Save Cedar Lane Park East

[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 all Council Members

I am writing to oppose the plan to build a new fire station and proposed park changes in Cedar Lane Park East. This section of the park provides a great value to the Columbia and Howard County community. Though it may seem this park is not used due to the sloping hill that partially blocks the view from the road. This park is used on a daily basis for sports programs, recreational use, and local wildlife uses it as a refuge. Since moving to Columbia my family uses it for walks and bike rides on a weekly basis. A fire station this nearby will cause lots of unwanted noise to residents, who like me live just yards away from it. I am concerned that alternative sites are not being considered, and investigated thoroughly. Columbia mall has some areas of the parking lot, and the mall like Lord&Taylor that are not used much. River Hill shopping center has unused space for years now that could be used adjacent to 108 perfect for a new fire station. This is being rushed through without much thought to who we are serving in the community. Living in Greenbelt MD for years showed me how to blend humanity in with nature and still be able to live comfortably. Columbia also has those same attributes, but that is slowly getting lost over the years. I think the Council and you Dr. Ball need to look at what has made Columbia and Howard County great over all these years. It is the attention to education, agriculture, and blending with nature. The more we stay true to those attributes the better Columbia and Howard County's future will be.

Sincerely  
Christopher and Jaquelin Bond  
4986 Eliots Oak Rd.  
Columbia MD, 21044



## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Lois Leahy <loisleahy@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 8, 2021 2:20 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David  
**Subject:** Subject: Save Cedar Lane Park

[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 Council Members,*

*Cedar Lane Park East provides immense value to the county. Losing the park to a fire station will cause serious safety issues by increasing the traffic on Route 108, environmental concerns for the local wildlife and increase in impervious surfaces, and light and noise pollution for neighboring constituents. This stretch of Rt. 108, between Harpers Farm Rd. and U.S. Route 29, is the narrowest and most busy section of road in comparison to the segments to the east and west. There is no shoulder for cars to pull over and depending on the time of the day, this road is virtually a parking lot. With 11 ingress and egress points within 1,200 feet of the proposed location of the fire station, including the lone exits for surrounding neighborhoods and the Dar-Al-Taqwa mosque across the street, this already congested and narrow section of road will only become worse. This proposed location for a new fire station simply does not make sense. Not only are you removing a valuable and well loved park, disturbing the long-established neighborhoods surrounding the park, but the goal of reducing response times to the area will most certainly be negated by the increased traffic. Why must park land be sacrificed for public safety? These proposed plans do not represent smart development, only a path of least resistance for county officials not interested in serving the communities they are entrusted to serve. I do not support the placement of a fire station in Cedar Lane Park East and urge the Howard County Council members to oppose this plan too.*

*Thank you,*

*Lois Leahy*

*5152 Endymion Ln*

*Columbia, MD 21044*

*(Longfellow)*

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Susan Salvucci <susansalvucci@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 8, 2021 9:22 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Fund the new East Columbia 55+ Center

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

We are in support of the funding for a new East Columbia 55+ Center. Parity across the county, please!

Susan and Paul Salvucci  
Wilde Lake

Sent from my iPad

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Felicia Strauss <felicia.trauss@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 8, 2021 8:43 AM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David; Rigby, Christiana  
**Subject:** Save Cedar Lane Park

[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 Council Members,*

*I am writing to oppose the building of a fire station and the proposed park changes in Cedar Lane Park East. This park not only serves our community but many others. Many recreational leagues and families throughout Howard County use this space weekly and we enjoy being a part of it. We are new homeowners as of November 2019 and new parents. We purposely bought in this community for its location. We loved the idea of our daughter and future children growing up within walking distance of a beautiful park with activities we can watch and be a part of.*

*We are also concerned with what it would mean to take away the natural fields. The removal of two of the few remaining natural grass fields in Howard County is concerning. I already am directly next to a run-off pond and extremely concerned that the decrease in natural fields will increase our chances of flooding.*

*I grew up where there was a lot of land for me to explore and see nature. I would not have changed my experiences as a child, for anything in the world. In Columbia, space and owning large properties are not common for the average resident and I am so proud to live by a park where my children can see the natural environment of animals and can explore and learn about what it means to take care of our environment. Please do not let us lose Howard County's irreplaceable park land.*

*Thank you,*

*Felicia, Daniel and Baby Tahlia Schmidt*

*District 4*

*10740 Cottonwood Way*

*Columbia, MD 21044*



## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Dr. Chao Wu <chaowu2016@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 7, 2021 5:40 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** feedback on county body camera program/budget

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

Dear all council members,

I want to share some feedback on the police body camera program. I support this program and I believe it will create transparency and accountability of the police force.

Considering our county's financial health, I believe we need to be careful with the initial implementation. I don't think we should start the program with 13 state attorneys and 13 police. I believe a combination of attorneys, police and data engineers (plus software and hardware support) is a good start. We can evaluate next year how the program works and decide our next step. I have the professional background as a data scientist, data engineering, AI, cyber security.

Here are my thoughts:

- 1) We should NOT expect to review all videos. There are just too many videos to review, even 13 attorneys and 13 police are not enough. We should review videos randomly for quality control, police accountability and process improvement. We should use technology (for example, AI) to review videos, not humans. We can use AI to extra videos which involve police and resident interactions. We then rely on humans to review videos of interest for clarity and accuracy.
- 2) We should review every incident/video which has questions, issues or complaints.
- 3) We should have at least some dedicated data engineers/scientists for this work. Saving, reviewing, transferring, viewing videos cost a lot of money. How to protect data privacy, integrity, ec is not an easy task. The data will be gigantic and we will not be able to save them very long. Many videos are useless too. We need highly skilled tech persons to handle the data and related technology.
- 4) I wish we are considering the sustainability of the program and a steady process to build it into success.

Thanks for reading my email. If you have any other questions, please let me know.

Chao

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Chao Wu, *PhD*  
*Board Member of Howard County Board of Education*  
website: <https://www.chaowu.org>

Note: The opinion in the email does not represent the opinion of the Howard County Board of Education unless it is clearly stated.

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Paul Clavelle <clavellepaul@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 7, 2021 2:46 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** capital project T-7106

[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,

It is my understanding that you will be meeting on Monday, May 10 to decide whether to fund capital project T-7106 - a traffic circle at Tamar Drive and Old Montgomery Road. As a nearby resident who has used this intersection for 40 years, I strongly support funding this project. It is long overdue.

I am constantly amazed at how drivers pull out suddenly into this intersection. I do not understand why, but it continues to this day, and makes this a very dangerous intersection. There have been many accidents there over the years. I believe a traffic circle would go a long way to making this safer for all.

The matter is made more urgent by the increase in traffic at the intersection since the opening of Blandair Park.

I regret that I will not be able to attend Monday's Council Meeting, and trust that you will consider my recommendation.

Thank you.

Paul Clavelle  
6182 Campfire, Columbia, MD 21045