

CR 68-023 HCLIS Budget

4/17-4/21

Sayers, Margery

From: Barbara McClayton <councilmail@howardcountymd.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 17, 2023 10:52 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Library Funding in the CIP

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

The Executive's Capital Improvements Budget has requested funding for two important library projects. I am writing to ask that the Council include full funding for both projects in the approved CIP. Libraries change lives. There is no other entity in the public or private sector that has the ability to reach as many people. Public Libraries are uniquely situated to serve people. Schools educate our youngsters. 50 plus centers provide a sense of community to people in that age group. HeadStart reaches the youngest children. People self select to interact with these entities. Libraries can provide information to direct residents who do not know which services they need! Libraries are accessible, open to everyone and exist to provide information service to everyone. I'd like to give you examples from our family. Our small kids learned how to learn in a group by attending storytime. The singing times tables cassettes taught multiplication tables to the primary school students. One of our kids took her library card away to college, because she learned how to use the Maryland online databases in high school and continued to use them in college and VISTA. Wherever her work has taken her, she always applies for a library card in her new community. My mother's quality of life was greatly improved by the availability of books on CD. My spouse loves to borrow music CD's. Programming has helped me make the transition from work to retirement. Howard County has an exemplary library system. The State requirements regarding per capita services must be viewed as a starting point for our County. The commitment that the Council makes now to plan for the new southwest branch and construction of the new Central Branch will allow the County to leverage State funds to ensure that we can meet our increasing needs while maintaining excellence. As we grow a more diverse community, the need for accessible services will only continue to grow. Please commit to support the CIP budget for Libraries.

Sayers, Margery

From: M. W. Smith <manfredsmith@verizon.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 5, 2023 11:26 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Main Library

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

From: Manfred Smith
9085 Flamepool Way
Columbia, MD 21045
To: Christina Rigby and Dr. Opel Jones
Re: Main Library
Date: April 05, 2023

Dear Representatives,

Just read about the \$144,000,000 for a new main library. I have a better idea: how about keeping the one we have and lowering taxes? How useful are physical libraries in a world where everything is going electronic? I have not visited any library for 5 years. Perhaps the old one works just fine?

Best,

Manfred Smith



**Howard County Council's Budget Hearing
April 18, 2023**

Testimony in support of Howard County Library System

Antonia Watts

Chair, Howard County Library System Board of Trustees

Good evening, Council Chair Rigby, Vice Chair Jung, and members of the County Council. I am Antonia Watts, Chair of the Howard County Library System Board of Trustees and a resident of ElkrIDGE. Thank you for the opportunity to testify about the Library's capital budget needs.

I wish to echo Tonya's thanks for giving us a year to come back to you with a stronger proposal. This new library, situated on the parking lot next to Whole Foods, gives the very best space in Howard County to our community. Residents are already excited about the educational opportunities across the lifespan that can be provided through the Lakefront Library, including enhanced early and intergenerational learning, and are looking forward to watching the July 4th fireworks from the new library, which will offer unparalleled views of this tradition celebrating our nation's independence.

This new site lowers the amount requested from the County by one-third. Thanks to a \$10 million commitment from the State this year and an additional \$10 million over subsequent years, a \$10 million commitment by the Library to conduct a capital campaign, grants, and \$80M in tax increment funding (TIF) revenue, the County's commitment is \$26 million in General Obligation Bonds, which is one third less than the \$35 million request for the Merriweather District site.

For those unfamiliar with the TIF, the County Council dedicated future incremental property tax revenues generated within a defined area or district toward an economic development project or public improvement project in the community. Using the TIF has always been an intended use for the new library.

And this library will serve the entire community – from babies to seniors. One of the people who completed the survey noted, "A library is for education of the whole person and should be closely integrated with the school system and community organizations. The library is a crucial 'third space' - a place that is not home or work/school." If you are looking for ways to revitalize Columbia's lakefront, this is it.

Our community leaders are excited about it. Our educational partners, Dr. Martirano from the school system and Dr. Willis from the community college, wholeheartedly support this expanded educational resource for their students and the entire community.

Thank you for considering this request to approve the Lakefront Library and deliver this incredible resource to our community.

Respectfully submitted,

Antonia Watts

Chair, HCLS Board of Trustees



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Lanlan Xu

County Council Hearing – April 18, 2023

FY 2024 Capital Budget: Funding for complete streets and new Howard County Lakefront Library

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.

While we have made progress in investing in local public health efforts in recent years, much more work remains. We urge you to prioritize funding in this year's budget to promote the health and well-being of our residents and advance racial equity in our community.

Protect historic funding for complete streets

We thank you for your partnership in recent years to increase funding for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure projects to historic levels. With your commitment, the vision of complete streets has come closer to reality, making it easier and safer for residents to walk, bike, use their wheelchair and use public transportation. We urge you to reaffirm the County's commitment to our shared complete streets vision by protecting the new record \$12+ million for bike and pedestrian infrastructure proposed by County Executive Ball in the FY24 capital budget. This funding will further advance projects along Dobbin Road, US Route 1, Elkridge Main Street, Guilford Road and MD 108 and others – key projects of great need that we enthusiastically support.

While continuing to identify new projects, we also urge you to prioritize implementing and completing projects that have been identified and funded in previous budget cycles. Everyone in Howard County – no matter who they are or where they live – should be able to safely, easily and comfortably bike, walk or take public transportation anywhere they need to go.

Protect funding for the new Howard County Lakefront Library

The Foundation strongly supports the creation of the recently announced Lakefront Library and we urge you to fully fund this endeavor in the FY 2024 budget. The new library will be a civic hub for residents to learn and

for our community organizations to forge new partnerships with one another. In particular, the Foundation is very excited to work with the library as it expands racial equity initiatives. We have been working alongside the Howard County Library System for several years to advance racial equity and support HCLS's racial equity educational programming. With the Lakefront Library's expanded capacity for this work, we will be able to bring new partners to the table, advance the work of our equity grantees and further enable our community organizations to join in these efforts. By strengthening and embracing our cultural institutions like our library system, Howard County can be a model for equitable and thriving communities.

Investing in our public health, advancing racial equity and strengthening community partnerships will help all our residents live long, healthy and vibrant lives. We look forward to our continued work together to build a healthier, safer, more connected and more equitable community. Thank you for your consideration.

4/18
HCCS



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

I, Tonya Aikens, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

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

County Council regarding Capital Projects - Libraries to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

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

Printed Name: Tonya Aikens

Signature: *Tonya Aikens*

Date: 4/12/2023

Organization: Howard County Library System

Organization Address: 9411 Frederick Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042

9411 Frederick Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042

Number of Members: 200+

Name of Chair/President: Tonya Aikens

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 2 hours prior to the start of the Public Hearing.



**Howard County Council's Budget Hearing
April 18, 2023**

Testimony in support of Howard County Library System

Tonya Aikens

President & CEO, Howard County Library System

Good evening, Council Chair Rigby, Vice Chair Jung, and members of the County Council. I am Tonya Aikens, President & CEO of Howard County Library System and a resident of Columbia. Thank you for the opportunity to testify about the Library's capital budget needs.

I will provide a brief history for those who may not know why we are talking about building a new library so close to an existing branch.

The Downtown Columbia Plan, approved unanimously by the County Council in 2010 and updated in 2016, called for the demolition of the existing Central Branch as part of the revitalization and redevelopment of Downtown Columbia. The plan, a binding agreement between the master developer and Howard County, originally called for the replacement library to be built in the Crescent Neighborhood (now known as the Merriweather District) with housing built on top.

When we came before the Council last year to request funds for planning the new branch, you raised a number of good questions and put the money in a contingency fund. That gave us time to go back to the master developer and work with them to move the new library to a better place: the new Lakefront District. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, the Library team, and the community, thank you. Thank you for the opportunity to create a better library on a better site. Thank you for the opportunity to give the best public space in Howard County to our residents.

Estimated cost for the library building is \$94 million or \$940 dollars per square foot. This cost is on par with estimated costs for other local library projects. Anne Arundel County's new 40,000 square foot Glen Burnie Branch is estimated at \$47 million or \$1,175 dollars per square foot. Our Elkridge Branch was just over \$25 million at \$717 dollars per square foot in 2017.

Every project has its own set of circumstances and dynamics. The proposed Lakefront Library's circumstance and dynamics is that it will be located on one of the most prestigious sites in the County and possibly our region.

There is a range in cost for every library. For example, the Miller Branch is a 63,000 square foot library that cost \$29M in 2011. Per the Engineering News Record City Construction Cost index for Baltimore, our Miller Branch would cost \$51M, in today's dollars.

Another dynamic library project is the new Library in Silver Spring, a 65,000 square foot project, opened in 2015. Its \$64M cost had its own circumstances that made it a bold vision for the community; it would cost approximately \$105M if built today, per that same cost index referenced previously.

What we cannot lose sight of is that this project's total cost of approximately \$143 million covers a Library at approximately \$94 million, a public parking structure at \$38 million- the first public parking solution to be situated at the lakefront, and a public park and transportation improvements to the area at about \$10 million. As you can see, we are neatly within the standards of cost for other dynamic libraries.

The master developer will use a local design firm with significant library experience for architecture and engineering as the project moves through the design process toward construction documents. This is



common practice on high design buildings, where there is a design architect and an architect of record who works with the design architect to translate the design into buildable drawings.

Design commitments include spaces that are welcoming and accessible to all, are ADA compliant, restrooms with adult changing tables, and bird friendly windows.

We've heard an outpouring of enthusiasm about this project. More than 900 residents have participated in our listening and engagement sessions and completed the survey to date, contributing such comments as:

- The library is a foundational part of our community.
- In so many ways, it is the heart of the community.
- The library is a space where the community can gather and grow together.

Many expressed a desire for interactive children's space (like Storyville). With only 54% of Howard County students testing ready for kindergarten, there is a critical need for increased instructional and enrichment opportunities for ages birth through 5 and caregivers. We've heard from seniors their desire for intergenerational spaces to learn, share and gather.

We want to give that to all of them. But to do it well, and in a way that is flexible and plans for the future, we need this new Lakefront Library. Our community is asking for it.

We ask you to approve moving ahead with this project which is a tangible representation of our collective commitment to Howard County residents.

Respectfully submitted,

Tonya Aikens
HCLS President & CEO

4/18
HCLS



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

I, Shehlla Khan, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

People Acting Together in Howard to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

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

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

Printed Name: Shehlla Khan

Signature: 

Date: 4/14/23

Organization: People Acting Together in Howard

Organization Address: 5885 Robert Oliver Place, Columbia, MD 21045

Number of Members: 10,000

Name of Chair/President: Rev. Tyrone P Jones, IV

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 2 hours prior to the start of the Public Hearing.

4118
HCL5/HCC



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

I, Leonardo McClarty, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

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

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

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

Printed Name: Leonardo McClarty

Signature: Leonardo McClarty Digitally signed by Leonardo McClarty
Date: 2023.04.17 10:17:19 -04'00'

Date: _____

Organization: Howard County Chamber

Organization Address: 6240 Old Dobbin Lane, Ste 110, Columbia 21045

6240 Old Dobbin Lane, Ste 110, Columbia 21045

Number of Members: 700

Name of Chair/President: Linda Ostovitz

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 2 hours prior to the start of the Public Hearing.

4/18
HCLB
General



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

I, D'Paul Nibber, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

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

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

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

Printed Name: D'Paul Nibber

Signature: *D'Paul Nibber*

Date: 4/18/23

Organization: Horizon Foundation

Organization Address: 10221 Wincopin Circle, Suite 200, Columbia, MD 21044

10221 Wincopin Circle, Suite 200, Columbia, MD 21044

Number of Members: 10

Name of Chair/President: Nikki Highsmith Vernick

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 2 hours prior to the start of the Public Hearing.

4118
HCPSS / HCLS



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

I, Jackie Eng, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

Housing Affordability Coalition to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

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

support for | opposition to | undecided on this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Jackie Eng

Signature: _____

Date: April 16, 2023

Organization: Howard County Housing Affordability Coalition

Organization Address: 9770 Patuxent Woods Drive Columbia MD 21046

9770 Patuxent Woods Drive Columbia MD 21046

Number of Members: 215 individuals; 42 organizations

Name of Chair/President: Jackie Eng, Coordinator

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

Sayers, Margery

From: Howard County <councilmail@howardcountymd.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 21, 2023 11:53 AM
To: CouncilDistrict4@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: Capital Budget - Library

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

Submitted on Fri, 04/21/2023 - 11:52 Submitted by: Anonymous Submitted values are: *Name* Amy Jackson *Email* amyjack1@verizon.net [1] *Phone Number* 3017427971 [2] *Address* 12133 Flowing Water Trail Clarksville, Maryland. 21029 *Subject* Capital Budget - Library *Message* I'm not sure where you stand on this, but I wanted to let you know I think it's fiscally irresponsible to build a new, expensive library when our schools are literally crumbling and kids are being taught in portables. Until all the HCPSS schools are in good shape, I don't believe we should be spending money on upgrading a library we don't "need". Thank you! -Amy Jackson [1] mailto:amyjack1@verizon.net [2] tel:3017427971

Sayers, Margery

From: Chris Krupiarz <cjkrup@outlook.com>
Sent: Friday, April 21, 2023 12:37 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Re: HCLS Lakefront Library Concerns

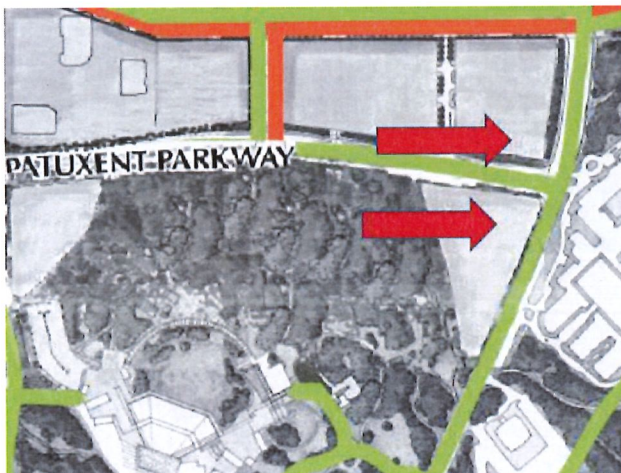
[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council Members,

I would like to clarify one point in my original about what Howard Hughes is getting from this. There seems to be a misconception that Howard Hughes is "donating" the land to the county or "providing" it. In fact, Councilwoman Rigby, you mentioned Howard Hughes would "give the land to the county" on Tuesday. From the library FAQ, Howard Hughes is not donating the land:

Howard Hughes Corporation will provide at no cost to the County, the two sites in exchange for the current library site to develop in the future, after the new Lakefront Library is completed. The current library site has been slated for demolition as part of the Downtown Columbia plan (adopted in 2010 and updated in 2016), which recommended that a new library be built in Columbia's new Downtown. Symphony Woods Road and Little Patuxent Parkway will be realigned through the existing library site, as shown in the Downtown Columbia Plan, and the residual land will be retained by Howard Hughes for future development.

This is a land swap where Howard Hughes will end up with county land from the old library location which they will use for further development as they see fit. That will end up including land south of Union Jack's and the northeast corner of Symphony Woods. Both locations are prime real estate. Saying Howard Hughes is donating this land is like saying when baseball teams trade players they donate them to another team.



(Arrows added to where the Howard Hughes land will be according the Downtown Columbia Plan)

To be honest, I'm not even sure I care if they get that land. In fact, I would expect Howard Hughes to want something in return. They're a business not some benevolent caretaker of all things Rouse. But the County Executive made no mention of it nor can I find anywhere else but buried on this FAQ.

Please no longer use the word transparency if this is the way county business is conducted.

Sincerely,
Chris Krupiarz

From: Chris Krupiarz
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 11:50 PM
To: CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: HCLS Lakefront Library Concerns

Dear Council Members,

I would like to express to my concern about the budget for the new Lakefront Library and the process by which the design has been chosen.

If this budget is approved with a sole source contract, we are going to allow Howard Hughes, a Texas-based developer, to work with Heatherwick Studio, a London-based architectural firm, to have carte blanche control over one of the most critical buildings in our county.

Our county. Not their county. Our county.

HCLS is conducting listening sessions for Howard Countians to express what they would like in a new library and have that conveyed back to Howard Hughes and Heatherwick. I also heard that Heatherwick was invited to stroll the halls of our libraries to see what they were like. However, you don't need to do any of that with a local firm because they know our county. Employees of local firms don't need surveys to figure out what our citizens need because their neighbors tell them. Employees of local firms don't need tours of our libraries because they use them.

This evening I listened to the HCLS Board of Trustees meeting. Only a handful of high level slides were presented by the library system regarding the new plan and after a brief discussion, the plan was approved. Based on the review of previous minutes, this was the only time this plan was discussed by the Board. You may recall that in the recent response to the investigation by the County Auditor that the HCLS Board of Trustees Chair stated "The Board takes very seriously its obligation to oversee Library operations." And yet a \$143 million plan scant on details was approved within minutes.

That leaves the Council as the only entity left to ask the hard questions to ensure our money is well spent: How did this come about? What is Howard Hughes's interest? Is it the free \$38 million parking garage we would build for them? Will library patrons have to pay for parking? Why choose an architect that has never designed a library before? What happens when those grand plans fall apart like many of Heatherwick's other projects? How come the county didn't receive a detailed plan for this project? How sure are we about the \$20 million we need to get from the State?

I ask you to please do your due diligence prior to approving this budget.

We need a new library. But we need to ensure it is done right.

Sincerely,

Chris Krupiarz
Ellicott City, MD



**Howard County Council's Budget Hearing
April 18, 2023**

Testimony in support of Howard County Library System

Tonya Aikens

President & CEO, Howard County Library System

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I will provide a brief history for those who may not know why we are talking about building a new library so close to an existing branch.

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We ask you to approve moving ahead with this project which is a tangible representation of our collective commitment to Howard County residents.

Respectfully submitted,

Tonya Aikens
HCLS President & CEO