

Preserve Historic Savage

Hefty Family [hefty5@verizon.net]

Sent: Saturday, April 23, 2016 8:35 PM**To:** CouncilMail

I was pleased to hear that the council approved electric for Baldwin Hall. It is a nice little venue and adjacent park, but the park is so very dark at night. One could walk to Savage Mill much more safely if it was lit. With so much new building in the area, it is nice to see some of the historic areas preserved. I live in North Laurel and have enjoyed events in Savage and found the community association very welcoming.

Debbie Hefty



The First Museum in Maple Lawn
A Community in Howard County, MD

AFRICAN ART MUSEUM OF MARYLAND

A 501(c)(3) NOT FOR PROFIT INSTITUTION—FOUNDED IN 1980

Celebrating 35 Years 1980-2015

April 23, 2016

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IN MEMORIAM

CLAUDE M. LIGON, PhD, PE
COMMISSIONER, MPSC

To: Chairman and Members of the Howard County Council

This message is sent with deep appreciation for your consideration of monetary support for 2016-2017 for the African Art Museum of Maryland (AAMM), which was founded in Howard County by two Howard County Residents in 1980.

AAMM is known to be one of only three Museums in the United States devoted exclusively to the art expressions of Africa. Now, in its fourth decade of service to the community, the Museum continues its In-Museum and Outreach activities to the broad population through the following mission statement:

In service to the public, the African Art Museum of Maryland, through an exploration of the art of Africa, is dedicated to the encouragement of broader understanding and awareness of the diverse cultures and artistic expressions of the people of the African continent. AAMM collects, exhibits, and preserves for the public, treasured objects reflecting Africa's traditional societies.

Though small, the AAMM has offered to the public innovative and admired programming. Because of its innovative and successful programs—to include the "House of JAZZ" and "Passport to African Art & Culture", and its rare art objects, the Museum has enjoyed repeated space in periodicals, television and has been well represented on various Boards and Panels for cultural and art groups.

Currently, AAMM is privileged to include in the exhibit forty objects from the Shirley and Ben Vonderheide Collection of Bundu Society masks and Nomali (carved stone objects) from the areas of Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea (West Africa). The Nomali have been documented to be more than one hundred (100) years old and have never before been shown anywhere. It is a high privilege for the African Art Museum of Maryland to be the first Museum to exhibit these works.



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A reception, date has been determined, to formally invite the public to view these objects; Sunday 12 June 2013.

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Your past support provided for the perpetuity of the AAMM in its current location and allowed opportunities for the Museum to continue its educational programs to the entire population. The Museum's reputation, which is stellar and its activities have historically brought visitors to the County from across the US and beyond.

On behalf of all associated with the African Art Museum of Maryland, I thank you for your past support, and with humility, urge the passage of the budget granting \$12,000 to the AAMM.

Sincerely,

Doris H. Ligon
Founding Director
African Art Museum

Proposed Funding Appropriation: African Art Museum of MD

cligonj@comcast.net

Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2016 10:10 PM

To: CouncilMail

Cc: African Art Museum [africanartmuseumofmd@verizon.net]; Ballman, Ralph [ralballman@comcast.net]; cligonj@comcast.net; African Art Museum [africanartmuseumofmd@verizon.net]

Honorable Howard County Council Members,

I solicit your support for passage of the proposed \$12,000 appropriation for our county's African Art Museum of Maryland (AAMM), one of three museums in the United States dedicated solely to the education, appreciation, and preservation of African Art.

The AAMM has been a well-respected crown-jewel in our state, and more importantly Howard County, for almost 40 years. For 40 years, my Mother, Doris Ligon, has led the AAMM and has enthusiastically provided cultural African Art education to not only our county's residents, but also to people from across the globe, who have chosen to visit our region. This includes vibrant school children, our community Seniors, our physically and mentally-challenged community, visiting Ambassadors, and corporate executives, just as representative samples.

As my Mother has often said over these past 40 years, "...the Museum is as poor as church mice..." I can attest that my Mother and the outstanding Board of Trustees and volunteer staff, although as poor as church mice, have brought a priceless treasure to our community - - one of education, appreciation, and preservation of the extremely rich Art of Africa!

For the continuance of our community's enrichment, I respectfully request you please support the proposed appropriation of \$12,000 for the African Art Museum of Maryland! Our Community, our Region, and our Nation undeniably deserve that this treasure be funded!

Respectfully,
Claude M. Ligon, Jr.
Lieutenant Colonel (Retired), United States Army

Budget Testimony from webpage

Ralph Ballman [RalBallman@comcast.net]

Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2016 6:27 PM**To:** CouncilMail**Cc:** African Art Museum [africanartmuseumofmd@verizon.net]

Dear Members of the Howard County Council:

I would, respectfully, like to encourage the members of the Howard County Council to support the County Executive's request, in the FY 2017 Operational Budget, for \$12,000.00 to be appropriated to the African Art Museum of Maryland, as provided under Arts and Tourism on Pages 215 and 216. For thirty-five (35) years, the African Art Museum of Maryland has been dedicated to collecting, displaying and preserving for the public the art of Africa. During those years, it has sought to encourage a broader understanding and appreciation of the art and culture of Africa. It has done this in many ways, one of which is its African Experience Tours, which are given both on site and off site to school, governmental, institutional and various other groups from within Howard County and Maryland and from out of state.

It has always been the desire of the founder, Mrs. Doris Ligon, that the museum would continue on in perpetuity as an important and unique institution of art and education in Howard County and Maryland. As treasurer and a member of the board of trustees, I believe the County's continued support is one of the best ways to ensure that the African Art Museum of Maryland will continue to serve the public of Howard County and Maryland, for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Ralph Ballman

9927 Rose Trail

Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

(410) 480-2801

Patuxent Trail River Alignment

Sean Hammer [obvbdirect7@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2016 5:24 PM

To: CouncilMail

Good evening County Council Members,

Thank you for approving the bike master plan and supporting the potential river alignment of the Patuxent Branch Trail extension. The Village of Owen Brown Board and Community Members would like the Council to continue support for this important bike and pedestrian project by placing it back into the capital budget and amending the map for this project (T7107) by adding the potential river alignment back to it. This will continue the the discussions on the best way to complete this pathway connection.

Thank you for all the great work that you do.

Sean Hammer, Chair
Owen Brown Village Board of Directors

Public Testimony for May 4th Budget Meeting

john.mcging@gmail.com on behalf of John McGing [john@mcging.org]

Sent: Saturday, April 16, 2016 2:40 PM

To: CouncilMail

5121 Rondel PL
Columbia MD 21044
April 16, 2016County Council Members
Howard County Maryland

My name is John McGing and I would like to provide some testimony in support of the Therapeutic Recreation programs offered by the Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks. I have a 23 year old son, Sean, who has a rare disability called tetrasomy 18p and he has been a customer of Recreation and Parks since age 13.

I've provided the Department and some Council members previously with written comments about the Therapeutic Recreation program. I'm quite a fan, and have said so in the past. The Therapeutic Recreation program has been very consumer oriented, soliciting and taking input from their customers; as an example, this year we now have more dances and some summer activities for the first time ever! That is outstanding. Summer has always been, especially for the adults who cannot participate in the camps or the TRIO program, a dead zone. So the addition of a dance and some Friday night activities during this period is really serving the public and worth saying "Thank You" for.

However, over the last 12 – 18 months, I have noticed a trend that must be addressed. I've always been the type who signs up for things right away, if online signup is offered at 6 PM I've completed registration by 6:15. You can see how many slots are open and if they are all taken they advise you of the wait list. The demand for these activities has started to outpace the ability of the program to accommodate attendees. The disturbing fact is that if the programs are filling up much faster than ever and folks who don't act fast can find themselves waitlisted. And due to resource constraints, instead of meeting this demand, folks simply find they are not able to attend. Realizing that these programs are not free, that individuals or their families do pay a more than reasonable fee, it does seem odd that a program with demonstrated demand cannot flex to accommodate the demand.

That's when the word went out among parents and attendees that while the staff has identified and has proposed budget and staff support that would help with meeting this pent up demand, that the budget wasn't going to be funded and the staff position was being unfilled.

And the point of writing to you is to ask that you reconsider these budget and staffing decisions to address this concern.

If I may digress for a moment? In looking at a post-retirement possible change of residence, I have been checking into therapeutic recreation programs offered elsewhere, and the more I check into things, the more I realize just how special what we have here in Howard County. For example, on the Eastern Shore I could find no similar programs. Moving out of state? We have a short list of possibilities (based on climate, tax, activities etc) and the best program I have found literally sponsored Special Olympics, managed some included sports and had 2 dances a year, from 6 to 8 PM. I reached out to a director of programs near Austin Texas who told me she was impressed by the scope of what is offered in HC (she looked things up on the web) and told me she was unaware of any programs in her state that came close. Our emphasis on social recreation is quite extensive.

So, to get to the point, this investigation has made me realize how I, perhaps like many of you, took for granted a program which in reality is very special. This kind of program simply does not exist just everywhere, and where it does, it's often very basic. I just wasn't aware of how good we have it.

This is getting too long so I'll let other folks speak to the value these programs have on the quality of life of not just the attendees, but their parents/care givers as well, knowing that their children or clients are in a safe, well run program staffed by caring and qualified professionals.

So I wanted to go on record to you, who are stewards of our county's resources say thank you for the support you have given the program, and those who use those programs, in the past and to ask that you continue to allow that program to meet the demand for its offerings by giving them the budgetary and staff resources that they need to do that.

I can be reached at 410-730-0509 or at john@mcging.org.

Thank you very much

John J. McGing

John Garber

Laurel, Md. 20723

County Council Hearing FY 2017 Capital Budget

Testimony in support of J4248-FY2017 SAVAGE AREA COMPLETE STREETS

I am testifying in support of J4248-FY2017, SAVAGE AREA COMPLETE STREETS. Representatives of the Savage Community Association met initially with members of the Public Works staff and staff from R K & K to review the Savage Complete Streets proposal on June 8, 2015.

Sequentially the Savage Community Association scheduled a community meeting for the project. The meeting was held on July 14, 2015 and resulted in a consensus to welcome and support the project.

The foresight shown by the Department of Public Works to initiate this project needs to be recognized and supported. It demonstrates to the residents of Savage and by extension to all County residents that the coordination of Capital Projects is possible and should be supported when and where it occurs.

For example another Department of Public Works project, the reconstruction/modernization of the sewer lines in the historic portion of Savage is also supported by the community. It is currently programed to precede the Savage Area Complete Streets project. The sewer modernization will require excavation on both private property and County streets and subsequent repairs.

If timed correctly these two separate projects would function as one larger project. Normal required street repairs for the sewer project would be replaced by a transformation of the surface streets and sidewalks under the Complete Streets project. The result would be a below and above ground facelift for the Historic area of Savage.

Another area of multiagency coordination should be brought to your attention. A private development project for The Settlement at Savage Mill is also under consideration by the Department of Planning and Zoning. It has been reviewed by the Historic Preservation Commission and The Design Advisory Panel.

This project requires the private construction of a new extension to Washington Street and its' dedication to the County as a public street. The connecting point for the new extension of Washington Street is included in Savage Complete Streets area.

Should this private project go forward, the Planning Board has already recommended (as part of its' Capital projects review process) that the new extension of Washington Street be built to match the new design standards for the Savage Complete Streets project area. It is also therefore imperative that DPZ require that the extension of Washington Street be in full compliance with the street design standards for the Savage Complete Streets project.

To do otherwise would destroy the coordination and cost saving efforts that the community has observed within the Department of Public Works and has supported thus far with the other County projects.