

Sayers, Margery

From: Lynn Clements <cookies210@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 10:26 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support Full Funding of the East Columbia 50+ Center

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

To Members of the County Council, Please vote to support full funding of the East Columbia 50+ Center project!

Sincerely,

Lynn Clements

7305 Maplecrest Rd, #407

Elkridge, MD 21075

x

Sayers, Margery

From: Jessie Barnes <jsldancer@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 9:54 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: VOTE TO FULLY FUND THE COLUMBIA EAST 50+ CENTER CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

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

To Members of the County Council, Please vote to support full funding of the East Columbia 50+ Center Project.

"THE SECRET TO LIVING IS GIVING"

Jessie Barnes

9536 Scholars Lane

Laurel, Md 20723

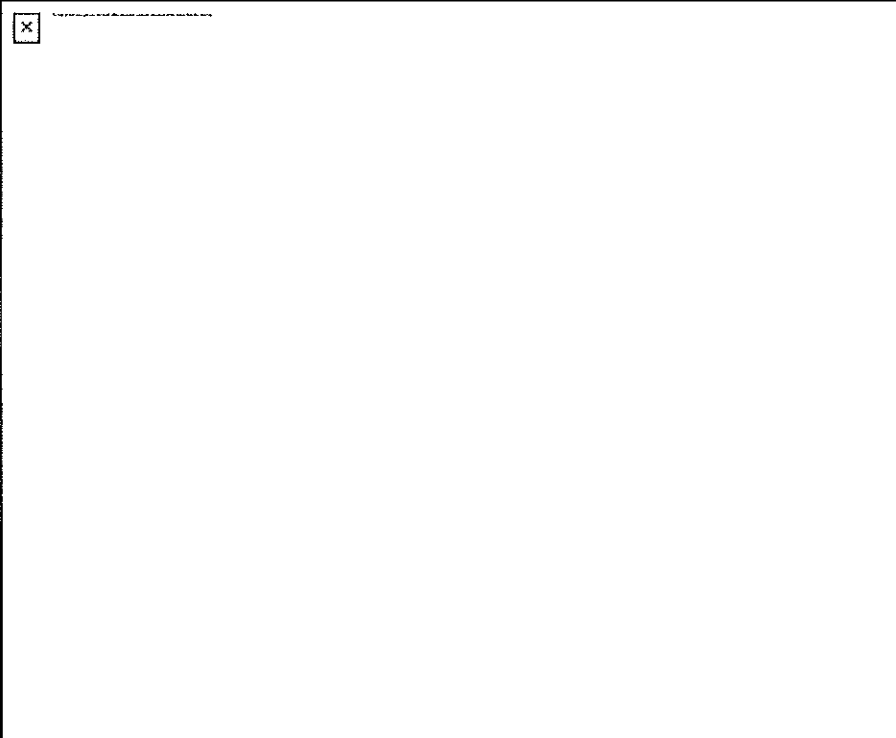
<https://www.facebook.com/Jessiesoulinedancers/>

Sayers, Margery

From: Sissy Plank <sisseyplank@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 9:31 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Fwd: Support Full Funding of the East Columbia 50+ Center

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

*To Members of the County Council,
Please vote to support full funding of the East Columbia 50+ Center project!*



*Sincerely,
Mike Plank
Ellicott City*

Sayers, Margery

From: Doug/Linda <winckels@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 9:17 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: 50 plus center

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

x

Sayers, Margery

From: A Tsui <amysui@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 8:15 AM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Benjamin Tsui
Subject: Support full funding of the East Columbia 50+ Center

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

To Members of the Howard County Council,
Please vote to support the full funding of East Columbia's 50+ center project!
Thank you.
Amy & Ben Tsui
11268 Terrace Ln, Fulton, MD 20759

**Make Today's Dream...
Tomorrow's Reality**

Today **Tomorrow**

**Fully Fund
The New East Columbia 50+ Center**
1/3 of HoCo residents are Seniors—95% vote!

Sayers, Margery

From: Wanda Daye <wrdaye@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 11:14 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please support full funding of the East Columbia 50+ Center project!

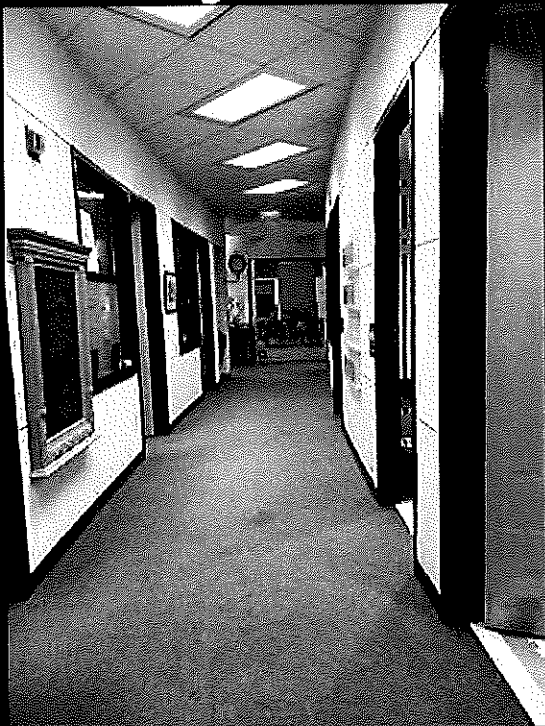
[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

To Members of the County Council,

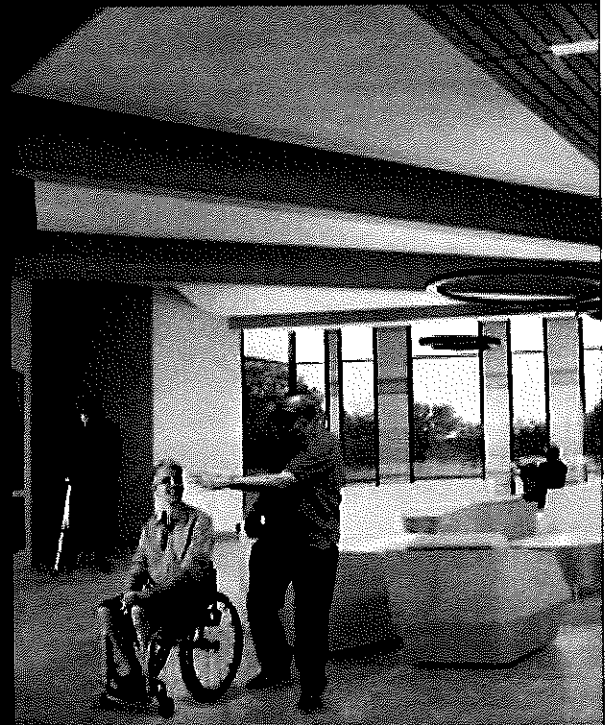
Please vote to support full funding of the East Columbia 50+ Center project!

Make Today's Dream Tomorrow's Reality

Today



Tomorrow



Fully Fund

The New East Columbia

1/3 of HoCo residents are S

Sincerely,

Wanda Daye P.O.A. for parent
Joan Branch
9895 Palace Hall Dr. Apt 413
Laurel MD 20723

Sent from my iPad

Sayers, Margery

From: Wanda Daye <paydaye23@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 11:12 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support Full Fund of the East Columbia 50+ Center project

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

To Members of the County Council,

Please vote to support full funding of the East Columbia 50+ Center project!

Make Today's Dream Tomorrow's Reality

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Fully Fund

The New East Columbia

1/3 of HoCo residents are S

Sincerely,

Wanda Daye P.O.A. for parent
Robert Branch
9895 Palace Hall Dr.
Laurel MD 20723

Sent from my iPad

Sayers, Margery

From: Wanda Daye <wrdaye@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 11:06 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support Full Fund of the The New East Columbia 50+ Center

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

To Members of the County Council,

Please vote to support full funding of the East Columbia 50+ Center project!

Make Today's Dream

Tomorrow

Today



Tomorrow



Fully Fund

The New East Columbia

1/3 of HoCo residents are S

Sincerely,

Mrs. Wanda Daye
5705 Little Bells Row
Clarksville MD 21029

Sent from my iPad

Sayers, Margery

From: Allison Korn <allisonkorn@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 9:19 PM
To: CouncilMail
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.]

Members of the County Council:

I urge your support for full funding of the replacement East Columbia 50+ Center. If you haven't already visited the center to see how dreadfully inadequate it is, I urge you to do so before you vote on May 26. Those of us who use the center have little hope of being able to return there in the foreseeable future—there is only one room where social distancing is possible and it can't be used in a practical way because of one-way traffic requirements in the hallway would mean there is no way to reach the restrooms. Had the Council approved funding last May the new building would be nearly finished by now and we would have a new center to use post-pandemic. You need to resolve the serious inequity in service and facilities—this is an underserved area and we are tired of being neglected.

Sincerely,

Allison Korn
6550 Carlinda Avenue
Columbia 21046

Make Today's Dream

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Today

Tomorrow



Fully Fund

The New East Columbia

1/3 of HoCo residents are S

Sayers, Margery

From: Betsy Lew <blew7@verizon.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 8:29 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Fully Fund the East Columbia 50+ Center Construction Project

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

Dear Howard County Council Members,

Please support the full funding of the East Columbia 50+ Center Construction Project.

As a senior citizen in Howard County who has benefitted from the East Columbia Senior Center, before the pandemic, I urge you to support the plans for an enlarged senior center. Through the senior center, I have had the privilege of having access to learning experiences, exercise activities, and social events. Since it has been closed, I have missed seeing my friends and have not had chances to meet new people.

For me, the senior center is a key component of my life that keeps me active, enables me to learn new things, and, consequently, live a fulfilling life. Given the fact that the senior population is expected to grow even larger in the coming years, I would be very concerned about the current facility's capacity to fulfill the needs of those who will become seniors in the next few years. I am concerned that a large number of seniors in the future will not have the opportunity to receive the advantages I have had the privilege to receive.

For the betterment of the quality of life, welfare, and mental health of current and future senior citizens, please support the funding for the East Columbia 50+ Center Construction Project. Your support at this time is critical since Maryland will contribute funding for this project at this time. If we miss this opportunity to move forward on this project, we may find that we have missed a golden opportunity, which we will regret in the future.

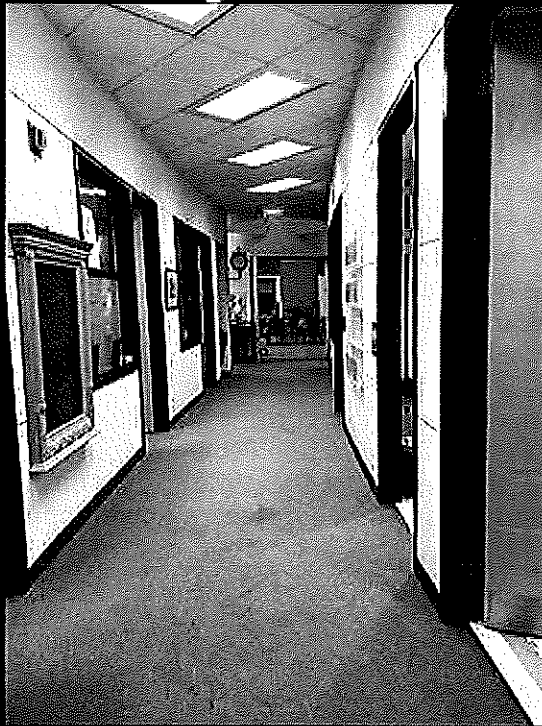
Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Betsy Lew
3031 John Bernard Drive
Ellicott City MD 21042
410 531 1819

Make Today's Dream Tomorrow

Today



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Fully Fund
The New East Columbia
1/3 of HoCo residents are S

Sayers, Margery

From: Kathy Ohalloran <kohall@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 8:27 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Fund Columbia East 50+ Center

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

Please pass funding for the Columbia East 50+ Center. I am a long-time supporter of this project - even though I live in Western Howard County. Columbia East has a special sense of community - one that is destined to grow with a brand-new facility!

Thanking you in advance -

Kathy O'Halloran

x

Sayers, Margery

From: Cristine Smith <cris4447@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 7:58 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: East Columbia 50+ Center Project

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

Please support full funding of the East Columbia 50+ Center Project.

Make Today's Dream Tomorrow

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Tomorrow



Fully Fund

The New East Columbia

1/3 of HoCo residents are S

Cristine Smith
6923 Garland Lane
Columbia, MD 21045

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

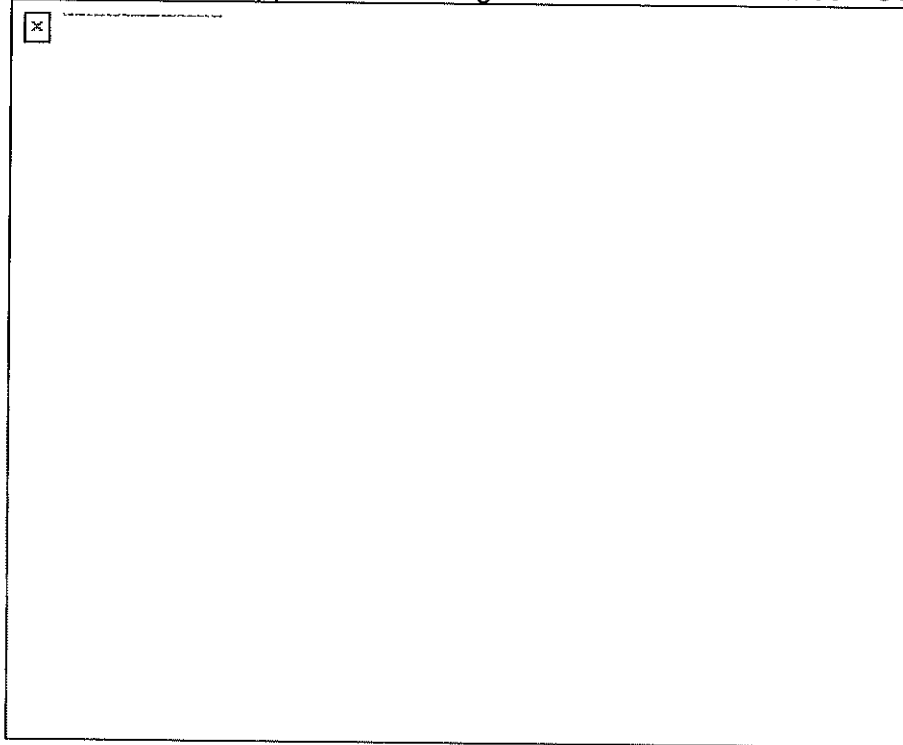
Sayers, Margery

From: JoanFox <jm.fox@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 7:53 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Fwd: Support Full Funding of the East Columbia 50+ Center

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

Subject: Fwd: Support Full Funding of the East Columbia 50+ Center

*To Members of the County Council,
Please vote to support full funding of the East Columbia 50+ Center project!*



*Sincerely,
Joan M Fox
Ellicott City*

Sayers, Margery

From: Kathy Tillman <kbtilman@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 7:45 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support Full Funding of the East Columbia 50+ Center

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

To Members of the County Council, Please vote to support full funding of the East Columbia 50+ Center project!

Sincerely,
Kathryn Tillman
9467 Hickory Limb
Columbia, MD 21045

**Make Today's Dream...
Tomorrow's Reality**

Today **Tomorrow**

Fully Fund
The New East Columbia 50+ Center
1/3 of HoCo residents are Seniors—95% vote!

Sayers, Margery

From: Elaine Saddic <elainesaddic@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 7:40 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Columbia East 50+ center

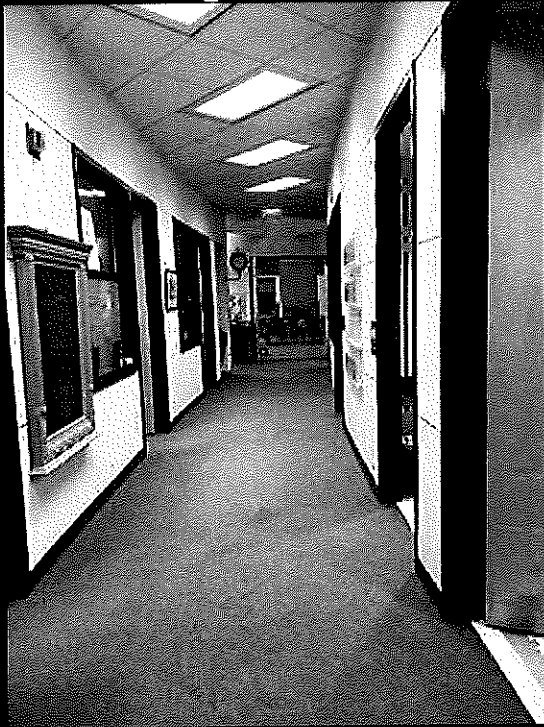
[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear County Council,

Please fully fund the Columbia East 50+ Center.

Make Today's Dream Tomorrow's Reality

Today



Tomorrow



Fully Fund

The New East Columbia

1/3 of HoCo residents are S

Sincerely,
Elaine Saddic

Sent from my iPad

Sayers, Margery

From: Stephen Wagner <wagstalbot@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 7:34 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: allison korn
Subject: Support for Senior Center

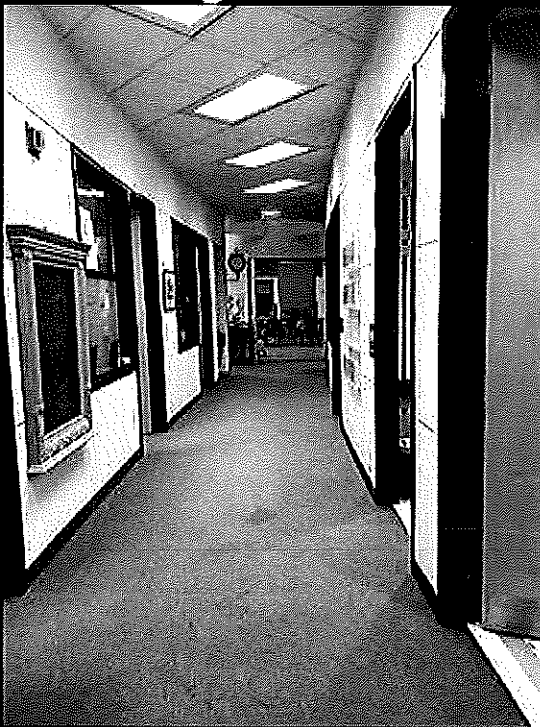
[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Make Today's Dream

Tomorrow

Today

Tomorrow



Fully Fund

The New East Columbia

1/3 of HoCo residents are S

Sincerely,
Stephen J and Pamela J Wagner
Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: James Ferry <james@jamesferry.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 7:18 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please support full funding for the East Columbia 50+ Center
Attachments: 50+ Center.jpg

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

To Members of the County Council, Please vote to support full funding of the East Columbia 50+ Center project!

*Sincerely,
James Ferry*

James Ferry Photography
9693 Gerwig Lane, Suite T
Columbia, MD 21046

410-730-5981
www.jamesferry.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Ping Mao <jpingmao@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 7:18 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Re: Support Full Funding of the East Columbia 50+ Center
Attachments: unnamed.jpg

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

On Wed, Apr 14, 2021 at 7:17 PM Ping Mao <jpingmao@gmail.com> wrote:

To Members of the County Council,

Please vote to support full funding of the East Columbia 50+ Center project! It is about our life and it is about our right. We deserve this new center.

Sincerely,

Jianping Mao
6507 River Run, Columbia, MD 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Ping Mao <jpingmao@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 7:17 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support Full Funding of the East Columbia 50+ Center

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

To Members of the County Council,

Please vote to support full funding of the East Columbia 50+ Center project! It is about our life and it is about our right. We deserve this new center.

Sincerely,

Jianping Mao
6507 River Run, Columbia, MD 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Bettina Lewis <bettinalewis7@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 7:14 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support Full Funding of the East Columbia 50+ Center

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

To members of the County Council:

Please vote to support full funding of the East Columbia 50+ Center Project.
We really, really need it—we are OLD and we have been waiting so long. Time matters here.

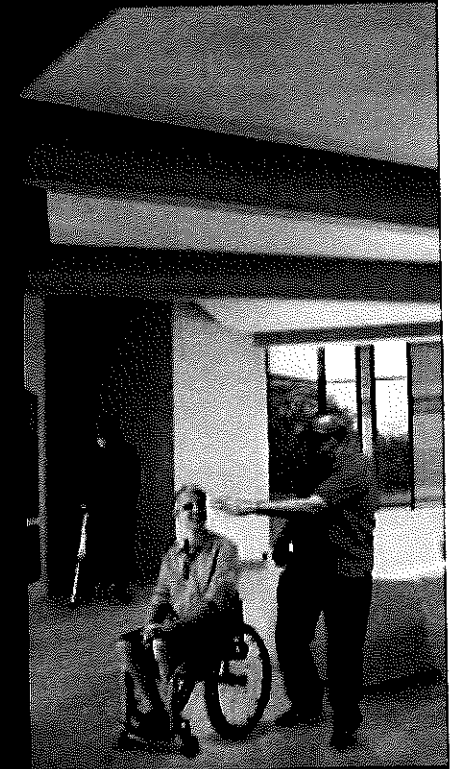
Thank you for your consideration,
Bettina Lewis
9509 Deerfoot Way
Columbia MD 21046

Make Today's

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Fully Fund

The New East Colu

1/3 of HoCo residents a

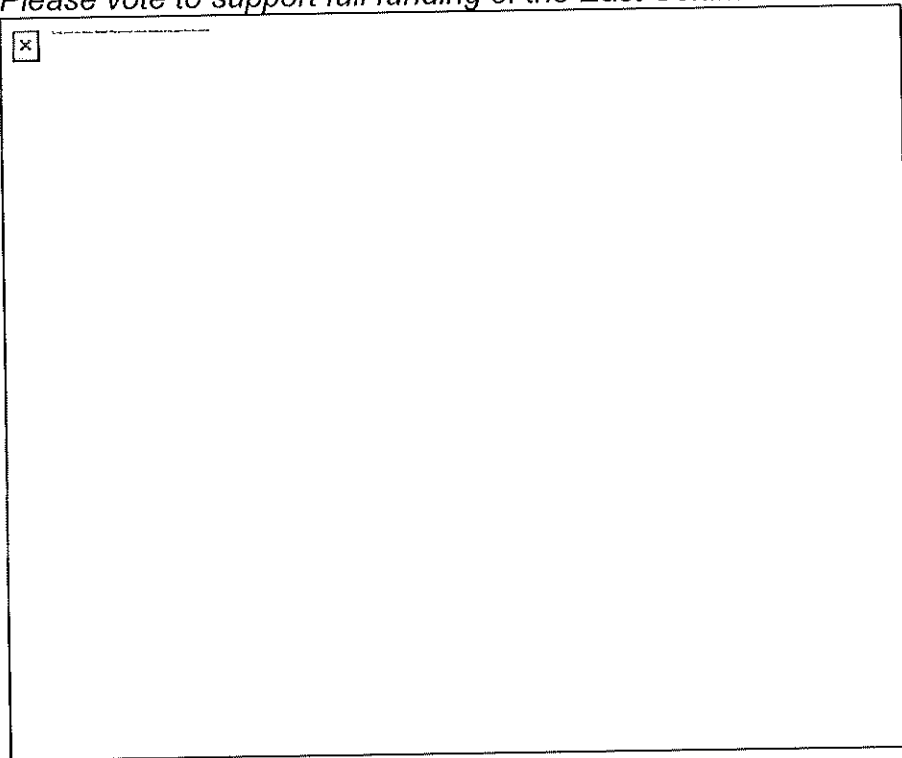
Sent from my iPad

Sayers, Margery

From: Sissy Plank <sisyplank@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 7:14 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Fwd: Support Full Funding of the East Columbia 50+ Center

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

*To Members of the County Council,
Please vote to support full funding of the East Columbia 50+ Center project!*



*Sincerely,
Mary Plank
Ellicott City*

Sayers, Margery

From: Rita Cohen <rcohen0126@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 7:06 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support Full Funding of the East Columbia 50+ Center

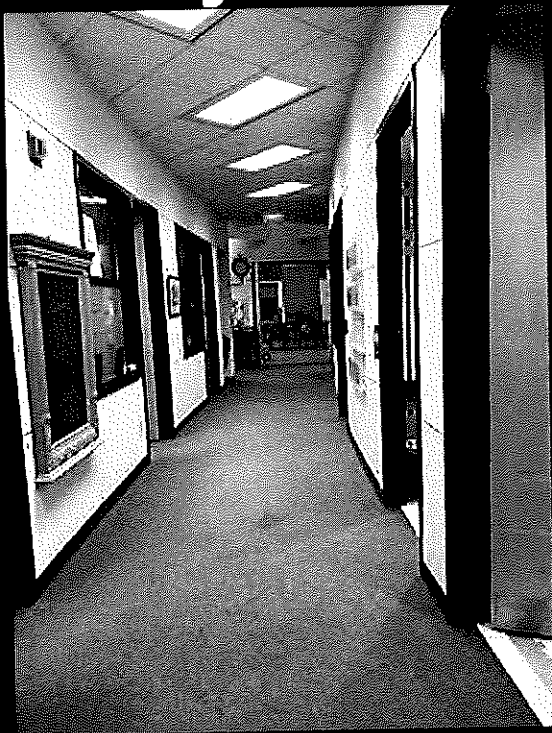
[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

To members of the County Council,
Please vote to support full funding of the East Columbia 50+ Center project!

Sincerely,
Rita Cohen
6106 Forestvale Court
Columbia, MD 21044

Make Today's Dream Tomorrow's Reality

Today



Tomorrow



Fully Fund

The New East Columbia

1/3 of HoCo residents are S

Sayers, Margery

From: Patricia A Shannon <intruder54@verizon.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 6:44 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support Full Funding of the East Columbia 50+ Center

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

To Members of the County Council,

Please vote to support full funding of the East Columbia 50+ Center project!

Sincerely,

Patricia A Shannon
7503B Weather worn Way
Columbia, MD

Sayers, Margery

From: amy.wortman@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Amy Wortman
<amy.wortman@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 11:08 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Preserve \$5.37 Million in County Funds for Bicycle & Pedestrian Projects in FY 2022 Proposed Budget

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

Dear Howard County Council,

I am writing to urge you to protect the \$5.375 million in funding for bike and pedestrian infrastructure projects in the proposed FY 2022 capital budget.

I know the county is facing tough budget decisions this year due to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the importance of investing in our public health has never been clearer. We must continue to make progress in our biking and walking infrastructure to build and improve sidewalks, bike lanes, paths, crosswalks and more so everyone in our community has opportunities to bike, walk and access important services.

Without full funding of these important projects that will provide tangible benefits to residents' lives, such as K5035 in Elkridge and K5066 along Oakland Mills Road, Howard County will ultimately fall short of its complete streets vision. Howard County must fulfill its promise to create safer and accessible opportunities for biking and walking and position our community for a multi-modal future. Now is the time to invest in projects that will improve our public health, as well as safety and accessibility.

The proposed funding will make walking and biking in Howard County better, easier and safer, as well as make our community more age-friendly. I urge you to protect this funding in the final budget to improve our bike and pedestrian infrastructure for everyone in Howard County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Amy Wortman
5215 Patriot Ln Columbia Columbia, MD 21045-1902 amy.wortman@comcast.net

Sayers, Margery

From: sdwachs@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Steve Wachs
<sdwachs@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 11:01 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Preserve \$5.37 Million in County Funds for Bicycle & Pedestrian Projects in FY 2022 Proposed Budget

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

Dear Howard County Council,

I am writing to urge you to protect the \$5.375 million in funding for bike and pedestrian infrastructure projects in the proposed FY 2022 capital budget.

I know the county is facing tough budget decisions this year due to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the importance of investing in our public health has never been clearer. We must continue to make progress in our biking and walking infrastructure to build and improve sidewalks, bike lanes, paths, crosswalks and more so everyone in our community has opportunities to bike, walk and access important services.

Without full funding of these important projects that will provide tangible benefits to residents' lives, such as K5035 in Elkridge and K5066 along Oakland Mills Road, Howard County will ultimately fall short of its complete streets vision. Howard County must fulfill its promise to create safer and accessible opportunities for biking and walking and position our community for a multi-modal future. Now is the time to invest in projects that will improve our public health, as well as safety and accessibility.

The proposed funding will make walking and biking in Howard County better, easier and safer, as well as make our community more age-friendly. I urge you to protect this funding in the final budget to improve our bike and pedestrian infrastructure for everyone in Howard County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Steve Wachs
5852 Deer Ridge Ln Elkridge, MD 21075-5701 sdwachs@verizon.net

Sayers, Margery

From: amarik+hcstreetsforall@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of K A
<amarik+hcstreetsforall@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 7:55 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Preserve \$5.37 Million in County Funds for Bicycle & Pedestrian Projects in FY 2022 Proposed Budget

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

Dear Howard County Council,

I am writing to urge you to protect the \$5.375 million in funding for bike and pedestrian infrastructure projects in the proposed FY 2022 capital budget.

I know the county is facing tough budget decisions this year due to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the importance of investing in our public health has never been clearer. We must continue to make progress in our biking and walking infrastructure to build and improve sidewalks, bike lanes, paths, crosswalks and more so everyone in our community has opportunities to bike, walk and access important services.

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The proposed funding will make walking and biking in Howard County better, easier and safer, as well as make our community more age-friendly. I urge you to protect this funding in the final budget to improve our bike and pedestrian infrastructure for everyone in Howard County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
K A
8848 Youngsea Pl Columbia, MD 21045-2516
amarik+hcstreetsforall@gmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: renegade_lxix@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Jonathan Schultz
<renegade_lxix@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 5:56 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Preserve \$5.37 Million in County Funds for Bicycle & Pedestrian Projects in FY 2022 Proposed Budget

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

Dear Howard County Council,

I am a daily bike commuter, and fully support safer bike routes. I am writing to urge you to protect the \$5.375 million in funding for bike and pedestrian infrastructure projects in the proposed FY 2022 capital budget.

I know the county is facing tough budget decisions this year due to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the importance of investing in our public health has never been clearer. We must continue to make progress in our biking and walking infrastructure to build and improve sidewalks, bike lanes, paths, crosswalks and more so everyone in our community has opportunities to bike, walk and access important services.

Without full funding of these important projects that will provide tangible benefits to residents' lives, such as K5035 in Elkridge and K5066 along Oakland Mills Road, Howard County will ultimately fall short of its complete streets vision. Howard County must fulfill its promise to create safer and accessible opportunities for biking and walking and position our community for a multi-modal future. Now is the time to invest in projects that will improve our public health, as well as safety and accessibility.

The proposed funding will make walking and biking in Howard County better, easier and safer, as well as make our community more age-friendly. I urge you to protect this funding in the final budget to improve our bike and pedestrian infrastructure for everyone in Howard County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Jonathan Schultz
3784 College Ave Ellicott City, MD 21043-4662 renegade_lxix@hotmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: enapoda@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Elizabeth Napoda
<enapoda@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 10:03 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Preserve \$5.37 Million in County Funds for Bicycle & Pedestrian Projects in FY 2022
Proposed Budget

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

Dear Howard County Council,

I am writing to urge you to protect the \$5.375 million in funding for bike and pedestrian infrastructure projects in the proposed FY 2022 capital budget.

I know the county is facing tough budget decisions this year due to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the importance of investing in our public health has never been clearer. We must continue to make progress in our biking and walking infrastructure to build and improve sidewalks, bike lanes, paths, crosswalks and more so everyone in our community has opportunities to bike, walk and access important services.

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The proposed funding will make walking and biking in Howard County better, easier and safer, as well as make our community more age-friendly. I urge you to protect this funding in the final budget to improve our bike and pedestrian infrastructure for everyone in Howard County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Napoda
5412 Morning Glory Ct Columbia, MD 21044-1920 enapoda@gmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: kcn8303@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of KIM NGUYEN <kcn8303@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 11:28 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Preserve \$5.37 Million in County Funds for Bicycle & Pedestrian Projects in FY 2022 Proposed Budget

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

Dear Howard County Council,

I am writing to urge you to protect the \$5.375 million in funding for bike and pedestrian infrastructure projects in the proposed FY 2022 capital budget.

I know the county is facing tough budget decisions this year due to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the importance of investing in our public health has never been clearer. We must continue to make progress in our biking and walking infrastructure to build and improve sidewalks, bike lanes, paths, crosswalks and more so everyone in our community has opportunities to bike, walk and access important services.

Without full funding of these important projects that will provide tangible benefits to residents' lives, such as K5035 in Elkridge and K5066 along Oakland Mills Road, Howard County will ultimately fall short of its complete streets vision. Howard County must fulfill its promise to create safer and accessible opportunities for biking and walking and position our community for a multi-modal future. Now is the time to invest in projects that will improve our public health, as well as safety and accessibility.

The proposed funding will make walking and biking in Howard County better, easier and safer, as well as make our community more age-friendly. I urge you to protect this funding in the final budget to improve our bike and pedestrian infrastructure for everyone in Howard County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
KIM NGUYEN
8303 Wild Cherry Ct Laurel, MD 20723-1067 kcn8303@gmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: candorsky530@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Claudia Andorsky <candorsky530@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 7:43 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Preserve \$5.37 Million in County Funds for Bicycle & Pedestrian Projects in FY 2022 Proposed Budget

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

Dear Howard County Council,

I am writing to urge you to protect the \$5.375 million in funding for bike and pedestrian infrastructure projects in the proposed FY 2022 capital budget.

I know the county is facing tough budget decisions this year due to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the importance of investing in our public health has never been clearer. We must continue to make progress in our biking and walking infrastructure to build and improve sidewalks, bike lanes, paths, crosswalks and more so everyone in our community has opportunities to bike, walk and access important services.

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The proposed funding will make walking and biking in Howard County better, easier and safer, as well as make our community more age-friendly. I urge you to protect this funding in the final budget to improve our bike and pedestrian infrastructure for everyone in Howard County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Claudia Andorsky
4240 Red Bandana Way Ellicott City, MD 21042-5928 candorsky530@gmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: casey.bryant@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Casey Bryant
<casey.bryant@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 7:24 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Preserve \$5.37 Million in County Funds for Bicycle & Pedestrian Projects in FY 2022 Proposed Budget

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

Dear Howard County Council,

I am writing to urge you to protect the \$5.375 million in funding for bike and pedestrian infrastructure projects in the proposed FY 2022 capital budget.

I know the county is facing tough budget decisions this year due to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the importance of investing in our public health has never been clearer. We must continue to make progress in our biking and walking infrastructure to build and improve sidewalks, bike lanes, paths, crosswalks and more so everyone in our community has opportunities to bike, walk and access important services.

Without full funding of these important projects that will provide tangible benefits to residents' lives, such as K5035 in Elkridge and K5066 along Oakland Mills Road, Howard County will ultimately fall short of its complete streets vision. Howard County must fulfill its promise to create safer and accessible opportunities for biking and walking and position our community for a multi-modal future. Now is the time to invest in projects that will improve our public health, as well as safety and accessibility.

The proposed funding will make walking and biking in Howard County better, easier and safer, as well as make our community more age-friendly. I urge you to protect this funding in the final budget to improve our bike and pedestrian infrastructure for everyone in Howard County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Casey Bryant
5242 Patriot Ln Columbia, MD 21045-1903 casey.bryant@gmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: joanchipman1@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Joan Chipman <joanchipman1@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 7:06 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Preserve \$5.37 Million in County Funds for Bicycle & Pedestrian Projects in FY 2022 Proposed Budget

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

Dear Howard County Council,

Please help take Howard County into a healthier future! I am writing asking you to protect the \$5.375 million in funding for bike and pedestrian infrastructure projects in the proposed FY 2022 capital budget.

I am sick and tired of infrastructure focusing on car traffic (roads and bridges) and not enough on safe walking and cycling as do so many other advanced countries.

Sincerely,
Joan Chipman
10208 Cabery Rd Ellicott City, MD 21042-1606 joanchipman1@gmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: jlee621@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Jung Lee <jlee621@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 6:32 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Preserve \$5.37 Million in County Funds for Bicycle & Pedestrian Projects in FY 2022 Proposed Budget

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

Dear Howard County Council,

I am writing to urge you to protect the \$5.375 million in funding for bike and pedestrian infrastructure projects in the proposed FY 2022 capital budget.

I know the county is facing tough budget decisions this year due to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the importance of investing in our public health has never been clearer. We must continue to make progress in our biking and walking infrastructure to build and improve sidewalks, bike lanes, paths, crosswalks and more so everyone in our community has opportunities to bike, walk and access important services.

Without full funding of these important projects that will provide tangible benefits to residents' lives, such as K5035 in Elkridge and K5066 along Oakland Mills Road, Howard County will ultimately fall short of its complete streets vision. Howard County must fulfill its promise to create safer and accessible opportunities for biking and walking and position our community for a multi-modal future. Now is the time to invest in projects that will improve our public health, as well as safety and accessibility.

The proposed funding will make walking and biking in Howard County better, easier and safer, as well as make our community more age-friendly. I urge you to protect this funding in the final budget to improve our bike and pedestrian infrastructure for everyone in Howard County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Jung Lee
9759 Evening Bird Ln Laurel, MD 20723-5613 jlee621@hotmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Indyx86@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Eric Miller <Indyx86@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 6:21 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Preserve \$5.37 Million in County Funds for Bicycle & Pedestrian Projects in FY 2022 Proposed Budget

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

Dear Howard County Council,

I am writing to urge you to protect the \$5.375 million in funding for bike and pedestrian infrastructure projects in the proposed FY 2022 capital budget.

I know the county is facing tough budget decisions this year due to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the importance of investing in our public health has never been clearer. We must continue to make progress in our biking and walking infrastructure to build and improve sidewalks, bike lanes, paths, crosswalks and more so everyone in our community has opportunities to bike, walk and access important services.

Without full funding of these important projects that will provide tangible benefits to residents' lives, such as K5035 in Elkridge and K5066 along Oakland Mills Road, Howard County will ultimately fall short of its complete streets vision. Howard County must fulfill its promise to create safer and accessible opportunities for biking and walking and position our community for a multi-modal future. Now is the time to invest in projects that will improve our public health, as well as safety and accessibility.

The proposed funding will make walking and biking in Howard County better, easier and safer, as well as make our community more age-friendly. I urge you to protect this funding in the final budget to improve our bike and pedestrian infrastructure for everyone in Howard County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Eric Miller
4906 Columbia Rd Apt 1 Columbia, MD 21044-2159 Indyx86@alumni.american.edu

Sayers, Margery

From: finkelandy@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Andy Finkel
<finkelandy@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 4:54 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Preserve \$5.37 Million in County Funds for Bicycle & Pedestrian Projects in FY 2022 Proposed Budget

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

Dear Howard County Council,

I am writing to urge you to protect the \$5.375 million in funding for bike and pedestrian infrastructure projects in the proposed FY 2022 capital budget.

I know the county is facing tough budget decisions this year due to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the importance of investing in our public health has never been clearer. We must continue to make progress in our biking and walking infrastructure to build and improve sidewalks, bike lanes, paths, crosswalks and more so everyone in our community has opportunities to bike, walk and access important services.

Without full funding of these important projects that will provide tangible benefits to residents' lives, such as K5035 in Elkridge and K5066 along Oakland Mills Road, Howard County will ultimately fall short of its complete streets vision. Howard County must fulfill its promise to create safer and accessible opportunities for biking and walking and position our community for a multi-modal future. Now is the time to invest in projects that will improve our public health, as well as safety and accessibility.

The proposed funding will make walking and biking in Howard County better, easier and safer, as well as make our community more age-friendly. I urge you to protect this funding in the final budget to improve our bike and pedestrian infrastructure for everyone in Howard County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Andy Finkel
10659 Quarterstaff Rd Columbia, MD 21044-4153 finkelandy@gmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Dave.prestel@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Dave Prestel
<Dave.prestel@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 3:47 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Preserve \$5.37 Million in County Funds for Bicycle & Pedestrian Projects in FY 2022
Proposed Budget

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

Dear Howard County Council,

I am writing to urge you to protect the \$5.375 million in funding for bike and pedestrian infrastructure projects in the proposed FY 2022 capital budget.

I know the county is facing tough budget decisions this year due to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the importance of investing in our public health has never been clearer. We must continue to make progress in our biking and walking infrastructure to build and improve sidewalks, bike lanes, paths, crosswalks and more so everyone in our community has opportunities to bike, walk and access important services.

Without full funding of these important projects that will provide tangible benefits to residents' lives, such as K5035 in Elkridge and K5066 along Oakland Mills Road, Howard County will ultimately fall short of its complete streets vision. Howard County must fulfill its promise to create safer and accessible opportunities for biking and walking and position our community for a multi-modal future. Now is the time to invest in projects that will improve our public health, as well as safety and accessibility.

The proposed funding will make walking and biking in Howard County better, easier and safer, as well as make our community more age-friendly. I urge you to protect this funding in the final budget to improve our bike and pedestrian infrastructure for everyone in Howard County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Dave Prestel
10160 Tanfield Ct Ellicott City, MD 21042-5808 Dave.prestel@gmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Swlc2001@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Stephanie Langford <Swlc2001@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 3:40 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Preserve \$5.37 Million in County Funds for Bicycle & Pedestrian Projects in FY 2022 Proposed Budget

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

Dear Howard County Council,

I am writing to urge you to protect the \$5.375 million in funding for bike and pedestrian infrastructure projects in the proposed FY 2022 capital budget.

I know the county is facing tough budget decisions this year due to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the importance of investing in our public health has never been clearer. We must continue to make progress in our biking and walking infrastructure to build and improve sidewalks, bike lanes, paths, crosswalks and more so everyone in our community has opportunities to bike, walk and access important services.

Without full funding of these important projects that will provide tangible benefits to residents' lives, such as K5035 in Elkridge and K5066 along Oakland Mills Road, Howard County will ultimately fall short of its complete streets vision. Howard County must fulfill its promise to create safer and accessible opportunities for biking and walking and position our community for a multi-modal future. Now is the time to invest in projects that will improve our public health, as well as safety and accessibility.

The proposed funding will make walking and biking in Howard County better, easier and safer, as well as make our community more age-friendly. I urge you to protect this funding in the final budget to improve our bike and pedestrian infrastructure for everyone in Howard County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Langford
6084 Laurel Wreath Way Columbia, MD 21044-6102 Swlc2001@gmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: marian.vessels@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Marian Vessels
<marian.vessels@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 3:24 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Preserve \$5.37 Million in County Funds for Bicycle & Pedestrian Projects in FY 2022
Proposed Budget

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

Dear Howard County Council,

I am writing to urge you to protect the \$5.375 million in funding for bike and pedestrian infrastructure projects in the proposed FY 2022 capital budget.

I know the county is facing tough budget decisions this year due to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the importance of investing in our public health has never been clearer. We must continue to make progress in our biking and walking infrastructure to build and improve sidewalks, bike lanes, paths, crosswalks and more so everyone in our community has opportunities to bike, walk and access important services.

Without full funding of these important projects that will provide tangible benefits to residents' lives, such as K5035 in Elkrige and K5066 along Oakland Mills Road, Howard County will ultimately fall short of its complete streets vision. Howard County must fulfill its promise to create safer and accessible opportunities for biking and walking and position our community for a multi-modal future. Now is the time to invest in projects that will improve our public health, as well as safety and accessibility.

The proposed funding will make walking and biking in Howard County better, easier and safer, as well as make our community more age-friendly. I urge you to protect this funding in the final budget to improve our bike and pedestrian infrastructure for everyone in Howard County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Marian Vessels
2637 Turf Valley Rd Ellicott City, MD 21042-2021 marian.vessels@gmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: cglover@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Chris Glover
<cglover@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 2:39 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Preserve \$5.37 Million in County Funds for Bicycle & Pedestrian Projects in FY 2022 Proposed Budget

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

Dear Howard County Council,

I am writing to urge you to protect the \$5.375 million in funding for bike and pedestrian infrastructure projects in the proposed FY 2022 capital budget.

I live in Baltimore County, but I work in Howard County at Race Pace Bicycles and I also cycle in Howard County frequently.

I know the county is facing tough budget decisions this year due to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the importance of investing in our public health has never been clearer. We must continue to make progress in our biking and walking infrastructure to build and improve sidewalks, bike lanes, paths, crosswalks and more so everyone in our community has opportunities to bike, walk and access important services.

Without full funding of these important projects that will provide tangible benefits to residents' lives, such as K5035 in Elkridge and K5066 in Oakland Mills, Howard County will ultimately fall short of its complete streets vision. Howard County must fulfill its promise to create safer and accessible opportunities for biking and walking and position our community for a multi-modal future. Now is the time to invest in projects that will improve our public health, as well as safety and accessibility.

The proposed funding will make walking and biking in Howard County better, easier and safer, as well as make our community more age-friendly. I urge you to protect this funding in the final budget to improve our bike and pedestrian infrastructure for everyone in Howard County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Chris Glover
315 Galan Rd Catonsville, MD 21228-4212 cglover@racepacebicycles.com

Sayers, Margery

From: hermandelang@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Herman DeLang
<hermandelang@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 2:21 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Preserve \$5.37 Million in County Funds for Bicycle & Pedestrian Projects in FY 2022 Proposed Budget

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

Dear Howard County Council,

I am writing to urge you to protect the \$5.375 million in funding for bike and pedestrian infrastructure projects in the proposed FY 2022 capital budget.

I know the county is facing tough budget decisions this year due to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the importance of investing in our public health has never been clearer. We must continue to make progress in our biking and walking infrastructure to build and improve sidewalks, bike lanes, paths, crosswalks and more so everyone in our community has opportunities to bike, walk and access important services.

Without full funding of these important projects that will provide tangible benefits to residents' lives, such as K5066 in Oakland Mills (The Elkridge project is questionable, and should be delayed), Howard County will ultimately fall short of its complete streets vision. Howard County must fulfill its promise to create safer and accessible opportunities for biking and walking and position our community for a multi-modal future. Now is the time to invest in projects that will improve our public health, as well as safety and accessibility.

Focusing on cross county and heavily used Bike Trails and Lanes should be the priority, such as the Little Patuxent Trail from Savage to downtown Columbia.

The proposed funding will make walking and biking in Howard County better, easier and safer, as well as make our community more age-friendly. I urge you to protect this funding in the final budget to improve our bike and pedestrian infrastructure for everyone in Howard County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Herman DeLang
8455 Kings Meade Way Columbia, MD 21046-1268 hermandelang@gmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: jeanne.mccann@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of jeanne mccann
<jeanne.mccann@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 1:05 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Preserve \$5.37 Million in County Funds for Bicycle & Pedestrian Projects in FY 2022 Proposed Budget

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

Dear Howard County Council,

I am writing to urge you to protect the \$5.375 million in funding for bike and pedestrian infrastructure projects in the proposed FY 2022 capital budget.

I know the county is facing tough budget decisions this year due to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the importance of investing in our public health has never been clearer. We must continue to make progress in our biking and walking infrastructure to build and improve sidewalks, bike lanes, paths, crosswalks and more so everyone in our community has opportunities to bike, walk and access important services.

Without full funding of these important projects that will provide tangible benefits to residents' lives, such as K5035 in Elkridge and K5066 in Oakland Mills, Howard County will ultimately fall short of its complete streets vision. Howard County must fulfill its promise to create safer and accessible opportunities for biking and walking and position our community for a multi-modal future. Now is the time to invest in projects that will improve our public health, as well as safety and accessibility.

The proposed funding will make walking and biking in Howard County better, easier and safer, as well as make our community more age-friendly. I urge you to protect this funding in the final budget to improve our bike and pedestrian infrastructure for everyone in Howard County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
jeanne mccann
732 Light St Baltimore, MD 21230-3850
jeanne.mccann@gmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: beertrekker@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of William Nichols
<beertrekker@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 1:03 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Preserve \$5.37 Million in County Funds for Bicycle & Pedestrian Projects in FY 2022 Proposed Budget

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

Dear Howard County Council,

I am writing to urge you to protect the \$5.375 million in funding for bike and pedestrian infrastructure projects in the proposed FY 2022 capital budget.

I know the county is facing tough budget decisions this year due to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the importance of investing in our public health has never been clearer. We must continue to make progress in our biking and walking infrastructure to build and improve sidewalks, bike lanes, paths, crosswalks and more so everyone in our community has opportunities to bike, walk and access important services.

Without full funding of these important projects that will provide tangible benefits to residents' lives, such as K5035 in Elkridge and K5066 in Oakland Mills, Howard County will ultimately fall short of its complete streets vision. Howard County must fulfill its promise to create safer and accessible opportunities for biking and walking and position our community for a multi-modal future. Now is the time to invest in projects that will improve our public health, as well as safety and accessibility.

The proposed funding will make walking and biking in Howard County better, easier and safer, as well as make our community more age-friendly. I urge you to protect this funding in the final budget to improve our bike and pedestrian infrastructure for everyone in Howard County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
William Nichols
10387 Cavey Ln Woodstock, MD 21163-1322 beertrekker@hotmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Joehorvath@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Joseph Horvath
<Joehorvath@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 1:01 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Preserve \$5.37 Million in County Funds for Bicycle & Pedestrian Projects in FY 2022 Proposed Budget

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

Dear Howard County Council,

I am writing to urge you to protect the \$5.375 million in funding for bike and pedestrian infrastructure projects in the proposed FY 2022 capital budget.

I know the county is facing tough budget decisions this year due to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the importance of investing in our public health has never been clearer. We must continue to make progress in our biking and walking infrastructure to build and improve sidewalks, bike lanes, paths, crosswalks and more so everyone in our community has opportunities to bike, walk and access important services.

Without full funding of these important projects that will provide tangible benefits to residents' lives, such as K5035 in Elkridge and K5066 in Oakland Mills, Howard County will ultimately fall short of its complete streets vision. Howard County must fulfill its promise to create safer and accessible opportunities for biking and walking and position our community for a multi-modal future. Now is the time to invest in projects that will improve our public health, as well as safety and accessibility.

The proposed funding will make walking and biking in Howard County better, easier and safer, as well as make our community more age-friendly. I urge you to protect this funding in the final budget to improve our bike and pedestrian infrastructure for everyone in Howard County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Joseph Horvath
3542 Split Rail Ln Ellicott City, MD 21042-3831 Joehorvath@verizon.net

Sayers, Margery

From: savikraina2006@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Vikas Raina <savikraina2006@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 12:46 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Preserve \$5.37 Million in County Funds for Bicycle & Pedestrian Projects in FY 2022 Proposed Budget

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

Dear Howard County Council,

I am writing to urge you to protect the \$5.375 million in funding for bike and pedestrian infrastructure projects in the proposed FY 2022 capital budget.

I know the county is facing tough budget decisions this year due to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the importance of investing in our public health has never been clearer. We must continue to make progress in our biking and walking infrastructure to build and improve sidewalks, bike lanes, paths, crosswalks and more so everyone in our community has opportunities to bike, walk and access important services.

Without full funding of these important projects that will provide tangible benefits to residents' lives, such as K5035 in Elkridge and K5066 in Oakland Mills, Howard County will ultimately fall short of its complete streets vision. Howard County must fulfill its promise to create safer and accessible opportunities for biking and walking and position our community for a multi-modal future. Now is the time to invest in projects that will improve our public health, as well as safety and accessibility.

The proposed funding will make walking and biking in Howard County better, easier and safer, as well as make our community more age-friendly. I urge you to protect this funding in the final budget to improve our bike and pedestrian infrastructure for everyone in Howard County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Vikas Raina
6310 Mary Theresa Ct Hanover, MD 21076-1039 savikraina2006@yahoo.com

Sayers, Margery

From: swatek1@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Russ Swatek <swatek1@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 12:40 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Preserve \$5.37 Million in County Funds for Bicycle & Pedestrian Projects in FY 2022 Proposed Budget

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

Dear Howard County Council,

I am writing to urge you to protect the \$5.375 million in funding for bike and pedestrian infrastructure projects in the proposed FY 2022 capital budget.

Making Howard County walking and bicycling friendly is infrastructure that is sorely needed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Russ Swatek
8141 Tamar Dr Columbia, MD 21045-2885
swatek1@yahoo.com

Sayers, Margery

From: fberko@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Fred Berko
<fberko@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 11:51 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Preserve \$5.37 Million in County Funds for Bicycle & Pedestrian Projects in FY 2022 Proposed Budget

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

Dear Howard County Council,

I am writing to urge you to protect the \$5.375 million in funding for bike and pedestrian infrastructure projects in the proposed FY 2022 capital budget.

I know the county is facing tough budget decisions this year due to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the importance of investing in our public health has never been clearer. We must continue to make progress in our biking and walking infrastructure to build and improve sidewalks, bike lanes, paths, crosswalks and more so everyone in our community has opportunities to bike, walk and access important services.

Without full funding of these important projects that will provide tangible benefits to residents' lives, such as K5035 in Elkridge and K5066 in Oakland Mills, Howard County will ultimately fall short of its complete streets vision. Howard County must fulfill its promise to create safer and accessible opportunities for biking and walking and position our community for a multi-modal future. Now is the time to invest in projects that will improve our public health, as well as safety and accessibility.

The proposed funding will make walking and biking in Howard County better, easier and safer, as well as make our community more age-friendly. I urge you to protect this funding in the final budget to improve our bike and pedestrian infrastructure for everyone in Howard County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Fred Berko
7718 River Rock Way Columbia, MD 21044-4163 fberko@ieee.org

Sayers, Margery

From: glenn@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Glenn and Janice Schneider
<glenn@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 11:48 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Preserve \$5.37 Million in County Funds for Bicycle & Pedestrian Projects in FY 2022 Proposed Budget

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

Dear Howard County Council,

I am writing to urge you to protect the \$5.375 million in funding for bike and pedestrian infrastructure projects in the proposed FY 2022 capital budget.

I know the county is facing tough budget decisions this year due to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the importance of investing in our public health has never been clearer. We must continue to make progress in our biking and walking infrastructure to build and improve sidewalks, bike lanes, paths, crosswalks and more so everyone in our community has opportunities to bike, walk and access important services.

Without full funding of these important projects that will provide tangible benefits to residents' lives, such as K5035 in Elkridge and K5066 in Oakland Mills, Howard County will ultimately fall short of its complete streets vision. Howard County must fulfill its promise to create safer and accessible opportunities for biking and walking and position our community for a multi-modal future. Now is the time to invest in projects that will improve our public health, as well as safety and accessibility.

The proposed funding will make walking and biking in Howard County better, easier and safer, as well as make our community more age-friendly. I urge you to protect this funding in the final budget to improve our bike and pedestrian infrastructure for everyone in Howard County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Glenn and Janice Schneider
12106 Blue Flag Way Columbia, MD 21044-2753 glenn@actioncenters.net

Sayers, Margery

From: rwgardner@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Ryan Gardner
<rwgardner@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 11:35 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Preserve \$5.37 Million in County Funds for Bicycle & Pedestrian Projects in FY 2022 Proposed Budget

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

Dear Howard County Council,

I am writing to urge you to protect the \$5.375 million in funding for bike and pedestrian infrastructure projects in the proposed FY 2022 capital budget.

I know the county is facing tough budget decisions this year due to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the importance of investing in our public health has never been clearer. We must continue to make progress in our biking and walking infrastructure to build and improve sidewalks, bike lanes, paths, crosswalks and more so everyone in our community has opportunities to bike, walk and access important services.

Without full funding of these important projects that will provide tangible benefits to residents' lives, such as K5035 in Elkridge and K5066 in Oakland Mills, Howard County will ultimately fall short of its complete streets vision. Howard County must fulfill its promise to create safer and accessible opportunities for biking and walking and position our community for a multi-modal future. Now is the time to invest in projects that will improve our public health, as well as safety and accessibility.

The proposed funding will make walking and biking in Howard County better, easier and safer, as well as make our community more age-friendly. I urge you to protect this funding in the final budget to improve our bike and pedestrian infrastructure for everyone in Howard County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Ryan Gardner
10338 Sixpence Cir Columbia, MD 21044-3807 rwgardner@gmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: eablom@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Elizabeth Schultz
<eablom@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 11:31 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Preserve \$5.37 Million in County Funds for Bicycle & Pedestrian Projects in FY 2022 Proposed Budget

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

Dear Howard County Council,

I am writing to urge you to protect the \$5.375 million in funding for bike and pedestrian infrastructure projects in the proposed FY 2022 capital budget.

I know the county is facing tough budget decisions this year due to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the importance of investing in our public health has never been clearer. We must continue to make progress in our biking and walking infrastructure to build and improve sidewalks, bike lanes, paths, crosswalks and more so everyone in our community has opportunities to bike, walk and access important services.

Without full funding of these important projects that will provide tangible benefits to residents' lives, such as K5035 in Elkridge and K5066 in Oakland Mills, Howard County will ultimately fall short of its complete streets vision. Howard County must fulfill its promise to create safer and accessible opportunities for biking and walking and position our community for a multi-modal future. Now is the time to invest in projects that will improve our public health, as well as safety and accessibility.

The proposed funding will make walking and biking in Howard County better, easier and safer, as well as make our community more age-friendly. I urge you to protect this funding in the final budget to improve our bike and pedestrian infrastructure for everyone in Howard County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Schultz
3784 College Ave Ellicott City, MD 21043-4662 eablom@hotmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: nd787@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Jeff Chamblee <nd787@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 11:25 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Preserve \$5.37 Million in County Funds for Bicycle & Pedestrian Projects in FY 2022 Proposed Budget

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

Dear Howard County Council,

I am writing to urge you to protect the \$5.375 million in funding for bike and pedestrian infrastructure projects in the proposed FY 2022 capital budget.

I know the county is facing tough budget decisions this year due to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the importance of investing in our public health has never been clearer. We must continue to make progress in our biking and walking infrastructure to build and improve sidewalks, bike lanes, paths, crosswalks and more so everyone in our community has opportunities to bike, walk and access important services.

Without full funding of these important projects that will provide tangible benefits to residents' lives, such as K5035 in Elkridge and K5066 in Oakland Mills, Howard County will ultimately fall short of its complete streets vision. Howard County must fulfill its promise to create safer and accessible opportunities for biking and walking and position our community for a multi-modal future. Now is the time to invest in projects that will improve our public health, as well as safety and accessibility.

The proposed funding will make walking and biking in Howard County better, easier and safer, as well as make our community more age-friendly. I urge you to protect this funding in the final budget to improve our bike and pedestrian infrastructure for everyone in Howard County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Jeff Chamblee
10141 Hyla Brook Rd Columbia, MD 21044-1706 nd787@yahoo.com

Sayers, Margery

From: mark.t.southerland@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Mark Southerland
<mark.t.southerland@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 11:26 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Preserve \$5.37 Million in County Funds for Bicycle & Pedestrian Projects in FY 2022 Proposed Budget

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

Dear Howard County Council,

I am writing to urge you to protect the \$5.375 million in funding for bike and pedestrian infrastructure projects in the proposed FY 2022 capital budget.

I know the county is facing tough budget decisions this year due to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the importance of investing in our public health has never been clearer. We must continue to make progress in our biking and walking infrastructure to build and improve sidewalks, bike lanes, paths, crosswalks and more so everyone in our community has opportunities to bike, walk and access important services.

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The proposed funding will make walking and biking in Howard County better, easier and safer, as well as make our community more age-friendly. I urge you to protect this funding in the final budget to improve our bike and pedestrian infrastructure for everyone in Howard County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Mark Southerland
6136 Llanfair Dr Columbia, MD 21044-3829 mark.t.southerland@gmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: socworker20783@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Sandra Anderson
<socworker20783@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 10:58 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Preserve \$5.37 Million in County Funds for Bicycle & Pedestrian Projects in FY 2022 Proposed Budget

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

Dear Howard County Council,

I am writing to urge you to protect the \$5.375 million in funding for bike and pedestrian infrastructure projects in the proposed FY 2022 capital budget.

I know the county is facing tough budget decisions this year due to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the importance of investing in our public health has never been clearer. We must continue to make progress in our biking and walking infrastructure to build and improve sidewalks, bike lanes, paths, crosswalks and more so everyone in our community has opportunities to bike, walk and access important services.

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The proposed funding will make walking and biking in Howard County better, easier and safer, as well as make our community more age-friendly. I urge you to protect this funding in the final budget to improve our bike and pedestrian infrastructure for everyone in Howard County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Sandra Anderson
10511 Tolling Clock Way Columbia, MD 21044-2216 socworker20783@yahoo.com

Sayers, Margery

From: swansonmcginnis@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Greta Swanson
<swansonmcginnis@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 10:55 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Preserve \$5.37 Million in County Funds for Bicycle & Pedestrian Projects in FY 2022 Proposed Budget

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

Dear Howard County Council,

I am writing to urge you to protect the \$5.375 million in funding for bike and pedestrian infrastructure projects in the proposed FY 2022 capital budget.

I know the county is facing tough budget decisions this year due to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the importance of investing in our public health has never been clearer. We must continue to make progress in our biking and walking infrastructure to build and improve sidewalks, bike lanes, paths, crosswalks and more so everyone in our community has opportunities to bike, walk and access important services.

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The proposed funding will make walking and biking in Howard County better, easier and safer, as well as make our community more age-friendly. I urge you to protect this funding in the final budget to improve our bike and pedestrian infrastructure for everyone in Howard County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Greta Swanson
4277 Red Bandana Way Ellicott City, MD 21042-5913 swansonmcginnis@verizon.net

Sayers, Margery

From: jmcfaddencaïn@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Joan Cain
<jmcfaddencaïn@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 10:44 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Preserve \$5.37 Million in County Funds for Bicycle & Pedestrian Projects in FY 2022 Proposed Budget

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

Dear Howard County Council,

I am writing to urge you to protect the \$5.375 million in funding for bike and pedestrian infrastructure projects in the proposed FY 2022 capital budget.

I know the county is facing tough budget decisions this year due to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the importance of investing in our public health has never been clearer. We must continue to make progress in our biking and walking infrastructure to build and improve sidewalks, bike lanes, paths, crosswalks and more so everyone in our community has opportunities to bike, walk and access important services.

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The proposed funding will make walking and biking in Howard County better, easier and safer, as well as make our community more age-friendly. I urge you to protect this funding in the final budget to improve our bike and pedestrian infrastructure for everyone in Howard County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Joan Cain
6304 Montgomery Rd Elkridge, MD 21075-5916 jmcfaddencaïn@gmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: martipsimpson@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Marti Simpson
<martipsimpson@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 10:39 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Preserve \$5.37 Million in County Funds for Bicycle & Pedestrian Projects in FY 2022 Proposed Budget

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

Dear Howard County Council,

I am writing to urge you to protect the \$5.375 million in funding for bike and pedestrian infrastructure projects in the proposed FY 2022 capital budget.

I know the county is facing tough budget decisions this year due to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the importance of investing in our public health has never been clearer. We must continue to make progress in our biking and walking infrastructure to build and improve sidewalks, bike lanes, paths, crosswalks and more so everyone in our community has opportunities to bike, walk and access important services.

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The proposed funding will make walking and biking in Howard County better, easier and safer, as well as make our community more age-friendly. I urge you to protect this funding in the final budget to improve our bike and pedestrian infrastructure for everyone in Howard County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Marti Simpson
9800 Woodbridge Ct Ellicott City, MD 21042-6237 martipsimpson@gmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Albrance@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Lawrence Walker
<Albrance@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 10:33 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Preserve \$5.37 Million in County Funds for Bicycle & Pedestrian Projects in FY 2022 Proposed Budget

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

Dear Howard County Council,

I am writing to urge you to protect the \$5.375 million in funding for bike and pedestrian infrastructure projects in the proposed FY 2022 capital budget.

I know the county is facing tough budget decisions this year due to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the importance of investing in our public health has never been clearer. We must continue to make progress in our biking and walking infrastructure to build and improve sidewalks, bike lanes, paths, crosswalks and more so everyone in our community has opportunities to bike, walk and access important services.

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The proposed funding will make walking and biking in Howard County better, easier and safer, as well as make our community more age-friendly. I urge you to protect this funding in the final budget to improve our bike and pedestrian infrastructure for everyone in Howard County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Lawrence Walker
2725 Millers Way Dr Ellicott City, MD 21043-1958 Albrance@gmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: msfennell@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Melissa Huselton
<msfennell@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 10:28 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Preserve \$5.37 Million in County Funds for Bicycle & Pedestrian Projects in FY 2022 Proposed Budget

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

Dear Howard County Council,

I am writing to urge you to protect the \$5.375 million in funding for bike and pedestrian infrastructure projects in the proposed FY 2022 capital budget.

I know the county is facing tough budget decisions this year due to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the importance of investing in our public health has never been clearer. We must continue to make progress in our biking and walking infrastructure to build and improve sidewalks, bike lanes, paths, crosswalks and more so everyone in our community has opportunities to bike, walk and access important services.

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The proposed funding will make walking and biking in Howard County better, easier and safer, as well as make our community more age-friendly. I urge you to protect this funding in the final budget to improve our bike and pedestrian infrastructure for everyone in Howard County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Melissa Huselton
10344 College Sq Columbia, MD 21044-4605 msfennell@gmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: cmalden2015@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Cynthia Alden <cmalden2015@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 10:22 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Preserve \$5.37 Million in County Funds for Bicycle & Pedestrian Projects in FY 2022 Proposed Budget

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

Dear Howard County Council,

I am writing to urge you to protect the \$5.375 million in funding for bike and pedestrian infrastructure projects in the proposed FY 2022 capital budget.

I know the county is facing tough budget decisions this year due to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the importance of investing in our public health has never been clearer. We must continue to make progress in our biking and walking infrastructure to build and improve sidewalks, bike lanes, paths, crosswalks and more so everyone in our community has opportunities to bike, walk and access important services.

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The proposed funding will make walking and biking in Howard County better, easier and safer, as well as make our community more age-friendly. For example, my children couldn't walk to Clemens Crossing Elementary School because they would have had to walk along Cedar Lane. The sidewalk there is very narrow and directly adjacent to the street. I urge you to protect this funding in the final budget to improve our bike and pedestrian infrastructure for everyone in Howard County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Cynthia Alden
11909 New Country Ln Columbia, MD 21044-4404 cmalden2015@gmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: eaubin1@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Emily Aubin <eaubin1@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 10:21 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Preserve \$5.37 Million in County Funds for Bicycle & Pedestrian Projects in FY 2022 Proposed Budget

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

Dear Howard County Council,

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I know the county is facing tough budget decisions this year due to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the importance of investing in our public health has never been clearer. We must continue to make progress in our biking and walking infrastructure to build and improve sidewalks, bike lanes, paths, crosswalks and more so everyone in our community has opportunities to bike, walk and access important services.

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The proposed funding will make walking and biking in Howard County better, easier and safer, as well as make our community more age-friendly. I urge you to protect this funding in the final budget to improve our bike and pedestrian infrastructure for everyone in Howard County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Emily Aubin
9486 Ridgeview Dr Columbia, MD 21046-1966 eaubin1@gmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: amrlcpa@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Angela Hayes
<amrlcpa@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 10:19 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Preserve \$5.37 Million in County Funds for Bicycle & Pedestrian Projects in FY 2022 Proposed Budget

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

Dear Howard County Council,

I am writing to urge you to protect the \$5.375 million in funding for bike and pedestrian infrastructure projects in the proposed FY 2022 capital budget.

I know the county is facing tough budget decisions this year due to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the importance of investing in our public health has never been clearer. We must continue to make progress in our biking and walking infrastructure to build and improve sidewalks, bike lanes, paths, crosswalks and more so everyone in our community has opportunities to bike, walk and access important services.

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The proposed funding will make walking and biking in Howard County better, easier and safer, as well as make our community more age-friendly. I urge you to protect this funding in the final budget to improve our bike and pedestrian infrastructure for everyone in Howard County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Angela Hayes
508 Gladhill Rd Odenton, MD 21113-1911
amrlcpa@hotmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: jtkaidy1@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of James Kaidy <jtkaidy1@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 10:19 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Preserve \$5.37 Million in County Funds for Bicycle & Pedestrian Projects in FY 2022 Proposed Budget

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

Dear Howard County Council,

I am writing to urge you to protect the \$5.375 million in funding for bike and pedestrian infrastructure projects in the proposed FY 2022 capital budget.

I know the county is facing tough budget decisions this year due to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the importance of investing in our public health has never been clearer. We must continue to make progress in our biking and walking infrastructure to build and improve sidewalks, bike lanes, paths, crosswalks and more so everyone in our community has opportunities to bike, walk and access important services.

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The proposed funding will make walking and biking in Howard County better, easier and safer, as well as make our community more age-friendly. I urge you to protect this funding in the final budget to improve our bike and pedestrian infrastructure for everyone in Howard County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
James Kaidy
4269 Bright Bay Way Ellicott City, MD 21042-5939 jtkaidy1@att.net

Sayers, Margery

From: dstemp787@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Deborah Stempien <dstemp787@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 10:17 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Preserve \$5.37 Million in County Funds for Bicycle & Pedestrian Projects in FY 2022 Proposed Budget

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

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I know the county is facing tough budget decisions this year due to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the importance of investing in our public health has never been clearer. We must continue to make progress in our biking and walking infrastructure to build and improve sidewalks, bike lanes, paths, crosswalks and more so everyone in our community has opportunities to bike, walk and access important services.

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The proposed funding will make walking and biking in Howard County better, easier and safer, as well as make our community more age-friendly. I urge you to protect this funding in the final budget to improve our bike and pedestrian infrastructure for everyone in Howard County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Deborah Stempien
7466 Hickory Log Cir Columbia, MD 21045-5003 dstemp787@gmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: ibgarr51@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Iris Garrett <ibgarr51@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 10:14 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Preserve \$5.37 Million in County Funds for Bicycle & Pedestrian Projects in FY 2022 Proposed Budget

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

Dear Howard County Council,

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I know the county is facing tough budget decisions this year due to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the importance of investing in our public health has never been clearer. We must continue to make progress in our biking and walking infrastructure to build and improve sidewalks, bike lanes, paths, crosswalks and more so everyone in our community has opportunities to bike, walk and access important services.

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The proposed funding will make walking and biking in Howard County better, easier and safer, as well as make our community more age-friendly. I urge you to protect this funding in the final budget to improve our bike and pedestrian infrastructure for everyone in Howard County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Iris Garrett
9549 Oakhurst Dr Columbia, MD 21046-2705 ibgarr51@msn.com

Sayers, Margery

From: sigurd@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Sigurd Knippenberg
<sigurd@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 10:11 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Preserve \$5.37 Million in County Funds for Bicycle & Pedestrian Projects in FY 2022 Proposed Budget

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

Dear Howard County Council,

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The proposed funding will make walking and biking in Howard County better, easier and safer, as well as make our community more age-friendly. I urge you to protect this funding in the final budget to improve our bike and pedestrian infrastructure for everyone in Howard County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Sigurd Knippenberg
8014 High Castle Rd Ellicott City, MD 21043-5516 sigurd@knippenberg.com

Sayers, Margery

From: michaelsfiore@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Michael Fiore
<michaelsfiore@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 10:08 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Preserve \$5.37 Million in County Funds for Bicycle & Pedestrian Projects in FY 2022 Proposed Budget

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

Dear Howard County Council,

I am writing to urge you to protect the \$5.375 million in funding for bike and pedestrian infrastructure projects in the proposed FY 2022 capital budget.

I know the county is facing tough budget decisions this year due to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the importance of investing in our public health has never been clearer. We must continue to make progress in our biking and walking infrastructure to build and improve sidewalks, bike lanes, paths, crosswalks and more so everyone in our community has opportunities to bike, walk and access important services.

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The proposed funding will make walking and biking in Howard County better, easier and safer, as well as make our community more age-friendly. I urge you to protect this funding in the final budget to improve our bike and pedestrian infrastructure for everyone in Howard County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Michael Fiore
10008 Whitworth Way Ellicott City, MD 21042-5642 michaelsfiore@gmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Phil.webster@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of William Webster
<Phil.webster@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 10:03 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Preserve \$5.37 Million in County Funds for Bicycle & Pedestrian Projects in FY 2022 Proposed Budget

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

Dear Howard County Council,

I am writing to urge you to protect the \$5.375 million in funding for bike and pedestrian infrastructure projects in the proposed FY 2022 capital budget.

I know the county is facing tough budget decisions this year due to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the importance of investing in our public health has never been clearer. We must continue to make progress in our biking and walking infrastructure to build and improve sidewalks, bike lanes, paths, crosswalks and more so everyone in our community has opportunities to bike, walk and access important services.

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The proposed funding will make walking and biking in Howard County better, easier and safer, as well as make our community more age-friendly. I urge you to protect this funding in the final budget to improve our bike and pedestrian infrastructure for everyone in Howard County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
William Webster
7553 Broadcloth Way Columbia, MD 21046-2446 Phil.webster@me.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Kathy Ohalloran <kohall@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 13, 2021 7:37 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Fwd: \$63M From American Rescue Plan Funneled To Howard County | Impact on 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 - this Federal windfall must free up enough funding to proceed with the building of the new East Columbia 50+ Center. Now is a great time to finally do this.

It's the right thing to do.

Sincerely
Kathleen O'HALLORAN

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Kathy Ohalloran <kohall@hotmail.com>
Date: March 13, 2021 at 8:55:20 AM EST

Cc: Kathy Ohalloran <kohall@hotmail.com>
Subject: \$63M From American Rescue Plan Funneled To Howard County | Patch

<https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fpatch.com%2Fmaryland%2Fcolumbia%2F63m-american-rescue-plan-funneled-howard-county&data=04%7C01%7C%7Cdec1bbf0f073429c245708d8e627a352%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aAAAAAAAA%7C1%7C0%7C637512405199188768%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sd=0&reserved=0>

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: allison korn <allisonkorn@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, March 13, 2021 10:21 AM
To: Ball, Calvin
Cc: CouncilMail; Henrietta Milward; NELSON Pollack; fflopresti@gmail.com; Claire Femiano; Pearl. Atkinson Stewart; Allison Korn
Subject: American Rescue Plan funds for Howard County and the E. Columbia 50+ Center

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

To: County Executive Ball

We are writing again urging you to include funds for construction of the replacement East Columbia 50+ Center in your budget. Please consider using the \$61.2 million surplus identified in January for this purpose. Making this commitment to seniors would rectify the serious inequity in facilities.

With passage of the America Rescue Plan Act the County will soon receive \$63.1 million for pandemic-related expenses that will certainly ease the financial crunch it faces. Prospects will improve as the population is vaccinated and the economy rebounds. Now is the time ensure that seniors get the 50+ Center that meets their needs and for which they have waited too long.

Sincerely,

East Columbia 50+ Center Advocacy Steering Committee

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

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject:For your January 19 Meeting—Request for Funding construction of New East Columbia 50+ Center
Date:Sun, 17 Jan 2021 15:10:56 -0500
From:Allison Korn <allisonkorn@comcast.net>

To:councilmail@howardcountymd.gov
CC:cball@howardcountymd.gov

To Members of the County Council:

We have read about the unexpected \$61.2 million surplus in the Howard County budget which must be spent for one-time needs.

We urge you to consider using the surplus to fund the \$4.5 million that was cut from the construction budget last spring for the new East Columbia 50+ Center.

There is widespread and well-documented support for this new Center. The project is shovel-ready, but for the gap in funding. The new Center, in addition to providing vital age-friendly programs and services, will offer a centralized location for much-needed support for memory-impaired seniors and their caregivers who now must travel long distances elsewhere in the county for the vital Connections program.

We urge you to please fill the funding gap and provide a path forward.

Sincerely,

Sayers, Margery

From: Lyn Locke <villagemanager@columbiatowncenter.org>
Sent: Friday, March 5, 2021 11:25 AM
To: CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin B
Cc: Board.members.FY21@columbiaassociation.org
Subject: Town Center Community Association Board of Directors: Letter Regarding Symphony Woods
Attachments: TCCA Inner Arbor Trust and Symphony Woods Comments 3 4 21 FINAL.pdf

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

Dear County Executive Ball, Howard County Council and Columbia Association Board,

Good morning.

Thank you for your hard word work during the pandemic for the residents of Howard County. We appreciate your leadership during these challenging times.

Attached is a letter from the Town Center Community Association Board of Directors in support of the Inner Arbor Trust (IAT) Concept Plan for **Symphony Woods**. We know that there are a lot of budget priorities for FY22 but we ask that you give strong consideration to this new proposal.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thank you in advance for your review and consideration of the IAT Plan in the next budget cycle.

Lyn Locke

Village Manager, Executive Director

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



Town Center Community Association

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lynn Foehrkolb
Joel Broda
Kevin Fitzgerald
Dean Dworkin
Jamie Hibbard

COLUMBIA COUNCIL

Lin Eagan

March 3, 2021

**FY 22 Howard County Budget Comments On Symphony Woods
Testimony by the Town Center Community Association Board, March 9, 2021**

Mr. Calvin Ball
County Executive
Howard County
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

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

RE: FY 22 County Budget Comments

Dear County Executive Ball and Howard County Council,

The Board of **Town Center Community Association (TCCA)** is asking for budgetary support of the Inner Arbor Trust's Concept Plan for **Symphony Woods** from Howard County government. It is our belief that the new concept plan would significantly contribute to the quality of life in the Downtown, Town Center as a whole, Columbia in general and, more broadly, Howard County. It will provide an enjoyable experience for all ages while remaining sensitive to the existing landscape in a space which is largely unused in its current form. It will provide better connectivity between the Merriweather District to the rest of Town Center, Downtown Columbia, and surrounding Columbia villages.

As one of many stakeholders invited into the development of the concept plan, I applaud the efforts of the Inner Arbor Trust (IAT) in the manner community members were engaged to offer comment and ideas. This collaboration across diverse backgrounds (business, development, local government, the arts, residents, etc.) across our county was inspiring and should continue as a model for projects to come.

The impact of the planned improvements at Symphony Woods should be a priority for the County. Jim Rouse's vision of an inclusive community, including lots of open space for all ages to enjoy continues to embody IAT's current concept plan. Central Park in New York City is typically cited as an iconic model for city parks. While Symphony Woods is a far cry in land mass, its geographic components echo the same elements, including the



serenity of walking paths, a venue for the arts in many formats, picnic areas for families to enjoy, creative playgrounds, and providing meaningful connectivity between Columbia neighborhoods. To those ends, please consider:

1. In 2020, with the advent of the COVID pandemic, residents searched for activities that were safe, fun, and healthy and have returned to National, State and County Parks in record numbers. This trend is expected to continue in 2021 and beyond.
2. In 2020, the State of Maryland saw a 45% increase in State Park attendance. Fifteen national parks set attendance records in 2020 **even though** some were closed for 3-7 months due to COVID-19 restrictions.
3. Investments in Parks like Symphony Woods are wise in any year but especially during times when people need safe open spaces in which to congregate and enjoy nature. TCCA encourages a private and public partnership to fund the concept of "Columbia's Central Park" as quickly as possible to take advantage of the general public's renewed interest in parks and outdoor recreation options.
4. Besides the more than 6,000 people who live in Town Center that can **walk, scooter, bike, and skateboard** to the Park, it is equally accessible to Oakland Mills, a short walk across the Route 29 Bridge and Hickory Ridge. Symphony Woods is located less than two minutes off Route 29 which is a major transportation route utilized by more than 150,000 cars passing by daily (north and south bound) with exits at Broken Land Parkway, South Entrance Road and Exit 20B Southbound off Route 29 (based on State of Maryland 2019 State Highway Statistics). Adding more amenities to Symphony Woods and making it a destination will attract more people of all ages and demographic spectrums in the greater Howard County area and beyond.
5. Within the Park, IAT already provides quality community events, many free and open to the public, such as Columbia Orchestra concerts, the popular Chrysalis Kids events, multicultural shows like Culture Plenera and Mystic India. Regular arts and cultural programming in the Park will attract interest and visitors that will tie into the vibrant "Merriweather scene" and make Symphony Woods the central gathering point within Town Center.
6. A "world class" park would help the marketability of the new housing and office space that downtown is looking to fill. We need people and business to make the downtown vision achievable: a walkable place to take your lunch break or an afternoon coffee would be a selling point for people/businesses looking to relocate to Downtown Columbia.



7. Symphony Woods already features one of the best, and iconic, concert venues in the United States: **Merriweather Post Pavilion (MPP)**. Joint programming during or around MPP concerts/events can only enhance the experience of residents and visitors in Downtown Columbia.

James Rouse viewed Columbia as a "garden for growing people." Why not enhance Columbia's largest downtown garden/park to grow people through inspiring sculpture, beautiful walking paths, spacious gathering points and picnic areas, fun interactive "hands on" art for young children and adults, and an inspiring tree canopy.

Thank you for considering our thoughts and suggestions.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions at lfohrkolb@yahoo.com.

Sincerely,

Lynn Foehrkolb

Lynn Foehrkolb
Village Board Chair
Town Center Community Association

CC: Board of Directors of the Columbia Village Community Associations
Columbia Association Board of Directors

Sayers, Margery

From: Alice Pham <alicekpham@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2021 11:47 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: In support of CB13-2021, The Plastics Reduction Act

[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 include money in the new budget for the CA FY22 budget to support the International Exchange & Multicultural Programs. I have lived in Columbia for 50 years and in Kings Contrivance for 16. Through all this time, I have enjoyed the numerous programs put on by that committee. With a small task and budget, and with programs run mostly by volunteers, the committee has produced many programs to enable Columbia residents to learn about cultures around the world, visit other countries and host families where we have sister cities, practice foreign languages, and so much more! In 2018, I enjoyed a trip to Ghana, arranged by a volunteer and paid for by participants, that I will never forget. I have shared that experience with many others. Indeed, this committee has enriched the lives of Columbia residents far beyond the costs involved to support it. I urge you to reinstate this committee and its programs in order to keep Columbia the special place it has helped it to become!

Alice Pham
9650 Sandlight Ct
Columbia 21046

Sayers, Margery

From: Betsy Singer <betsysing@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 6:12 PM
To: Budget Testimony; CouncilMail
Subject: Budget Testimony - Climate Action Plan

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

To: Howard County Executive Calvin Ball and Members of the County Council;

I am writing in support of the budget request for a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan for all of Howard County.

Last year's global average temperatures were tied for the hottest year on record. We're closer than ever to the 1.5 degrees celsius (2.7 degrees F) tipping point. Immense wildfires in California, the Atlantic hurricane season with thirty named storms, and extreme ice melts in the Arctic and Antarctic are proof that communities across the US are suffering and it will only get worse as heat and sea level rise take us closer to the point of no return.

Howard County needs a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan to get to lower carbon emissions for our community and lessen and eliminate the impact of future climate events.

I was a member of the original Environmental Sustainability Board and saw how effective a Climate Action Plan can be.

The US is re-entering the Paris Climate Agreement and the new Administration is incorporating Climate Change as a factor across all government agencies. Most of the members of our Howard County delegation to the Maryland General Assembly support the Climate Solutions Now bill that has targets for reducing carbon emissions and ways to achieve reductions while prioritizing environmental justice and provisions for labor.

Howard County needs a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan for our County. The time is now. I ask that the Howard County Government fully support the budget request of \$100,000 to guide us to action for a cleaner, carbon free future. We have evidence today of tomorrow's consequences of doing nothing.

Thank you for all your hard work for the County.

Betsy Singer, Member, HoCo Climate Action
6180 Devon Dr.
Columbia, MD 21044
410-730-7740
443-812-2525 cell

Sayers, Margery

From: Ned Tillman <ned@sustainable.us>
Sent: Saturday, January 23, 2021 9:28 AM
To: Budget Testimony; CouncilMail
Cc: Tim Lattimer; Mark Southerland; Phil Webster; Richard D; Kevin McAliley; Janssen Evelyn; Feldmark, Joshua; Kimberlee Drake; Pat Hersey; Liz Feighner; Ann Jones; Clarks ElioakFarm; Christine Conn -DNR-; Kenneth Crandell; olivia farrow; Ann Strozyk; Guy Guzzone
Subject: Tillman BUDGET TESTIMONY - Climate Action Plan

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

To: Howard County Executive Calvin Ball and Members of the County Council,

I strongly encourage you to ***support the Budget request for a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan for all of Howard County, including govt, business, and private individual action.*** The \$100,000 request for this action should be considered a minimum.

Our greatest threats as a county are all related to our changing climate: floods, fires, winds, disrupted supply chains, disease, social inequality, and damage to our community infrastructure. Our greatest threat as a nation are market disruptions, and the movement and needs of climate refuges (both local and global) and the political instability that will cause across the globe.

It is now time to work closely with the state and federal governments to reduce these risks. The President is moving forward with a comprehensive effort on reducing the risks of climate change. We need to demonstrate what can be done when an entire community gets behind a plan. We can be that community. Take a moment to ask yourself, ***"If not Howard County, who? If not now, when?"***

I strongly encourage Howard County Government to fully support this budget request of \$100,000. I also encourage you to support our state representatives' efforts to pass the Climate Solutions Now bill.

There is a lot of interest and energy in this county supporting actions to reduce the impacts of our changing climate. We need to keep moving forward even while we fight the pandemic. Climate change will prove to be the bigger challenge.

Thank you for all you do for our community.

Ned

Ned Tillman - Earth and Environmental Scientist and Energy Professional
Past Chair of: HC Conservancy, MD Geothermal Commission, HC Environmental Sustainability Board, HC General Plan Task Force, Columbia Sustainability Business Alliance, and board Member of the Izaak Walton League, Middle Patuxent Environmental Area, and MD Science Center

443-472-3681
ned@sustainable.us
www.SavingThePlaces.com

Author of:

The Chesapeake Watershed,

Saving The Places We Love, and

The Big Melt – Coming of age in a time of changing climates

All available at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

Sayers, Margery

From: Phil Webster <phil.webster@me.com>
Sent: Friday, January 22, 2021 8:51 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Fwd: BUDGET TESTIMONY - Climate Action Plan

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

I mistakenly I left the Council off of this message.

Phil Webster
phil.webster@me.com

"If you have come to help me, you are wasting your time. But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together."

Aboriginal activists group, Queensland, 1970s, from Lila Watson

Begin forwarded message:

From: Phil Webster <phil.webster@me.com>
Subject: BUDGET TESTIMONY - Climate Action Plan
Date: January 22, 2021 at 8:37:03 AM EST
To: budgettestimony@howardcountymd.gov

Howard County Executive Calvin Ball and Members of the County Council,

This testimony is in support of the Budget request to support a Comprehensive Climate Action for all of Howard County, both Government Operations and the general public. The Office of Community Sustainability has requested \$100,000 for this action.

Climate is the most existential problem facing HumanKind. Continuing carbon pollution at or near the current levels will drastically change the Earth's climate with immense negative social, economic and health impacts on every person on earth. We all, in some way, know this. It is time to act.

Fighting climate change must occur at all levels of Government; local, state, Federal and International. We have renewed hope with the election of President Biden, Maryland State Government is starting to do its part, and now is the time for Howard County Government to accelerate its actions.

Unfortunately, there is no one solution to prevent climate change. There are over 100 solution threads (solar and wind energy, electric cars and busses, expanded public transportation, composting organic

matter, planting trees, building codes, etc) which must be woven together to prevent climate change.

This requires significant levels of planning with broad participation of citizens, organizations and all levels of county government. For an example, please see Montgomery County's draft Climate Action Plan (<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/green/climate/climate-action-planning.html>).

I strongly encourage Howard County Government vigorously support this budget request of \$100,000.

Thanks you,
Phil Webster

Phil Webster
phil.webster@me.com

"If you have come to help me, you are wasting your time. But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together."

Aboriginal activists group, Queensland, 1970s, from Lila Watson

Sayers, Margery

From: Allison Korn <allisonkorn@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, January 17, 2021 3:11 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Ball, Calvin
Subject: For your January 19 Meeting—Request for Funding construction of New East Columbia 50+ Center

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

To Members of the County Council:

We have read about the unexpected \$61.2 million surplus in the Howard County budget which must be spent for one-time needs.

We urge you to consider using the surplus to fund the \$4.5 million that was cut from the construction budget last spring for the new East Columbia 50+ Center.

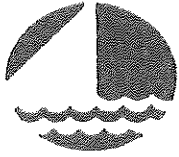
There is widespread and well-documented support for this new Center. The project is shovel-ready, but for the gap in funding. The new Center, in addition to providing vital age-friendly programs and services, will offer a centralized location for much-needed support for memory-impaired seniors and their caregivers who now must travel long distances elsewhere in the county for the vital Connections program.

We urge you to please fill the funding gap and provide a path forward.

Sincerely,

East Columbia 50+ Center Advocacy Steering Committee

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



OWEN BROWN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC
6800 Cradlerock Way, Columbia, Maryland 21045-4809
Phone 410-381-0202 Fax 410-381-0235
WEB Page: www.owenbrownvillage.org

January 8, 2021

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

Subject: **Howard County FY22 Budget**

Dear Executive Ball,

The Owen Brown Village Board respectfully submits the following input for your consideration and incorporation in ongoing county budget deliberations. We understand that there are many priorities and that the county must make difficult decisions in allocating limited resources, especially after this Fiscal Year. We understand that certain cuts are going to be necessary, but we do want to highlight some specific areas of high priority to the over 10,000 residents of Owen Brown:

1. Funding to continue police gator/bike/horse patrols on our pathways throughout Columbia.
2. Funding for programs that combat stream erosion in the Lake Elkhorn watershed as well as address environmental degradation.
3. Funding for tree replacement along residential roads and parkways.
4. Funding for street repairs, renovations, and upgrades; particularly the complete streets projects planned for Dobbin Road, Oakland Mills Road, and Robert Fulton.
5. Funding for the East Columbia Library.
6. Funding the police community liaison program for Owen Brown.
7. Funding the newly planned East Columbia 50+ Center

Thank you for your service to the community and for considering our input.

Sincerely,
Owen Brown Village Board

cc: Howard County Council

Sayers, Margery

From: Liz Larson <ealarson1@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2020 7:25 PM
To: Ball, Calvin
Cc: Rigby, Christiana; 'Liz Larson'; 'Lew's Mail'; CouncilMail
Subject: Pleading Once Again for Funding for East Columbia 50-Plus Center

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

Dr Ball – with the approaching FY22 budget hearing, we are hoping that you and the Council will reverse the decision made earlier this year to cut funding for the long-anticipated and greatly needed East Columbia 50+ Center. It is simply unconscionable that we are the only part of Howard County without an adequate Senior gathering facility, and it has been deeply disheartening over the past few years to see the plans thwarted time and time again, sometimes for legitimate purposes and sometimes for somewhat spurious reasons. As we know you have heard repeatedly, we Seniors are a still-functioning and vibrant part of Columbia and Howard County (as well as tax-payers), and we deserve the same consideration as is put into decisions to finance/build facilities and amenities for residents in younger age categories. Please consider re-funding our much-needed center.

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



Kings Contrivance Community Association

Amherst House 7251 Eden Brook Drive, Columbia, Maryland 21046

(410) 381-9600 kings@VillageofKC.org

November 16, 2020

County Executive, Calvin Ball
Howard County Council
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Re: Capital Budget for 50+ Senior Center

Dear Calvin and County Council members,

On behalf of the Kings Contrivance Village Board we would like to express our support for the building of a new 50+ Senior Center next to the East Columbia library. This project has been proposed for many years and we are concerned that once again it is delayed. We understand that this year funding is very limited due to uncertainties with the County budget, but we want to express our support for this project being prioritized and funded. Our residents would benefit from this proposal and we hope you agree and will support this funding to benefit all of Howard County's senior population.

Sincerely,

Barbara N. Seely
Chair, Kings Contrivance Village Board

Sayers, Margery

From: Denise Moore <niecy118301@aim.com>
Sent: Friday, May 7, 2021 10:06 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support of Capital Project T-7106- Jeffers Hill Traffic Circle Funding

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

Good morning,

Thank you all for the hard work you do on behalf of Howard County residents. It has come to my attention that on Monday, May 10th, during the County Council's budget meeting, you will be discussing the funding of the Jeffers Hill traffic circle at Tamar and Old Montgomery (Capital Project T-7106).

As a long-time resident who lives down Tamar, I pass through this intersection numerous times a day. My four-year-old daughter attends the preschool (Happy Sprouts) located within the Neighborhood Center. An increase in traffic coming through this intersection was noticeable after the completion of Blandair Park. To say that it has progressively gotten more dangerous is quite frankly an understatement. My neighbors would agree with my sentiments as this hazardous intersection is a frequent topic of discussion. Having witnessed many near accidents and some of which involve pedestrians and children on bicycles, I implore you to strongly consider the life-saving benefits of traffic mitigation at this intersection. Many drivers coming from Old Montgomery to Tamar view the stop sign as merely a suggestion that is frequently ignored.

I, on behalf of the residents of this community, request that you do not delay on approving the funding for this project. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Denise Moore

Sayers, Margery

From: Ryan Green <vtwakeboarder@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 7, 2021 9:55 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please fund the Jeffers Hill traffic circle

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

Please fund the Jeffers Hill traffic circle (Capital Project T-7106). I understand it may be discussed in the County Council's budget meeting Monday, May 10

The current intersection is confusing, which is especially problematic considering how many out-of-towners travel that route between route 175 and Blandair park. On the way from the park, folks frequently pull out in front of cross traffic, mistakenly thinking it is a 4-way stop. On the way to the park, it is easy for them to miss the dinky "Yield" sign which I think gives people coming from the opposite direction the right-of-way when turning left.

Anyway, from my perspective, as someone who lives down the Tamar Drive hill (6165 Waiting Spring)...and has an active family with two very young boys (ages 2 and 4) - my biggest concern is crossing on foot or bicycle. I have a hard time of it, and dread the time when my boys start daring to cross there - to go to Pete's snowball/produce stand, Blandair Park, or eventually Oakland Mills High.

Thanks

-Ryan Green
6165 Waiting Spring
Columbia MD 21045
410-988-2591

Sayers, Margery

From: Jordyn Chaimiti <jchaim1379@inst.hcpss.org>
Sent: Friday, May 7, 2021 9:37 AM
To: Ball, Calvin
Cc: CouncilMail; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David
Subject: Save Cedar Lane Park Letter

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

Dear County Executive, Calvin Ball, and to others whom it may concern,

I am Jordyn Chaimiti, an 8th grade student at Harpers Choice Middle School. A few weeks ago, I was informed about the plans to replace Cedar Lane Park fields with a new fire station. Many others and I are opposed to this idea. This proposal will have an extremely negative impact on our community because it is taking away a highly cherished park, it will interrupt the vast wildlife in the park, and the noise will not be helpful towards surrounding places.

To begin, the community near Cedar Lane Park uses that space for sports, activities, a place to socialize, and a playground for children to play. Taking it away may result in a decrease of exercise in minors. It may also result in less communication throughout the neighborhood. These things will not benefit the community at all, especially in the Covid-19 pandemic. It's already been hard to get outside without being paranoid, and now a local park is being taken away too? Getting rid of natural grass fields in walking distance will cause adults to end up driving their kids to other open parks which will cause harmful exhausts to be released into the air making it even more polluted than it needs to be. Avoid this situation by not building the fire station.

Pursuing this further, building the station will interfere with the wide amount of wildlife and nature in the park. The park isn't only a place for entertainment, it is also a home for animals. Destroying these fields will put our ecosystem into even worse shape than it already is. The fumes and plumbing from the station will disrupt the flora and fauna that has been created in the park over past years. These days lots of fields and green locations are being torn down, do not let Cedar Lane Park be one of them.

Yet another reason why many are against this plan, the noise the fire station will cause will not be helpful to surrounding areas. Not only is Cedar Lane Park near homes, but it is also neighboring schools and other facilities. It's no surprise that fire trucks make lots of noise and placing a fire station near countless homes is not a good idea. It can also distract people from their work and distract students from their lessons. The firetrucks can also add to the crowdedness of route 108.

Given the reasons above and many others, building a fire station in place of fields at Cedar Lane is not a good idea. It will have a negative impact on the community. It is taking away a highly cherished park, it will interrupt the vast wildlife in the park, and the noise will not be helpful towards surrounding places. Not only will it directly affect the people living close to the park, but it will also affect civilians getting to and from their home. Overall, many people are opposed to this project, and I hope that you listen to our concerns. Please take into consideration the impact this park has had on our community, if you do, you'll realize the park is worth saving.

Thank you,

Jordyn Chaimiti

Sayers, Margery

From: Jordyn Chaimiti <jchaim1379@inst.hcpss.org>
Sent: Friday, May 7, 2021 9:30 AM
To: calvinball@howardcounty.gov
Cc: CouncilMail; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David
Subject: Save Cedar Lane Park Letter

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

Dear County Executive, Calvin Ball, and to others whom it may concern,

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To begin, the community near Cedar Lane Park uses that space for sports, activities, a place to socialize, and a playground for children to play. Taking it away may result in a decrease of exercise in minors. It may also result in less communication throughout the neighborhood. These things will not benefit the community at all, especially in the Covid-19 pandemic. It's already been hard to get outside without being paranoid, and now a local park is being taken away too? Getting rid of natural grass fields in walking distance will cause adults to end up driving their kids to other open parks which will cause harmful exhausts to be released into the air making it even more polluted than it needs to be. Avoid this situation by not building the fire station.

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Thank you,

Jordyn Chaimiti

Testimony to County Council Public Hearing May 10, 2021

- My name is Fran LoPresti. I have lived in the Village of Owen Brown for more than 40 years. I am a member of the Steering Committee for the East Columbia 50+ Center.
- There are 6 50+ Centers in Howard County.
- Build dates
 - Bain built in 1981 (renovation in 2020)
 - East Columbia in 1992 as an afterthought attached to East Columbia library
 - Glenwood in 2005
 - North Laurel in 2011
 - Ellicott City in 2013 (expanded in 2015)
 - Elkridge in 2018
- In 2015, during the Kittleman administration, a Facilities Master plan was developed. Appendix E was for “Planning for the Growth of the Older Population in Howard County”.
- The report specifically said that the East Columbia 50+ Center was inadequate in 2015 and should be a high priority for capital improvements.
- The report included a space needs assessment across the county and anticipated a 51,000 sq. ft. shortage of space in 2020. And that is what we have, mitigated in part by the Elkridge build. The East Columbia 50+ Center build would significantly close that gap.
- On pages 25 and 42, the report proposes a 32,400 sq foot Regional 50+ Center specifically in East Columbia due to it having the highest rate of increase in the senior population in Howard County.
- This Regional Center was to serve seniors as well as the rest of the community. And that is exactly what has been proposed including services to veterans and a space for community activities for all ages. And in the report’s preferred location next to the library.
- The report proposed that East Columbia be built after Elkridge was completed in 2018. But that is not what happened.
- We have been sitting in 3 dinky rooms since 1992 – that is 28 years. We only have box lunches. We have no exercise room. We have no program for early dementia.

- It has been planned since 2015 and it is time to move forward this year.
- Let me be clear. This center is not a “nice to have” project. It is an absolutely necessary project that will be a lifeline to seniors physical and mental health in a community that has been underserved for far too long.
- If constituents in your district presented these statistics and history to you asking for a center to be built where none existed, would you say we can’t afford it or we don’t need it or ask them to wait more than 28 years? I think not.
- Please make this center a reality.
- Thank you.

Sayers, Margery

From: Rita Cohen <rcohen0126@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 6, 2021 8:36 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support 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.]

Hello,

My name is Rita Cohen, I live in Clary's Forest and have come to the 50+ Center for about three years now for movies, Tai Chi classes, and reserving a room in the library to play Majhong with friends. The space is very small considering the number of seniors that use it and the programs provided and it really needs to be expanded!

Please support the expansion of the East Columbia 50+ Center!

Thank you,
Sincerely,
Rita Cohen

Sent from my iPad

Sayers, Margery

From: Laura Smit <laura.c.smit@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 6, 2021 1:41 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Opposition to proposed Cedar Lane Park Fire Station

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

Resending email that bounced back.

Laura Smit
Email: laura.c.smit@gmail.com
Mobile: 410-608-6287

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

From: Laura Smit <laura.c.smit@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, May 6, 2021 at 1:24 PM
Subject: Opposition to proposed Cedar Lane Park Fire Station
To: <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Cc: <ewalsh@howardcountymd.gov>, <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>, <dyungmann@howardcountymd.gov>, <djung@howardcountymd.gov>

Christiana, I am one of your constituents and live at 7228 Dockside Ln, in the Village of Owen Brown. While I am a resident of Lake Elkhorn, I am writing asking you to oppose the building of the proposed new fire station in Cedar Lane Park. I am also opposed to the proposed changes to several of the park's natural grass fields. I love the natural environment of Cedar Lane Park, and I have many friends who go there to walk their dogs, picnic or watch sports games. In addition, Cedar Lane Park is used by a lot of low income families who live in affordable housing in the area.

I am against the proposed fire station as it will reduce land from a beautiful park, and it will also lead to light and noise pollution for local residents - and also affect wildlife. The stretch of Rt108 between Harpers Farm Rd and Rt. 29 is narrow and often congested. It is also across from the Dar-Al-Taqwa mosque. The Banneker Fire Station at Little Patuxent Pkwy and Gov Warfield is only a bit over a mile away, so residents of Harper's Choice can have a fire truck there in around 5 mins. It seems unnecessary to destroy a field to build a new fire station and to disturb old Columbia neighborhoods. Some residents will be only 15' from the proposed fire station.

I am also against the proposals to change several of the natural grass fields into astroturf, which plenty of studies have shown are not good for the environment.

Please vote against the proposed fire station and the changes to Cedar Lane Park. I don't want to lose more natural beauty in Columbia/Howard County. We have such a great legacy of parks and trails. I love riding my bike daily down the Patuxent trails from Lake Elkhorn, as well as to downtown and Cedar Lane Park.

Laura Smit
7228 Dockside Ln, Columbia, MD 21045
Email: laura.c.smit@gmail.com
Mobile: 410-608-6287

Sayers, Margery

From: Raamin Mostaghimi <raamin.mostaghimi@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 6, 2021 12:18 PM
To: Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail; Jung, Deb
Subject: Thoughts on Cedar Lane Park (items F5976 and N3108) from a District 4 Columbia Resident

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

Hello Executive Ball and Councilmembers,

I stumbled across the Save Cedar Lane Park petition and website, and wanted to send an email in with my opinion as well. I'm emailing specifically about items F5976 (North Columbia Fire Station) and N3108 (Park Systemic Improvements).

I worry sometimes that the loudest voices are the only ones that get heard, and in this case I really disagree with those loud voices.

I think the reflexive, reactionary NIMBY-ism of some of the members of this community is frankly appalling. I've seen it constantly since moving in, any time a change to literally anything is proposed - from adding food trucks to the community pools (!!!) to now upgrading the fields at Cedar Lane Park - and I can't imagine how frustrating it must be as executives and council members looking to improve Howard County.

I think there's a fully valid conversation to be had about the noise concerns from living near a fire station - I'm fully supportive of exploring that further. I also support the right of residents to have a voice in the process, this sort of civic engagement is what local government should be built on.

However, the selective demands for rigor this organization is making (a traffic study, an alternative site analysis, some sort of research on the negative health impacts of turf - which I honestly don't understand) are clearly made in bad faith. The language and rhetoric on the facebook group is so hilariously hyperbolic that I'm honestly not certain what to say to some of the organizers. I saw language in "suggested emails" that included things like concern about the "carcinogenic and environmental impact of artificial turf", and outrage that the only egress for the Dar-al-Taqwa mosque would be blocked by fire trucks.

I'm sure the leadership of the mosque and the other local businesses are more than capable of raising concerns on their own without the assistance of the reactionary NIMBY crew (and if they do raise concerns, they should be weighted appropriately!), but the rest of these concerns are so obviously farcical and manufactured that I hope you are giving them their appropriate weight in this decision-making process - absolutely zero. If playing soccer on a turf field actually caused cancer, I wouldn't expect to read about it for the first time on a Facebook group with 93 members - and nor would it be the responsibility of Howard County to conduct independent tests to validate the hypothesis.

Finally - just one more note from me. One of the themes in the reactionary facebook group's comments and posts is along the lines of "YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD COULD BE NEXT". I live in Harpers Choice, right next to the Hobbits Glen golf course, and let me state unequivocally - if "YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD COULD BE NEXT" means that we would be next in line for an increased level of county services, improved athletic facilities, and higher density usage of our ample land, then sign me up.

Thank you very much.

--Raamin Mostaghimi
11421 Barrow Downs, Columbia, MD 21044
District 4 - Council Member Deb Jung
--Raamin Mostaghimi

Sayers, Margery

From: Linda Kangrga <lkangrga@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 6, 2021 11:58 AM
To: calvinball@howardcounty.gov; CouncilMail
Subject: Longfellow Neighborhood Impact of proposed changes to 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 Howard County Council Members,

I am writing to protest the upscaling of the park facilities at Cedar Lane East.

I live in the Longfellow Neighborhood. I can hear the games being played at the field at Cedar Lane Park that is on Cedar Lane and close to the water tower and dog park. The game announcements can be heard on Endymion Lane where I live as the gas line is a clear path from the park to my street. That is the first reason that I think the proposed lighting, speaker enhancements and permanent stadium seating would harm my neighborhood. The second is that my bedroom window overlooks what used to be wooded Columbia open space. It now overlooks what Ecotone has made of that space. As a result of the change I can see and hear all of the neighbors that my property backs to as I never could before and the car headlights reflect off my bedroom walls through my window every night, all night long as was only the case in the winter prior to the stream renovation. This affects your park modifications in that when I look out my bedroom, kitchen, dining room and recreation room windows I look right up Eliots Oak Road in the direction of the proposed park enhancements. With what I am just now reading about your proposal, I will be seeing that park lighting as late as 10:30 pm illuminating Eliots Oak as well as hearing game announcements coming right down the Ecotone clearing from the park to my house and ears. I thought that the Ecotone demolition of the woods was for the benefit of avoiding flooding downstream below the Wilde Lake dam and across Route 29 below the Mall so I have not complained.

I am not so worried about the fire station location as I used to live near the Jeffers Hill fire house and it was not too bad, but why could you not select a location such as the Old Columbia Flier Building which has a huge amount of pavement doing nothing good for the environment and is also located at a new light signal and not far from the Bannecker Station. The Old Flier Building would make a lovely community outreach location for fire and police activities and it is near the college. I also used to live on Beech Creek and am familiar with having lighted ballfields nearby. Did you know that when Longfellow was built that the landscaper used by the contractors deliberately removed as few trees as possible when they built each house in this neighborhood and the tree lined streets have been a major draw for homeowners ever since. The peaceful woods existed before we built houses and the neighbors loved it so much they built a tradition of the annual Fourth of July parade and afternoon ballgames at the park to celebrate it. Which brings me to the question of who these park modifications are really for. At previous HCCA Board Meetings I heard neighbors complain that a lot of the cars dropping children off in the middle of the street for games on Cedar Lane were coming from outside of Howard County. When we moved here, Cedar Lane was understood to be a neighborhood county park where I walked my children to the playground, played baseball and tennis, but it appears that it has been morphing into an asset serving sports organizations outside our local area. My neighbors and the local wildlife that I enjoy so very much are alarmed at what is being done to the property around our houses and yards.

In the past, having served on the neighborhood board, I was accustomed to hearing about major changes well in advance of this sort of project and I was aware that the proposed fire house was moved away from the middle school and water tower, but this new proposal comes as a bit of a surprise. We have a fire station a few miles down the road in Clarksville which we have supported and it seems to me that this new station to supplement the Bannecker Station could have been integrated into all that new construction going on downtown if you cannot put it on The Flier building property. My final complaint is that the parking is already a problem for the existing fields and for the overflow parking

for the Mosque. Drivers fly down Eliots Oak despite the calming humps and hit legally parked vehicles at an alarming rate. I expect your newest proposal will cause additional parking overflow into our formerly quiet neighborhood as well as people cutting through neighbors' backyards to get to the fields and get away from the inevitable traffic backups that occur after games when everyone piles out of the park at the same time with only one exit. There is no sidewalk along Route 108 between Eliots Oak Road and Cedar Lane Park and the Mosque(past the Vet and the residential property). The proposed changes to the park seem unsafe and ill conceived from my vantage point.

Best Wishes,

Linda Kangrga

5163 Endymion Lane, Columbia MD 21044

Cell: (410) 262-2254

To:
County Executive Calvin Ball:
CBall@howardcountymd.gov
All Howard County Council Members:
councilmail@howardcountymd.gov

From:
Dr. & Mrs. David L. Mazzone
6507 Lawyers Hill Road
Elkridge, MD 21075

RE: Concern regarding another fire station in a residential area

Dear County Executive Calvin Ball and County Council Members:

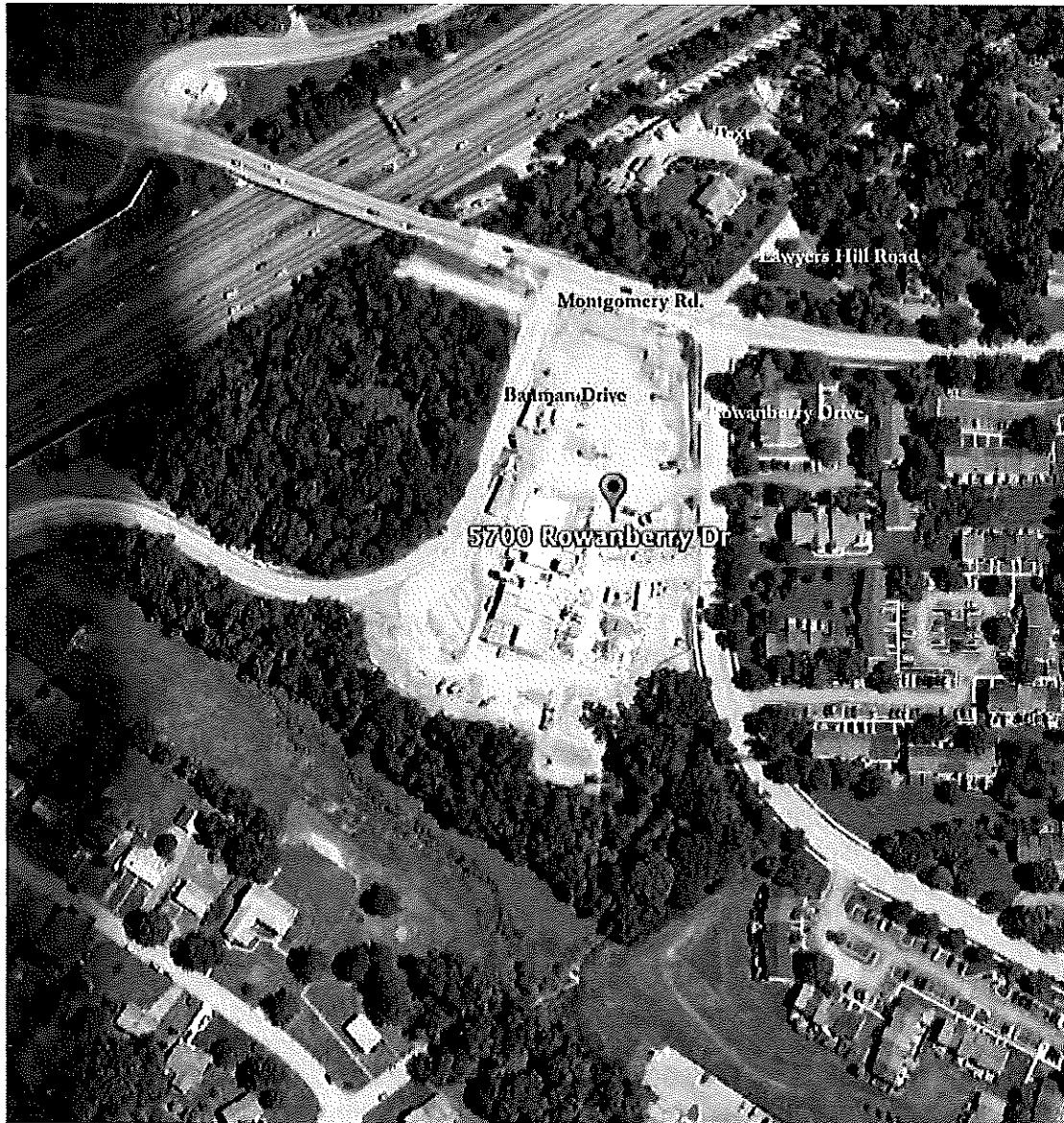
My husband and I live on Lawyers Hill Road, close to the Elkridge Fire Station. We want to share our experience and concerns regarding the construction of the Elkridge Fire Station in the hope that our experience will help to inform your decision about the proposed fire station on Cedar Lane Park.

Last week, we saw the article in *Patch* about residents who are concerned about the proposed location of a fire station on parkland and in a residential area. As I read the article, my thought was, "Oh no. They're trying to do this...AGAIN?!" I will share some background about the Elkridge Fire Station and the situation as we experience it today.

There was a community meeting informing residents that the Elkridge Fire Station was no longer going to be placed on Route 1 but, instead, was going to be placed at the intersection of Rowenberry and Montgomery Roads—an area that was mostly all woods and within residential areas. I walked by that area with my dog regularly, and it was not unusual to see a herd of deer and wildlife, especially since a stream ran nearby. Presenters at the community meeting showed the architectural drawing for the massive fire station, and the location of the station appeared to be a done deal. Residents were angry and upset.

Of course, the loss of forest was a great concern—but another significant concern was siren noise. Those in attendance were assured that we wouldn't hear sirens because fire personnel would be able to control the light at the intersection of Montgomery and Rowenberry Roads.

So – the woods and land were scraped bare and the massive fire station/parking lot was built:



What was once woods...



So residents, who were looking at woods right across the street, were now looking at this massive construction right outside their door. The lack of predictability in Howard County with respect to what we might expect in our neighborhoods is highly concerning. When I walked my dog along Rowenberry, I frequently spoke with other residents who were outside with their dog. I know of one person who moved because of the fire station. I remember him saying, “Who wants to live across the street from a fire station?” He told me that he knew of others who were moving—and he pointed to homes that had for sale signs.

Once the fire station was constructed, we started to hear sirens—lots of sirens. We called and spoke with a fire captain (I cannot recall his name), and I asked, “We were told at the community meeting that we wouldn’t hear sirens. Why are we hearing sirens—and so many of them?” He stated that they are required to use the siren on Montgomery Road. “Well, that wasn’t stated at the community meeting,” I said. Note: Both directions on Montgomery Road are residential, and I’ve read facebook posts where residents have complained about the siren noise. So we are not alone.

We installed soundproof windows to minimize I95 traffic noise and were very pleased that the I95 sound barrier was constructed. But now we have SIREN noise which breaks through the soundproof windows and our double-cement block/sided home. We cannot open our windows at night, and we play white noise to attempt to drown out a siren. Please also consider that there are people with chronic illnesses who need to sleep well at night and sometimes nap during the day. Siren noise is intended to send one's body into alert mode. While we got somewhat accustomed to the drone of 95 traffic noise, we cannot become accustomed to siren noise. It always startles.

Another surprise was the installation of a commercially-sized, opioid awareness sign:



Exiting Lawyers Hill Road onto Montgomery Road. This is what Lawyers Hill Road residents view each time we leave our neighborhood.

The sign is situated on Rowenberry and is angled. It's a very concerning "welcome to our neighborhood" sign:



Regardless of the content of the sign, a sign of **this size** should not be located in a residential neighborhood. The conclusion? This fire station did not—and does not—belong in a residential neighborhood. (Councilperson Walsh: Would it be possible to move this sign to a commercial area, e.g., Route 1—or maybe the library? It would have more exposure there.)

Notice the digital, neon-lettered sign on Montgomery Road:



The digital sign is also not compatible with our neighborhood. The combination of the huge opioid sign and the digital sign causes this construction to be that much more in keeping with Route 1 versus a neighborhood. When the opioid sign was installed, I called the fire captain and asked why the opioid information couldn't be placed on the digital sign, which is easily updated. He said that the opioid task force didn't think the digital sign caught enough attention. County Executive Ball and Howard County Councilmembers: There's no problem with "attention getting" signs but not in a residential area. This further suggests that fire stations do not belong so closely embedded within neighborhoods.

The next surprise was Food Truck Fridays. It's very popular. In fact, you should see the line of cars down residential Rowenberry every Friday during Food Truck Friday season. So people who at one time were looking at woods now have commercial food sales going on across the street from them. Once again, the lack of predictability with respect to zoning and construction in Howard County is stunning. This fire station did NOT belong in a residential neighborhood.



Please understand that we very much appreciate the hard work and bravery of our firefighters and strongly support our fire department. But we must find locations for our fire stations that enable personnel to do their jobs—yet also work toward minimizing environmental impact and minimizing siren noise for residents. Further, such locations need to be appropriate for commercial practices like selling food and constructing commercially-sized and designed signage. I urge you to seek alternatives to yet ANOTHER fire station within a residential area—this time involving loss of parkland.

We request that this email become part of the record.

Sincerely,

Dr. & Mrs. David L. Mazzone

cc: Chris Chlumsky
Ahmed Elsayed
Maribel Sanchez
Stu Kohn, Howard County Citizens Association

Testimony
Dipper Wettstein

My name is Dipper Wettstein and I am a resident of District 4. I grew up as a product of Columbia and Rouse's vision of affordable housing and have approximately 25 years of experience as a realtor, serving the Howard County area. I am testifying in support of, a minimum of, \$9.1 million in funds for affordable housing in the proposed FY2022 Operating Budget.

I love that my career allows me to share with people how wonderful it is to live in Howard County, but the nature of my career means that I only get to help people who are in a superior financial position that allows them to afford living in Howard County. This is not an economic reality for too many individuals or families. This has always been the case, but now post-pandemic, housing prices are skyrocketing, and inventory is at historic lows. The result of this will be shutting more and more people out of our great schools, amenities, and services. The very people who serve us by teaching our children, who keep us safe, who served us in the military, who raised their own families here – they can't afford to live here.

According to national real estate data trends, 42 percent of homes sold in the U.S. in March 2021 went for above the list price. That is a record & in April 2021 we will break that. While there was a shortage of housing even before the pandemic, Covid-19 only multiplied the problem.

Demand for housing in general is far outpacing supply. The National Association of Realtors calculated that at the end of 2020, there were only 1.9 months' supply of housing left — this means that in just under two months, if no additional homes were put on the market, the country's housing inventory would completely sell out.

As you all know, when supply is low and demand is high, prices increase. This is as true for the housing market as it is for rental units. Suppressing the supply of houses and apartments artificially drives up the cost of all homes and leads to widespread economic harm.

When middle- and low-income Americans cannot afford to move to Howard County, it stifles the opportunity for economic growth. It prevents talented people from living here, working here, and contributing to our communities. It also makes it harder and harder for current residents to stay in the county especially our aging community in Columbia. If we do not address the housing crisis, we are not only keeping individuals out; we are harming the economic future of our entire county and way of life.

Affordable housing units address two aspects of the housing shortage at once: price and number of homes. The former is self-explanatory, as these homes are protected from the market trends that price out so many people. Affordable housing projects also have a major impact on the supply of homes. Unlike single family homes on individual lots, affordable housing units are generally more compact, allowing for more housing on a given plot of land. The \$9.1 million in the budget designed to increase affordable housing units will go a long way in helping Howard County to combat the housing shortage and invest in our community.

Sayers, Margery

From: Jodi <jodisiciliano3@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 6, 2021 9:03 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: re: D1164 - HOWARD ECOWORKS

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

Dear Howard County Council Members,

As a member of our Howard County community, 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.

Please support D1164 in the capital budget in order to so that we may continue to provide the following services.

1. **Green jobs.** With funding from Howard County and administration through Howard EcoWorks, we are a leader for our region with our green jobs programming. Between the READY program providing summer employment to young adults and the 9-month UpLift program creating an employment pipeline for disadvantaged populations to permanent employment, we are demonstrating a unique way that we can achieve both environmental and workforce development objectives.
2. **Seeds of Change.** At the Corrections Dept, we will continue operation of our native plant nursery with support from Dept and the in-mates. This unique program is an innovative and cost-effective program that provides so many benefits to individuals, the County, our community and the environment. Again, we welcome you there any time.
3. **Safe and Sound** inspections and debris removal after triggering wind and rain events. In 2020, we responded to 6 different Safe and Sound events, 2 of which were nested within events that had already been called. We will continue to provide this leadership for the County and EC community in FY22.
4. **Stream restoration maintenance.** We provide regular management of Howard County's stream restoration projects, in fact, we consider ourselves to be the long-term stewards of these projects that represent millions of dollars of public investment. We are the regular eyes on these projects and help to keep them functioning as intended for the reductions of pollutants and protection of our water resources.
5. **Education and outreach.** We are able to reach out to and educate the community in numbers and in meaningful ways as demonstrated by scores of past events. We are looking forward to increasing community engagement opportunities with our organization and work in FY22 through partnerships, workshops, tree giveaways and more.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Jodi Cosgrove

Sayers, Margery

From: Bill Harris <billharris3@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 6, 2021 8:54 AM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Ball, Calvin
Subject: Support the Jeffers Hill traffic circle!

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

Council Members,

I am writing to exhort each of you to support the URGENT need for a traffic circle in Jeffers Hill, at the intersection of Tamar Drive and Old Montgomery Rd, near the Jeffers Hill Elementary School and Community Center.

This has been widely known as a dangerous intersection for motorists and pedestrians alike (many of you were present at the Safe Streets Event at Guilford Baptist a couple years ago where this intersection was presented as a hazardous location).

My family lives a few houses down from this intersection and we hear horns blowing from near miss crashes MULTIPLE times each day, and I fear for my family's safety each time we walk or drive through it. The additional traffic from Blandair Park has only made a terrible intersection worse in recent years. Moreover, the proximity to the park, the paths, the elementary school and the community center/ pool make it an urgent matter to fund and rehabilitate for the public's safety and welfare.

Please support the funding that is being considered on Monday.

Thank you,

Bill Harris
6066 Granite Knoll
Columbia, MD 21045

Howard County Housing Affordability Coalition

Testimony County Council FY 2022 Operations Budget Public Hearing May 5, 2021

Good evening Chair Walsh, Co-Chair Jones and Council members Jung, Rigby and Yungmann. It is my privilege to offer testimony on behalf of the Housing Affordability Coalition in support of the Department of Housing and Community Development's proposed FY 2022 operations budget and support for the proposed new investment of \$5 million to establish a Housing Opportunities Trust Fund.

Department of Housing and Community Development

Within the DHCD operations budget, the Coalition specifically asks Council support for the \$4,060,000 gap financing for the Dorsey Overlook development, which also is receiving Section 811 funds to provide six critically needed rental units for persons with disabilities and 25 project-based area of opportunity vouchers for low-income residents in an area of our County where rental housing options are limited.

The Coalition also requests Council support of the Department's new grants team position that has been made to respond to a quadrupling of federal and state grants received in the past year. This position is necessary to ensure County accountability for the administration, monitoring and reporting that will be required over the 2-3 year term of these grants that will provide essential eviction and foreclosure prevention and other assistance for low and moderate income Howard County residents who have been severely impacted by the COVID pandemic.

Housing Opportunities Trust Fund

Included with our written testimony is a document that provides a summary of the economic and social imperatives that underscore the need for establishing a Howard County Housing Opportunities Trust Fund. We are appreciative that the County Executive has taken the important first step in establishing such a Trust.

The concept of a Howard County housing trust has been under discussion for twenty-plus years going back to the Robey Administration. This is an idea that is long overdue and whose time has finally come, as will be affirmed in the Housing Opportunities Master Plan. Neighboring jurisdictions have used such trust funds for decades to effectively manage a steady stream of housing development and redevelopment that expand housing opportunities so everyone, regardless of income, can have equitable access to housing they can afford.

From our perspective, the Housing Opportunities Trust Fund will promote and support equitable, geographically disbursed and affordable rental and for-sale housing opportunities throughout the County; will assist in alleviating the difficulties of many low- and moderate-income households, including seniors and people with disabilities to obtain and maintain housing that meets their needs at costs that they can afford; and will meet these needs by providing funding for rental housing development, preservation and rehabilitation, rental assistance, homeownership, home improvements and other affordable housing opportunities.

The Coalition considers the FY 2022 proposed \$5 million as an initial seeding of the Trust. We know more money is needed through some combination of ongoing, similar annual appropriation and/or an ongoing dedicated funding stream. We have advocated for more funding than proposed and will continue to advocate for ongoing significant commitments of funding to sustain the availability and access to affordable housing in the County.

With the Council's support, the long-sought goal of a Housing Opportunities Trust Fund can become a reality to help Howard County individuals and families. We look forward to working with you as you consider this initial funding proposal and then with the Administration and the Council to establish the administrative structure that will operationalize the Trust.

Council members, thank you for your time and attention. We welcome the opportunity to talk with you about our testimony and urge your support of the proposed DHCD operations budget and funding for the Housing Opportunities Trust Fund.

Respectfully, Jackie Eng, Coalition Coordinator

Howard County Housing Affordability Coalition

Why Howard County Needs the Housing Opportunities Trust Fund

- Recent Howard County studies related to economic growth and quality of life have observed that much of the current and future economic success of the County depends on it's continuing to be an appealing place to live and work, which means continued investment in infrastructure, including housing.
- A critical element of the County's economic appeal depends on the availability of equitable and affordable housing opportunities for all people who want to live here and the lack of housing ultimately will hamper the ability for Howard County to grow as an economic hub as it becomes hard to recruit workers who may be priced out of the local market.
- There is already a significant unmet housing need for limited-income households and people with disabilities and the gap is ever widening.
- The 2021 Housing Opportunities Master Plan emphasizes the importance of residential options that provide a greater diversity of housing stock, including differing product types (e.g., multifamily apartments, higher-density single-family attached or townhome options single-family rental, etc.) that allow for price points that make housing attainable to a more diverse market audience.
- The 2021 Housing Opportunities Master Plan emphasizes serious homeownership pricing barriers with only 27% of housing (both rental and for sale) as affordable to households making less than 60% AMI, with 92% of this inventory being over 20 years old; and as such, compared to surrounding counties, Howard County has less than its fair share of low- and moderate-income households.
- The current supply of 2,678 moderately priced housing units addresses only 29 percent of our County's 9,250 moderate income households with incomes below 60 percent of AMI, which means the county has a shortfall of more than 6,500 affordable rental units for families at those low and very low-income levels.
- In 2020, the number of eligible households that called the Howard County Coordinated System of Homeless Services emergency hotline (648) continued to exceed the number of referrals to case management programs from the waiting list (217).
- Home ownership is a well-recognized opportunity to build personal wealth but the high cost of for-sale housing in Howard County is a significant barrier to persons of color who wish to purchase a home.
- 2019, 22% percent of Howard County households spent more than 50% of their income on rent—an increase of 33% since 2010, when it was 16%.
- The rental housing shortfall disproportionately impacts persons of color, creates concentrated areas of poverty and therefore is a social justice, racial equity issue.
- In 2018, the county had 32,358 renter households of which 21% or about 6,700 were seniors over 62, with about 1,700 having incomes of less than 30% AMI, and about 2,850 having incomes of between 30% and 60% AMI; about half of all senior renters were severely rent overburdened spending 40% of their income on rent; and the "peak" of the County's population base is now over the age of 55, and these residents will require age-friendly housing options to remain in Howard County.
- In 2019, 21,801 individuals with at least one disability lived in the County and 1,655 of those were 18-64 years old living in poverty; in January 2021 there were 140 County residents on the Weinberg Apartments waitlist; and there is a significant lack of accessible housing in the County with much of the newer accessible units having rents unaffordable to those who need the accessibility.

Testimony to County Council in Support of Affordable housing, Daniel Newberger

Good evening. My name is Daniel Newberger, I live in Columbia, in District 4. Thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight. I'm here to ask that you please fight to preserve funding for affordable housing in the FY22 budget.

Those of us who care about increasing affordable housing in the county are watching the budget process closely. We know that tough decisions must be made, with passionate community stakeholders on both sides of almost every issue. Honestly, when looking at the cold political math of it all, affordable housing funding is a pretty safe part of the budget to cut. The community members most directly affected hardly ever speak up, either because they can't afford to live in Howard County so don't even have a voice in this process, or if they do live here, they lack the luxuries of free time and energy to advocate as loudly for their interests as those who oppose affordable housing.

Those of us who support affordable housing know that almost all of you agree with how important it is for our community. We know this because almost all of you campaigned in support of it. Councilperson Jung, your campaign website said you would "look for opportunities to increase affordable housing." Chairperson Walsh, on your campaign website you said, "Let's invest in cohesive plans for ample and affordable housing."

We know that you know that the county's budget is a moral document. It is a bridge between who we are as a community today and the community we wish to become tomorrow. Our budget reflects not just dollars and cents, but the values and principles we hold most dear. Please hold fast to those values.

Howard County is a wonderful place to live and raise a family, and the diversity of our community is at the heart of what makes it so. Please do everything you can to preserve affordable housing in this budget, to keep the doors to Howard County from slamming shut on families who deserve to live here every bit as much as you and I.



20 South Charles Street, Suite 801
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

410-223-2222
www.brhp.org

May 5, 2021

Howard County Council
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043-4392

Dear Councilmembers,

The Baltimore Regional Housing Partnership (BRHP) is dedicated to providing housing assistance and counseling to some of Baltimore's lowest income families through the Baltimore Housing Mobility Program. Our mandate is to remedy the harm caused by decades of public disinvestment in low-income and minority communities. Since 2012, we have enabled more than 5,000 families to move to areas throughout Central Maryland where they have better opportunities for economic mobility. Through our program, over 8,000 children have benefitted from the resource-rich communities, diversity, and strong schools they need and deserve to thrive.

Researcher Raj Chetty found through his Moving to Opportunity experiment that families using housing vouchers to move from high poverty to low poverty neighborhoods enables children to grow up in healthier neighborhoods. These children are more likely to attend college, less likely to become single parents, and more likely to earn more as adults compared to children in high poverty neighborhoods. In fact, Chetty found a 31% increase in annual income for children under 13 years old who move to less poor neighborhoods. The increase is about \$3,500.

Today, we witness this progress for families and children threatened by attacks on affordable housing in Howard County and throughout the region. As the third largest administrator of the Housing Choice Voucher Program in the region, we feel compelled to urge the council to continue to support funding for the Dorsey Overlook development.

The reality is, there is a shortage of affordable housing and it is out of reach for many renters with the lowest incomes. According to data from the National Low Income Housing Coalition, there are only 40 affordable and available rental homes per 100 extremely low-income renter households in the Baltimore-Columbia-Towson area. Additionally, 81% of extremely low-income renter households in this area are cost burdened. This means they spend more than 30% of their income on housing costs and utilities. A significant factor in explaining these severe housing cost burdens is the lack of subsidized affordable housing for low-income households.

The Dorsey Overlook development will be a lifeline to many families. The 82-home community is designed to serve families in stacked rental townhomes within walking distance to Dorsey's Search Village Center, Centennial Park, and nearby transit. The development will be a mixed-income community

The Baltimore Regional Housing Partnership is an equal housing opportunity provider.





20 South Charles Street, Suite 801
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

410-223-2222
www.brhp.org

servicing a range of incomes and populations from large families earning less than 30% - 80% of the Area Median Income to unrestricted market rate units.

Similar developments have encountered stiff NIMBY opposition, and other jurisdictions in our region have embraced that opposition, leading to enforcement actions from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. The County, like all other entitlement jurisdictions, has an obligation to Affirmatively Further Fair Housing, and the local funding component of the Dorsey Overlook development allows the County to do just that.

Dorsey Overlook will be an economically integrated development in one of the region's most desirable areas. Once complete, this development will further the County's commitment to inclusivity. The Howard County funds required to make this development a reality will leverage millions in Federal and State funds, and we encourage the Council to support the funds allocated to this project in this budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adria Crutchfield". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and a stylized "C".

Adria Crutchfield
Executive Director
Baltimore Regional Housing Partnership





May 5, 2021

Liz Walsh
Opel Jones
Christiana Rigby
Deb Jung
David Yungmann

Dear Howard County Council members,

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

We understand that it is a tight financial time for the county, and appreciate the County Executive's consideration to keep funding level for CSP grants and Plan to End Homelessness (PEH) dollars. For thirty years Bridges has provided rehousing services for low income households and those experiencing homelessness in the county. Thousands of individuals have been impacted and stably housed long term. We have struggled this past year to hold fundraising events that raise as much funding as the in person events we held prior to the Pandemic. Knowing that the CSP and Plan to End Homelessness dollars will be level helps us to continue to serve the most vulnerable, employ 17 staff, and help those whose housing is in jeopardy because of job loss or sickness caused by the pandemic. Operations funds and program funds that pay salaries are essential to our success. We will continue to work with the Department of Community Resources and Services, and the Coalition to End Homelessness to move forward in keeping homelessness rare, brief, and nonrecurring in Howard County.

The Howard County Department of Housing and Community Development support allows Bridges to continue to provide additional scattered site affordable housing solutions to low income households making 30-60% of Howard County Median Income along with strengthening relationships with landlords and providing support services to keep these households stable. Affordable housing for these low income households that often have housing barriers is very scarce in Howard County, there is at least 6000 units needed for this income group.

The eighty five households that have been housed through our Housing Connections and Bridges Alliance programs depend on the below market rents, and support services to remain housed. None of these households were able to find affordable housing in the county before they came to Bridges and entered one of these programs supported in large part by the Howard County Department of Housing and Community Development through the years.

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

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

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

Thank you,

Jennifer Broderick, LCSW
Executive Director

Bridges to Housing Stability, Inc.
9520 Berger Rd. Suite 311
Columbia, MD, 21046

FY 2022 Operating Budget Testimony- County Council

The county council is limited in what it can change in the executive's budget, but I want to emphasize some important areas and ask for your support. Perhaps you could cut some less important programs and ask the executive to use that money for more urgent needs.

ROADS

Like police and schools, roads are a core function of the county government that should be a top fiscal priority, but maintenance of neighborhood roads is being sorely neglected and is totally unacceptable.

Our rough roads are not safe for our most vulnerable residents, our children and our seniors. It is not safe to drive, ride bikes, or even walk on them. It makes a poor first impression on visitors, which ultimately could affect property values and the tax base.

I see more potholes in the roads today than I can remember in the 54 years I have lived in Howard County. The roads need resurfacing, but there has been little or no money in the budget for it. The proposed budget acknowledges a backlog of over \$60 million in road resurfacing and repair but only appears to provide \$10 million for the effort. Please support all the funding and URGE the county executive to provide more to maintain roads properly.

Good road maintenance is needed for successful operation of new initiatives in mass transit and Complete Streets as well as to serving the many citizens in communities that are not dense enough for significant mass transit or for cycling and walking to serve most of our needs.

STORMWATER

Dunloggin land is clay and rock and drains poorly. Our steep slopes exacerbate the runoff. Our lots were oversized to accommodate this. Over the years, the county allowed significant infill without requiring additional storm water management for the added units. As a result of these bad decisions by the county, many of my neighbors have spent thousands of dollars each, in several cases more than \$50 thousand, to repair damage and mitigate future damage. We get damage, not just from the devastating floods like 2016 and 2018, but also from the recurring heavy rains we have seen in the last few years.

The Tiber and Plumtree watershed studies identified many study areas needing storm water and drainage improvements. There is money in the capital budget and there seems to be some in the operating budget for a few of these areas but not all.

BODY CAMS

A Howard Sun article ("\$1.8B budget proposed by Ball") reported that the proposed body cam program for the police and sheriff's departments will require 10 new positions in the police department and 13 in the State's Attorney's office. According to the article, the 13 state's attorney positions will be for reviewing footage.

If a body cam program requires this kind of overhead, is it the best solution to the problem? Instances in which the evidence is needed are significant but rare, and mental health support or better psychological screening for law enforcement recruits might be more effective, if less exciting, alternatives.

I looked at the budget document and confirmed the positions are there, but I could not determine what they will be used for. If the article is accurate I hope you will not support the program as proposed but ask Dr. Ball to find better alternatives. We need programs that work and spend our money wisely, not just whatever program happens to be popular in the media.

Angie Boyter

3914 MacAlpine Road

Ellicott City MD 21042

angie@boyter.net

410 465-1444



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

**FY22 Operating Budget Hearing Testimony
May 4, 2021**

Good evening, Council members. My name is Joan Driessen. I am the Executive Director of the Association of Community Services and I am speaking tonight on behalf of ACS and our 154 member organizations and community advocates.

I must begin this testimony by extending my sincere gratitude for the creation of a budget line item for the Housing Opportunities Trust Fund and the \$5 million beginning allocation for it. According to a recent rental housing survey, we have approximately 450 units available for the 3,000 households that earn \$30,000-\$50,000. The shortage of available housing units leaves nearly 1 in 4 Howard County renters severely rent-burdened (i.e., more than 50% of income is spent on rent). These residents are left with unaffordable options that limit their ability to afford other essential needs in order to stay housed. The Housing Opportunities Trust Fund is a critical step in building Howard County's housing infrastructure, implementing the recommendations of the Housing Opportunities Master Plan, and having long-term solutions to our existing housing challenges that were exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

On behalf of the nonprofit community, thank you for maintaining even funding for: **The Community Service Partnership (CSP) grants so nonprofits can continue responding to the basic needs of our residents and stay afloat, \$320,000 in one-time grant funding to meet COVID-19 needs, prioritizing transit funding within the CSP grants, and level funding for the Plan to End Homelessness.** The County relies on nonprofits to maintain critical services and our nonprofit sector has repeatedly demonstrated how effectively it can leverage County money together with outside grants, donations, and the support of volunteers to address both urgent and long-term needs.

In 2020, you demonstrated additional support for nonprofits through grant allocations made possible by the CARES Act. As The American Rescue Plan Act's (APRA) allocation of approximately \$63.1 million to Howard County is received over time, **ACS requests that a portion of ARPA funding be prioritized to meet the needs of fellow residents served by our nonprofit community, expand the capacity of nonprofits, and to support the long-term sustainability of nonprofits.** The County's ability to continue responding to the pandemic is dependent upon maintaining a strong and effective nonprofit sector.

I encourage you to **ensure that the County budget reflects our commitment to building an equitable present and future.** Our soon-to-be-released Self-Sufficiency Indicators Report [<https://www.acshoco.org/self-sufficiency-indicators/>] tells us that we have a significant way to go to eliminate disparities in Howard County. This latest report not only captures the impact of the COVID-19



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

pandemic on financial stability for Howard County residents, but it is also the first time we have been able to demonstrate how different racial and ethnic groups experience disparate impacts across our systems. These disparities are not due to inherent attributes associated with any given group, rather, they are indicators of systemic factors – budgets, laws, government policies, written and unwritten practices, workplace cultures – that have created and sustained the outcomes we see today. Now is the time to change courses and build an operating budget that reflects our values so every resident can truly prosper.

ACS supports the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) equity initiatives and efforts to reimagine safety in our schools. **We urge you to take the opportunity of determining the FY22 operating budget to partner with us in fostering a better educational experience for our current and future students.** You, as Council members, play a critical role in making this possible by funding the HCPSS budget to make these priorities a reality. Specifically, as Dr. Martirano proposes school safety plans that both include and exclude School Resource Officers (SROs), the budget has to enable either plan to be successful. We recognize that SROs are presently funded in the police department's budget, however, we will not be in a position to plan for school safety without SROs if the HCPSS budget does not have the latitude to incorporate alternatives proposed in Dr. Martirano's plans.

As always, ACS is prepared to work with County government to support our residents and nonprofit sector and continue working to realize the shared vision we have for Howard County. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you this evening.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Driessen

Executive Director

Sayers, Margery

From: M H RAHMAN <mhrahmanny@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 5, 2021 2:20 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 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 provides tremendous value to Columbia, MD and all Howard County residents. Not only will placing a fire station cause increased traffic and danger to those that live directly off of this section of Rt. 108, but also negatively impact your constituents that live in the surrounding communities. This plan goes against Dr. Ball's words stated during the most recent environmental town hall held on April 29th, 2021, "Prioritize protecting green and open space". Not only is the County proposing to place a fire station in such a congested & unideal location, it is proposing to take away 2 natural fields, replace one with ARTIFICIAL turf, and place a significant amount of impervious surface in that area. Overdevelopment throughout Howard County, including the replacement of natural areas with impervious services, is a serious concern and the loss of habitat and impact on the environment would be significant. I do not support these changes and would hope that you would stand by your words and commitment to protect green, open space in Howard County. Let's place an emphasis on environmental stewardship.

Thank you.

Md Hafiz Rahman



**FY 2022 County Operating Budget – Community Renewal
County Council Public Hearing – May 5, 2021
Testimony of Peter Engel, Executive Director of the Housing Commission**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of the Community Renewal portion of the County's FY 2022 operating budget. The Howard County Housing Commission ("HCHC" or the "Commission") is the housing authority for Howard County. In that capacity, the Commission preserves and creates housing opportunities for low and moderate income households in the County and for those who work here but cannot afford to live here. It is in our capacity as advocates for the County's lower-income residents and workers that we strongly support the County Executive's proposed budget for Community Renewal.

As the Executive Director of the Commission, I regularly receive calls and email from people who are searching for affordable housing. Some are on the verge of losing their homes, some are desperately looking for housing choice vouchers, some are searching for an affordable option for their elderly parents, and some are already homeless. Many are employed. When it comes to emergency food, or a ride somewhere, or help with resumé writing, or clothing, the County generally has assistance for people. But not when it comes to housing. All too often I have nothing to offer but a listing of apartments and the State's searchable database of affordable options.

The on-going crises in housing affordability is well documented. Locally, there are more than 5,000 households who earn \$50,000 or less annually already living in Howard County who are paying too much for rent. This doesn't include the new housing that is necessary to ensure future job growth in the County.

The high cost of housing leads to housing instability, which ultimately translates into lower school performance for children, longer commutes and more stress for parents, health issues, and other tangible harms. Nationally, we have seen ever-increasing homeless populations in cities, more moderate wage-earners priced out of many markets, rents rising substantially faster than incomes, and such a raft of other problems that a number of states are revisiting rent control, a policy that has been largely out of favor for thirty years or more.

Even with eviction prevention measures in place, the COVID pandemic has only exacerbated the problem, with many tenants losing income and struggling to pay the rent. The County has spent millions to date on rental assistance and yet the need continues to grow.

The County Executive's operating budget sends a strong signal of support for the County's residents who are struggling to pay for housing in the County. In particular, it funds three initiatives that will have a real impact on the needs of County families and individuals.

For the first time ever, the budget establishes a fund to support a multiplicity of housing efforts. The Housing Opportunities Trust Fund would begin to bring Howard County in line with its progressive neighboring jurisdictions, some of which have had housing trust funds for years. Montgomery County has been allocating over \$30 million annually for affordable housing production and preservation. Baltimore City established a \$20 million fund. Arlington County, Virginia, a County of comparable population and income, typically appropriates about \$20 million annually for housing affordability efforts. Washington, DC has a trust fund that has been spending upwards of \$100 million annually for a number of years. And this year, Anne Arundel County received State legislative authorization to create a housing trust fund with a dedicated source of revenue from transfer taxes.

While the \$5 million request for Howard County's program is understandably modest given the on-going pandemic conditions, we strongly applaud the County Executive's establishment of this long-sought fund and encourage the Council to vote its approval. Potential uses for the new dollars are myriad and include support for moderate-income homeownership, the creation and preservation of affordable rental housing, home improvements, including renovations that allow seniors to age in place, and rental assistance.

We urge the Council to approve the funding while the program is being operationalized.

We also urge the Council to approve the approximate \$4.1 million that were placed into contingency last year. These funds will aid the Commission in the creation of new affordable, rental opportunities that are desperately needed. In 2019, 42% of the renter households in the County were cost-burdened, which means that they spend more than 30% of their income on rent, and 22% - nearly one in four - spent more than 50% of their income on rent. Over the nine-year period from 2010, this category of "severely cost-burdened" households has risen by over 33%. The development to be funded with the contingency funds will add to the County's stock of permanently affordable housing, creating opportunities for working and special needs households who are currently struggling.

Finally, we ask that the Council approve the Department of Housing and Community Development's request for a position to help manage the new grant funds that have been part of the response to the COVID pandemic. The pools of rental assistance funds that the County has created from federal and State resources have been instrumental in helping County renters to stay in good standing and avoid eviction issues. While all efforts have been made to streamline processing, grant funds always come with compliance requirements and it is necessary to have the appropriate level of staffing to ensure that the County does not run afoul of state or federal rules.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of the County Executive's Community Renewal budget and we look forward to your due consideration and approval of these necessary funds.

Sayers, Margery

From: Daniel Orourke <cdorourke1@verizon.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 5, 2021 12:12 PM
To: Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail
Subject: Fwd: Cedar Lane Park East Expansion

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

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

From: Daniel Orourke <cdorourke1@verizon.net>
To: cball@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Mon, Apr 12, 2021 4:30 pm
Subject: Fwd: Cedar Lane Park East Expansion

From: Daniel Orourke <cdorourke1@verizon.net>
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021
Subject: Cedar Lane Park East Expansion
To: calvinball <calvinball@howardcount.gov>, councilmail <councilmail@howardcountymd.gov>

Good Morning:

I am writing in opposition to the plan to expand Cedar Lane Park East. My address is 10891 Beech Creek Drive, Columbia, MD 21044.

Beech Creek Drive intersects with Rt 108, several hundred yards from the entrance of Cedar Lane Park East. As you know, Rt 108 is an old country road with limited space and limited sight-lines with rolling hills. In this area is the Board of Education, Homewood School, a Mosque, a Veterinarian Clinic, Clark's Farm petting farm, the Iron Bridge Wine Bar, and Centennial Park.

In the last ten years, my family has experienced four car accidents on Rt 108 within a half mile of the intersection of Beech Creek Drive and Rt 108. Three of these accidents were rear-end collisions which resulted in these cars being a total loss. When a Howard County Police Officer responded to one of these accidents, he told us that he avoids even driving on Rt 108 because it is the "worst road in the county."

To add more cars onto Rt 108 adds more congestion and is not the right location to add a Fire Station, Pickle Ball Courts, and a new Field. I request you reconsider this plan as it will add more congestion, accidents, and is just not the right location to try to fit in these expansive buildings and related projects. This part of Rt 108 is dangerous now,. Add more cars and activities in this area will result in a more chaotic situation than what we are experiencing today.

Thank you,

Dan and Clare O'Rourke

Sayers, Margery

From: WORTMANWJ@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Warren Wortman
<WORTMANWJ@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 5, 2021 10:28 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Preserve \$5.37 Million in County Funds for Bicycle & Pedestrian Projects in FY 2022
Proposed Budget

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

Dear Howard County Council,

I am writing to urge you to protect the \$5.375 million in funding for bike and pedestrian infrastructure projects in the proposed FY 2022 capital budget to make Howard County safer for all.

I know the county is facing tough budget decisions this year due to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the importance of investing in our public health has never been clearer. We must continue to make progress in our biking and walking infrastructure to build and improve sidewalks, bike lanes, paths, crosswalks and more so everyone in our community has opportunities to bike, walk and access important services.

Without full funding of these important projects that will provide tangible benefits to residents' lives, such as K5035 in Elkrige and K5066 along Oakland Mills Road, Howard County will ultimately fall short of its complete streets vision. Howard County must fulfill its promise to create safer and accessible opportunities for biking and walking and position our community for a multi-modal future. Now is the time to invest in projects that will improve our public health, as well as safety and accessibility.

The proposed funding will make walking and biking in Howard County better, easier and safer, as well as make our community more age-friendly. I urge you to protect this funding in the final budget to improve our bike and pedestrian infrastructure for everyone in Howard County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Warren Wortman
5215 Patriot Ln Columbia, MD 21045-1902 WORTMANWJ@YAHOO.COM

Sayers, Margery

From: Pam Ecker Interiors <interiorsbypam@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 5, 2021 8:07 AM
To: tellhoco; Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David
Cc: Maribel Sanchez
Subject: Response from your email.

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

Ms. Priuim

You are wrong in what you are stating on the email you sent me !!!

This project at **THIS** location has not been in the woks for several years !!! I know there were plans to locate a station near the Old Cedar Lane school but the change in location only occurred in the past year.

I found out about it by accident a few months ago! Its a good thing I just happened to be walking my dog at the park when I saw surveyors putting ribbons around the trees. I asked them what was going on and they told me they are building a fire station here! Can you imagine if this was you and you found out this was happening in YOUR BACKYARD!! I am certain you would not respond to me this way!

Also , We already have 2 fire stations just a few miles from this location ! We have Clarksville and Merriweather stations . This tiny park is not the place for another fire station ! The congestion on Route n108 is already unbearable and dangerous . We have the Mosque, Clarks Farm which has added a tremendous amount of traffic the past few years.

This project has not be studied to the extent that it should be ! I realize there is a need for a new fire station but this little park is not the place.

Please look into the facts about this . You are wrong what your saying and we as residents of Columbia/ District #4 have a right to be heard.

Pamela Ecker
10728 Cottonwood Way
Columbia, MD. 21044
District #4

Good afternoon,

Thank you for your email and the opportunity to respond. First, please know I have shared your concerns with appropriate staff for their consideration. In case you were not aware, the North Columbia Fire Station has been under consideration for several years and is needed to respond to recent growth

patterns and increasing call demands in the North Columbia and Greater Columbia area. As Fire Chief Anuszewski noted, the most recent call demand diagrams illustrated the need for an additional fire station in the North Columbia area for public safety reasons and to improve response times.

In addition, the construction of this fire station will allow the County to address the needs of 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.

We understand you oppose the fire station at this site; however, if there are ways we can work with you to improve the project design, we welcome the opportunity to work with you and your fellow neighbors.

For the most up-to-date information regarding this project, please continue to check DPW's website: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Departments/Public-Works/Bureau-Of-Facilities>

Best,

Kimberly Pruum
Director
Constituent Services and Community Partnerships
Office of the County Executive

Sayers, Margery

From: Patti Petry <patti.petry@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 4, 2021 11:00 PM
To: CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin
Subject: North Columbia Fire Station Location

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

Dear Mr. Ball and Council Members,

I am against the proposed Cedar Lane Park location for the North Columbia Fire Station.

Living on a street that exits on to Route 108, I am very concerned about the traffic now, and the addition of the station can only make it more dangerous. Often during rush hour, traffic backs up at the lights along Route 108. Turning left onto this road is difficult and dangerous at those times. On Friday evenings, Route 108 is especially congested by the mosque traffic. This mosque is located very close to the proposed fire station. Overall, having emergency vehicles traveling more frequently on Route 108 certainly increases the risk of serious traffic accidents.

Please reject this location.

Regards,

Patti Petry
11513 Manorstone Lane
Columbia, MD 21044
Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10


Sayers, Margery

From: Vicki Milton <vickim0956@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 4, 2021 9:57 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Howard County 50+Center

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

My name is Vicki Milton, I live in Prince George's County. I know first hand what it means to have a Senior Activity Center, before COVID, I visited mine daily for different activities, classes, and events. When visiting the Library for line dancing in Howard County, which is excellent for exercising the mind and body it's hard in those little cramped rooms. Please vote to fund the 50+ Center.

Thank you in advance for your vote!

Have a wonderful day,
Grateful Vicki 



Sayers, Margery

From: Ann C <ana.cortes49440@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 4, 2021 9:54 PM
To: Ball, Calvin; calvinball@howardcounty.gov
Cc: CouncilMail; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David; Ahmed S. Elsayed; Ann C; ozfisch@gmail.com; hlugmayer@hotmail.com; pishnicki@gmail.com; jmason2stess@yahoo.com; trobins@comcast.net; maribel.sanchez08@gmail.com
Subject: Please Do Not Take Our Green Space Away

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

Greetings County Executive Calvin Ball,

I am writing to you on an urgent matter that is very concerning to my community and I. I have recently become aware of the county's plan to uproot the green fields of Cedar Lane Park, and replace them with a fire station. This destruction of nature will cause major issues such as a violation of the space thousands of people use, and a negative environmental impact. To start, removing the fields will be a major breach on the welfare of the citizens who utilize the park, and the neighborhoods surrounding it. By taking away these fields, people will no longer be able to take their children for sports, or simply enjoy the area for themselves. Howard County is one of the richest counties in the United States. So why are you taking away our park, when there is land that can be purchased? The county also owns several locations within this vicinity that can be used. And yet, these Officials seem fixated to invade the happiness and safety of Howard County citizens, from the tiniest soccer players to the senior joggers. Many of these people are unaware that their beautiful park is subject to ruin. In school, we have been learning about democracy and what it means to be an informed citizen. But how can someone be informed when such valuable information is being kept from them by their own county leaders? Responsible and just leaders would not keep these plans from their citizens, but would instead spread the word and truly think about the possible consequences a plan like this could have on our community. Is this the example being set for future generations? Is it okay for those in charge to hide major headlines from their citizens who will ultimately be impacted? My family has had conversations with several families at the park who were all shocked and upset after learning about your proposed plans. The other concern is the distressing and regrettable environmental impact these actions will hold. As we know from the flooding in Historic Ellicott City, over-development causes flooding due to the lack of natural absorbers. I overheard some adults stating the possibility of flooding in our neighborhood's backyards as an effect of the removal of the natural grass fields. I live on Eliots Oak Rd and can see perfectly from my home's windows the bleachers and fields of Cedar Lane Park. These fields are just a two-minute walk from my backyard. I would love for you to come visit us, so I can show you our proximity to the park. I would also like to mention that I met you at Longfellow Elementary School in my fifth grade year. As the National Junior Honors Society President for my school, I feel it is my responsibility to advocate for my community, and make their voices heard. With these thoughts in mind, I please ask you to reconsider the location for the fire station and to not take our peaceful green space.

Thank you and I look forward to your reply.

Scarlett Lopez

Grade 8

Please reply to the following email address: Musicalfan1776@icloud.com

May 5, 2021 Testimony Opposing the North Columbia Fire Station

My name is Donald Jung and my wife and our special needs son live on Cottonwood Way in Columbia. I oppose any and all funding streams for the North Columbia Fire Station.

The County has proposed building a fire station at Cedar Lane Park East. This park provides tremendous value to all Howard County residents. Not only will placing a fire station cause increased traffic and danger to those that live directly off of this section of Rt. 108, but also negatively impact your constituents that live in the surrounding communities. This plan goes against Dr. Ball's words stated during the most recent environmental town hall held just last Thursday, April 29th, "Prioritize protecting green and open space".

Not only is the County proposing to place a fire station in such a congested location, it is proposing to take away 2 natural fields, replace one with ARTIFICIAL turf, and place a significant amount of impervious surface in that area. Overdevelopment throughout Howard County is a serious concern and the loss of habitat and impact on the environment would be significant. I would hope that the County's elected officials stand by Dr. Ball's words and commitment to protect green, open space in this County.

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 Fire & Rescue Services performance goals of reducing emergency response times 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.

On a very personal front, my wife and I are very fearful for our 34 year old son who takes anti-seizure medications. Any sudden and loud noise that presumably will come from the Fire Station might trigger seizure activity.

I urge all Howard County Council members to oppose the North Columbia Fire Station as currently proposed.

May 5, 2021 Testimony Opposing the North Columbia Fire Station

My name is Donald Jung and my wife and our special needs son live on Cottonwood Way in Columbia. I oppose any and all funding streams for the North Columbia Fire Station.

The County has proposed building a fire station at Cedar Lane Park East. This park provides tremendous value to all Howard County residents. Not only will placing a fire station cause increased traffic and danger to those that live directly off of this section of Rt. 108, but also negatively impact your constituents that live in the surrounding communities. This plan goes against Dr. Ball's words stated during the most recent environmental town hall held just last Thursday, April 29th, "Prioritize protecting green and open space".

Not only is the County proposing to place a fire station in such a congested location, it is proposing to take away 2 natural fields, replace one with ARTIFICIAL turf, and place a significant amount of impervious surface in that area. Overdevelopment throughout Howard County is a serious concern and the loss of habitat and impact on the environment would be significant. I would hope that the County's elected officials stand by Dr. Ball's words and commitment to protect green, open space in this County.

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 Fire & Rescue Services performance goals of reducing emergency response times 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.

On a very personal front, my wife and I are very fearful for our 34 year old son who takes anti-seizure medications. Any sudden and loud noise that presumably will come from the Fire Station might trigger seizure activity.

I urge all Howard County Council members to oppose the North Columbia Fire Station as currently proposed.

Sayers, Margery

From: Karen Lilly <klb929@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 4, 2021 4:55 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Funding the 50 plus center in Columbia

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

Dear council,

I am a 69 year old Howard county resident and I have used the 50 + center in Columbia. I have been to the North Laurel and Beltsville centers as well. They are very nice and modern. The Columbia center needs to be expanded and improved to support more seniors. Please fund this project.

Sincerely,

Karen Lilly



marylandnonprofits.org

1500 Union Avenue | Suite 2500 | Baltimore, MD 21211
410.727.6367 | 800.273.6367 | Fax 410.235.2190

May 4, 2021

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

Dear Council Member Rigby, Council Member Jones, Council Member Walsh and Council Member Yungmann,

Thank you for your leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic that has hit our state with such severity. During these trying times, the nonprofit sector has been a vital lifeline for communities in need. The American Rescue Plan is bringing \$6 billion into Maryland and an estimated \$63 million to Howard County Government. As CEO of Maryland Nonprofits, I am reaching out to all county and municipal leaders to encourage their support of local nonprofits and to encourage partnership with your local community foundation. Maryland Nonprofits is the statewide association serving Maryland's 37,000+ nonprofit organizations, and we have 1,200 members across the state.

Nonprofits are on the front lines of providing COVID-19 relief, reaching deeply into their communities with food distribution, rental assistance programs, support for seniors and people with disabilities and more. At the same time, nonprofits are businesses that have lost significant revenue due to COVID and have the same pressures of other businesses of meeting payroll, managing facilities and putting safety measures in place. In non-crisis times, nonprofits are significant employers and economic drivers, representing more than 12% of Maryland's private workforce and \$59,000,000 in combined revenues and providing communities with lifesaving and life-enhancing services. By allocating a substantial portion of your ARP funding to nonprofit grants, Howard County Government will maximize its impact and stimulate your economy in a time of exceptional need.

Your local community foundation is a great asset to the community and could be a potential partner with you in administering such grants. Maryland's 14 community foundations are permanent sources of local philanthropic investment that specialize in serving their respective regions' evolving needs. Together, they hold a total of more than \$700 million in philanthropic assets and distribute about \$128 million in grants each year to nonprofit organizations in their communities, addressing a wide range of issues. Community foundations know the nonprofit sector and are experienced grantmakers, uniquely positioned to accept your investment of ARP dollars for the maximum impact on your constituents.



Maryland Nonprofits' mission is to strengthen organizations and networks for greater quality of life and equity.



marylandnonprofits.org

1500 Union Avenue | Suite 2500 | Baltimore, MD 21211
410.727.6367 | 800.273.6367 | Fax 410.235.2190

I know that you may already have a relationship with the leadership at your community foundation. If helpful, I have provided a list of the community foundations serving regions throughout Maryland to encourage continued collaboration with the foundation serving your area.

Thank you again for your continued support. We look forward to our continued partnership on our shared policy priorities and building a stronger, more equitable Maryland for all.

Sincerely,

Heather Iliff
President & CEO
Maryland Nonprofits



Maryland Nonprofits' mission is to strengthen organizations and networks for greater quality of life and equity.



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1500 Union Avenue | Suite 2500 | Baltimore, MD 21211
410.727.6367 | 800.273.6367 | Fax 410.235.2190

Community Foundations of Maryland

Baltimore Community Foundation

11 E Mt Royal Ave
Baltimore, MD 21202
Executive Director: Shanaysha M. Sauls, Ph.D
Email: ssauls@bcf.org

Chesapeake Charities

101 Log Canoe Circle
Suite O
Stevensville, MD 21666
Executive Director: Linda Kohler
Email: linda@chesapeakecharities.org

Community Foundation of Anne Arundel County

900 Bestgate Road
Suite 400
Annapolis, MD 21401
Executive Director: Mary Spencer
Email: mary@cfaac.org

Community Foundation of Carroll County

255 Clifton Blvd., Ste 313
Westminster, MD 21157
Executive Director: Audrey S. Cimino
Email: acimino@carrollcommunityfoundation.org

Community Foundation of Frederick County

312 E Church St
Frederick, MD 21701
Executive Director: Betsy Day
Email: b.day@cffredco.org

Community Foundation of Harford County

202 South Main Street
P. O. Box 612
Bel Air, MD
Executive Director: Jennifer Farrell
Email: jfarrell@cfharfordcounty.org

Community Foundation of Howard County

10440 Little Patuxent Parkway, Suite 230
Columbia MD, 21044
Executive Director: Beverly White-Seals

Email: jmcintyre@cfhoco.org

Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore

1324 Belmont Ave.
Ste. 401
Salisbury, MD 21804
Executive Director: Erica Joseph
Email: ejoseph@cfes.org

Community Foundation of Washington County, MD

37 S. Potomac Street
Hagerstown, MD 21740
Executive Director: Stacey Crawford
Email: staceyc@cfwcmd.org

Community Trust Foundation, Inc.

112 Baltimore Street
Suite 201
Cumberland, MD 21502
Executive Director: Leah Shaffer
Email: leah@ctfinc.org

The Foundation for Community Development

8859 Mistletoe Dr
Suite A
Easton, MD 21601-7530
Executive Director: Charles "Josh" Poore
Email: josh@tffcd.org

Greater Washington Community Foundation

1325 G Street NW
Suite 480
Washington, DC 20005
Executive Director: Tonia Wellons
Email: twellons@thecommunityfoundation.org

Mid-Shore Community Foundation

102 East Dover Street
Easton, MD 21601
Executive Director: W.W. "Buck" Duncan
Email: wduncan@mscf.org



Maryland Nonprofits' mission is to strengthen organizations and networks for greater quality of life and equity.

Sayers, Margery

From: Jean Silver-Isenstadt <jeansi@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 4, 2021 1:58 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: pls support Howard EcoWorks

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

Dear Howard County Council Members,

This year, my neighborhood's HOA contracted with Howard EcoWorks to do significant forest restoration work in our community, install a new bayscape perennial garden in an area that currently sheets stormwater off pesticide-sprayed turfgrass, and to paint stenciling on our storm drains that reminds people that our storm drains lead to the Patuxent River. They have also worked with teens in my neighborhood through their "Alt-Spring Break" environmental community service program. They're a pleasure to work with—responsive and creative--and it is frankly inspiring the way their initiatives address critically important social and environmental needs at the same time.

Howard Ecoworks provides enormous value to the County and I am writing with strong support for project D1164 in the County Executive's capital budget for Howard EcoWorks' workforce development and environmental programming. We need more people trained in green jobs; we need to install and maintain rain gardens; we need to plant more trees; and we need to protect and invest in the natural resources we have. This program is a great investment.

Sincerely,

Jean Silver-Isenstadt
10174 Deep Skies Drive
Laurel MD 20723

Sayers, Margery

From: Daniel Orourke <cdorourke1@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 4, 2021 1:00 PM
To: Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail; Walsh, Elizabeth; 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 Dr. Ball,

Cedar Lane Park East provides immense value to the county. Losing the park to a fire station will cause serious safety issues by increasing 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, but the goal of reducing response times to the area will most certainly be negated by the increased traffic. 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 Land Park East and urge the Howard County Council members to oppose this plan too.

Thank you,
Mrs. Clare ORourke
10891 Beech Creek Drive
Columbia, MD 21044

**HOWARD COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL
Testimony submitted to Howard County Council
Regarding FY2022 Proposed Budget
May 5, 2021**

Good evening Chairwoman Walsh and members of the County Council. I am Coleen West, Executive Director of the Howard County Arts Council located at 8510 High Ridge Road. On behalf of the Arts Council, I want to recognize and thank you for all that you've done to support the citizens of Howard County during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

We recognize the difficult position you are in this year as you try to balance the needs of all citizens during this challenging time. And, we are thankful for the County's response to this crisis under YOUR strong leadership.

As a representative of your county arts council, I am here tonight to urge you to recognize the important impact the arts and creative workers have on our community and to remind you that when it comes to our quality of life and growing the County's economy, the arts can be – and should be - part of the solution. To that end, I ask you to fully support County Executive Ball's proposed annual arts appropriation of \$905,500 -- 73% of this funding will support grants to 50-60 local and regional arts organizations. In addition, we ask that you support PAYGO funds of \$150,000, which will fund the ARTSreach Festival at Long Reach.

Like other business sectors, COVID-19 is having a staggering effect on artists and the arts. According to Johns Hopkins University, the nonprofit creative sector was the hardest hit sector in the economy¹. While we are concerned about the long-term effect of this crisis on our arts community, they also have a critical role to play - **right now**.

The arts have the power to unite, heal, and soothe. During this crisis, people all over the world have turned to the arts to connect with one another and help make sense of what is happening around them. Whether it is concerts on rooftops, performances on

Tic Toc, or painting plein air, the arts help us cope with the deepening sense of hopelessness, stress and anxiety caused by prolonged social isolation. They are lifeline for those suffering from mental illness and depression. They provide us with a space for solace, wonder and joy.

Seventy-three percent (73%) of the proposed annual arts appropriation will be used to support 4 grant programs that provide operating and project support to county arts organizations, K-12 schools through Parent Teacher Associations, and Baltimore City arts and cultural organizations. These grants support 50-60 organizations that provide a broad range of arts and arts education programs for both children and adults. Pre-COVID (FY19), attendance at arts events funded through County and these grant programs was 284,000 and volunteers for local, county-based arts groups receiving grants donated 97,000 hours – a value of \$2.4 million – clear indicators that the arts are important to the citizens of Howard County.²

A strong arts sector improves our quality of life, but it is also an economic asset that stimulates business activity, attracts tourism revenue, and retains a high-quality work force. The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reports that the arts and culture sector makes up 4.3 percent, or \$919.7 billion, of the nation's GDP and generates 5.2 million jobs.³

It's hard to imagine what the arts and culture sector will look like once we reach the end of this current crisis. The economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the arts and culture industry across the U.S. has mounted to \$16.3 billion and the percentage of job losses at non-profit arts organizations is 5 times the average of all non-profits (dancers have the highest unemployment rate of 45.6%),⁴ according to the latest report issued Americans for the Arts. Nationwide, 37% of nonprofit arts jobs were lost and the unemployment rate for creative workers is 63%. Such losses will likely force a contraction in the sector and will have a very real and immediate impact on artists and creative workers in the Howard County.

At the same time local companies face a global marketplace where value is increasingly determined by technology, knowledge and creativity. A study published by the Conference Board (serving the Fortune 1000 U.S. companies), found 97% of employers say creativity and innovation skills are important in U.S. workplaces, while 85% of employers say they can't find the creative, innovative applicants they seek.⁵

In an economy that will be increasingly driven by creativity and innovation, we will need creative workers - artists, entrepreneurs, innovators – made up primarily of gig workers - currently unemployed. To retain this creative workforce, we will need to provide adequate wages, affordable housing and maker spaces as well as arts, culture, technology and other creative businesses - large and small - to employ them.

Howard County has positioned itself well to meet these expectations. We have a vision for a vibrant arts, retail and entertainment district in Downtown Columbia along with Merriweather Post Pavilion and the iconic Chrysalis amphitheater. Ellicott City was recently named one of the “Top 20 Leading Creative Class Cities” by Richard Florida.⁶ We have a growing state-of-the-art community college, excellent recreational facilities and libraries, and the arts curriculum in our public schools is one of the strongest in the nation. And pre-COVID-19, we were home to 763 arts-related businesses that employ 3,511 people in the County.⁷ The arts sector accounts for 3.9% of the total businesses in the County, 1.7% of the people they employ, and is made up of major tourist attractions, for-profit media and design businesses, and a vibrant network of non-profit arts groups.

Howard County is a special place that has developed a strong community for the arts. Prior to this crisis, studies found Howard County:

- Had a higher number of arts and cultural organizations and artists than 91% of counties in the US;
- Raised more arts contributions and earned a higher level of program revenue than 96% of counties in the US⁸;

- residents spent more per capita on arts and entertainment than seven Baltimore-Washington metro counties.
- had the second highest level of arts participation per capita out than seven Baltimore-Washington metro counties⁸.

The arts (both for- and non-profit) are an important part of the County's small business sector. The heART of the arts community are the non-profit groups, which are also the primary focus of the Arts Council. Non-profits, such as the Columbia Festival of the Arts, HoCoPoLitSo, Rep Stage and others, provide opportunities for engagement and participation, they incubate artistic ideas and enterprises, and they create distinctive experiences that attract tourists, businesses and residents alike.

It takes a special ecosystem to maintain a vibrant arts community on a local level – you need the talent and dedication of practicing artists, strong arts organizations, innovative businesses, enthusiastic audiences, financial support and arts-friendly policies from government, and contributions from businesses and individuals. In addition, you need affordable space to incubate, create, and produce the arts and you need appropriate space to present the work and engage the public.

The non-profits work year-round to make the arts available to people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities. They do an incredible amount of work with very little resources. Even in good times, their budgets are extremely fragile. While they are used to operating on a shoe-string budget, this year, with shuttered venues and dark galleries, they had a total loss of ticket sales and a steep decline in earned and contributed income. Their already fragile budgets are at great risk.

The arts, like other businesses, took prudent steps to remain viable. Some got through by reducing budgets, scaling back programs and tapping into what little reserves they have, however FY22 and beyond will be a challenge. History shows us that the arts are one of the hardest sectors hit and the last to recover. For perspective, after the 2008

recession, it took the Arts Council 9 years to get our camp enrollment back to pre-recession numbers.

We are grateful for the CARES ACT funding from County, State and Federal governments which have helped the arts community remain afloat -- for now. As we begin to reopen with limited audiences, the small to mid-sized organizations (which make up the bulk of Howard County arts organizations) cannot make up for lost revenue by increasing productivity and reducing overhead – they have minimal operating expenses as it is – cutting budgets further means closing doors for good.

I am here tonight, to ask you to preserve flat funding for this non-profit sector by approving the County Executive's proposed budget. County funding provides arts non-profits with a life-line – a baseline of unrestricted support that they use to underwrite their core activities and to leverage private dollars.

County investment in the arts serves the public interest by broadening public access to the arts and by preserving and fostering diverse forms of expression. In turn, the non-profit arts groups give back to our community by enhancing our quality of life and community wellness, celebrating artistic traditions, attracting other businesses and jobs, and generating revenue for the County. Pre-COVID-19 (FY19), Howard County grantees not only provided us with exceptional programming, they used county funds to leverage \$3.8 million in revenues – 33% from earned income and admissions, 22% Howard County, 10% individuals, 9% State and Federal, 6% corporations, 3% foundations, 3 % from the Columbia Association, 15% other– and generate 141 FTE jobs.⁹

Statewide (pre-COVID-19), there are 13,185 arts-related businesses that generate 52,723 jobs¹⁰, including 258 non-profit arts groups that generate 16,900 FTE jobs. The non-profit sector alone has a total annual impact of \$1.3 billion.¹¹

The arts generate tourism dollars and - once we are back in business - will add to the recovery of our local economy. Based on past attendance, 20-30% of our non-profit arts audiences are made up of people who reside outside of Howard County,¹² these visitors come to our County and spend money at local restaurants and businesses. The Maryland State Department of Commerce reports that every \$1 of operating generates an additional \$4.16 in spending on goods and services.¹³ Using this formula, the non-profit arts groups in Howard County, generated an extra \$15.7 million in secondary spending to our local economy in FY19 for a total economic impact of \$19.7 million (this does not include revenue from for-profit venues such as Merriweather Post Pavilion, Toby's Dinner Theatre, movie theaters, or design, marketing and printing companies, or others that do not receive direct funding from the Arts Council). An investment in the arts is an investment in our future.

Seventy-three percent of the proposed county funding will go to support 4 grant programs that provide operating and project grants to 50-60 organizations and schools.

- 1) The Community Arts Development (CAD) program provides operating and project grants to local arts organizations as well as non-arts groups interested in presenting arts programs. In FY20, the Arts Council awarded \$377,175 (CAD: \$343,391, JRT: \$14,661; OD:\$18,623 CH:\$500) to 22 Howard County organizations.
- 2) The Baltimore City Arts and Culture (BCAC) program awards grants to city organizations that have regional significance and provide considerable services to Howard County residents. In FY20, we awarded \$171,000 to 11 city organizations.
- 3) The Outreach Howard program awards grants to City grantees to produce projects IN Howard County. In FY20, \$45,432 was awarded to 7 organizations.

- 4) The Artist-in-Education (AiE) program, a partnership with the County PTAs, provides grants to place visiting artists in school classrooms to enhance student experiences and skills and meet local and state goals for arts education. In FY20, we awarded \$25,770 to 13 schools.

The CAD, BCAC, and AiE programs must be matched at least 1-to-1 by the grant recipient. The goals of the grant programs are:

- To foster excellence, diversity and vitality in arts offerings for Howard County residents.
- To broaden opportunities for Howard County audiences, artists, and arts organizations.
- To increase the availability of arts activities in Howard County. And,
- To increase awareness of arts.

All grantees are required to submit final reports, which the Arts Council uses to evaluate grant programs, to track attendance and budget figures, and to hold grantees accountable to their request. These FY19 reports show that community interest and support, in terms of participation, is very strong – 284,000 attended arts events sponsored, in part, through County funds and 97,000 volunteer hours, valued at \$2.4 million, were donated. We also provided opportunities for 9,600 artists through these grant programs. NOTE: Any FY20 CAD and AIE returned/unused funds were awarded to county arts organizations as Emergency Relief funds in FY21. The Arts Council also assisted the County in administering CARES ACT funding through 39 HoCo RISE Artists Relief grants and 7 HoCo RISE Arts Organization Relief grants totalling \$100,000.

In addition to the grants program, the proposed budget provides funds to support the Arts Council's other principle program, the 32,000 square foot multi-purpose Howard County Center for the Arts in Ellicott City. At the Center, we sponsor year-round classes, art exhibits in our galleries, and performances in the community black box

theatre. We also provide low-cost studios for 14 visual artists, office space for 3 resident arts groups, and meeting space for 6 volunteer run groups that participate in our Arts Advancement Program. Pre-COVID-19 (FY19), 38,725 people visited the Center and we provided opportunities for 4,190 artists students to showcase their work. Whether they take a class, view an exhibit, drop in a studio, or enjoy a performance in the black box theatre, the Center provides rewarding experiences in the arts for people of all ages and from all walks of life.

Funds we receive from the County also support county-wide initiatives, such as, our on-line arts calendar, ARTsites, a partnership with 12 sites throughout the County to place sculptures in public spaces for one year, as well as free community-based arts activities for underserved audiences, such as our Head StART in ART program.

Head StART in ART is a model artist-in-residence program for preschoolers from low-income families that has been recognized by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Maryland State Arts Council as an exemplary early childhood arts program. This program introduces 100-150 children to practicing artists and provides them with experiences and training in the arts that would otherwise not take place. Each residency is designed to provide age-appropriate activities that complement Head Start's curriculum and reinforce core life and learning skills that are needed for future success. This program is free to participants. It received the John W. Holland Service Award from the Community Action Council in 2011. Cuts to the Arts Council budget would cause us to reduce or eliminate free public programs such as this and limit free public access to the arts.

Cuts would also adversely affect the groups that receive County funding through the Arts Council's grant programs. Local treasures, such as the Columbia Orchestra, the Columbia Festival of the Arts, and HoCoPoLitSo rely on these grants to meet their day-to-day operational needs. Unrestricted funds for general operations are rare, the Arts Council, through its grant from the County, is one of the only sources of such support. As mentioned earlier, the operations of the non-profit arts groups, both large and small,

are extremely fragile – any cuts to the arts budget will have a negative impact on our local arts groups, our community, and the people we serve.

In addition to the economic impact mentioned earlier, the arts impact our daily lives in other tangible ways. Numerous independent studies from the academic, arts, business, law enforcement, medical and technology fields confirm that the arts are an effective means to address a wide variety of issues and challenges in our community such as:

1) Workforce Development

Early encouragement and training in the arts help students develop core life and social skills that lead to future success, both academically and in the work place. To quote educator, Paul Lehman, "A lot of what is taught in schools suggests that there are correct and incorrect answers – as evidenced by the use of multiple choice and true/false questions. In the real world, questions are not posed that way." He goes on to say that the academic, business, and public sectors say today's graduates are not prepared to keep our workforce competitive in the new global economy. This is supported by the Conference Board study cited earlier. In order to be competitive and address real-life circumstances, employers need people who can do more than check off an answer from a prepared list of options or people who have only been taught what is tested - they need people who are able to make independent, complex judgments and decisions. The arts, by their very nature, teach people to seek multiple interpretations and solutions, weigh options and think critically. They also teach us how to be more tolerant and open.

In order to attract and maintain a creative workforce, greater emphasis on arts education and practice is needed in our schools and communities.

2) Education

The contributions the arts make to academic success are well documented, I will take this opportunity to cite two important studies. First, a report from the College Board Profile of SAT and Achievement Test Takers, which has been tracking tests for decades, shows that students who studied the arts or music for

four or more years, on average, score 93 points better on their SAT scores than students with just one-half year of arts or music.¹⁴ Second, is a study from UCLA that followed a sample of 25,000 American high school students over a ten-year period. The results of this study show that students who studied the arts had higher grades, scored better on standardized tests, had lower dropout rates, and were more active in community affairs than other students. In addition, it found that students from disadvantaged families who studied the arts improved their overall school performance more rapidly than other students.¹⁵

While studying the arts, students hone their perceptual, analytic and interpretive skills while developing creative thinking, communication and problem-solving abilities – providing them with the critical skills needed to succeed in school and in life.

The arts also provide a common ground for understanding. They facilitate intercultural understanding and provide a common lexicon for building relationships in an increasingly diverse and global society. With the growing number of non-English speaking students enrolling in our public schools, it is important to maintain a strong arts curriculum, one that is integrated with other subjects, in order to connect with non-English speakers and bridge the cultural gap.

And, during this time of distanced learning, some of the most engaging – and successful – on-line content is being developed by art and music teachers.

3) Community Health and Wellness

The arts have a positive impact on community health and wellness. Nearly one-half of the nation's healthcare institutions provide arts programming for patients, families, and staff; 78 percent deliver these programs because of their healing benefits to patients—shorter hospital stays, better pain management, and less medication.¹⁶ Physicians and therapists use visual art, music, dance, and drama

to treat patients with a variety of therapeutic needs. Here, the arts are used to strengthen speech patterns, self-image, and socialization skills; they help patients overcome or reduce physical dysfunction; and music therapy, in particular, has been very successful in treating seniors with Alzheimer's Disease. Military service members and Veterans rank art therapies in the top 4 (out of 40) interventions and treatments.¹⁷ The arts not only help patients cope with loss, isolation, depression, and the effects of mental and physical illnesses, but help families cope as well.

Amid the current COVID-19 public health emergency, people all over the world are increasingly turning to the arts to connect with one another, add perspective to their lives, and help make sense of what is happening world-wide. The arts are providing a solution to help mitigate the sense of hopelessness and dread caused by the stress of prolonged isolation. They provide solace, joy, and therapy that helps safeguard our mental and spiritual health.

The arts provide a means for seniors to remain active and productive in the community as participants, volunteers and audience members. Controlled research by the Center on Aging found that older Americans involved in the arts demonstrated better health, fewer doctor visits, and less medication usage – saving money and improving the quality of life of seniors.¹⁸

As Howard County's special needs and senior populations grow, more programs, such as the Arts Council's Fabulous Fifty+ Players musical theatre program for older adults and the No Boundaries musical theatre program for people with developmental disabilities, will be needed to meet their needs. In addition, infrastructure and specialized training and professional arts service providers are needed to integrate the arts into community health and wellness service delivery systems.

4) Youth At Risk

The arts help at-risk youth. Numerous studies have found that arts education programs can help reduce dropout rates - increasing the retention and engagement rates of students and raising educational attainment levels. Participation in arts programs decreases young people's involvement in delinquent behavior, increases academic outcomes for disadvantaged children, and improves students' attitudes about themselves and their future. Studies by the U.S. Department of Justice demonstrate increased pro-social behavior among adjudicated youth involved with arts programs.¹⁹ Similarly, an evaluation of Core Arts examined the effect of arts programs on adjudicated youth in Mississippi and found that participants in this program made notable improvement in cooperation, self-control, academic performance, interpersonal skills, attitude, and incidence of disruptive or risky behavior.²⁰

As the number of youth-related incidents continues to rise, Howard County may want to explore options to use the arts as a preventative measure or as an alternative teaching method for troubled youth or those suffering from mental health issues.

5) Community Revitalization

The arts are a powerful tool in community development and revitalization. They transform communities into special places by activating declining neighborhoods, bringing people together, creating a welcoming sense of place, and instilling a sense of community pride that is at the core of community building. Urban and cultural planners across the globe have used creative placemaking as a strategy to develop and revitalize cities and neighborhoods. It is a proven strategy that marries arts development with economic development and community development. The process typically starts with artists creating a stabilizing presence -- establishing studios, opening arts spaces, providing community activities in neighborhoods that are in flux. They make art and get involved in organizing community events and festivals. Soon people hear about interesting things happening in that neighborhood and want to see it for themselves. That

foot traffic creates even more buzz - attracting entrepreneurs and businesses who want to invest in the neighborhood. Coffee shops, restaurants, and unique boutiques start popping up. New people are attracted to the neighborhood and choose to move there. Most importantly, the social and economic health of the community is improved - enhancing the well-being of local residents and helping the quality of life and local businesses to “rise” along with the neighborhood.

In closing, as County leaders plan for a future after COVID-19, the arts can be- and should be- part of the solution for economic recovery, academic success, community health, and our own personal wellness. All of us in the arts look forward to working with you to ensure our community remains vital and resilient through this emergency and beyond.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak with you this evening.

¹ *ArtsLink*, Americans for the Arts, Spring 2021.

² Source: Howard County Arts Council Attendance Report for FY19 Grantees, 2019.

² Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis and National Endowment for the Arts, <https://www.bea.gov/data/special-topics/arts-and-culture>, March 2021.

⁴ Source: Americans for the Arts COVID-19 Pandemic Impact on the Arts, <https://www.americansforthearts.org/node/103614>, Americans for the Arts, April 2021.

⁵ *Ready To Innovate*, Conference Board, 2008, cited on www.artsusa.org/information_services/toolkit by Americans for the Arts.

⁶ *America's Leading Creative Class Cities in 2015*, Richard Florida. *City Lab*, The Atlantic Monthly Group, April 20, 2015.

⁷ *Creative Industries: Business & Employment in the Arts*, Americans for the Arts and Dun & Bradstreet, 2017.

⁸ *Needs Assessment For Arts Facilities*, Howard County, MD, Webb Management Services, 2015, pg 20.

⁹ Source: Howard County Arts Council Revenue Sources for FY18 Grantees, 2018.

¹⁰ *Creative Industries 2017: The State Report*, Americans for the Arts and Dun & Bradstreet, 2017.

¹¹ *Economic Impact of the Arts in Maryland*, Maryland Department of Commerce, 2019.

<https://www.msac.org/publications/fiscal-year-2019-annual-report>

¹² *ArtsVision: State of the Arts in Howard County 2003*, Howard County Arts Council and Vision Howard County, 2003, page 21.

¹³ *Economic Impact of the Arts in Maryland*, Maryland Department of Commerce, 2019.

¹⁴ *2016 College-Bound Seniors: Total Group Profile Report*, The College Board, 2017; analysis by Americans for the Arts, 2018.

¹⁵ *A Study of Model Community Arts Programs*, Howard County Arts Council and the Horizon Foundation , 2002, pp 76-77.

¹⁶ *2009 State of the Field Report: Arts in Healthcare*, Society for the Arts in Healthcare, 2009.

¹⁷ Source: blog.americansforthearts.org/2017/02/14/top-10-reasons-to-support-the-arts-in-2017.

¹⁸ Source: Americans For the Arts, www.artsusa.org.

¹⁹ Source: Americans For The Arts, www.artsusa.org.

²⁰ *A Study of Model Community Arts Programs*, Howard County Arts Council and the Horizon Foundation, 2002, pp 77-78.

Sayers, Margery

From: DIANE BUTLER <politicodiane@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 4, 2021 9:35 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: budgets

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

To the council,

Infrastructure needs to be funded in the budget before any social programs and the outrageous suggestions from the equity task force. Fix the flooding in both watersheds. Do even the simple storm water management fixes that we supposedly have no money for (a curb) before any more of this social nonsense. Tax payers have entrusted you with this job. Please, do it.

Diane Butler

Sayers, Margery

From: Cynthia Monahan <cmonahanshop@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 4, 2021 8:28 AM
To: CouncilMail

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

I strongly urge you to vote for the long overdue senior center; I feel the older village centers should have been given a nicer center first.

Sayers, Margery

From: Pam Ecker Interiors <interiorsbypam@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 4, 2021 7:58 AM
To: Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David
Subject: DANGEROUS DECISION!!! NO TO THE 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.]

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.

I HAVE BEEN A RESIDENT OF COLUMBIA FOR 53 YEARS and have lived on Cottonwood Way for 28 years. 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. We also deal with the traffic from Clarks Elliotts Oak Farm which is right down the street.

This proposed location for a new fire station simply does not make sense. When I built my home here on Cottonwood Way in 1993 Rt 108 was a busy road but with all the developments and business that have opened on 108 it is nearly impossible to get out of my street certain times of the day.

You are also 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,

*Pamela Ecker
10728 Cottonwood Way
Columbia, Md. 21044
District #4*

Sayers, Margery

From: Pam Ecker Interiors <interiorsbypam@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 4, 2021 7:49 AM
To: Ball, Calvin; 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 Council Members,

I am writing to oppose the building of a fire station and the proposed park changes in Cedar Lane Park East.

The destruction of field 7 for the building of a fire station is the only reason that the Department of Parks and Recreation are considering these so-called "park enhancements" to appease the removal of our precious open space parkland. Our parks are areas to be used by our entire community and I am against the idea of "plasticizing" our parks with artificial turf.

Artificial turf fields are not conclusively safe, with numerous studies noting the dangers of crumb rubber fill (made by shredding used tires), which contain numerous toxic irritants and carcinogenic chemicals. Why would we want our youth exposed to potentially cancer-causing chemicals? Cedar Lane Park is used by a large percentage of families who live in affordable housing. Converting all of Howard County's fields to artificial turf, primarily used by for-profit athletic associations reduces equity in recreational areas, by deprioritizing those who can not afford the expense of participating in them and a major loss of open space for everyone else.

If a family wants to have a picnic or fly a kite, are they supposed to do this on the artificial turf as well? We must choose whether we want Howard County to be a smartly developed place to live with natural beauty, or one covered with plastic and parking lots. Please leave the park alone, find another location for this fire station and Save Cedar Lane Park!!

This park is also home to our precious wildlife who's natural homes are being developed beyond repair. It saddens me as a resident of Columbia for 53 years to see what has become of "COLUMBIA'S OPEN SPACE". There was a time when Rouse was our leader that land was precious and Parks mattered. Now it's as if every inch of land is being developed with no regard to anything except the dollar. IT TRULY SADDENS ME.

Thank you,

*PAMELA ECKER
10728 COTTONWOOD WAY
COLUMBIA, MD. 21044
DISTRICT #4*

Sayers, Margery

From: Pam Ecker Interiors <interiorsbypam@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 4, 2021 7:35 AM
To: Ball, Calvin; 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 Council Members,

I am writing to oppose the building of a fire station and the proposed park changes in Cedar Lane Park East.

This is a beloved park that not only the surrounding community enjoys, but many recreational leagues and families throughout Howard County. The removal of two of the few remaining natural grass fields in Howard County is concerning and devastating. Why would the County be willing to prioritize the profits of increased rental revenue over the health and safety of children?

Numerous studies have shown that not only do turf fields cause great environmental detriment (water contamination, non-biodegradable materials, etc.) but they significantly increase the risk for soccer and football related injuries in comparison to natural grass fields and are comprised of many hazardous materials. It increases the severity of abrasions, puts additional stress on joints, and can become dangerously hot in the sun. The fields are used by children of all ages, often as young as 3 years old, just learning to play team sports. Parents should be able to enjoy watching their children play sports and not worry that they are being put unnecessarily at risk.

We should not be subsidizing developers with our precious park land in order for the Howard Hughes Corporation to continue with their Downtown Columbia Plan. Our parks are our backyards, where our children learn to ride a bike, play soccer, see birds and white-tail deer, and enjoy a picnic. We know that once given up to development and torn down for a fire station, the park can never be recreated. Let us not lose Howard County's great legacy of parks through thoughtless destruction of irreplaceable park land for short-term expediency and developer profit.

There are also 12 "Blossoms of Hope" trees on that land that were planted in memory of Cancer Patients. Does the county have no concern for them? Is that what this county has become? Just strip all the land with no concern for nature or memorial trees? I would like to know if any of the families have been contacted that their trees will be cut down and plowed over.

Thank you,

*Pam Ecker
10728 Cottonwood Way
Columbia, MD. 21044
410 258-1153*

District #4

Sayers, Margery

From: Pam Ecker Interiors <interiorsbypam@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 4, 2021 7:28 AM
To: Ball, Calvin; 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 Council Members,

I have lived in Howard County for 53 years and have owned a home on Cottonwood Way for 28 years. I am writing to oppose the building of a fire station and the proposed park changes in Cedar Lane Park East. This park provides tremendous value to Columbia, MD and all Howard County residents. Not only will placing a fire station cause increased traffic and danger to those that live directly off of this section of Rt. 108, but also negatively impact your constituents that live in the surrounding communities.

This plan goes against Dr. Ball's words stated during the most recent environmental town hall held on April 29th, 2021, "Prioritize protecting green and open space". Not only is the County proposing to place a fire station in such a congested & unideal location, it is proposing to take away 2 natural fields, replace one with ARTIFICIAL turf, and place a significant amount of impervious surface in that area. Overdevelopment throughout Howard County, including the replacement of natural areas with impervious services, is a serious concern and the loss of habitat and impact on the environment would be significant.

I do not support these changes and would hope that you would stand by your words and commitment to protect green, open space in Howard County. Let's place an emphasis on environmental stewardship.

*Thank you,
Pamela Ecker*

10728 Cottonwood Way

Columbia, MD

District #4

Sayers, Margery

From: Janet Schreiberstein <janet@schreibmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 3, 2021 6:34 PM
To: Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David
Subject: I am opposed to the plans for Cedar Lane Park

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

I am opposed the these plans.

I live in the community of Beaverbrook, just up the road.

Thank you for taking a close look at these plans and withdrawing them.

Best,

Janet

Janet Schreiberstein crigby@howardcountymd.gov djung@howardcountymd.gov

Sayers, Margery

From: Chris Chlumsky <cabassky@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 3, 2021 12:36 PM
To: Ball, Calvin
Cc: CouncilMail; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David
Subject: North Columbia Fire Station - F5976 and N3108 Systemic improvements - Letter of Opposition from Columbia, MD Resident

Importance: High

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

Dear County Executive Calvin Ball and members of the Howard County Council Board,

Around the end of September 2020, one of my neighbors of the Cedar Manor development that is immediately next to Cedar Lane Park East, was taking a walk in the park and saw trees taped off as if something was about to be constructed or in the early stages of being built. After just a little internet searching, she had discovered that Howard County DPW was targeting Cedar Lane Park East as a proposed location for the "North Columbia Fire Station" and had let the rest of us know what she discovered and if any of us have heard of this? So myself, as someone who recently moved to the area in 2018, was extremely concerned and troubled by the fact that this has not been communicated to us? I had done extensive research to see how public this actually was simply by googling as much as I could. I did find out that the fire station project, F5976 and N3108 Systemic improvements had been going on for some time but was first consider and presented at the Cedar Lane Park Location to the Howard County Planning Board on April 8th, 2020 during the height of the Covid 19 Pandemic.

<https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fhowardcounty.granicus.com%2Fvideos%2F4265%2Fplayer%3Fautoplay%3D1&data=04%7C01%7C%7C5537b084b253450dee9008d8f573c234%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637529224972016176%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ikl1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=KJfS64sUflkvgMm pPdEjVfaY61TmAJ%2Ff8%2FT3TRfaEuo%3D&reserved=0>

The project was headed by a gentleman named Mark Stromdahl, whom is the chief bureau of Facilities, Howard County Department of Public Works. If you listen to the meeting, Mark was asked questions concerning communication to the residents of the area and said "we haven't heard anything from them" and assumed that everyone was ok with the project in this area, also continued to say that "there aren't many residents in this area anyway", meaning that was ok. When I heard these words, I was devastated that Howard County was dismissive of its own residents but fact that no one, and I repeat no one had reached out to the residents of this area directly. Some thoughts that came to mind is that the project leads were using the covid environment to sweep a project beneath our feet without us knowing for the simple fact that we would be against this. Fortunately, led by council member Deb Jung, the project was placed into contingency status until further information was communicated to the public, such as a public meeting virtually. Around June 2020, I pulled a public letter from County Executive Calvin Ball to Deb Jung:

The County Executive of Howard County states: “Contrary to characterizations by some, the North Columbia Fire Station project has been supported by a robust and extensive public outreach process” **This is a flat out Lie!** And what is even more so troubling is this is our representative that the community has elected to represent us. I immediately posted on Nextdoor.com stating “concerned residents – North Columbia Fire Station”, more so to get the word out asking if anyone has heard anything remotely to what is going on?? Some posted that a little notification was given with a small posted sign on the opposite end of the park, not even remotely close to where the fire station will be built. Nothing was posted on Cedar Lane Park East and if I may add in the middle of a pandemic, where all of us are asked to stay home and not go out into public as to not catch or spread the virus. After reaching out to my neighbors, I thought it would be good idea to place a petition together (<https://www.change.org/SaveCedarLaneParkEast>) to get as many signatures as possible and I compiled as much information as I could at the time pertaining to the devalue of homes, the loss of a natural resourced park, the extremely dangerous conditions of the traffic along the most narrow strip of 108 where we have experienced so many accidents and traffic congestion, the loss of wildlife where sirens would scare away deer, geese, foxes and families of owls in addition to the toxic materials that are brought back from the residue accumulated on the fire trucks from fighting chemical and hazardous fires that will run off after washing into the neighboring retaining pond located below the park that my house is next to. I myself, as a cyclist was biking along 108 and had gotten both scraped by the side view mirror of a car and then the vehicle had the nerve to honk at me. My neighbors have experienced road rage as they are trying to make a left turn into our development on top of a recent vital accident happened on March 29, 2021 where a SUV rammed right into a telephone poll and knocked it over. Fortunately the driver survived. This is where they want to build the fire station.

I continued to reach out to representatives of the Harpers Choice HOA, emailed the council members, the project leads, etc, you name it, only to get dismissive responses such as “this has been going on for a while and you can’t stop it”. Deb Jung is the representative of our district and her team had gotten back to me saying that the project leads need to do a community outreach that should happen at the end of December 2020. So it actually didn’t happen until March 25th, 2021. At this meeting which was facilitated by Kim Pruium, “Director of Constituent Services and Community Partnerships, Office of Calvin Ball”, Mark Stromdahl and the Fire chiefs whom presented the project to the community, saying how this location would save 2 mins of time and save so many lives. However, we now were told, they are building pickleball courts, an artificial turf field with Stadium Lighting, Press Box for calling games that in turn the lights will be on until 10:30 to 11pm. This completely shocked us, so now we are not only dealing with the Fire Station but Lighting Pollution, even more sound pollution, further destruction of a natural open space park. So our little community park is being turned into a large commercial recreational devastation. At the end of the meeting, they allowed anywhere from 15 to 20 mins for questions. The first question came from the head of the pickleball association of Howard County, in the back of my head, how did he find out about this?? And we, the residents are finding about it on the spot. There were 2 more questions from participants that were clearly designed and programmed by the people who present the project taking away time and questions from those of us who are hearing about this for the first time. Once they finally got to our questions from the community, we asked such questions as, has there been a traffic study done? The answer was “no”, has there been a study done with the lights, etc as the answers continued as “no” So the 2 mins Fire Chiefs and medical responders want to save can easily be negated with the traffic congestions. So after this meeting we found out so much more, as these **artificial (not natural)** fields will now be only 40 feet from the Eliot Oaks houses that will now look onto strangers, have stadium lights in their backyard, glaring into the windows of their children as they are trying to sleep to wake up for school the next day and have an announcer calling plays on a loud speaker directly into the back of their homes. If I may add, we have experienced vandalism, small theft, overflow of parking into our development

and even our neighbors who border the park have had people urinating into their backyards. We even have residents whom have special need children for the which the sounds of sirens, game announcing and lights will trigger epileptic spasms. Please tell me how this is going to benefit our community? We already have fire stations located in the proximity of 1.5 miles to 3.8 miles from this Park?

I've recently made contact with the residents in Elkrige where a fire station went forward that stripped away acres of forest land and erected a commercial Fire station that does not fit into the community causing traffic congestion and was even pointed out to myself that residents have to now sleep with earplugs because of the sirens. There is a generator that is constantly running, not only throughout the day but at night too. They have Food Truck Fridays that causes incredible congestion, a digital sign that disturbs the historical environment of the community and even reported that many residents have moved out of the area due to all this disturbance.

Howard County is not doing the community outreach, us the residents are the ones doing the outreach, the research, finding our own answers to our questions with dismissive responses from the office of Calvin Ball and his team. The petition now has over 800 signers and by the time this gets to you it might even be more. We will continue to fight this.

Petition:

<https://www.change.org/SaveCedarLaneParkEast>

Informational Link:

Savecedarlanepark.com

Regards,

Chris Chlumsky

Proud Cedar Manor and Columbia, MD Resident.

Sayers, Margery

From: Peter Mattejat <pmattejat@mdta.state.md.us>
Sent: Monday, May 3, 2021 11:39 AM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Ililly
Subject: Project D1164 - EcoWorks Funding

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

Dear Howard County Council Members,

I am reaching out to you in support for **project D1164** in the Howard County Executive's capital budget for Howard EcoWorks' workforce development and environmental programming. Howard EcoWorks is a vital resource for the County that is dependent on this funding to continue their important work. They benefit our community through the administration of Green Jobs programming, support services for the County's Safe and Sound Plan, maintenance of public environmental infrastructure, and rehabilitation programming at the Corrections Department. These efforts have direct benefits to our community and represent a cost-effective investment in our local natural resources, public safety, career-readiness for young adults and disadvantaged populations. Based on my experience with Howard EcoWorks, they are providing effective leadership in achieving environmental sustainability. Thank you very much for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Peter Mattejat

7131 Pindell School Road

Fulton, MD 20759

Howard County Watershed Stewards Academy – Advisory Committee member



Peter Mattejat, PE

Environmental Manager

Maryland Transportation Authority

Office of Engineering & Construction

Environmental Division

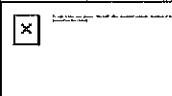
300 Authority Drive Baltimore, MD 21222

410-537-7874

pmattejat@mdta.state.md.us

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Sayers, Margery

From: Susan Scott <smcgscott@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 2, 2021 9:50 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: funding for the East Columbia center

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

I am a member of the tai chi community at the East Columbia center, and I do live in Howard County, but in the western area and so I am familiar with the center in Glenwood. The disparity between that center and the East Columbia center is quite evident, and I believe an embarrassment to the county. I have also participated in activities in the Ellicott City center, which also is so much nicer than the center in East Columbia. Since the East Columbia center serves more black and brown people than any other facility in the county, it leads me to think that this is yet another example of racial inequity in funding. There is basically only 1 room for classes in East Columbia, and folks have been turned away from taking tai chi there because of lack of space. The room is so small that we can't learn certain forms, such as sword form, because of space limitations. When the pandemic hit, the enthusiasm for tai chi did not abate, and we continued learning on zoom and weather permitting, outside in the parking lot, masked and 6 feet apart. I am certain that when this new center is finally built, classes of all types will be quickly filled.

The East Columbia center is shovel ready, with money available from the state and budgeted by our county. Folks in that area have waited for 20 years for their turn for an adequate center. Please do the right thing and give the citizens in that part of Howard County and our tai chi community funding for this facility.

Sincerely,

Susan Scott

2346 Adam David Way
Marriottsville, MD 21104

Sayers, Margery

From: Katherine Schnorrenberg <kschnorrenberg@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 1, 2021 7:05 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Ililly
Subject: letter of support for project D1164

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

May 1, 2021

Dear Howard County Council Members,

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.

I can personally attest to the work of Howard EcoWorks in my role as the Junior Warden at St. Peter's Episcopal Church. We have hired their team to do maintenance projects on our property and the results have been really outstanding. We have also partnered with Howard EcoWorks on a biochar project as part of trying to find new and innovative ways to help with flooding in Old Ellicott City. I believe that Howard EcoWorks has a vital and important role in our Community in continuing to improve our waterways in the watershed. As we approach flood season and the anniversaries of both the 2016 and 2018 Ellicott City Floods recognize that the work of Howard EcoWorks is crucial.

Please continue to fund their very important work.

Regards,
Katherine Schnorrenberg
Junior Warden
St. Peter's Episcopal Church
and Columbia Resident

Sayers, Margery

From: dbgmsw2@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Denise Bruskin-Gambrell <dbgmsw2@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 1, 2021 6:50 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Preserve \$5.37 Million in County Funds for Bicycle & Pedestrian Projects in FY 2022 Proposed Budget

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

Dear Howard County Council,

I am writing to urge you to protect the \$5.375 million in funding for bike and pedestrian infrastructure projects in the proposed FY 2022 capital budget.

I know the county is facing tough budget decisions this year due to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the importance of investing in our public health has never been clearer. We must continue to make progress in our biking and walking infrastructure to build and improve sidewalks, bike lanes, paths, crosswalks and more so everyone in our community has opportunities to bike, walk and access important services.

Without full funding of these important projects that will provide tangible benefits to residents' lives, such as K5035 in Elkridge and K5066 along Oakland Mills Road, Howard County will ultimately fall short of its complete streets vision. Howard County must fulfill its promise to create safer and accessible opportunities for biking and walking and position our community for a multi-modal future. Now is the time to invest in projects that will improve our public health, as well as safety and accessibility.

The proposed funding will make walking and biking in Howard County better, easier and safer, as well as make our community more age-friendly. I urge you to protect this funding in the final budget to improve our bike and pedestrian infrastructure for everyone in Howard County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Denise Bruskin-Gambrell
10761 Cordage Walk Columbia, MD 21044-3647 dbgmsw2@gmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: CeCe McCullough <cecemccullough@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 1, 2021 6:02 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: East Columbia 50 + Center

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

Dear Council Members,

Two of your colleagues have expressed their agreement with the construction of a Senior Center in our community. We are asking you to Vote Yes for this project to be fully funded.

No senior citizen should be overlook because of where they reside.

Sincerely,

CeCe McCullough

CeCe McCullough, Realtor

Weichert Realtors, McKenna & Vane

5850 Waterloo Road #140

Columbia , MD 21045

cecemccullough@gmail.com

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.cecesellshomes7.com%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cmsayers%40howardcountymd.gov%7Cd9e6668890da4b93d33c08d90cecb362%7C0538130803664bb7a95b95304bd11a58%7C1%7C0%7C637555033034456661%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C1000&reserved=0>

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Sayers, Margery

From: Alison Hickman <alisonhickman@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 30, 2021 11:19 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: East Columbia Senior Center

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

Dear County Council,

Please fully fund the East Columbia Senior Center -as a proud OM graduate, my parents still live in Owen Brown, and my dad in particular enjoys going to the senior centers across the county to use the facilities. It would be great to have one close to him for him and his neighbors to use.

Thank you for considering and for your continued service to our community and willingness to consider this feedback!

Alison Hickman
6454 Red Keel
Columbia, MD 21044

Sent from my iPad

Sayers, Margery

From: trombonegeek07@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Annalisse Daly
<trombonegeek07@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Friday, April 30, 2021 8:35 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Preserve \$5.37 Million in County Funds for Bicycle & Pedestrian Projects in FY 2022
Proposed Budget

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

Dear Howard County Council,

I am writing to urge you to protect the \$5.375 million in funding for bike and pedestrian infrastructure projects in the proposed FY 2022 capital budget.

I know the county is facing tough budget decisions this year due to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the importance of investing in our public health has never been clearer. We must continue to make progress in our biking and walking infrastructure to build and improve sidewalks, bike lanes, paths, crosswalks and more so everyone in our community has opportunities to bike, walk and access important services.

Without full funding of these important projects that will provide tangible benefits to residents' lives, such as K5035 in Elkridge and K5066 along Oakland Mills Road, Howard County will ultimately fall short of its complete streets vision. Howard County must fulfill its promise to create safer and accessible opportunities for biking and walking and position our community for a multi-modal future. Now is the time to invest in projects that will improve our public health, as well as safety and accessibility.

The proposed funding will make walking and biking in Howard County better, easier and safer, as well as make our community more age-friendly. I urge you to protect this funding in the final budget to improve our bike and pedestrian infrastructure for everyone in Howard County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Annalisse Daly
10603 Delfield Ct Laurel, MD 20723-1270 trombonegeek07@yahoo.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Heather Gaetano <hfgaetano@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 30, 2021 6:40 PM
To: CouncilMail; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jung, Deb
Cc: lilly
Subject: Please Support Howard EcoWorks

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

Dear Howard County Council Members,

I write in support of project D1164 in the Howard County Executive's capital budget for Howard EcoWorks' workforce development and environmental programming. I have the privilege of knowing Lori Lilly and a number of her team members and am so very grateful for their passion and energy to take ecological care of this county we all love.

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.

I appreciate that there are endless well intentioned requests for county funding and you have the difficult job of weighing them all and making tough decisions. I ask that you continue to fund this exceptional organization and their good work that benefits all of us. Thank you for your good and hard work.

Sincerely yours,

Heather Gaetano
3534 Church Road
Ellicott City, MD 21043
hfgaetano@gmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: ageary2@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Anne Brinker <ageary2@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Friday, April 30, 2021 5:45 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Preserve \$5.37 Million in County Funds for Bicycle & Pedestrian Projects in FY 2022 Proposed Budget

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

Dear Howard County Council,

I am writing to urge you to protect the \$5.375 million in funding for bike and pedestrian infrastructure projects in the proposed FY 2022 capital budget.

I know the county is facing tough budget decisions this year due to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the importance of investing in our public health has never been clearer. We must continue to make progress in our biking and walking infrastructure to build and improve sidewalks, bike lanes, paths, crosswalks and more so everyone in our community has opportunities to bike, walk and access important services.

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The proposed funding will make walking and biking in Howard County better, easier and safer, as well as make our community more age-friendly. I urge you to protect this funding in the final budget to improve our bike and pedestrian infrastructure for everyone in Howard County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Anne Brinker
18323 Chelsea Knolls Dr Mount Airy, MD 21771-3710 ageary2@hotmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: william.a.beck@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of William Beck
<william.a.beck@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Friday, April 30, 2021 5:19 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Preserve \$5.37 Million in County Funds for Bicycle & Pedestrian Projects in FY 2022
Proposed Budget

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

Dear Howard County Council,

I am writing to urge you to protect the \$5.375 million in funding for bike and pedestrian infrastructure projects in the proposed FY 2022 capital budget. This is an issue that is important to me since facilities that enable safe biking and walking make for a much more livable community.

I know the county is facing tough budget decisions this year due to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the importance of investing in our public health has never been clearer. We must continue to make progress in our biking and walking infrastructure to build and improve sidewalks, bike lanes, paths, crosswalks and more so everyone in our community has opportunities to bike, walk and access important services.

Without full funding of these important projects that will provide tangible benefits to residents' lives, such as K5035 in Elkridge and K5066 along Oakland Mills Road, Howard County will ultimately fall short of its complete streets vision. Howard County must fulfill its promise to create safer and accessible opportunities for biking and walking and position our community for a multi-modal future. Now is the time to invest in projects that will improve our public health, as well as safety and accessibility.

The proposed funding will make walking and biking in Howard County better, easier and safer, as well as make our community more age-friendly. I urge you to protect this funding in the final budget to improve our bike and pedestrian infrastructure for everyone in Howard County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

William Beck

17719 Foxmoor Dr Foxmoor Drive Woodbine, MD 21797-7935 william.a.beck@gmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Sally Stunkel <sstunk@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 17, 2021 9:40 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: East Senior Center funding

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

To Members of the County Council,

Please vote to support full funding of the East Columbia 50+ Center project! Our center as does not contain all the people and activities offered there and we often have to spill out into the library, which makes no one happy. There are too many senior citizens in Columbia to deny us a larger Center.

Please take us seriously.

Sincerely,

✉



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
www.avast.com

Sayers, Margery

From: jtm52480@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Jacquelin McCoy <jtm52480@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Friday, April 30, 2021 3:27 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Preserve \$5.37 Million in County Funds for Bicycle & Pedestrian Projects in FY 2022 Proposed Budget

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

Dear Howard County Council,

I am writing to urge you to protect the \$5.375 million in funding for bike and pedestrian infrastructure projects in the proposed FY 2022 capital budget.

I know the county is facing tough budget decisions this year due to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the importance of investing in our public health has never been clearer. We must continue to make progress in our biking and walking infrastructure to build and improve sidewalks, bike lanes, paths, crosswalks and more so everyone in our community has opportunities to bike, walk and access important services.

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The proposed funding will make walking and biking in Howard County better, easier and safer, as well as make our community more age-friendly. I urge you to protect this funding in the final budget to improve our bike and pedestrian infrastructure for everyone in Howard County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Jacquelin McCoy
6224 April Brook Cir Columbia, MD 21045-7400 jtm52480@yahoo.com

Sayers, Margery

From: diborak7@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Vera Kuma <diborak7@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Friday, April 30, 2021 11:52 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Preserve \$5.37 Million in County Funds for Bicycle & Pedestrian Projects in FY 2022 Proposed Budget

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

Dear Howard County Council,

I am writing to urge you to protect the \$5.375 million in funding for bike and pedestrian infrastructure projects in the proposed FY 2022 capital budget.

I know the county is facing tough budget decisions this year due to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the importance of investing in our public health has never been clearer. We must continue to make progress in our biking and walking infrastructure to build and improve sidewalks, bike lanes, paths, crosswalks and more so everyone in our community has opportunities to bike, walk and access important services.

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The proposed funding will make walking and biking in Howard County better, easier and safer, as well as make our community more age-friendly. I urge you to protect this funding in the final budget to improve our bike and pedestrian infrastructure for everyone in Howard County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Vera Kuma
9704 Softwater Way Columbia, MD 21046-1820 diborak7@gmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: tkpeguese@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Tiffani Peguese
<tkpeguese@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Friday, April 30, 2021 11:36 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Preserve \$5.37 Million in County Funds for Bicycle & Pedestrian Projects in FY 2022 Proposed Budget

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

Dear Howard County Council,

I am writing to urge you to protect the \$5.375 million in funding for bike and pedestrian infrastructure projects in the proposed FY 2022 capital budget.

I know the county is facing tough budget decisions this year due to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the importance of investing in our public health has never been clearer. We must continue to make progress in our biking and walking infrastructure to build and improve sidewalks, bike lanes, paths, crosswalks and more so everyone in our community has opportunities to bike, walk and access important services.

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The proposed funding will make walking and biking in Howard County better, easier and safer, as well as make our community more age-friendly. I urge you to protect this funding in the final budget to improve our bike and pedestrian infrastructure for everyone in Howard County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Tiffani Peguese
10362 Lombardi Dr Ellicott City, MD 21042-2150 tkpeguese@gmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: socworker20783@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Sandra Anderson
<socworker20783@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Friday, April 30, 2021 10:58 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Preserve \$5.37 Million in County Funds for Bicycle & Pedestrian Projects in FY 2022
Proposed Budget

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

Dear Howard County Council,

I am writing to urge you to protect the \$5.375 million in funding for bike and pedestrian infrastructure projects in the proposed FY 2022 capital budget.

I know the county is facing tough budget decisions this year due to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the importance of investing in our public health has never been clearer. We must continue to make progress in our biking and walking infrastructure to build and improve sidewalks, bike lanes, paths, crosswalks and more so everyone in our community has opportunities to bike, walk and access important services.

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The proposed funding will make walking and biking in Howard County better, easier and safer, as well as make our community more age-friendly. I urge you to protect this funding in the final budget to improve our bike and pedestrian infrastructure for everyone in Howard County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Sandra Anderson
10511 Tolling Clock Way Columbia, MD 21044-2216 socworker20783@yahoo.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Irina Chirtoaca Chlumsky <i.chirtoaca@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 30, 2021 10:00 AM
To: Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David
Subject: Concerns regarding 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, and I am a resident of Cottonwood Way.

I watched the Capital Budget Work session, and I would like to thank you for listening to all of us that testified against the North Columbia Fire Station.

I cannot tell you how grateful I felt that officials (very few at this point) are understanding the severity of the issue that the residents surrounding Cedar Lane Park are facing at this time.

Watching the work session has revived the awful experience that I had while attending the online March 25th, 2021 meeting. The responsible county specialists (Public Works and Fire Rescue) were very vague on the process and I do not have faith that a due process is being followed. I still feel the same even after your pressing questions during the Budget Session were answered just as vague by the Public Works and Fire rescue representatives.

I understand that you are all extremely busy and that this topic is one of many on your extensive list. You might though get a better idea of how frustrating this is for Cottonwood residents if you watch the actual meeting from March 25th, 2021. Reading the notes of the meeting will not convey what transpired in the meeting because most of the notes are just simply incorrect. So, when Howard County officials, specialists, and employees, refer to that meeting as "doing their job and following the process" they are referring to the doctored notes that are now posted online and not to the actual meeting.

I heard several times that the reason why the park was chosen over other locations was because Open Space funds were not involved, but why does the sign at the entrance of the park say: **CEDAR LANE PARK, Assisted by Program Open Space**??? As far as I understand, other parks or locations were not an option for the Fire Station because of these Open Space funds. Why is it ok then to destroy this park? Is this park not financed by taxpayer's/residents' money?

The Fire Station Chief mentioned that he has had experience in the past dealing with 500 unhappy residents, but what is important here is that the number is growing as residents are just now finding out about the plans of location for the Fire Station at Cedar Lane Park. And let us not forget that the unhappy 500 residents and growing-these are 500 hard working residents that are paying very high income and property taxes. Many of us did not spare using their lifetime savings in buying a house here, with me being one of them.

Here is the link to the petition with over 750 people now against the North Columbia Fire station current proposed location.

<https://www.change.org/p/county-executive-calvin-ball-prevention-of-cedar-lane-park-east-proposed-fire-station-location>

I immigrated to the United States about 10 years ago and since then my goal was to live the American dream. To me moving to Howard County and being a homeowner was a top priority. I worked extremely hard to save money, and

move to a well-respected, highly desirable, and most important very quiet and peaceful neighborhood. My dream was crushed when I found out that a Fire Station is supposed to be built next to my street and replace our well-loved neighborhood park.

And I do not appreciate when the Fire Station representatives are talking about organizing Block Parties at the Fire Station as a benefit to the residents. I live here, after a long and hard day at work, I want to enjoy the peace of my home and the beauty of my backyard. This peace is being taken away from me. The firefighters are going home after work to rest, where should I go after work???? I am going to be **next to a Fire Station dealing with noise, with the dangers of traffic on Route 108, with the screams of those that are attending the turf field and pickleball courts. How is this FAIR to the hard-working Howard county taxpayer?**

I believe the Fire Chief said that they obey the state law regarding the noise, that really does nothing for the residents in this situation. All it means we are going to hear the loud sirens because of the proximity to the Fire Station which is by the way as loud as a concert at Merriweather. Again, the firefighters go home after work, we the residents live here so saying that the Fire Station must obey the State Law about noise does absolutely nothing for us!!!

I have personally experienced several close calls and road rage from other drivers when exiting or entering Cottonwood Way. **Route 108 is the only exit/entrance for Cottonwood Way.** The spot is extremely dangerous, as there's only one way in each direction, no shoulders and the spot sits on a small hill, so most of the cars are very slow to react when a car tries to make a left to turn into Cottonwood Way. This is even more dangerous on Fridays when there is a lot of traffic due to our neighboring Mosque and on weekends when the grass fields are used at Cedar Lane Park. Where is this going to go when you add Fire trucks, and hundreds of more daily visitors to Cedar lane Park? It is my understanding that additional parking is not being added, so where are all those people going to park when they finally can enter the park after sitting in traffic?

At the March 25th meeting we were being told that the Fire Station needs to be at Cedar lane Park to respond 2 minutes quicker and save lives. **Do our lives not matter?** How are you saving other lives when you are directly endangering so many that must drive up and down Route 108????

The last but not the least concern is that so many trees, animals and birds are going to be permanently misplaced. I would like to invite you to observe the water drainage on a rainy day in our neighborhood. The stream that runs just a couple hundred feet away from where the Fire Station will be, gets a tremendous amount of water. What would happen when you remove the grass fields and add a Fire Station whose trucks will bring hazardous materials back? How are you going to prevent the hazardous material from getting into the neighboring backyards? **We as residents just don't know because an environmental study has not been performed and shared with us; and to quote the actual answer that we were given in respect to this matter during the shameful meeting on March 25th, 2021 (you will have to listen to the recording) "It should not be a problem".** The Public Works representative mentioned that everything will be built to the code regarding the environment next to the proposed Fire Station, but how do you control the power of the rain and the wind? When the toxins that the trucks bring back are blown into our yards and washed into the stream at the bottom of the Park?

Trees donated in memory of the cancer victims at the park will be replaced. Well in my opinion and seeing someone dying of cancer I think It is very cold hearted to replace a memory of someone that died of cancer.

I am pleading with the Howard County Officials, **PLEASE** insist on finding another and most important **SUITABLE** location for the North Columbia Fire Station. Howard County residents deserve a fair, respectful, and most important due process. Please do not allow county employees to bully us into this Fire Station and Park permanent changes.

Sincerely,

Irina Chlumsky

Cottonwood Way,

Columbia, MD 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: s v <savoith@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 30, 2021 9:09 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please...

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

Please vote FOR FUNDING the new East Columbia 50+ Center now.

Let's get this project's funding finalized. It won't get any cheaper if put off and the senior population will not be getting smaller as time goes by.

Sandra and James Voith

Sayers, Margery

From: carlazelaya@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Carla Zelaya
<carlazelaya@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2021 9:50 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Preserve \$5.37 Million in County Funds for Bicycle & Pedestrian Projects in FY 2022 Proposed Budget

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

Dear Howard County Council,

I am writing to urge you to protect the \$5.375 million in funding for bike and pedestrian infrastructure projects in the proposed FY 2022 capital budget.

I know the county is facing tough budget decisions this year due to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the importance of investing in our public health has never been clearer. We must continue to make progress in our biking and walking infrastructure to build and improve sidewalks, bike lanes, paths, crosswalks and more so everyone in our community has opportunities to bike, walk and access important services.

Without full funding of these important projects that will provide tangible benefits to residents' lives, such as K5035 in Elkridge and K5066 along Oakland Mills Road, Howard County will ultimately fall short of its complete streets vision. Howard County must fulfill its promise to create safer and accessible opportunities for biking and walking and position our community for a multi-modal future. Now is the time to invest in projects that will improve our public health, as well as safety and accessibility.

The proposed funding will make walking and biking in Howard County better, easier and safer, as well as make our community more age-friendly. I urge you to protect this funding in the final budget to improve our bike and pedestrian infrastructure for everyone in Howard County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Carla Zelaya
5356 Iron Pen Pl Columbia, MD 21044-1811 carlazelaya@gmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Bill Withers <wwithers@rocketmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2021 3:12 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Howard EcoWorks

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

Dear Howard County Council Members,

I currently volunteer as the board co-chair for Howard EcoWorks. We are extremely grateful for the moral and financial support you have given us, and are proud of our contributions to the County 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.

We are still a young organization and while Lori and the team are expert in securing grant funds, the budgeted grant in the County budget is a cornerstone that we count on and build on every year. The ROI of flood prevention and the training and development of Howard County's residents is clear. Thanks again for your continued support.

Please contact me if I can provide any further information.

Sincerely,

Bill Withers
Board Co-Chair
Howard EcoWorks

443-878-7030

Sayers, Margery

From: YALE STENZLER <stenzler@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 8:04 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support Full Funding of the East Columbia 50+ Center
Attachments: unnamed.jpg

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

4/15/2021

To Members of the County Council,

My wife and I are over 75 years old and have lived in Howard County for almost 50 years. We attend and participate in Tai Chi classes at the 50+ East Columbia Center. Although we live on the West side of Columbia we have taken classes at the East Columbia Center for over three years. There are many individuals in our classes that are from all over Howard County, not just Columbia.

Now that County Executive Ball has put \$5.5 million in his budget and the Maryland State legislature has approved a \$1 million bond initiative toward fully funding the new East Columbia 50+ Center, **we need the support of the entire County Council.**

Please vote to support full funding of the East Columbia 50+ Senior Center, so that work can begin as soon as possible .

Sincerely,

Yale Stenzler
10001 Windstream Drive, Unit # 707
Columbia, MD 21044



Sayers, Margery

From: Carol Powell <carol.powell83@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 8:00 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support Full Funding of the East Columbia 50+ Center

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

To Members of the County Council, Please vote to support full funding of the East Columbia 50+ Center project!

Sincerely,

*Carol Powell
6118 Trotter Ridge Ct
Columbia 21044*

Make Today's Dream

Tomorrow

Today



Tomorrow



Fully Fund

The New East Columbia

1/3 of HoCo residents are S

Sayers, Margery

From: PC Segawa <pcsegawa@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 7:55 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support Full Funding of the East Columbia 50+ Center

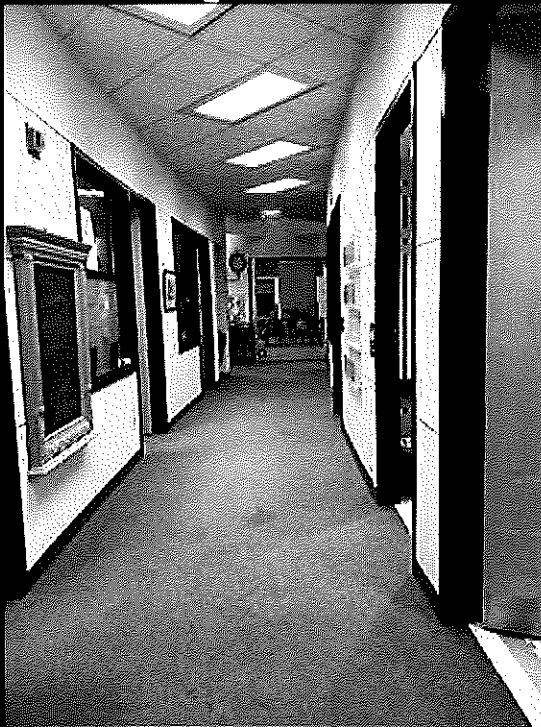
[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Make Today's Dream

Tomorrow

Today

Tomorrow



Fully Fund

The New East Columbia

1/3 of HoCo residents are S

To Members of the County Council,

Please vote to support full funding of the East Columbia 50+ Center project!

Sincerely,
Pamela Segawa
Stanley Segawa
6390 Windharp Way
Columbia, MD 21045

Sayers, Margery

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:

Elliot'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

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
	Total	42	

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

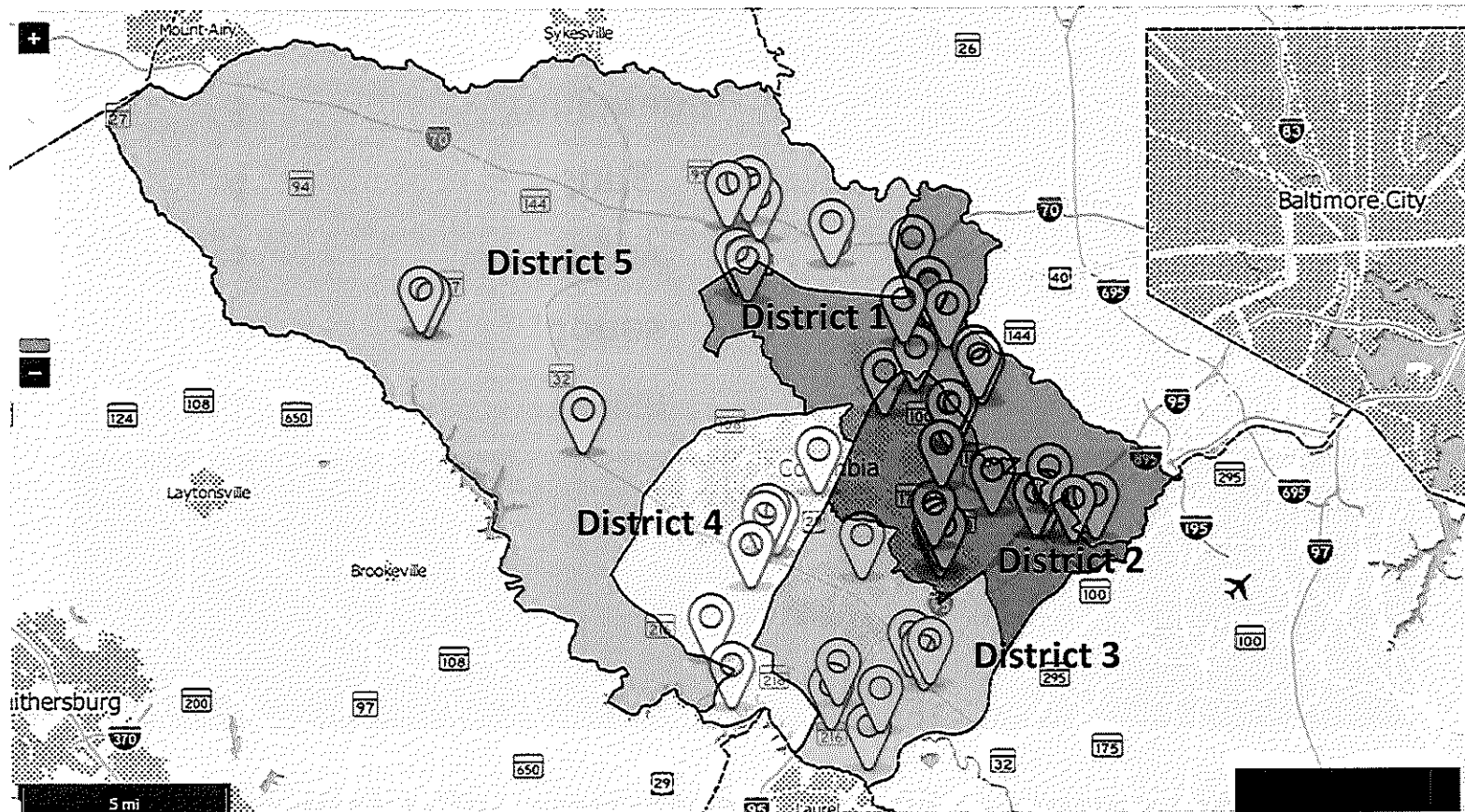
Columbia, MD

<<...>>

Howard County Age-Restricted Housing Facilities (Summary)

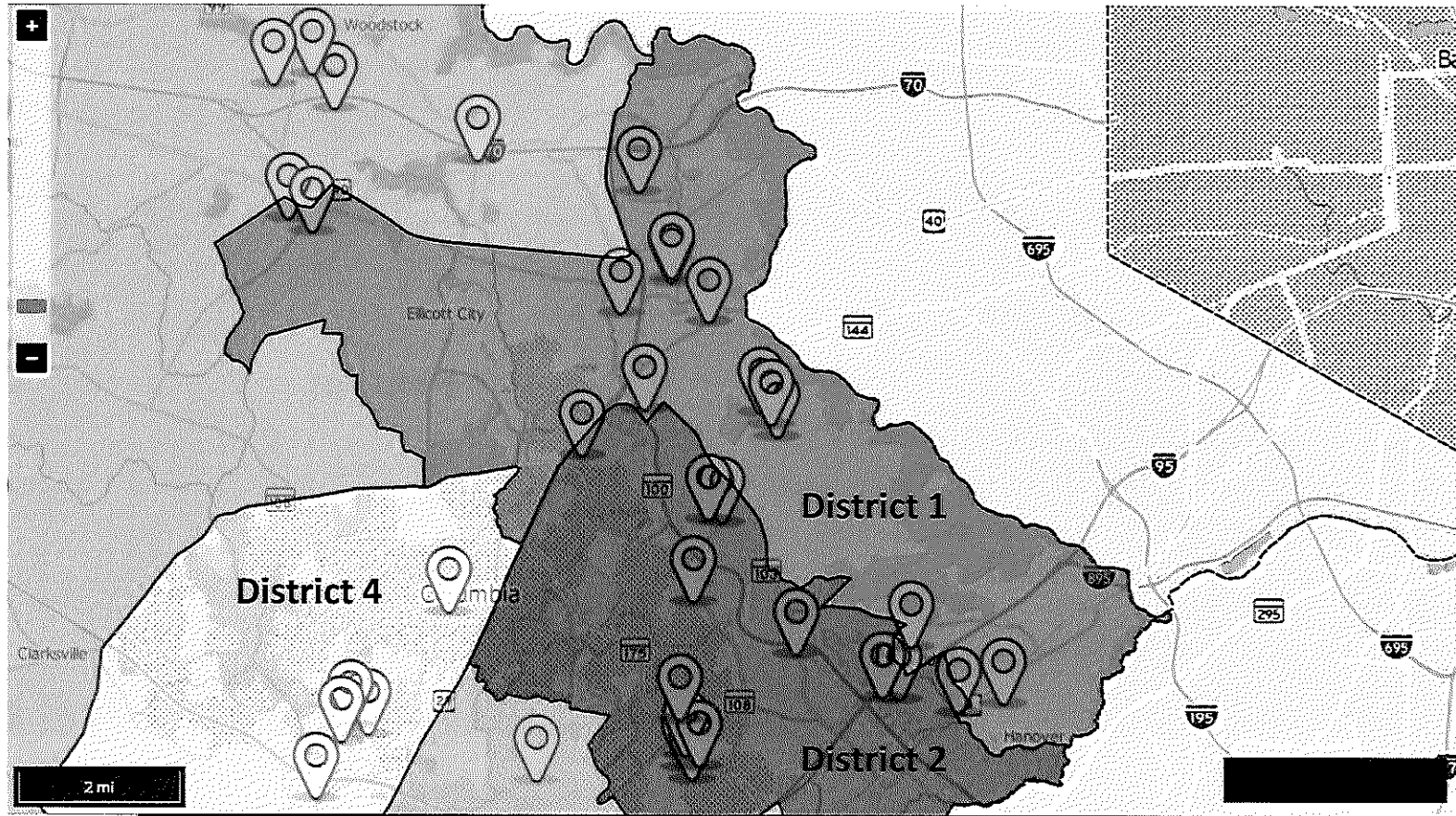
District	Representative	Number of Age-Restricted Facilities	Percent of Total
1	Walsh	8	20
2	Jones	11	27
3	Rigby	8	20
4	Jung	7	17
5	Yungmann	7	17
Total		41	

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

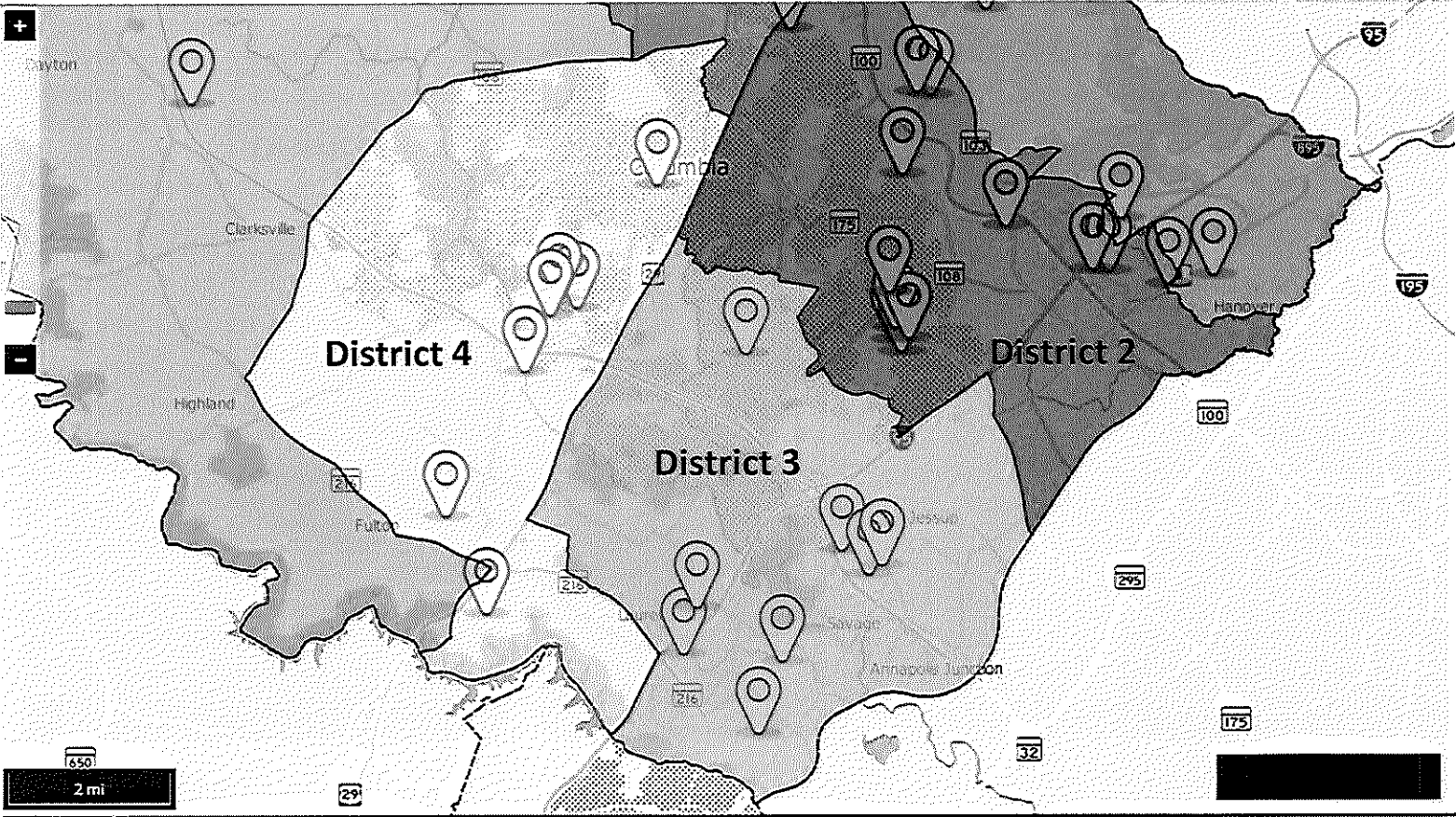


Ref: [Howard County, Maryland Interactive Map \(howardcountymd.gov\)](http://howardcountymd.gov)

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



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



Sayers, Margery

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

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

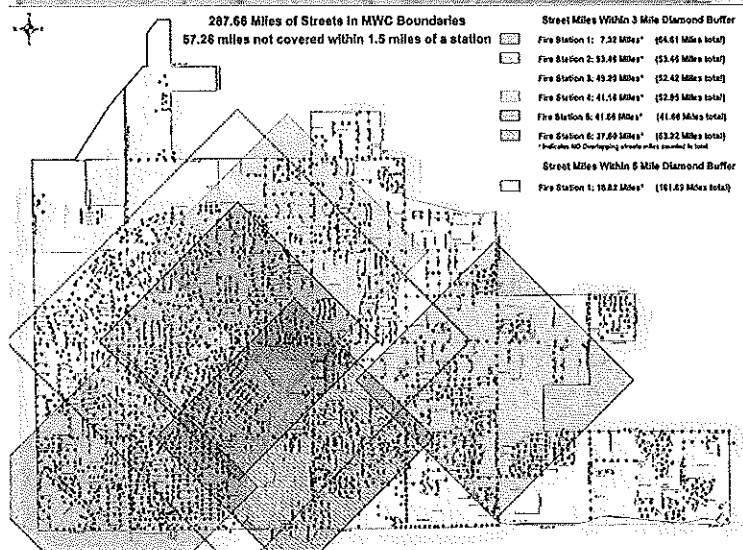
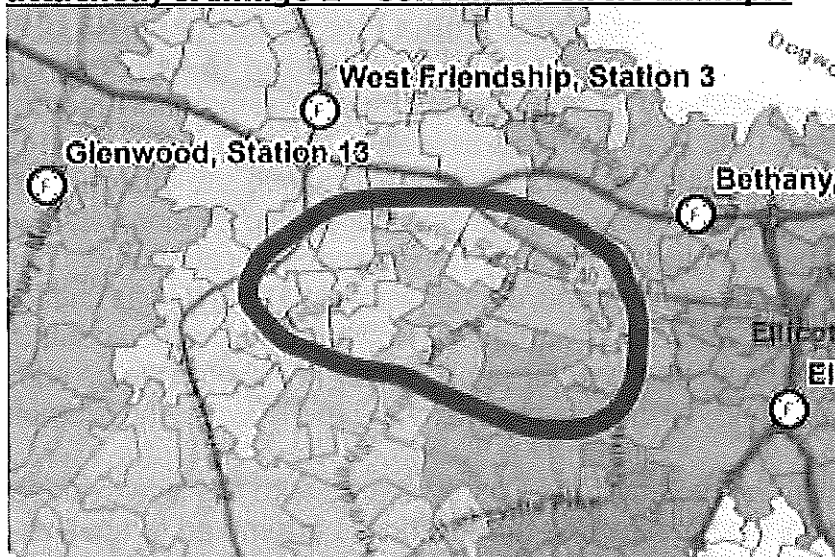
testimony yesterday, in an attempt to kill two birds with one stone, we are going to let both birds get away.

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)

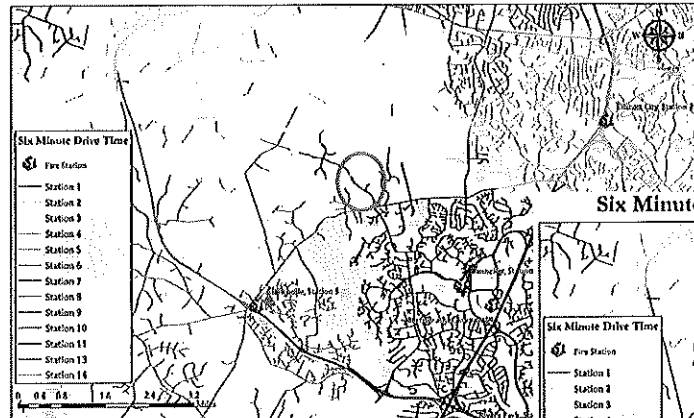
- **Image 1 - Current Fire Stations and First Due Response Areas (full document attached) & Image 2 - Concentric Circle Example**



- **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

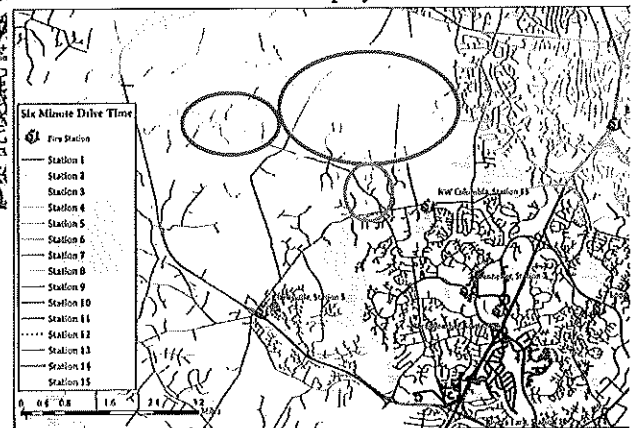


The above map shows the roads and properties in the North Columbia area that are outside of the six-minute drive time boundary. (It is very important to point out that the six-minute drive time analysis does NOT include the whole response picture, as it does not account for traffic and the model assumes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

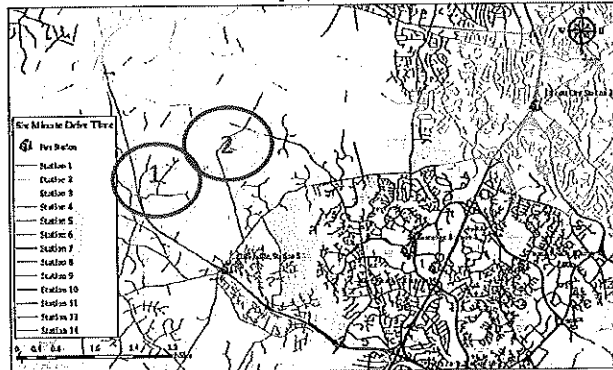
Six Minute Drive Time Map by Fire Station- NW Columb



- 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):

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

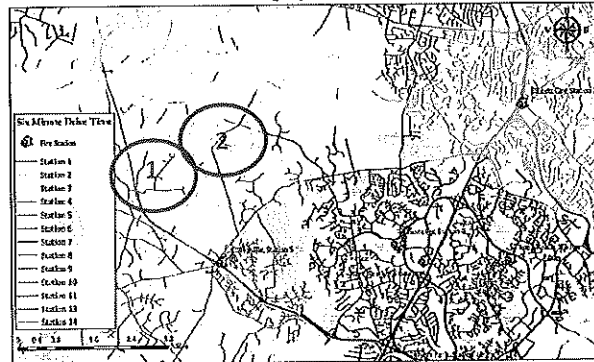
• ALS Unit Dispatches:
Average Time = 8.29 min
(8.36,8.21)

Area 2 (Homewood/Folly Qtr):

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

• ALS Unit Dispatches:
Average Time = 9.84 min
(9.86,9.82)

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.

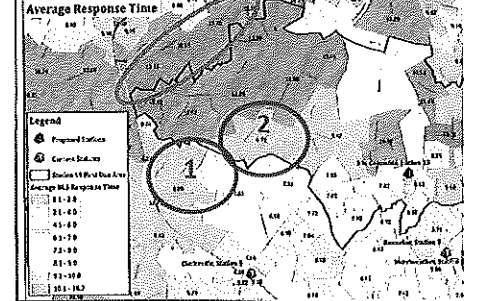
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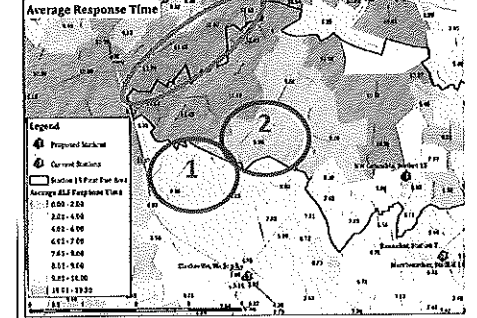
Area 2 (Homewood/Folly Qtr):

• BLS Dispatches:
Average Time = 9.86 min
(10.57,9.16)

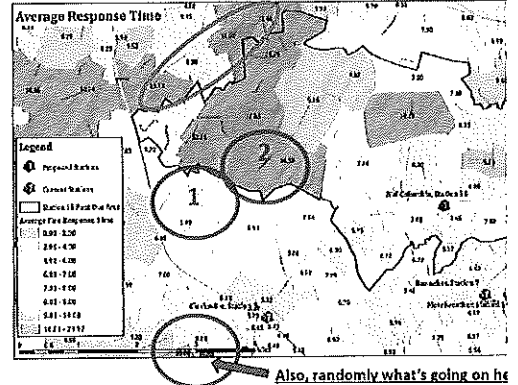
First Arriving ALS or BLS Unit to BLS Dispatched Incidents by Box Area 2015 - 2020 -- NW Colum



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



Also, randomly what's going on here

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:

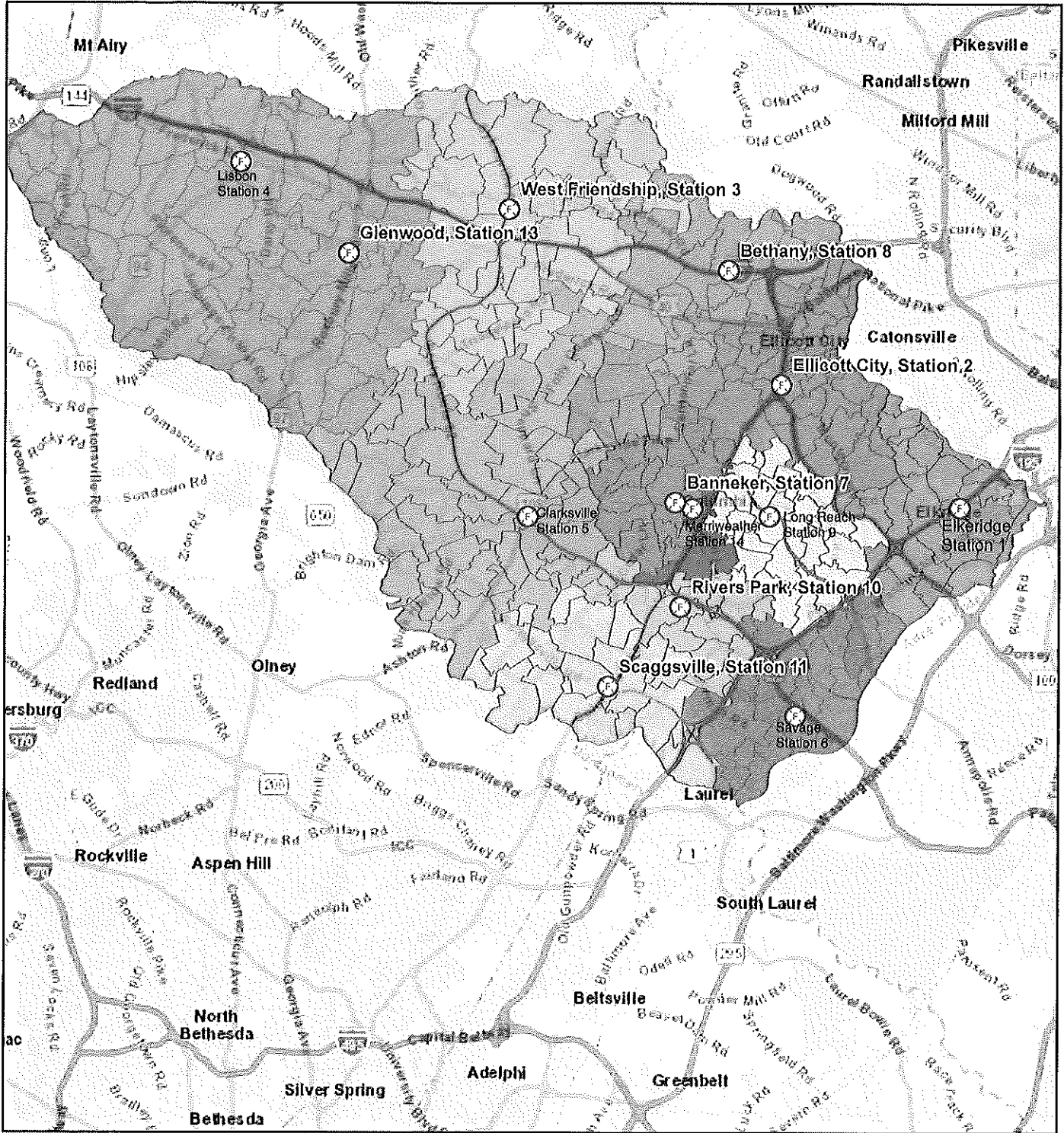
- **Build a new Fire Station in D5 near Homewood Rd & Folly Quarter Rd:**
There is an obvious need for a fire station in this area. There would be plenty of options for land acquisition that wouldn't directly affect local homeowners and allow those who do purchase a home near this fire station the CHOICE 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.

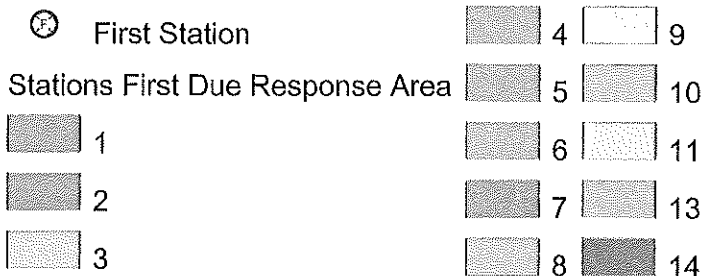
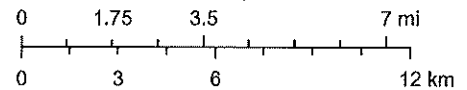
Thanks,
Ahmed

ArcGIS Web Map



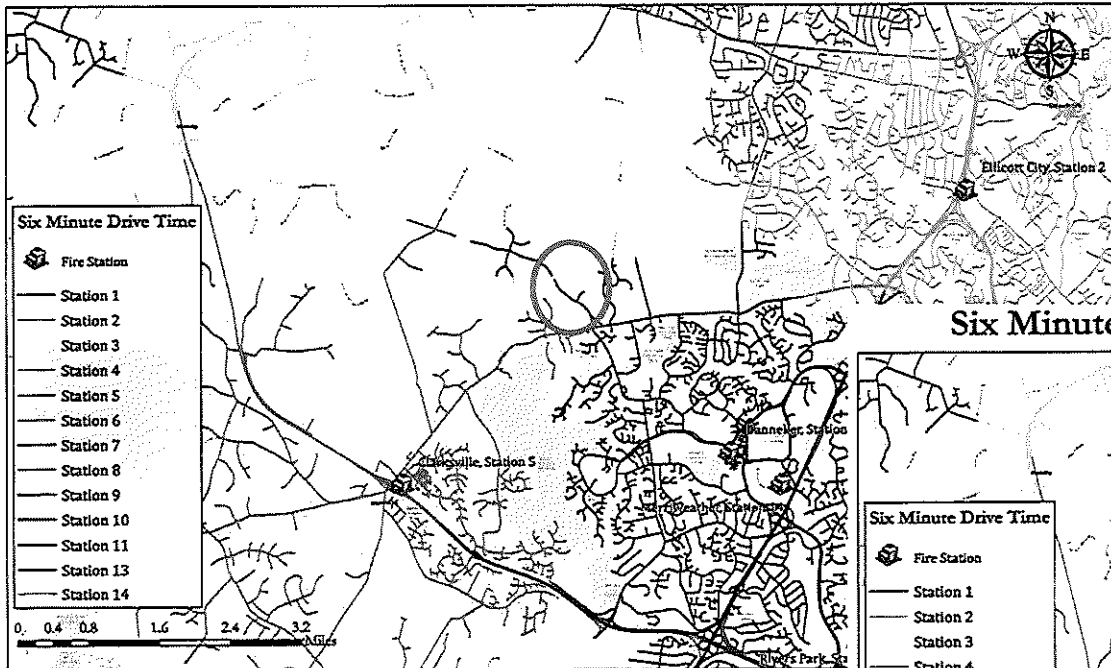
5/3/2021, 8:09:02 PM

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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



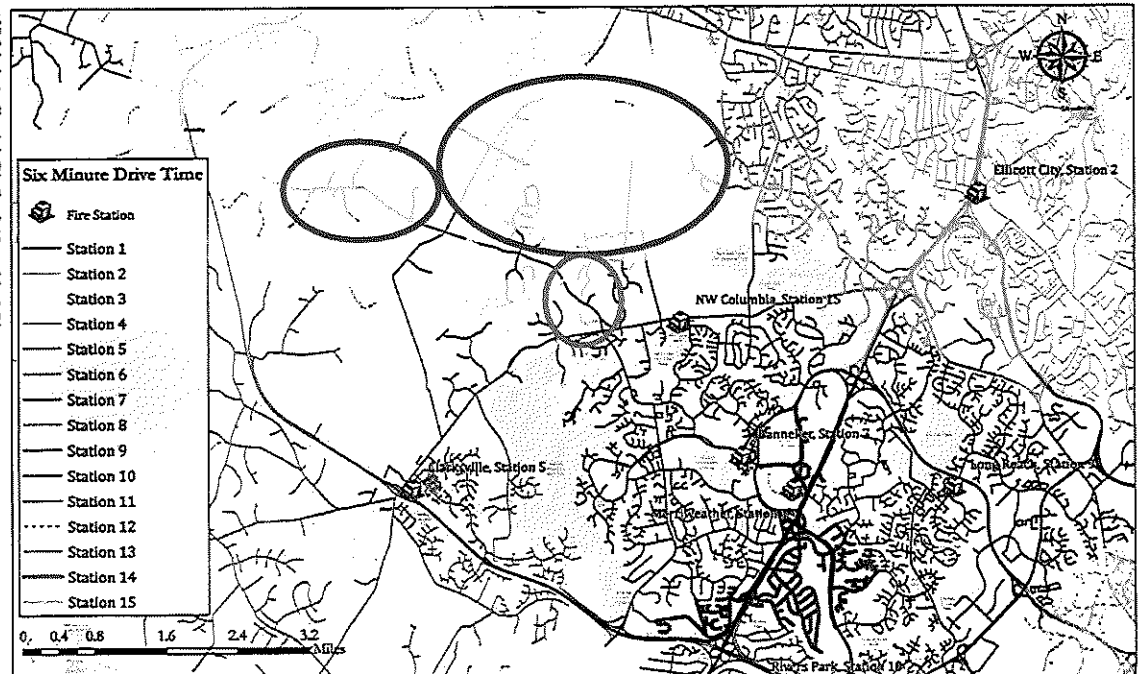
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The Six Minute Drive Time Map is a poor metric because:

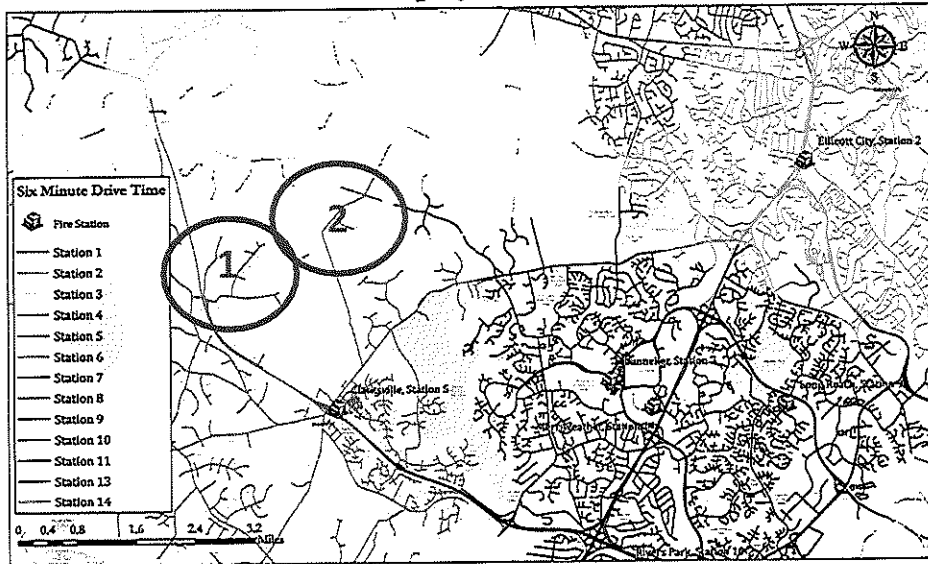
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Six Minute Drive Time Map by Fire Station- NW Columbia



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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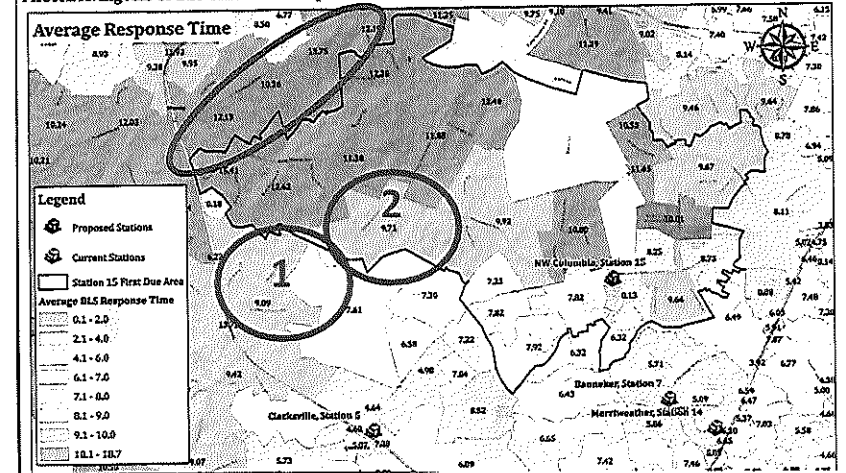
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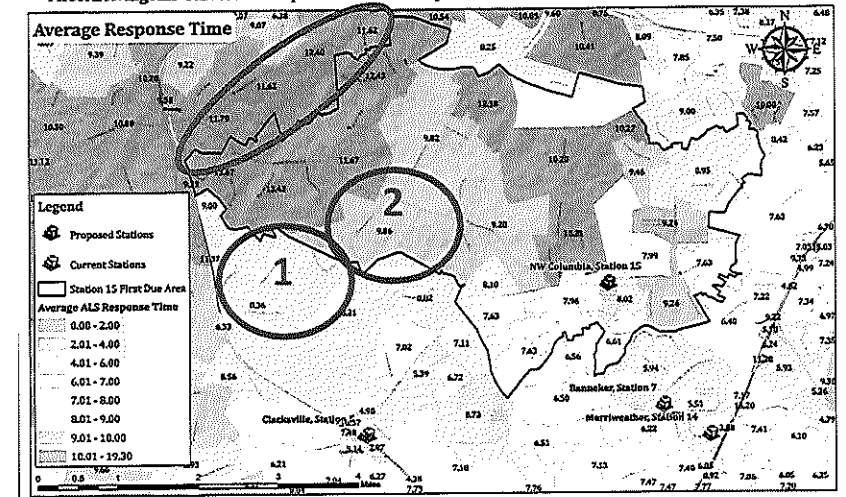
Area 2 (Homewood/Folly Qtr):

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

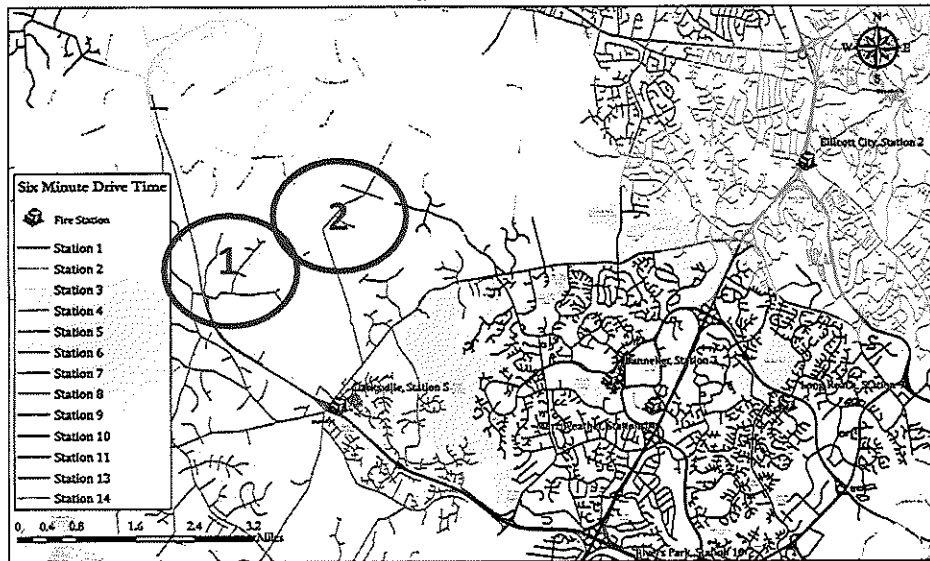


First Arriving ALS Unit to ALS Dispatched Incidents by Box Area 2015 - 2020 - NW Columbia, Station 15



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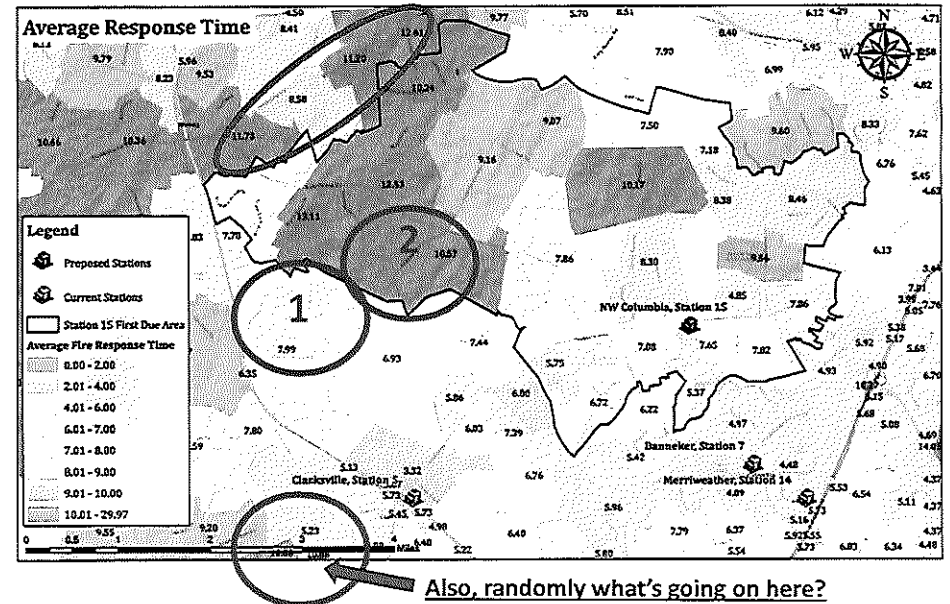
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First Arriving Engine to Fire Dispatched Incidents by Box Area 2010 - 2020 -- NW Columbia, Station 15



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?

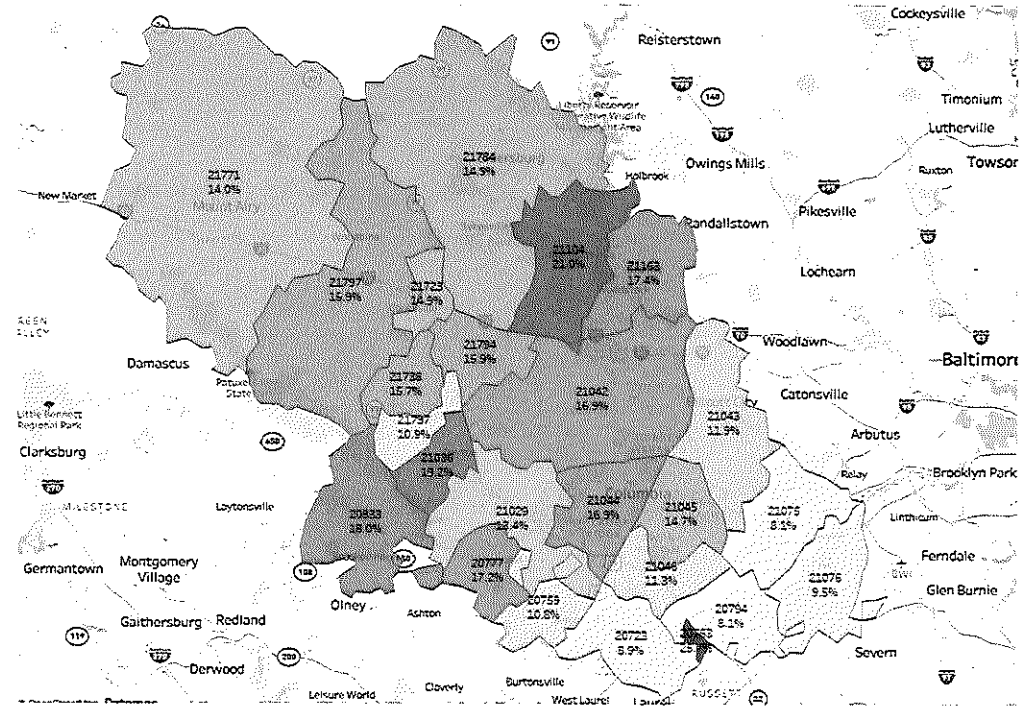
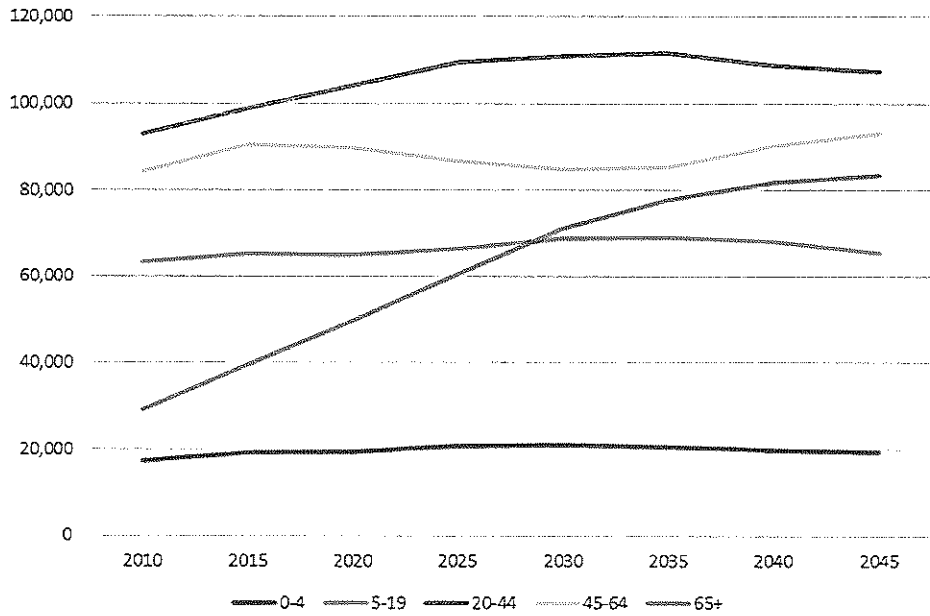
What about this underserved area?



- 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+)

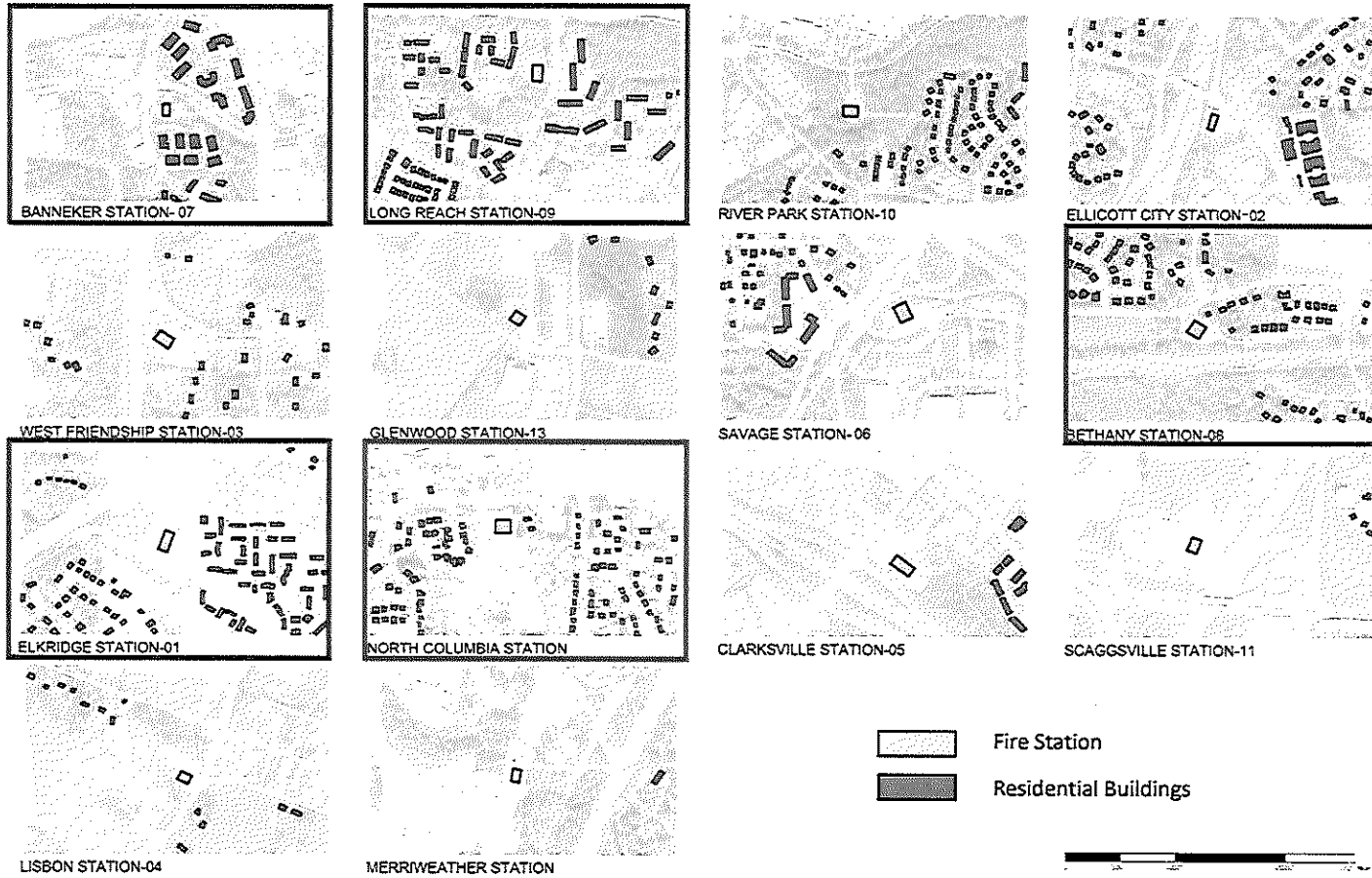
Howard County - Projections by Age



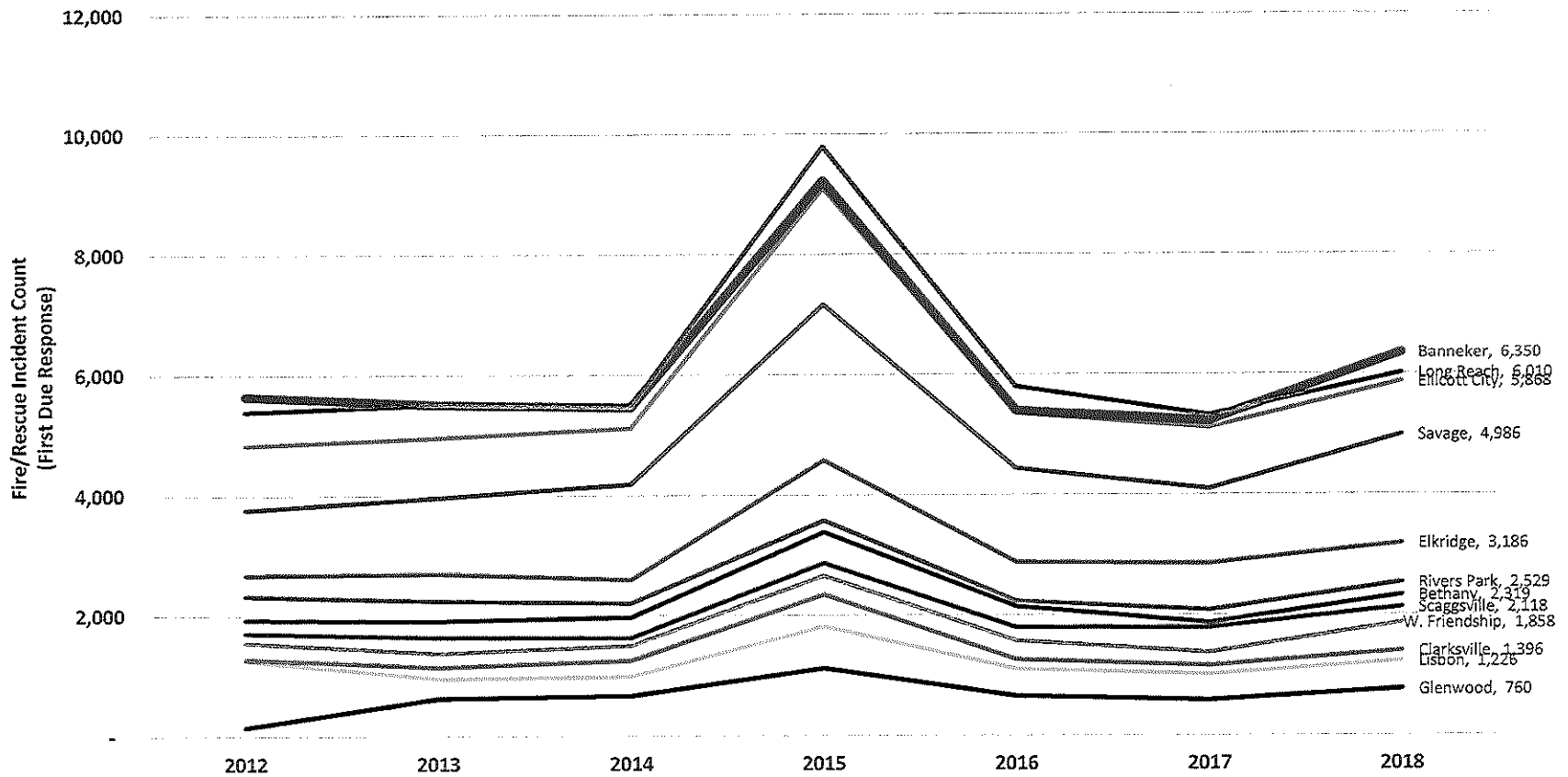
Source: American Community Survey – 5 Year Estimates

Original Slide – 3/25/21 Presentation

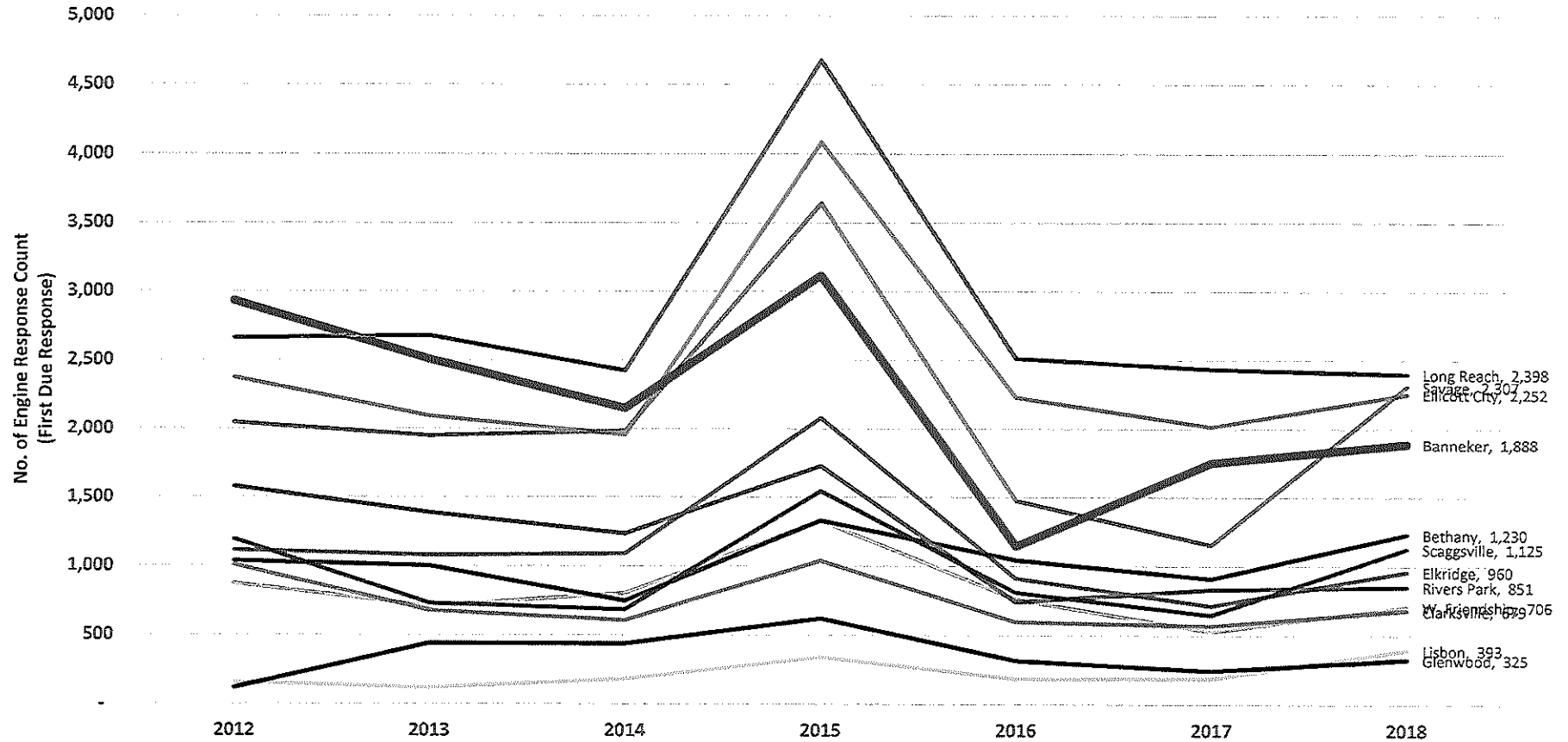
02. Building Location



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

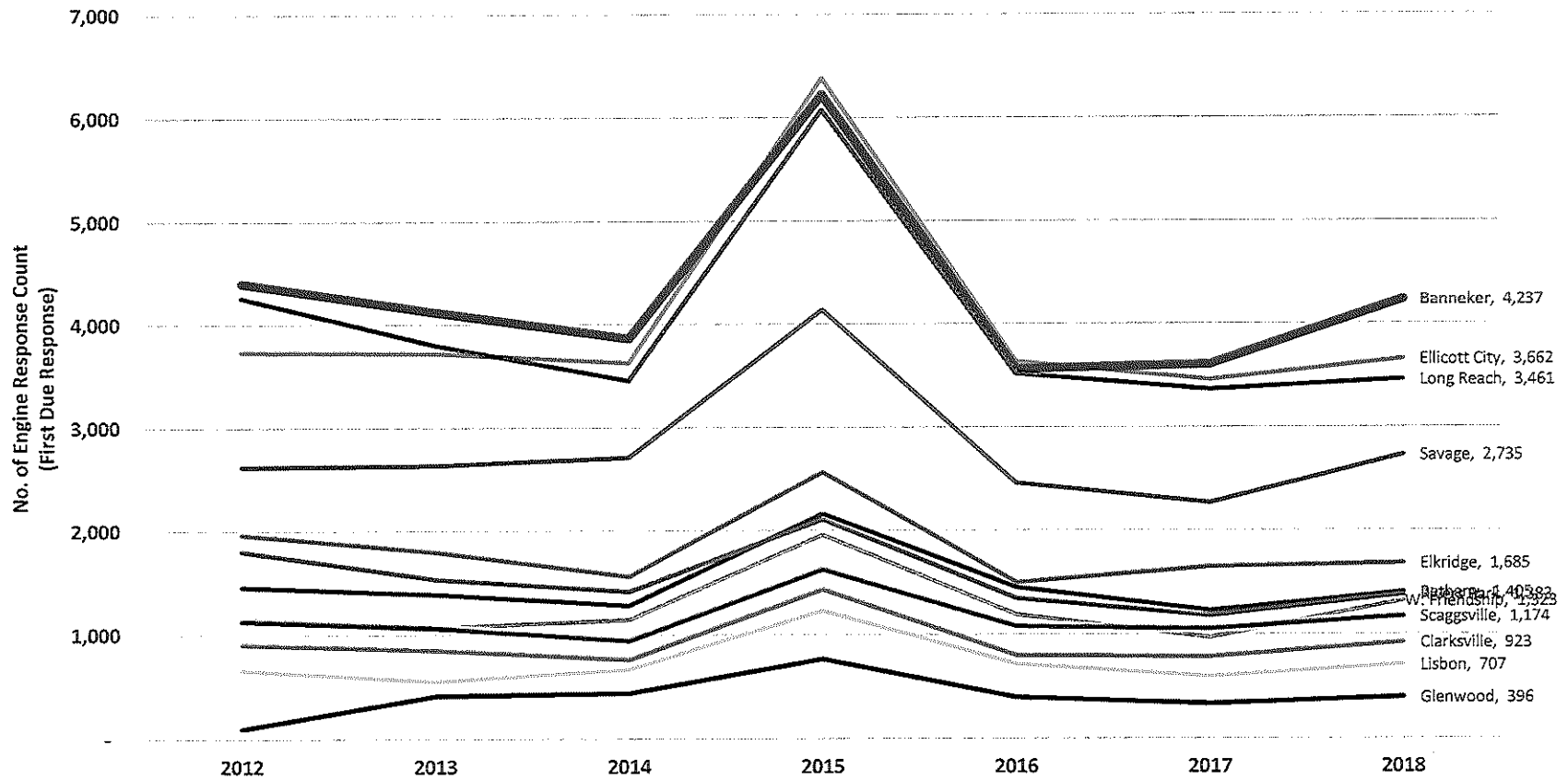


No. of Fire Engines 2012-2018 (First Due Station Response)

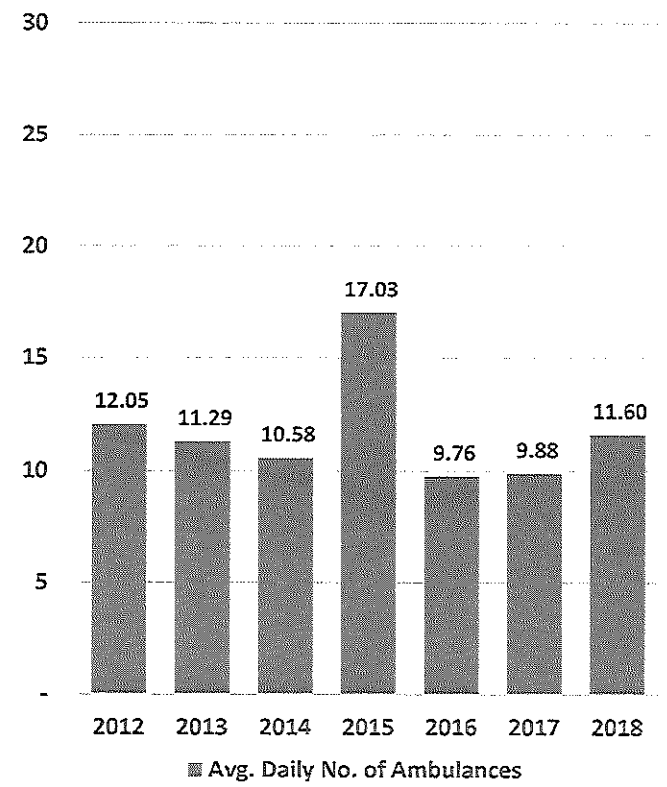
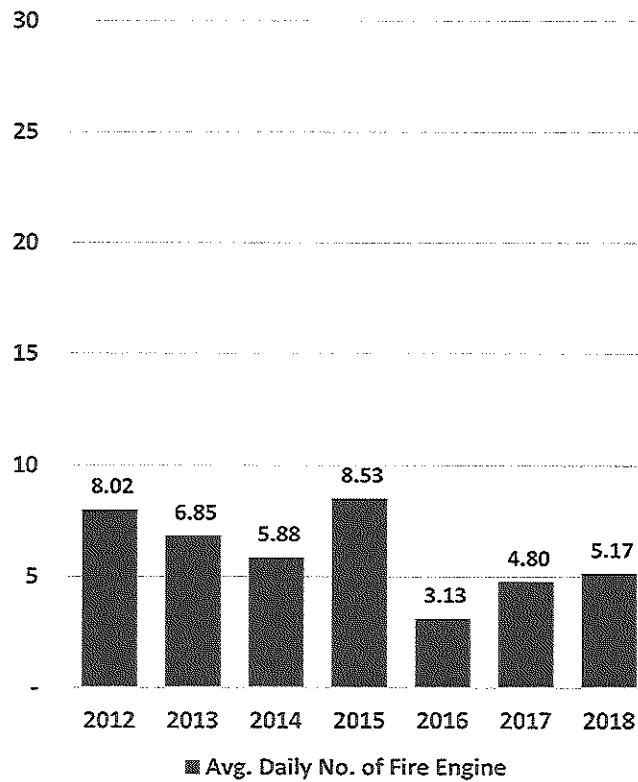
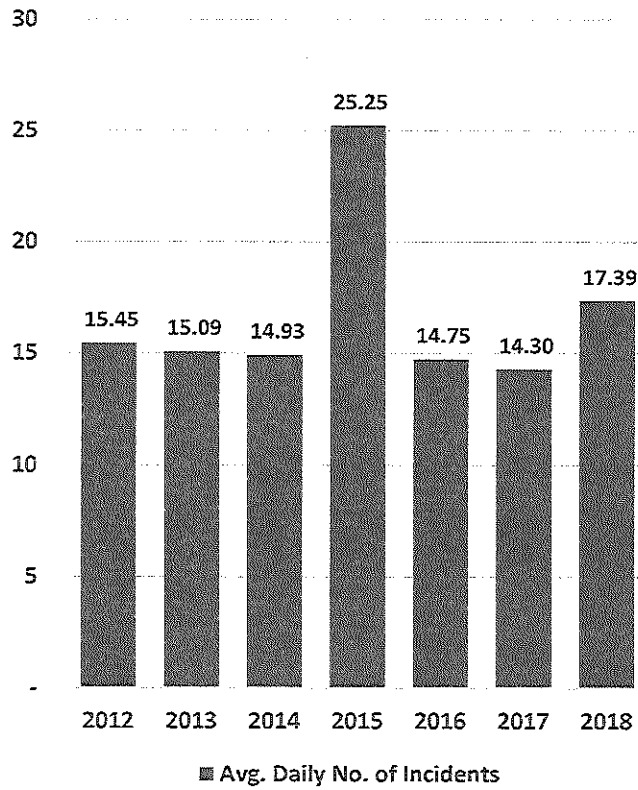


Source: Howard County Open Data Portal

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



Average Daily "Alarms"

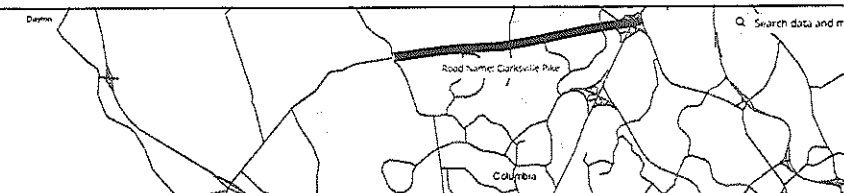


Source: Howard County Open Data Portal

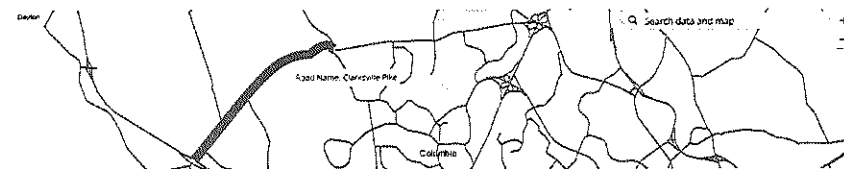
Average Annual Weighted Daily Traffic Route 108 Sections

Maryland Annual Average Daily Traffic - Annual Average Daily Traffic (SHA Statewide AADT Lines)

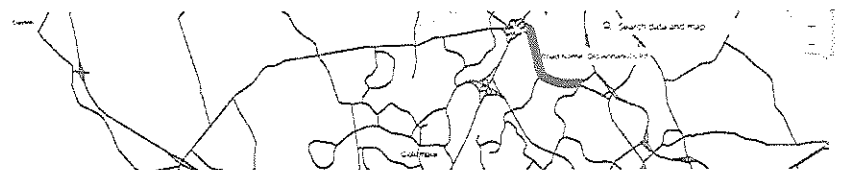
Last updated 10 months ago | 10,665 Records



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

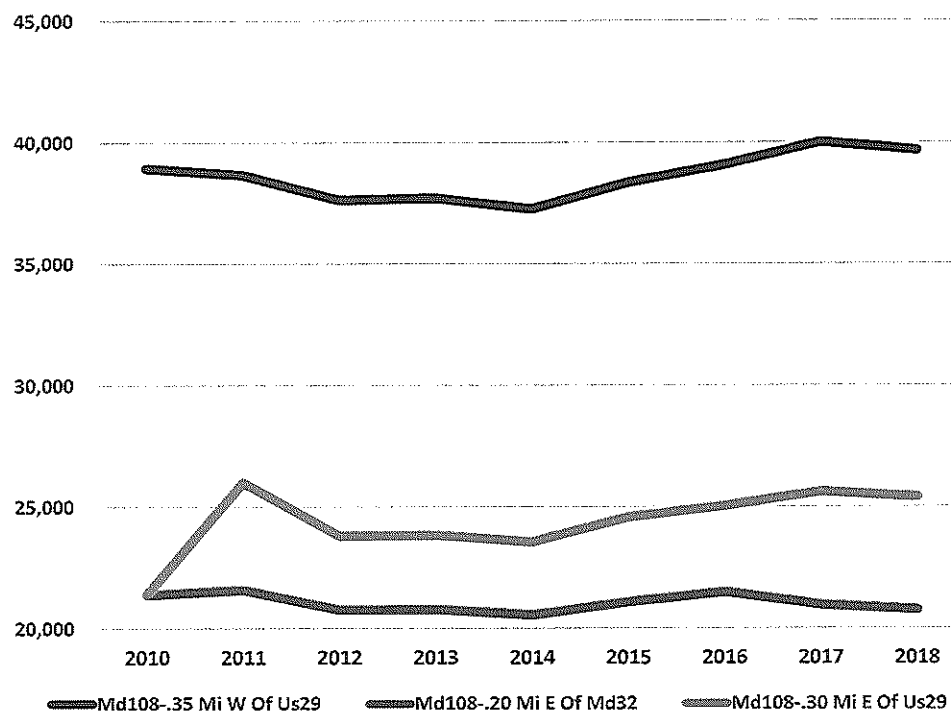


Md108-.20 Mi E Of Md32



Md108-.30 Mi E Of Us29

Proposed Section is on the Narrowest and Busiest section of 108



Source: Maryland GIS Traffic Count Data

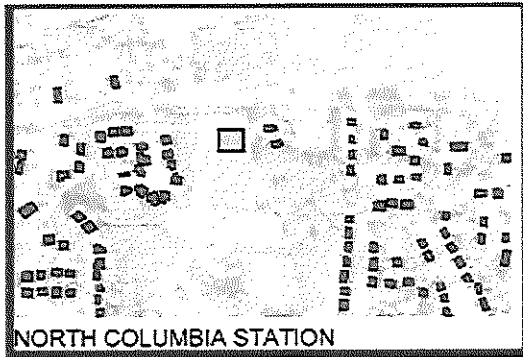
Example of Increased Congestion/Danger of 108

- 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 11th).



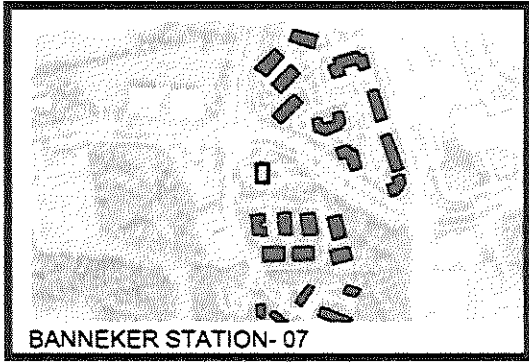
2020 Aerial Photo



Proposed Fire Station



Built 1969



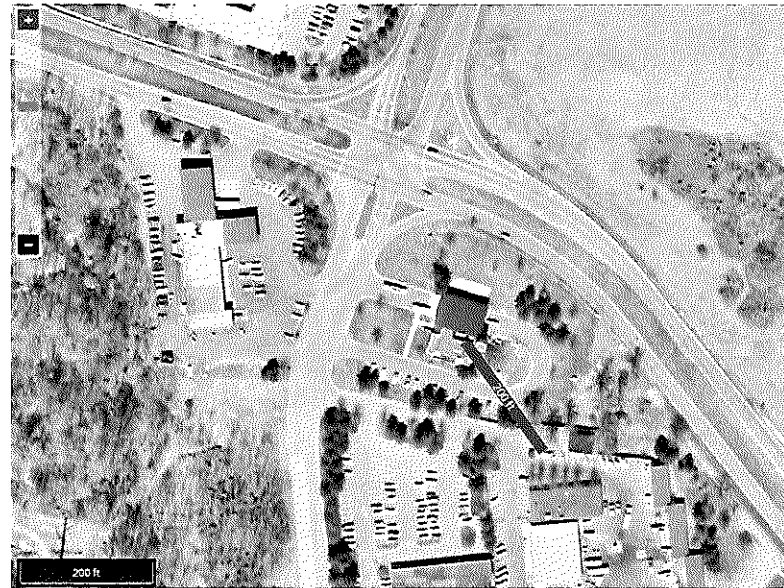
Banneker Fire Station

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

2020 Aerial Photo

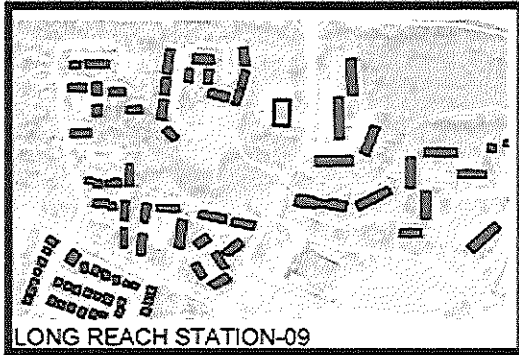


1984 Aerial Photo



Built 1972

Long Reach Fire Station



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

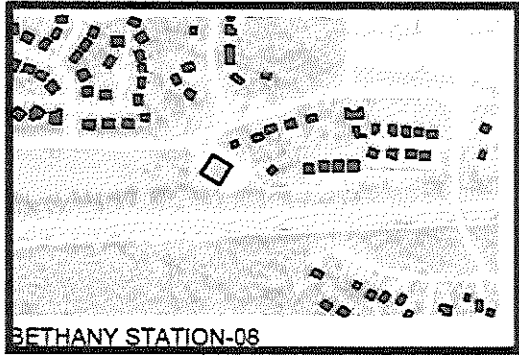
2020 Aerial Photo



1984 Aerial Photo



Built 1975



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

2020 Aerial Photo

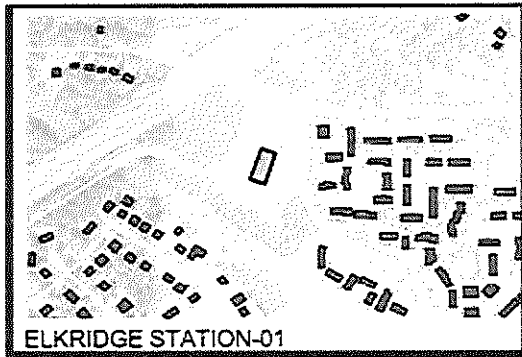


1984 Aerial Photo



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

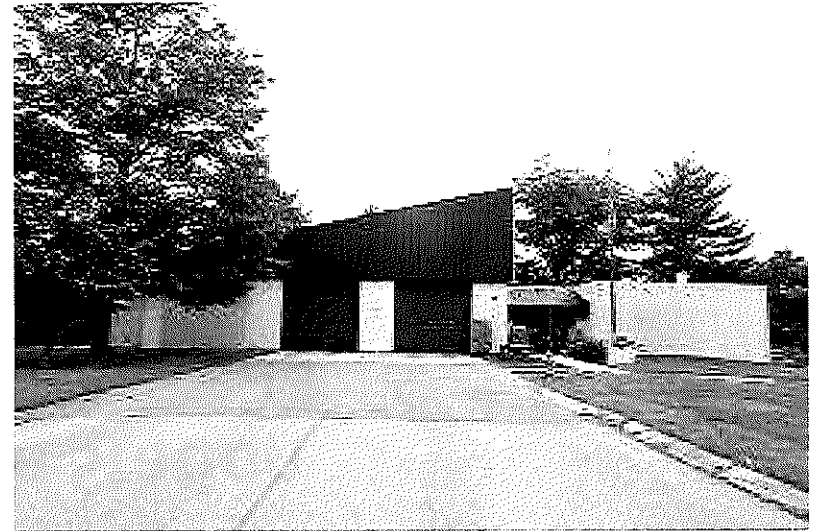
- 7:00 pm Introductions
- 7:10 pm Fire & Rescue Presentation
- 7:20 pm New Fire Station and Park Overview
- 7:30 pm Questions and Answers
- 8:20 pm Closing and Next Steps

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

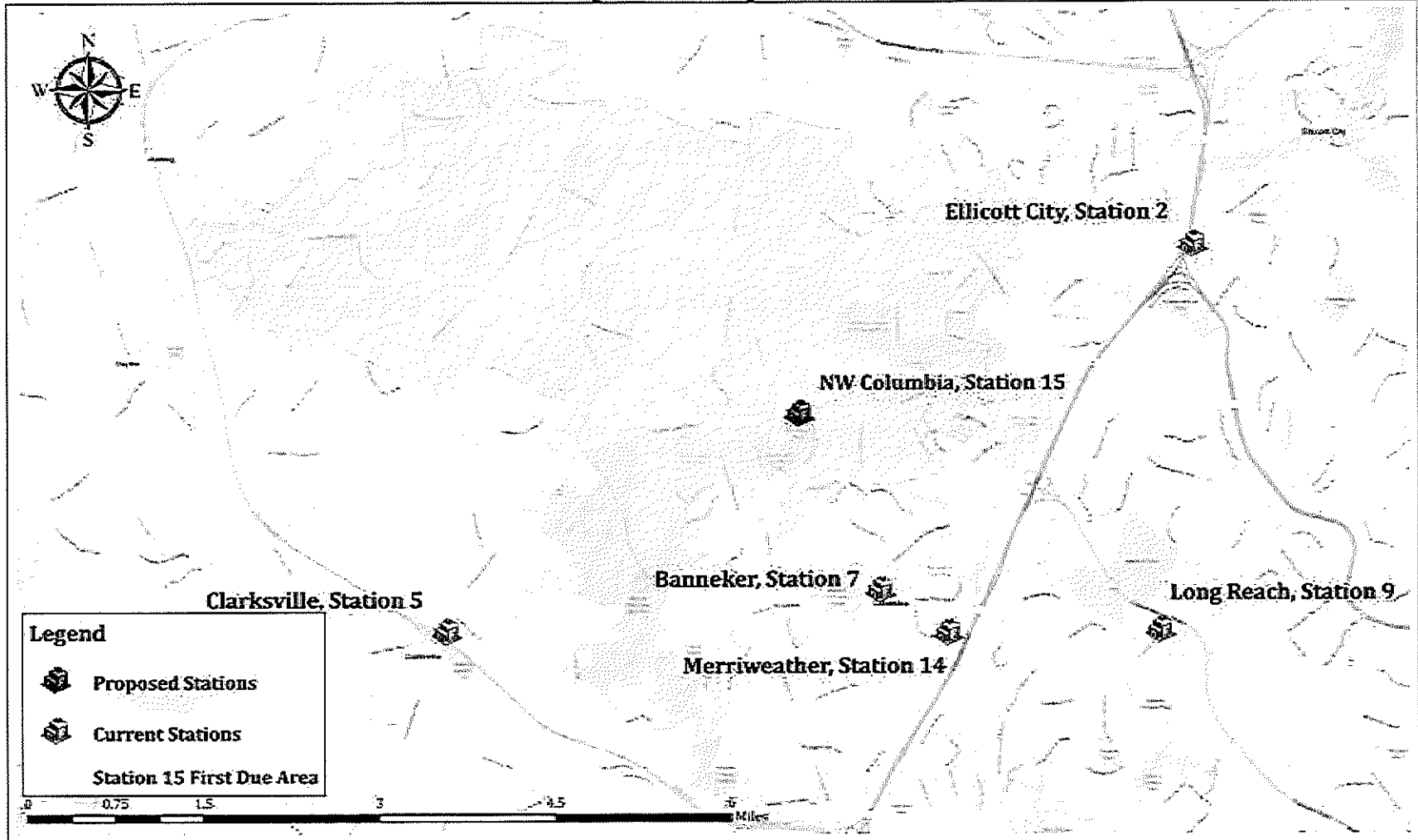


North Columbia Fire Station & Banneker Redevelopment

- 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

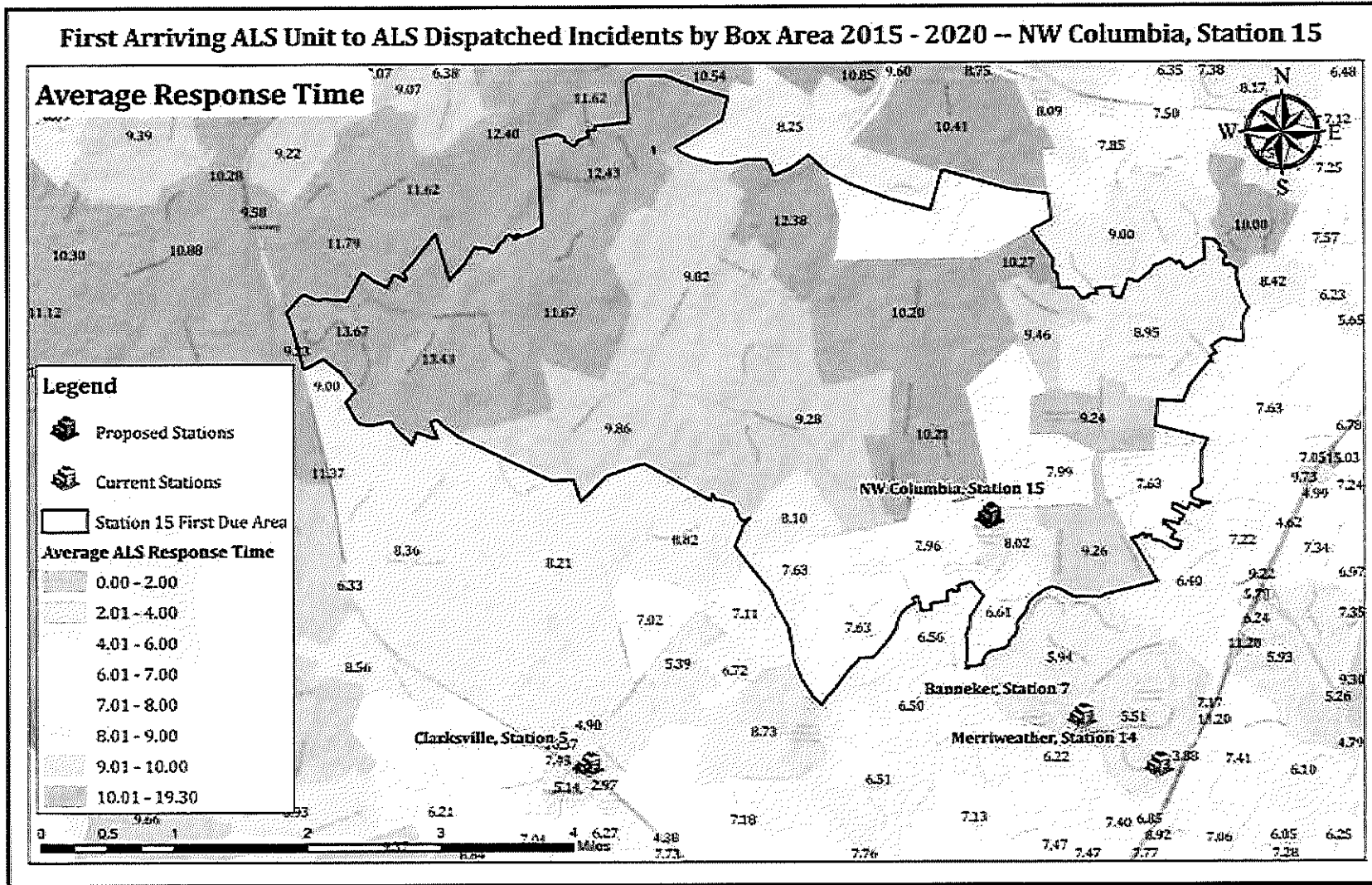
01. Fire Station

Northwest Columbia (Station 15) First Due Response Area



Updated: March 4th, 2021




01. Fire Station













01. Fire Station

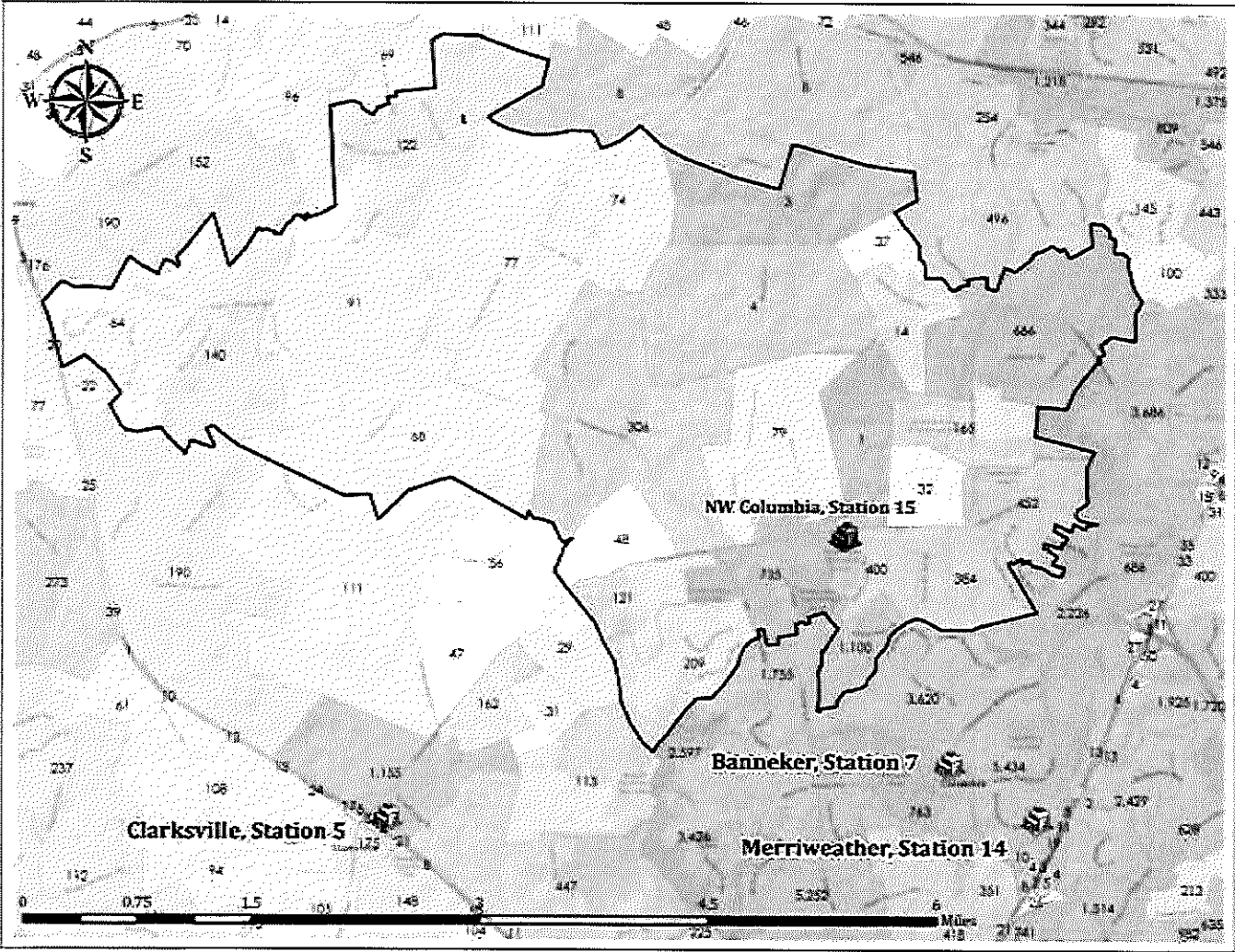
Incident Count 2015 - 2020

Legend

-  Proposed Stations
-  Current Stations
-  Station 15 First Due Area

2015 to 2020 Incident Count

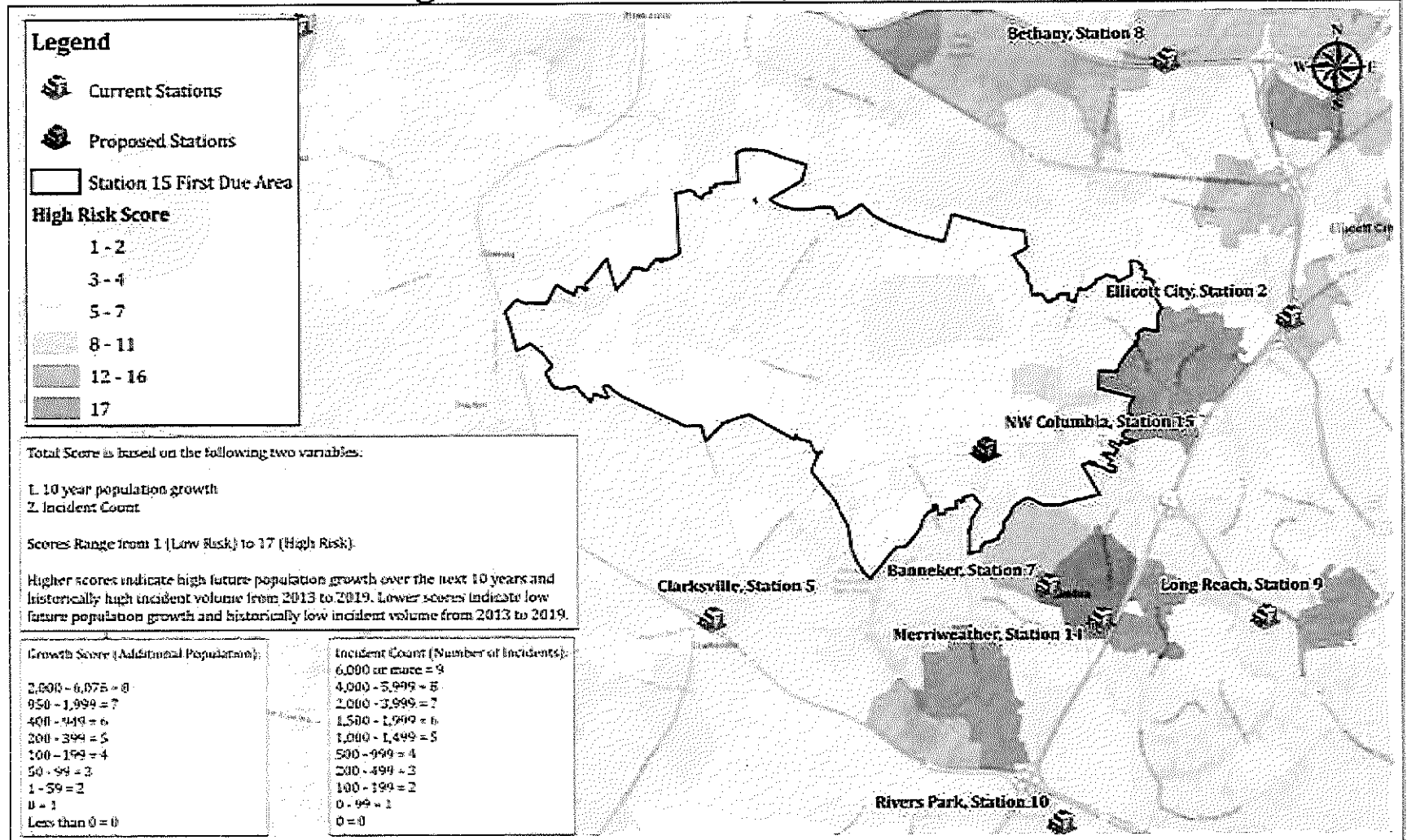
-  1 - 3
-  4 - 8
-  9 - 14
-  15 - 22
-  23 - 32
-  33 - 56
-  57 - 111
-  112 - 252
-  253 - 611
-  612 - 5,434



Updated: March 2th, 2021

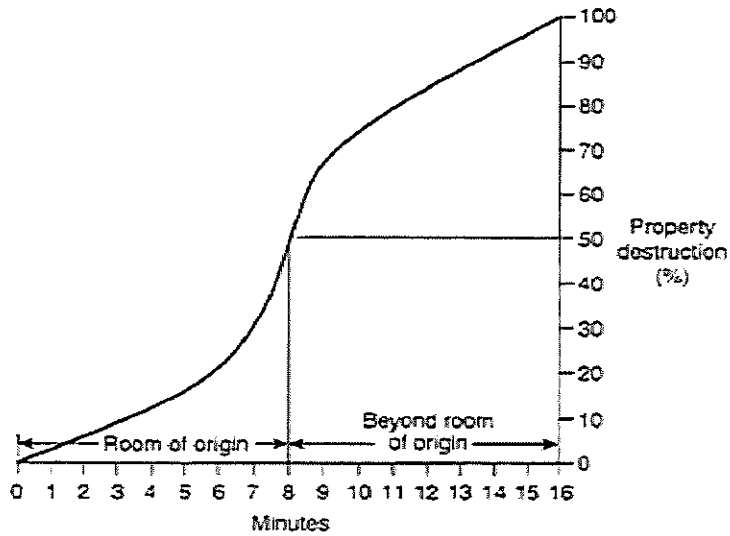
01. Fire Station

High Risk Locations by Fire Box Area



Updated: 3/11/2021

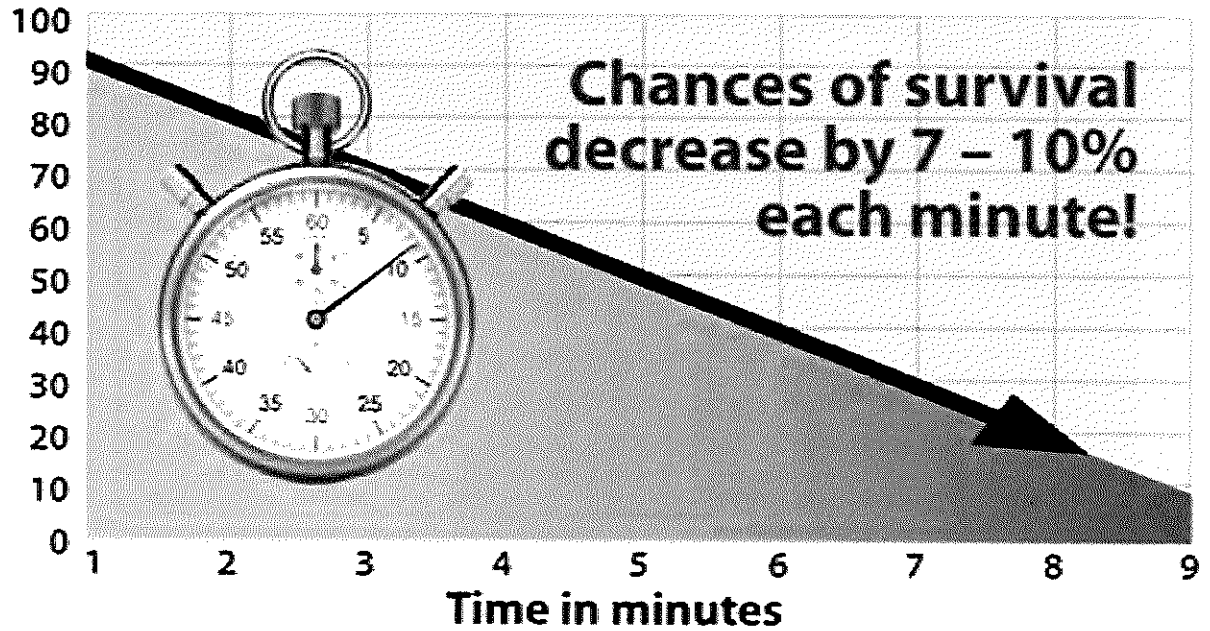
01. Fire Station

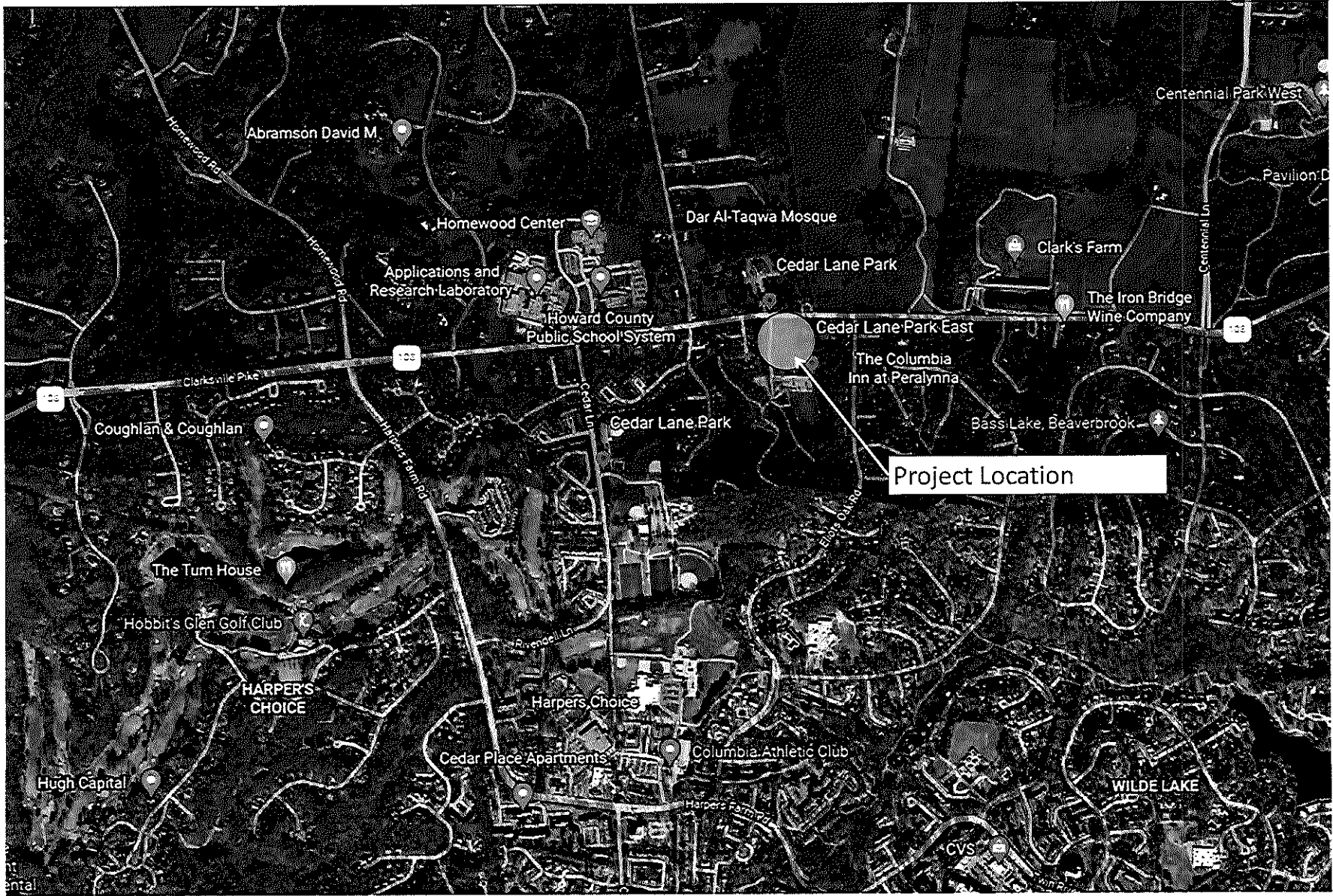


Fire Propagation Curve.

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



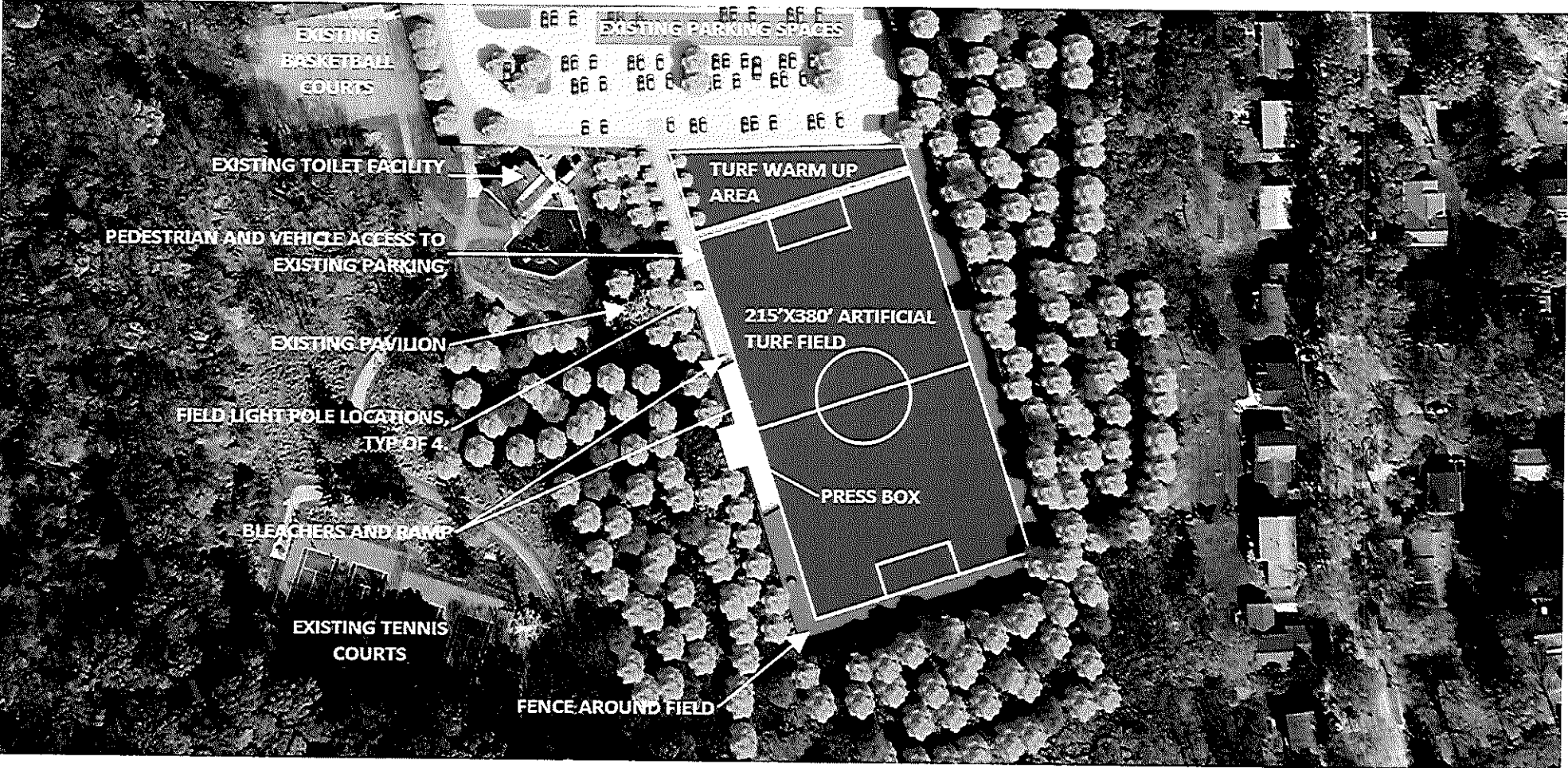
02. Facilities



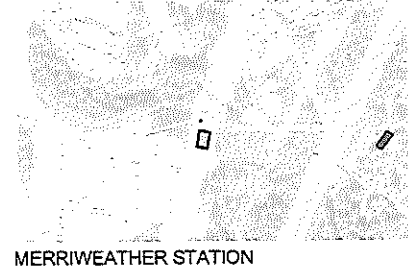
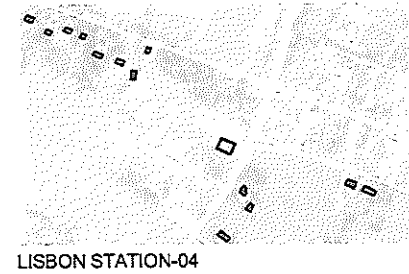
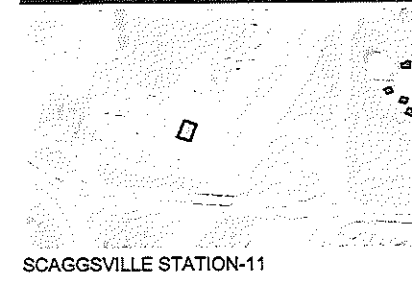
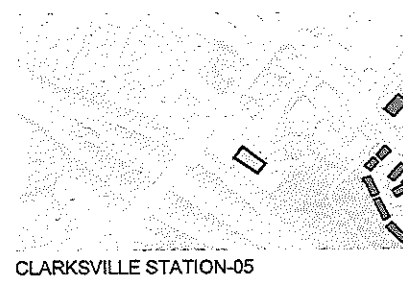
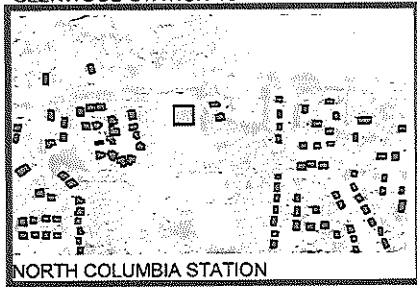
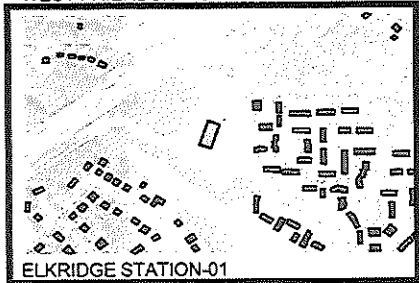
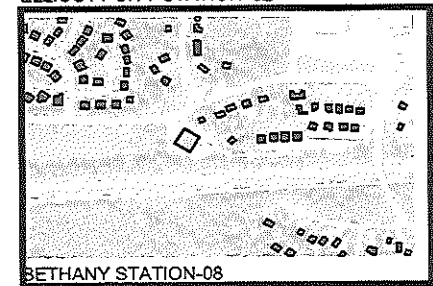
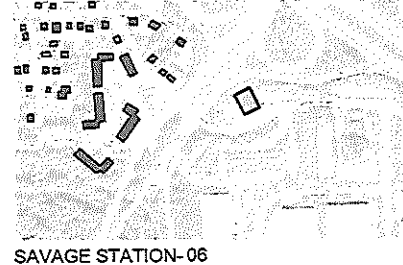
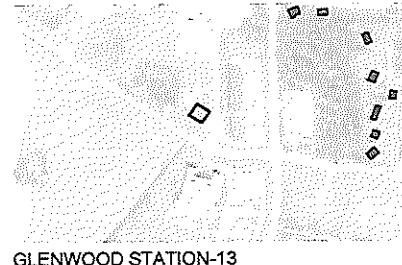
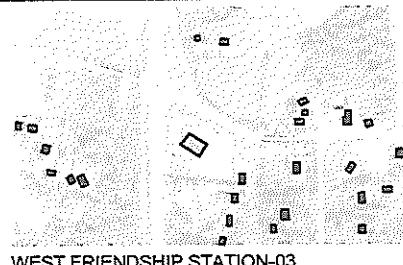
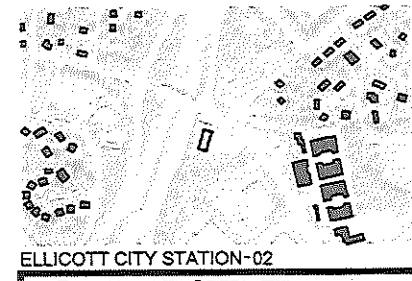
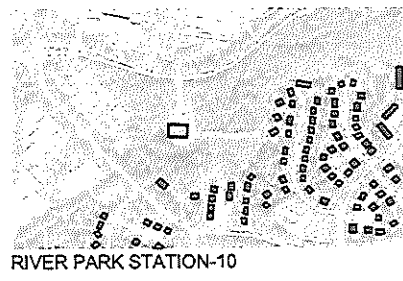
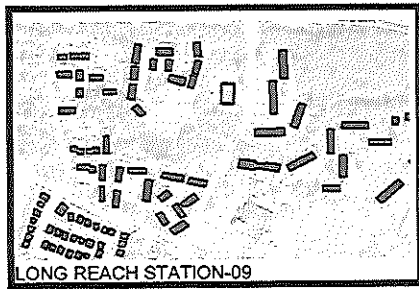
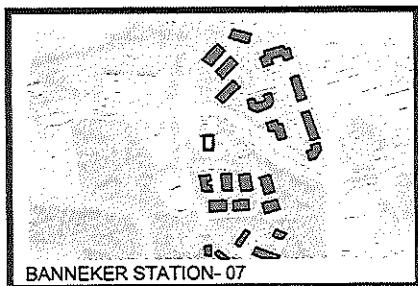
02. Facilities & Rec & Parks

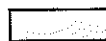



03. Rec & Parks



02. Building Location



 Fire Station
 Residential Buildings



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 to 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 you. 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

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 2nd 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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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

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.

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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.



HORIZON FOUNDATION

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

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.

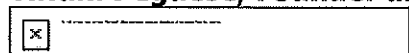
Now is the time to invest in a healthier future for all of our citizens across Howard County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

-Tiffani Peguese

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

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 29th, 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 5th, 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 27th, 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 25th 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

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

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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Following this statement, on May 5th, 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?

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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 25th 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

Sayers, Margery

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 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

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 CO2 (carbon-dioxide) and release O2 (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

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, sledged 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

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

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.

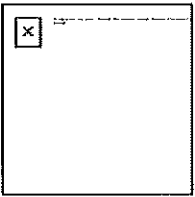
We all love Howard County and all that it stands for, but are most concerned that this will have a negative impact for home owners and the communities so nearby.

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

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

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

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 25th 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 21st, 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 8th 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

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

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
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Content-Type: text/plain; charset="utf-8"

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 roundabout will not solve the is= sue as it does not slow down vehicles and poses a safety hazard for childre= n.=C2=A0 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=A0

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

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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
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hazard for children. </s=
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were almost hit by a car that sped through the crosswalk and di= d not stop for us.<o:p></o:p></p><p
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pacing:-.25pt'><o:p> </o:p></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 style=3D'font-size:13.5pt'=

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

>make

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

school. <o:p></o:p></p><p class= s=3DMsoNormal><o:p> </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.</p><p

class=3DMsoNormal><o:p> </o:p></p><=

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

--_8E31CBE9-B00B-4A61-A64A-7966140F26BE_--

Sayers, Margery

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

•

Sayers, Margery

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

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-payper 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.

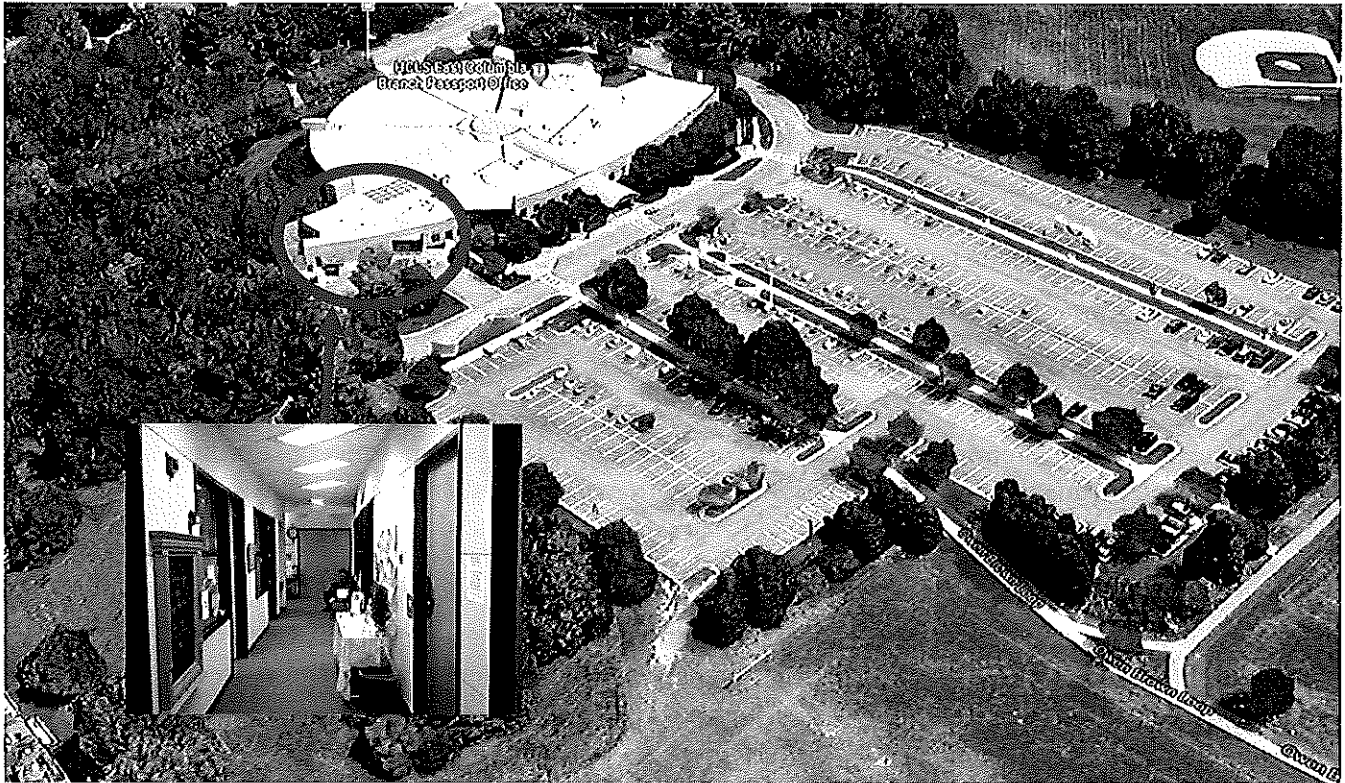
As seniors and taxpayers we are aware of the additional fiscal challenges COVID and other “must pay” items have brought to an already constrained county budget. We are also aware that the American Rescue Plan will provide much needed financial relief to Howard County and ... we are thrilled that that 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 Registered Voters 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

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

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

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

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

From: Felicia Strauss <felicia.strauss@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

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

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

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