

## **Budget Proposals**

Jervis Dorton [jervisdorton@yahoo.com]

**Sent:** Monday, May 02, 2016 2:36 PM

**To:** CouncilMail

Dear County Council members

Here in Oakland Mills our Village Board has taken several initiatives to raise the awareness of the need to better maintain and improve our aging residences. The County Executive's budget proposal for substantial funding of Renew Howard is essential to achieving any meaningful results. Consequently I urge you to approve this item for the benefit of, not only this village, but all the older residential communities in Howard County.

Sincerely

Jervis Dorton

5963 Gales Lane

Columbia 21045

410 992 5218

## Written Testimony -- Rec and Parks Budget

Elizabeth Benevides [ebenevides@hussmanfoundation.org]

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 03, 2016 9:44 PM

**To:** CouncilMail

**Attachments:** County Government\_Funding ~1.pdf (160 KB)

Dear County Council Members,

On behalf of the Howard County Autism Society, the Maryland Coalition for Families, Special Olympics MD Howard County, and the Hussman Foundation, I am pleased to submit the attached written testimony requesting support for additional funding of therapeutic and inclusion programs offered by the Department of Recreation and Parks.

Thank you for your continued advocacy on behalf of citizens and families with disabilities.

Yours sincerely,

Elizabeth Benevides  
Associate Director  
Hussman Foundation / Hussman Institute for Autism  
5521 Research Park Drive  
Catonsville MD 21228  
443.977.0513  
[ebenevides@hussmanfoundation.org](mailto:ebenevides@hussmanfoundation.org)



## HOWARD COUNTY AUTISM SOCIETY

April 25, 2016

We the undersigned organizations **strongly request your support in directing the Budget Office to reconsider the allocation of funding for Therapeutic and Inclusion Programs** within the Department of Recreation and Parks.

A Coordinator 2 position, previously funded at \$60,000, has been frozen since November 2014, and much-needed program support in the amount of \$20,000 has been requested. These funds directly support our children and adults with disabilities, some of whom are the most challenged to find services in our county.

The needs of the disability community continue to grow. The Therapeutic Recreation program simply cannot address the increase in needs without this funding.

For many residents, these are the only opportunities outside of the home for after-school childcare or summer childcare and camp experience. All county residents deserve the opportunity to enjoy the many offerings of the Department of Recreation and Parks. Yet the reality is that there are many families whose children cannot participate in mainstream programs—by no fault of their own, but simply because of the severity of their disability. They need more support. They need more intensive 1:1 care. Families will pay for the fee-based services (which are costly), but due to the nature of the needs, these fees do not cover the costs. Supervision is critical. **The release of these funds to the Department of Recreation and Parks budget would ensure after-school and summer camp programs are safe, staffed with trained employees, and of the highest-quality possible.**

The Howard County Public School System encourages many parents to enroll students with disabilities in Recreation and Parks programs when they fail to meet the criteria for Extended School Year services (summer school). This puts an additional burden on the Recreation and Parks' accommodation services. If the coordinator position and additional funding were provided, these needs could be better met.

**The increasing challenges of finding quality care and quality programs for children and adults with disabilities is of great importance in our county, and is something that many of us have brought to your attention in recent months.**

We sincerely appreciate all of the support you have given thus far in addressing the needs of the disability community. You are a champion of many of the most vulnerable of our residents. We respectfully request your support to recommend the Budget Office release funding for the Coordinator 2 position and approve additional program funding of \$80,000 for the Therapeutic and Inclusion program.

Sincerely,

Theresa Ballinger, President, Howard County Autism Society  
Elizabeth Benevides, Associate Director, The Hussman Foundation  
Jane Plapinger, Executive Director, Maryland Coalition of Families  
Bob Baker, Director, Special Olympics Maryland, Howard County

## **LARS FY17 Operating Budget Public Hearing Testimony**

Stephanie Guzman [sguzman247@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 04, 2016 8:26 AM

**To:** CouncilMail

**Cc:** Leah Paley [lpaley@laureladvocacy.org]; sguzman@laureladvocacy.org

**Attachments:** LARSFY17HoCoPublicHearingT~1.pdf (84 KB)

Good morning County Council Members,

I am submitting written testimony on behalf of Laurel Advocacy & Referral Services, Inc. (LARS) for tonight's FY 2017 Operating Budget Public Hearing. Regretfully, I could not be there tonight to speak in person but if you should have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to reach out to me by email at [sguzman@laureladvocacy.org](mailto:sguzman@laureladvocacy.org) or by phone at (301) 776-0442 x28.

Thank you for your time,

Stephanie Guzman  
Director of Emergency Services and Community Relations  
Laurel Advocacy & Referral Services, Inc.  
311 Laurel Avenue Laurel, MD 20707  
(301) 776-0442  
[www.laureladvocacy.org](http://www.laureladvocacy.org)



# LARS

Laurel Advocacy & Referral Services, Inc.

311 Laurel Avenue Laurel, Maryland 20707

Phone 301.776.0442 • Fax 301.604.7076 • [www.laureladvocacy.org](http://www.laureladvocacy.org)

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May 4, 2016

Dr. Calvin Ball, County Council Chairman  
Howard County Council  
George Howard Building  
3430 Court House Drive  
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Good evening Chairman Ball, Vice Chairman Weinstein, and County Councilmembers:

My name is Stephanie Guzman and I am the Director of Emergency Services and Community Relations at Laurel Advocacy and Referral Services, Inc. (LARS). Each year, LARS assists upwards of 1,800 homeless and low-income individuals and families experiencing a crisis by providing both emergency and long-term services designed to promote self-sufficiency. LARS provides support services to residents of the Greater Laurel area including food, funds to prevent evictions, first month's rent and security deposit assistance, transitional & permanent housing, case management and resource referrals, employment assistance, holiday gifts and food, educational programs, and more.

I am writing you all to thank you for committing \$15, 000 in Community Service Partnership (CSP) Program funding for fiscal year 2017, so that we can continue to provide emergency financial assistance to low income and homeless Laurel residents. We appreciate the opportunity to communicate with the County Council about the operating budget and the need to maintain and restore adequate funding for the programs that serve those most in need in Laurel. I am asking that you consider providing additional funding to LARS' Community Service Partnership (CSP) Program funding for the upcoming fiscal year.

Your increased commitment of CSP Program funding for fiscal year 2017 will help LARS meet the growing need we are experiencing in our community. From 2014 to 2015, LARS assisted 200 Laurel households with rental and utility stipends and food assistance totaling \$33,250. LARS assisted 24 households with securing permanent housing, avoiding eviction, and maintaining or restoring power to their homes. Of these 24 households, 95% of them resolved their crisis within two weeks. 176 households were provided food assistance to combat food insecurity with only 47% of them returning within 60 days. 272 households received advocacy services with 100% reporting that the referrals and resources they were given were useful. These statistics

show that LARS is providing effective service delivery to a growing number of Laurel residents in Howard County.

In the past LARS relied on the matching funds from the Fannie Mae Foundation, Help the Homeless Program, through which LARS raised over \$115,000 a year from 2009-2012. However, The Fannie Mae Foundation has now completely retired the program. The loss of this program as well as additional grant assistance for our chronically homeless clients has made it very difficult for LARS to continue to meet the needs of the community. Our continued concern is having enough funding to be able to address the needs of the community adequately and without reallocating our limited operations and general overhead budget to accommodate the loss of funding.

The funding allocated to LARS to support the services we provide will greatly help LARS meet the growing need in our community. We appreciate Howard County Council's support for the fiscal year 2017 level of \$15,000 and ask that the County Council provide some measure of additional funds that allow LARS to continue serving the most vulnerable in this time of budget cuts and economic instability. These funds will go directly to the County's most disadvantaged residents in Laurel. We look forward to carrying out our mission and ask for the County's continued support and aid.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Guzman  
LARS Director of Emergency Services and Community Relations  
[sguzman@laureladvocacy.org](mailto:sguzman@laureladvocacy.org)

**Thank you for your support**

Keyanna Turner [kturner@archoward.org]

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 04, 2016 11:39 AM

**To:** CouncilMail

**Attachments:** CSP Grant Letter.pdf (313 KB)

Good morning,

Please see attached letter.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Keyanna

*Keyanna Turner*  
*Resource Development Coordinator and Executive Assistant*  
*The Arc of Howard County*  
*11735 Homewood Road*  
*Ellicott City, MD 21042*  
*Direct: (410) 730-0638 Ext. 226*  
*Fax: (410) 730-0730*  
*Email: [kturner@archoward.org](mailto:kturner@archoward.org)*  
*Website: [www.archoward.org](http://www.archoward.org)*





*Achieve with us.*

May 4, 2016

**OFFICERS**

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Howard Community College

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*Vice-President*  
Offit Kurman

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*Assoc. Executive Director of Admin.*

Deborah L. Wagner  
*Assoc. Executive Director of Services*

**THE ARC OF HOWARD COUNTY**

11735 Homewood Road  
Ellicott City, MD 21042  
T 410 730 0638 F 410 730 0730 [www.archoward.org](http://www.archoward.org)

County Executive Allan Kittleman  
Howard County Government  
3430 Courthouse Drive  
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear County Executive Kittleman:

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you and the County Council for your support and recognition of human service organizations for the vital work they do in Howard County. Specifically we would like to thank you for the assistance you provide The Arc of Howard County. As you know, we offer supports and services to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We are extremely appreciative of the \$159,750 we receive through the Community Service Partnership Grants program, administered by the Department of Citizen Services. These funds are critical for our organization as they support the following services provided by The Arc of Howard County:

- **Respite Care:** This program provides quality temporary care for children and adults at our Respite Care home located in Columbia. These services are provided on a daily, weekly, and weekend basis.
- **Residential Maintenance:** A support service that provides routine maintenance for the 50 Howard County homes that serve as residences for people supported by The Arc. We also annually choose maintenance projects that will make these homes more accessible and energy efficient.

Without these funds, we would not be able to provide this program and offer respite to families who are the primary caregivers for their disabled loved ones. Our residential maintenance of 50 homes would also be difficult to accomplish without CSP grant support. You can only imagine what it takes to maintain the home quality standard expected in Howard County. Many of the people we support have the opportunity to age in place because of our ability to offer this necessary service for their homes.

Again, thank you for your continued support of The Arc of Howard County.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Plantz, President  
Board of Directors  
Arc of Howard County

Cindy Parr  
Executive Director  
Arc of Howard County



**budget testimony - Kimberly Bronow**

Feldmark, Jessica

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 04, 2016 3:25 PM

**To:** Ball, Calvin B; Fox, Greg; Greg Fox (Greg.Fox@Constellation.com); Weinstein, Jon; Sigaty, Mary Kay; Terrasa, Jen

**Cc:** Sayers, Margery

**Attachments:** KDorseyBronow Howard Coun~1.DOCX (23 KB)

Council Members,

Please see attached budget testimony from Kimberly Bronow.

Thanks,

Jess

Jessica Feldmark

Administrator

Howard County Council

410-313-3111

[jfeldmark@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:jfeldmark@howardcountymd.gov)

## **Testimony in Support of Proposed \$250,000 Funding to Support Planned Expansion of Howard County Conservancy's Environmental Education Center**

**Submitted on 05/04/16 by Kimberly Dorsey Bronow**

[kdorseybronow@gmail.com](mailto:kdorseybronow@gmail.com)

410-480-1608

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of the proposed \$250,000 funding of Howard County Conservancy's planned expansion. My name is Kimberly Dorsey Bronow. I live at 4416 Whispering Willow Drive in Ellicott City. I'm honored to serve on the Howard County Conservancy's board.

Thank you, County Executive Kittleman, for including \$250,000 in this year's proposed operating budget as Howard County's match to the second of two \$250,000 bond bills approved by the State of Maryland, which was put forward with support from the Howard County Delegation. This proposed match demonstrates Howard County's joined commitment with the State of Maryland to support and help ensure – along with the growing number of local businesses, community organizations, individuals including many Howard County citizens, and private and family foundations who have already pledged or donated funding for the expansion – the bright future of the Howard County Conservancy. The proposed County funding is critical to the Conservancy's ability to achieve its fundraising goal and break ground as planned this fall.

Founded 25 years ago by local citizens, the Howard County Conservancy is an exceptional organization with a long track record of offering high quality programs. The Conservancy is led by a small, talented, highly committed and passionate staff, powered by hundreds of Howard County volunteers, and serves many thousands, including over 10,000 students, year in and year out.

It is at once a local gem, a state treasure and a regional model. Investing in the future of the Conservancy through this funding for the planned \$1.8 million expansion of the Gudelsky Environmental Education Center, which is the heart of the Conservancy and the gateway to all that the 232-acre main property has to offer, is a wise investment for the County.

The Conservancy is a place that inspires, and is a source and hub of, community and sustainability as well as leadership and innovation.

Starting with leadership and innovation, as just one example, the Conservancy, through its unique and deep collaboration with the Howard County Public School System, created the Watershed Report Card program. Through this program, which is currently being funded by a \$310,000 federal grant from NOAA, students from every high school in the county serve as both scientists and civic advocates in evaluating the health of local watersheds and presenting their data to public officials. At this time, 11 Maryland city/county school systems are actively interested in seeing this program go statewide.

Unveiled at the 2016 Watershed Report Card Summit last month was an improved stream survey tool for student and citizen scientists. Through a partnership with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), students this year helped to create a set of stream protocols that are student-friendly but also align with the Maryland Biological Stream Survey (MBSS) protocols. This new Conservancy/DNR branded tool will help ensure higher quality student data in the future. Maryland DNR has adopted this improved tool for use with its citizen science program, Stream Waders, which surveys more than 100 streams across the state annually.

The Conservancy is a place that welcomes and serves everyone, children and adults of all ages, often for free or little cost. It fosters and sustains community and harmony – bringing individuals, families and neighbors from every culture and every tradition together – to learn about, enjoy and protect our natural resources which we all share and depend on.

It's a place where generations spend time learning and growing together. Where elders, whether grandparents and master naturalists or camp counselors and student scientists and civic-advocates, teach and inspire their youngsters, and where the very youngest teach us right back in so many profound ways.

It's a place where families come for reunions, where businesses come for retreats, where couples come to marry. It's a place where Scouts demonstrate their community service, and where so many county organizations like the Howard County Bird Club and the Howard Astronomical League, bring their members and host public events. It's a place, where Master Gardeners side-by-side with "everyday" neighbors grow vegetables and tend public gardens and trails. It's a place where historical societies help re-tell the stories of Howard County's past and where you can walk back in time and explore historic buildings. It's a place that inspires through both art and science. It's a place where all can spend time among the plants and creatures and natural wonders of the streams, meadows, woods and skies.

The Conservancy does all this and more as it connects people with nature. Connecting people with nature is essential work.

When we are in nature, we are reminded that we are part of something bigger than ourselves and that we depend on each other.

When we are in nature, we are immersed in the wisdom of diversity – which is that each of us belongs, each of us has an important role to play, and each of us has unique gifts that are essential to the whole.

Where do we go when we need to find clarity or get grounded and restore balance or remind ourselves we are strong enough? We go to the beach, we walk in the woods, we work in the garden, we go out on the water, we climb a mountain.

When we are in nature, the beauty that surrounds us reconnects us with our senses – with our common sense. In nature, we come to know what our grandparents and their grandparents knew. They knew the wisdom of the cycle of the seasons – the growth and flexibility of spring, the partnership and maturation of summer, the harvesting and letting go of autumn, and the dying off and stillness of winter, a time to conserve and recharge in order to grow again.

Attending to and being attuned to nature is essential to our humanity and our health. (Our common sense tells us this, and, for those wishing to quantify the unquantifiable, study after scientific study linking spending time in nature with a myriad of benefits is just beginning to back this up.)

Likewise, the work of the Howard County Conservancy – connecting people to nature – is essential to the well-being, community, and sustainability of Howard County.

I urge you all to heartily support and approve the proposed funding in its entirety. Thank you for your consideration.

Thanks!

Page 1 of 1

## Thanks!

David Stancil [dcstancil@verizon.net]

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 04, 2016 4:03 PM

**To:** CouncilMail

Friends,

Thank you for all you do to make Howard County such a great place to live!

I'm writing to encourage you to retain the funding for Bridge Columbia and Renew Howard in the upcoming County budget. Both of these projects are critical for sustaining the quality of life we've come to enjoy in HoCo.

Sincerely,

Dave Stancil  
Pastor  
Columbia Baptist Fellowship  
Oakland Mills Interfaith Center

--

Live Simply, Love Generously,  
Care Deeply, Speak Kindly,  
And Trust in God Who Loves You.

## **Testimony in support of HCEDA budget**

John Jolly [johnsjolly@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 04, 2016 4:36 PM

**To:** CouncilMail

To the County Council:

As a Howard County resident and a local entrepreneur I was delighted to see that the County Executive has allocated both a marketing as well as incentive/seed fund budget to HCEDA/MCE. In an increasingly competitive economic development environment, these two funds will go a long way towards helping the EDA support Howard County based companies across their entire lifecycle from startup to launch.

More specifically the funds will I believe better able EDA to attract companies to Howard County and support the companies that are already here. They will also enable EDA to make sure companies are aware of what EDA and the MCE can provide in the way of support, and enable the MCE to create programs and content to assist start-ups.

Howard County has tremendous natural advantages for start-ups, this funding will help the HCEDA/MCE leverage those advantages and create local jobs.

John Jolly  
5325 Chase Lions Way, Columbia MD 21044



## Budget Testimony -- Recreation & Parks Board

Feldmark, Jessica

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 04, 2016 5:24 PM

**To:** Ball, Calvin B; Fox, Greg; Greg Fox (Greg.Fox@Constellation.com); Weinstein, Jon; Sigaty, Mary Kay; Terrasa, Jen

**Cc:** Glendenning, Craig; Sayers, Margery

**Attachments:** CalvinBall Letter FY17 bud~1.pdf (143 KB)

See attached...

Thanks,  
Jess

Jessica Feldmark  
Administrator  
Howard County Council  
410-313-3111  
jfeldmark@howardcountymd.gov



# Howard County

## RECREATION & PARKS

7120 Oakland Mills Road, Columbia, Maryland 21046

John R. Byrd, Director  
jbyrd@howardcountymd.gov

Phone: 410-313-4640  
www.howardcountymd.gov/rap

Fax: 410-313-1699  
Tdd: 410-313-2323

May 4, 2016

Dr. Calvin Ball, Councilmember  
Howard County Council  
3430 Courthouse Drive  
Ellicott City, MD 21043-4392

RE: FY-17 Budget Request

Dear Dr. Ball,

I'm writing to request the support of the County Council for County Executive Allan Kittleman's proposed FY 17 budget, and specifically for that proposed for the department of Recreation and Parks. Each month the Board hears about accomplishments and services provided by the Department and we're very proud of what we hear. We also hear about challenges and service demands that are inevitable as the county population grows. Every area of the department is facing funding challenges and it remains difficult to keep up with demand. We know you realize this, and Recreation and Parks is not alone. The FY 17 DRP budget proposal provides a modest increase in operational areas including park rangers, overtime for staff to provide coverage for programs at parks and facilities, additional program funding for therapeutic recreation services, supplies, materials and contingent staff and some restoration of funding from prior year cuts. We appreciate your consideration and support of the FY 17 budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dr. Joel Goodman".

Dr. Joel Goodman, Chair  
Recreation and Parks Board

**FW: Baldwin Common electricity**

Terrasa, Jen

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 04, 2016 6:06 PM

**To:** CouncilMail

Please see the email below regarding Baldwin Commons

Thanks,

Kate McLeod

Special Assistant

Councilwoman Jen Terrasa, District 3

George Howard Building

3430 Court House Drive

Ellicott City, MD 21043

410-313-3108

**From:** Sara Vermillion [mailto:speedy.vee@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 03, 2016 7:41 PM

**To:** Wilson, B Diane; Terrasa, Jen; McLeod, Kate

**Cc:** Brian Clifford

**Subject:** Baldwin Common electricity

Jen, Kate, and Diane,

While I'm back from England this week, I won't be able to attend tomorrow's public hearing on the proposed Howard County Operating Budget. I'd like to submit the following letter in support of the budget line item funding electricity for Baldwin Common. I looked on the Howard County website and did not find a link for submitting this electronically. Please let me know if I missed something.

Hope all is well!

Sara

Thank you for including funding in the proposed operating budget to provide outdoor electrical sources on Baldwin Common in Savage. We sincerely support this project. For several years, members of the Carroll Baldwin Memorial Institute have been exploring options with County staff for installing such sources on the Common. While the staff have been very helpful in identifying options, the price tag has always been prohibitive for the community. Our reasons for wanting electricity on the Common are twofold. First, eliminating yards and yards of extension cords and rubber mats radiating across the ground from Baldwin Hall to the Common will significantly improve safety by reducing the tripping hazard and minimizing exposure of electrical connections to the elements, particularly during the winter months when the tree is lit for 6-8 weeks. Second, a source of electricity directly on Baldwin Common will greatly facilitate the setup and enjoyment of events there, such as Savage Fest and the Holiday Lighting event. A substantial amount of effort has gone into planning how to provide electricity for each of those events that have grown into county-wide attractions, so not having to worry about that logistical detail—including hauling out those heavy mats--will be a huge source of relief.

Regards,

Sara Vermillion

Brian Clifford