



www.columbiatowncenter.org

ph: 410.730.4744

January 23, 2024

**TO: Dr. Calvin Ball, Howard County Executive
Howard County Council**

FROM: Columbia Town Center Residential Community Association (TCCA) Board

RE: FY2025 HoCo Budget Comments from TCCA Board

We would like the County Executive and County Council to consider the following comments when preparing the FY2025 HoCo Budget:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Larry Akinyooye
Alyse Carter
Dean Dworkin
Lynn Foehrkolb
Jamie Hibbard
Collin Sullivan

COLUMBIA COUNCIL

Dedrick Asante-
Muhammad

1. **Install more crosswalks on Little Patuxent Parkway:** the stretch of roadway from Governor Warfield to Union Jacks on Little Patuxent Parkway is dangerous for all pedestrians especially those that are sight and hearing impaired. TCCA Board would like more crosswalks with multi-sensory signage (sound and texture) for all residents to use.
2. **Purchase the Vacant Lord & Taylor Building in the Town Center to be Used as a Youth Center.** This is a logical location as it is one of the most visited attractions in Howard County by all age groups. This request was sent to your attention in August 2023. Since that time, we surveyed all residents in Town Center (apartments, condominiums, home, and townhomes) and **70% of all support this location as a Teen Center:** "Do you think adding a Youth Center with programs and activities at the Columbia Mall for kids 11-17 is a good idea?"
3. **Re-hire Community Resource Officers:** all Village Managers sent a letter to Chief Der on September 20, 2023, requesting immediate reinstatement of the Community Resource Officers. This decades-long program has worked successfully in all ten villages. The decision to redeploy them to the patrol level was disappointing and has resulted in numerous community complaints within the villages.
4. **Improve Route 29 Lights and Access Roads Near Toby's Dinner Theater:** The signage to/from Route 29 to Little Patuxent Parkway and off Merriweather drive are poor and need attention. The bottleneck near the Central Library and poor signage has led to many accidents. We would like these issues evaluated and improved during the next budget period.

COLUMBIA TOWN CENTER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

5430 Vantage Point Road, Columbia, MD 21044 ■ e: villagemanager@columbiatowncenter.org

5. **Improve Winter Treatment of Roads in and Around the Mall Area:** We request a re-evaluation of your snow removal plan around the mall area and ask that you collaborate with the stakeholders (Howard Hughes Corporation and Brookfield Properties) to improve the plan. The first two snowstorms in January 2024 did not meet residents' expectations based on calls to the Town Center Community Association.
6. **Fund Shelters in Columbia Association Facilities:** We request that you provide funding to the Columbia Association to offer winterization programs to the homeless in space that is underused or space that can be built on to provide additional shelters.
7. **Fully Fund Schools' Capital and Operating Budgets:** all outstanding capital projects for schools should be completed on a priority basis before resources are diverted to other County projects. Some projects are a decade behind expectations, and it is a shame that many students must attend school in portable/temporary units. As important, the TCCA Board asks that the County Executive fully fund the HCPSS operating budget (in addition to fully funding the capital budget) — the number of proposed cuts is severe, and we want to support teachers to deliver the highest quality of education to all HCPSS students. Being one of the richest counties in the State should allow us the flexibility to allocate/divert more financial resources to these critical areas.

We appreciate your consideration of our views for the Howard County FY2025 Budget. Thank you.

From: [Malcolm, P. Ann](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: Long Reach Shopping Center - In need of an uplift.
Date: Friday, February 9, 2024 10:15:07 AM

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ANN MALCOLM

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