

Merriweather

Lauren Williams [l.williams5163@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 10:49 PM**To:** CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Councilmembers,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world-renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather.

So many of us gathered in support to Save Merriweather when its fate was in doubt. You each have seen the tremendous love and pride that we show in our music venue and our community. Passing the legislation that is in front of you will finally give the venue a permanent, public parking lot that it needs to thrive. The venue draws thousands of people to each show. With the current development in Town Center, many have become stressed and frustrated with the difficulty in parking. Luckily, the venue, staff and performances more than make up for this frustration, but it is time to make Merriweather become the undisputed leader in music experience.

I appreciate the Council's commitment to ensuring that this Plan is right for not only Downtown Columbia but all of Howard County. However, this plan is long-overdue and the final piece to saving Merriweather, once and for all. That is why I support this plan, and that is why I am asking to you, as well.

Thank you.

mwpp

Jennifer Liberto [libertojen@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 10:28 PM**To:** CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Councilmembers,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world-renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather.

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Thank you.

Merriwether parking

Jeyaratnam Sundram [niwhsa121@me.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 10:08 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Council Members,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world-renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather. So many of us gathered in support to Save Merriweather when its fate was in doubt. You each have seen the tremendous love and pride that we show in our music venue and our community. Passing the legislation that is in front of you will finally give the venue a permanent, public parking lot that it needs to thrive. The venue draws thousands of people to each show. With the current development in Town Center, many have become stressed and frustrated with the difficulty in parking. Luckily, the venue, staff and performances more than make up for this frustration, but it is time to make Merriweather become the undisputed leader in music experience. I appreciate the Council's commitment to ensuring that this plan is right not only for Downtown Columbia but all of Howard County. However this plan is long overdue and the final piece to saving Merriweather, once and for all. That is why I support this plan, and that is why I am asking you to as well.

Thank you.

From,
Ashwin

Parking Garage

Pat And Jen [pherwig@yahoo.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 9:52 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Councilmembers,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world-renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather.

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Thank you.

Sent from my iPad

In support of TIF legislation this pm

Alyssa Parker [aparks94@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 8:56 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Councilmembers,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world-renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather.

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Thank you.

merriweather

john.soscia.2000@gmail.com

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 8:40 PM**To:** CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Councilmembers,

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Thank you.

MERriweather Post

Scott Pelletier [srpellet@verizon.net]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 8:38 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Councilmembers,

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Thank you!

Thank You, Scott Pelletier
Sent from my iPhone

Support for #ParkMPP

David Augenblick [davidaugenblick@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 8:25 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Council members,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world-renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather.

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That is why I support this plan, and that is why I am asking to you, as well.

Sincerely,

David Augenblick

8934 Rosewood Way

Jessup, MD 20794

downtown Columbia hearing

Semmel Family [semmel@comcast.net]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 7:53 PM

To: CouncilMail

To all Council members:

From: Semmel Family [<mailto:semmel@comcast.net>] **Sent:** Wednesday, July 06, 2016 5:18 PM **To:** Ball, Calvin B **Subject:** Downtown Columbia hearings

Chairman Ball,

I am writing to request that you postpone the hearings on the complex and extensive package of bills concerning Downtown Columbia. I attended the Hickory Ridge Village Board meeting last night and, after listening to multiple attempts to summarize the package, I am only beginning to understand its significance and implications. At first glance, the bills seem to give the developer extremely inequitable financial advantage and further increase the already ridiculous proposed density.

Moving the hearings to an earlier date, when many residents will be on vacation, makes no sense. Please reschedule to the fall, after the transition to the new school year is complete for county and college students, when residents may give the proposals the attention they deserve.

Thank you,
Esta Glazer

Proposed parking garage

Julie Slater [slaterjas@yahoo.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 7:41 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Councilmembers,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world-renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather.

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Thank you.

Sincerely,
Julia Slater

6301 Stockbridge Overlook Court
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Sent from my iPad

Merriweather Post Pavilion

Alex Fuchek [afuchek@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 7:23 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Council Members,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world-renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather. So many of us gathered in support to Save Merriweather when its fate was in doubt. You each have seen the tremendous love and pride that we show in our music venue and our community. Passing the legislation that is in front of you will finally give the venue a permanent, public parking lot that it needs to thrive. The venue draws thousands of people to each show. With the current development in Town Center, many have become stressed and frustrated with the difficulty in parking. Luckily, the venue, staff and performances more than make up for this frustration, but it is time to make Merriweather become the undisputed leader in music experience. I appreciate the Council's commitment to ensuring that this plan is right not only for Downtown Columbia but all of Howard County. However this plan is long overdue and the final piece to saving Merriweather, once and for all. That is why I support this plan, and that is why I am asking you to as well. Thank you.

Columbia tax

Steven Wallace [walla929@yahoo.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 6:56 PM

To: CouncilMail

R. Bruce Holtman Jr.
Business Agent
I.A.T.S.E. Local # 19

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Jean Parker" <jeanp@930.com>

Dear Howard County Councilmembers,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world-renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather.

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Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

Parking Garage

DeFrancis, Karin [Karin.DeFrancis@marylandracing.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 6:39 PM**To:** CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Councilmembers,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world-renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather. So many of us gathered in support to Save Merriweather when its fate was in doubt. You each have seen the tremendous love and pride that we show in our music venue and our community. Passing the legislation that is in front of you will finally give the venue a permanent, public parking lot that it needs to thrive. The venue draws thousands of people to each show. With the current development in Town Center, many have become stressed and frustrated with the difficulty in parking. Luckily, the venue, staff and performances more than make up for this frustration, but it is time to make Merriweather become the undisputed leader in music experience.

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Thank you.

Best regards,

Karin De Francis

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MPP

Diana Schneider [dmoyschneider@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 6:27 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Council Members,

I am employed in Howard County and an enormous fan of our world-renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather. So many of us gathered in support to Save Merriweather when its fate was in doubt. You each have seen the tremendous love and pride that we show in our music venue and our community. Passing the legislation that is in front of you will finally give the venue a permanent, public parking lot that it needs to thrive. The venue draws thousands of people to each show. With the current development in Town Center, many have become stressed and frustrated with the difficulty in parking. Luckily, the venue, staff and performances more than make up for this frustration, but it is time to make Merriweather become the undisputed leader in music experience. I appreciate the Council's commitment to ensuring that this plan is right not only for Downtown Columbia but all of Howard County. However this plan is long overdue and the final piece to saving Merriweather, once and for all. That is why I support this plan, and that is why I am asking you to as well. Thank you.

Diana Schneider
HoCo
410-715-9200

Merriweather Parking

Mark Smith [bizmoeditor@aol.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 6:16 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Councilmembers,

I'm an area resident and an enormous fan of the renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather.

Many of us gathered in support to Save Merriweather when its fate was in doubt. You each have seen the tremendous love and pride that we show in our music venue and our community. Passing the legislation that is in front of you will finally give the venue a permanent, public parking lot that it needs to thrive. The venue draws thousands of people to each show, many of whom are stressed and frustrated with the difficulty in parking -- as well as the presence of tow trucks in The Mall in Columbia's parking lot that were hired by its owner, the Howard Hughes Corp., which also owns Merriweather -- and doesn't want concertgoers parking on spaces that would have been empty anyway.

Luckily, the venue, staff and performances more than make up for this frustration, but it is time to make Merriweather become the undisputed national leader in music experience.

I appreciate the Council's commitment to ensuring that this Plan is right for not only Downtown Columbia but all of Howard County. However, this plan is long-overdue and the final piece to saving Merriweather, once and for all. That is why I support this plan, and that is why I am asking to you, as well.

Thank you, very much -- and I hope to see you at a show.

Mark Smith, ed.
The Business Monthly
Ellicott City

Mark Smith
bizmoeditor@aol.com

I am opposed to the overdevelopment of Downtown Columbia

Tricia Purwin [triciapurwin@icloud.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 6:11 PM

To: CouncilMail

I do not want to pay more taxes for the proposed affordable housing in Downtown Columbia.

The schools and hospital are severely overtaxed now and the infrastructure of the community

is stressed as it is. I do not want more housing built by these developers which will also tax my wallet.

My husband and I moved here 30 years ago because Columbia is such a beautiful community and mostly because of the outstanding schools for our children. My grandchildren now go to these schools and there is obvious overcrowding now.

The waiting time for care at Howard County General Hospital in an emergency is currently several hours and there is no current solution in the hope that it will ease.

Make the developers be responsible for paying for the new schools and new hospital and added fees for the taxpayers and perhaps I will reconsider my views on this new housing.

Please consider how this will burden an already overtaxed community!

Sincerely, Patricia Purwin

Testimony re: TIF and Affordable Housing

Ian Kennedy [ian.kennedy7@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 6:09 PM

To: CouncilMail

Good afternoon, Councilmembers,

My testimony on the Downtown Columbia TIF and Affordable Housing proposals is below. I will deliver a version similar to this tonight. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Ian Kennedy
6174 Clearsmoke Court
Columbia, MD 21045

Today is kind of a big deal for me.

The legislation before you represents, at least to me, a confluence of the things I care most about for my community and what I have spent years working on, in many capacities and with many partners.

Before you are several pieces of legislation that seek to implement the vision laid out in the Downtown Columbia Plan, an expansive, thoughtful, and collaborative document that was the result of years of discussion. The shared vision for Columbia's future laid out in this plan has served as a beacon for me and many others in this community, a goal – or rather a set of goals – for what ought to be, and the legislation we're discussing tonight is a measure of the will we have for making it so.

I am here tonight as an individual and speaking solely for myself. I can't, however, escape the roles I play in this community, because they are fundamental to who I am.

So in the interest of full disclosure, I currently work the Executive Director of the Downtown Columbia Arts and Culture Commission, an entity that was formed as part of the Downtown master plan to enhance the cultural significance of both Merriweather Post Pavilion and Downtown Columbia, more broadly.

I am also a co-founder of the Save Merriweather movement that started thirteen years ago in response to a problem the TIF legislation before you can solve: Parking.

I am also a member of the Howard County Housing Commission, which, I believe, is the finest developer of affordable and mixed income communities in Howard County. Period.

Lastly and most importantly, I am a father of two young children. And what I want more than anything for my kids is to grow up in a city full of opportunity, the same kind of city Jim Rouse envisioned more than 50 years ago, which is not, as some would have it, a city of cul-de-sacs surrounding a mall. But rather a city that is dynamic, vibrant, diverse, innovative, and that embraces change with optimism and steers it with collaboration.

While I recognize that this was, perhaps, an excessive introduction, I'm not sharing it to bolster my credibility or credentials, but to be honest about who I am and where I'm coming from. Because I think it's important, essential even, that we assume honesty and good faith when considering public policies that are as comprehensive, complex, and consensus-driven as these.

With all that said, I am here to ask you to support the proposed tax-increment-financing package and the consensus plan for affordable housing. I'll speak first about the TIF.

The idea of a TIF approach to public facilities was envisioned in multiple places in the plan – explicitly in Chapters 2 and 4, but like many development specifics, the details of a TIF were not worked out. They have been now.

While I certainly support the TIF's parking garage on the grounds that it will help answer the question about Merriweather's parking, my support for it is much broader and deeper and has to do with a fundamental flaw of Downtown Columbia.

Which is that nearly all of the parking is controlled by only two corporations, and public access to parking owned exclusively by private entities cannot be guaranteed. And this is especially true if people are coming to Downtown for non-economic reasons – that is to engage in civic, cultural, or educational activities rather than for work or shopping.

So public parking is critical to the viability of Downtown Columbia as a thriving center for our city. This proposal would fulfill our shared “park-once” vision for Downtown Columbia in which all residents can gather and enjoy the benefits of Downtown's redevelopment and the company of each other.

I have certainly heard the concerns of others that this TIF would represent a developer give away, but I strongly disagree with that notion. This TIF is largely funding a public asset that can promote the public good without competing for general fund dollars. Frankly, it seems like a no-brainer.

I have also heard concerns that its funding roads and all other developers pay for roads. But I think this is a unique situation --- we are not building a subdivision, but a city. And the road improvements to support Downtown are a significantly different endeavor than what is built elsewhere.

And its worth noting that even a portion of tax revenue going to the TIF, there would still be future tax revenue going into the General Fund.

While I would like to lend the bulk of my support to the TIF, I would also like to express support for the joint recommendations for affordable housing for many of the reasons you have heard from other supporters – for the certainty of this proposal, for the inclusion of the housing commission as a significant partner, for the broader spectrum of incomes it would include.

I recognize that a significant concern about the plan is its complexity. It has a lot of moving parts, but I think this is to be expected with something like this, for a few reason:

First, it is a consensus plan. Whether it is a complete community consensus is another question, but there is no doubt that this plan is the result of a ton of discussion and work by a lot of interested, intelligent people and organizations. Anytime this many players sit around the table and have this many disparate interests, the result is likely to be complex.

Moreover, housing policy is complicated. It cuts across so many disciplines and policy areas and addresses some of the most profound issues we face as society.

Also, as it relates to the comparison with MIHU, Downtown Columbia is one of the most expansive development projects this County has seen since Columbia. Getting it right should require a different

approach. This is not a subdivision of 100 townhouses... we're building a Downtown.

Finally, Columbia is complicated. New Town Zoning, the Columbia Association, the Downtown Columbia Master Plan... these are all complicated. And they've also contributed to make this one of the best places to live anywhere.

That last part applies to both the joint housing recommendations and the TIF. These are ambitious, complex pieces of legislation that did not arrive on your desks willy nilly. They are the product of years of work, discussion, negotiation, analysis, and give and take.

That said, I'm not asking for you to rubber stamp them by any stretch. It is my sincere hope that you approach these as all other stakeholders have – openly with diligence, thoughtfulness, and in good faith, but also with a firm grasp on the bigger picture and the goal we all share.

Which is to make Downtown Columbia a true downtown and a befitting heart for city we all love.

FW: I support affordable housing in downtown Columbia, throughout HoCo

Weinstein, Jon

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 6:04 PM

To: Sayers, Margery

From: Meredith Curtis Goode [mailto:meredithcg@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, July 12, 2016 4:45 PM

To: Weinstein, Jon

Subject: Re: I support affordable housing in downtown Columbia, throughout HoCo

Mr. Weinstein,

I have just returned from vacation. Thank you for responding to my message. When will there be an opportunity to testify about the affordable housing portion of the plan? There are many parts of the plan that I support, including many you mention. But I believe a precedent should be set about percentages of affordable housing in new developments in the county, particularly in areas where there is little affordable housing now.

Sincerely,
Meredith Goode

On Mon, Jul 4, 2016 at 8:21 PM, Weinstein, Jon <jweinstein@howardcountymd.gov> wrote:
Dear Ms. Goode,

Thank you for taking time to share your thoughts on the Downtown Columbia package the County Executive filed last week for the Council's consideration. This latest effort to redevelop downtown Columbia, including building affordable housing units, come to us after it became clear that an appropriate amount of affordable units would not be achieved with the last plan approved in 2010.

The package has many critical elements, one of which is affordable housing, others include building roads, infrastructure, office space, market rate housing, and other public assets like open space, arts and entertainment venues, a fire station, and library. In short, there is much to consider, including the benefits of a plan that sets a percentage (Councilperson Terrasa's approach) or one that delivers a set number of affordable units (the package submitted by the Executive). Over the coming weeks, and likely months, the public discussions on the plans will be conducted, in the hopes that the benefits and challenges of both plans become clear to the community and decision-makers. From the public process, the Council, as well as the Administration may find areas they'd like to change based on what we learn.

I hope that you'll remain interested and engaged throughout the process and will come out to testify (or submit testimony) for one of the hearings the Council will conduct.

Warm Regards,

Jon

Councilman Jon Weinstein
Council Vice Chair
Howard County District 1

Ellicott City, Elkridge, Hanover, and Columbia
410.313.2001

Twitter: @HC_JonWeinstein

Facebook: Jon Weinstein – Howard County

From: Meredith Curtis Goode [mailto:meredithcg@gmail.com]

Sent: Friday, July 01, 2016 8:45 AM

To: Kittleman, Allan; Weinstein, Jon

Subject: I support affordable housing in downtown Columbia, throughout HoCo

Hello Mr. Kittleman and Mr. Weinstein,

I just read in the Columbia Flier about the latest details for the downtown Columbia redevelopment plan. I believe it is vital that affordable housing is included in new developments both in Columbia and throughout Howard County. Too often they are not included.

Most importantly, the percentage of affordable housing for new developments should be AT LEAST 15 percent. And affordable housing should be truly affordable to families at the full range of income.

I'm disappointed that the new downtown Columbia plan does not even reach the 15 percent mark and I strongly suggest that you raise that threshold.

All levels of working families should be able to afford to live in Howard County. Our communities are strengthened when socio-economic diversity is achieved throughout our county -- and not concentrated in only certain areas.

I hope that you take the 15 percent affordable housing aspect of Councilwoman Terrasa's plan in the final version of the bill.

Sincerely,
Meredith Curtis Goode
4524 Kingscup Court
Ellicott City, MD

Merriweather

Trevor Appler [tappler96@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 5:59 PM**To:** CouncilMail

Thanks for your support in advance. Dear Howard County Council Members, I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world-renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather. So many of us gathered in support to Save Merriweather when its fate was in doubt. You each have seen the tremendous love and pride that we show in our music venue and our community. Passing the legislation that is in front of you will finally give the venue a permanent, public parking lot that it needs to thrive. The venue draws thousands of people to each show. With the current development in Town Center, many have become stressed and frustrated with the difficulty in parking. Luckily, the venue, staff and performances more than make up for this frustration, but it is time to make Merriweather become the undisputed leader in music experience. I appreciate the Council's commitment to ensuring that this plan is right not only for Downtown Columbia but all of Howard County. However this plan is long overdue and the final piece to saving Merriweather, once and for all. That is why I support this plan, and that is why I am asking you to as well. Thank you.

Support for Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation

Mark M [markmenzie@verizon.net]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 5:58 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Councilmembers,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world-renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather.

So many of us gathered in support to Save Merriweather when its fate was in doubt. You each have seen the tremendous love and pride that we show in our music venue and our community. Passing the legislation that is in front of you will finally give the venue a permanent, public parking lot that it needs to thrive. The venue draws thousands of people to each show, many of whom are stressed and frustrated with the difficulty in parking. Luckily, the venue, staff and performances more than make up for this frustration, but it is time to make Merriweather become the undisputed leader in music experience.

I appreciate the Council's commitment to ensuring that this Plan is right for not only Downtown Columbia but all of Howard County. However, this plan is long-overdue and the final piece to saving Merriweather, once and for all. That is why I support this plan, and that is why I am asking to you, as well.

Thank you!
Mark

MPP

Nick Jascewsky [nickjas37@yahoo.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 5:53 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Council Members,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world-renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather. So many of us gathered in support to Save Merriweather when its fate was in doubt. You each have seen the tremendous love and pride that we show in our music venue and our community. Passing the legislation that is in front of you will finally give the venue a permanent, public parking lot that it needs to thrive. The venue draws thousands of people to each show. With the current development in Town Center, many have become stressed and frustrated with the difficulty in parking. Luckily, the venue, staff and performances more than make up for this frustration, but it is time to make Merriweather become the undisputed leader in music experience. I appreciate the Council's commitment to ensuring that this plan is right not only for Downtown Columbia but all of Howard County. However this plan is long overdue and the final piece to saving Merriweather, once and for all. That is why I support this plan, and that is why I am asking you to as well.

Thanks,
Nick Jascewsky

Merriweather Parking Garage

Laurel Pulford [mtlaurel36@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 5:52 PM**To:** CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Council Members,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world-renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather. So many of us gathered in support to Save Merriweather when its fate was in doubt. You each have seen the tremendous love and pride that we show in our music venue and our community. Passing the legislation that is in front of you will finally give the venue a permanent, public parking lot that it needs to thrive. The venue draws thousands of people to each show. With the current development in Town Center, many have become stressed and frustrated with the difficulty in parking. Luckily, the venue, staff and performances more than make up for this frustration, but it is time to make Merriweather become the undisputed leader in music experience. I appreciate the Council's commitment to ensuring that this plan is right not only for Downtown Columbia but all of Howard County. However this plan is long overdue and the final piece to saving Merriweather, once and for all. That is why I support this plan, and that is why I am asking you to as well.

Thank you.

Laurel Pulford

FW: TIF downtown Columbia development

Weinstein, Jon

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 5:48 PM

To: Sayers, Margery

From: r mutchnik [mailto:rjm262@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, July 13, 2016 12:12 AM

To: Weinstein, Jon

Subject: TIF downtown Columbia development

Dear Council Member Weinstein,

I have been informed about TIF bills and would like to request you support your fellow council member Jen Terrasa's bill which would require the developer to create moderately priced, affordable housing with infrastructure paid for by the developer who will reap the profit. I urge you not to support bills that will pass this burden on to the county taxpayers.

Thank you,

Ronald Mutchnik

Merriweather public parking

Barb Soscia [sosciabarb@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 5:37 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Councilmembers,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world-renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather.

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Thank you,

Barbara Soscia

Support for MPP parking plan

Tanya Carlson [tanya@the-carlsons.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 5:32 PM

To: CouncilMail

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a Howard County resident and writing to express my support for the proposed TIF legislation and the public parking it supports, which we so desperately need in the downtown area.

I am a long-standing member of Save Merriweather and have worked alongside many, many fellow citizens for several years to ensure MPP's future. This legislation will be the final piece of that puzzle.

But the benefit of the legislation extends well beyond Merriweather to support our promising plans for a robust downtown area.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this important legislation.

Best,
Tanya Carlson

MPP**Sydney McNamara [sydneyamac19@gmail.com]****Sent:** Thursday, July 14, 2016 5:27 PM**To:** CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Council Members,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world-renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather. So many of us gathered in support to Save Merriweather when its fate was in doubt. You each have seen the tremendous love and pride that we show in our music venue and our community. Passing the legislation that is in front of you will finally give the venue a permanent, public parking lot that it needs to thrive. The venue draws thousands of people to each show. With the current development in Town Center, many have become stressed and frustrated with the difficulty in parking. Luckily, the venue, staff and performances more than make up for this frustration, but it is time to make Merriweather become the undisputed leader in music experience. I appreciate the Council's commitment to ensuring that this plan is right not only for Downtown Columbia but all of Howard County. However this plan is long overdue and the final piece to saving Merriweather, once and for all. That is why I support this plan, and that is why I am asking you to as well. Thank you.

Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation

AMEND, LESLEY [LA3764@att.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 5:26 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Councilmembers,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world-renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I

am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather.

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Thank you.

Lesley Amend

MPP Parking Lot

Rose Glenn [roseglenn318@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 5:22 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Council Members,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world-renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather. So many of us gathered in support to Save Merriweather when its fate was in doubt. You each have seen the tremendous love and pride that we show in our music venue and our community. Passing the legislation that is in front of you will finally give the venue a permanent, public parking lot that it needs to thrive. The venue draws thousands of people to each show. With the current development in Town Center, many have become stressed and frustrated with the difficulty in parking. Luckily, the venue, staff and performances more than make up for this frustration, but it is time to make Merriweather become the undisputed leader in music experience. I appreciate the Council's commitment to ensuring that this plan is right not only for Downtown Columbia but all of Howard County. However this plan is long overdue and the final piece to saving Merriweather, once and for all. That is why I support this plan, and that is why I am asking you to as well. Thank you,

-Rose

Merriweather Post Pavilion

KarlAnthony Ramos [kramos2@gulls.salisbury.edu]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 5:20 PM**To:** CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Council Members,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world-renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather. So many of us gathered in support to Save Merriweather when its fate was in doubt. You each have seen the tremendous love and pride that we show in our music venue and our community. Passing the legislation that is in front of you will finally give the venue a permanent, public parking lot that it needs to thrive. The venue draws thousands of people to each show. With the current development in Town Center, many have become stressed and frustrated with the difficulty in parking. Luckily, the venue, staff and performances more than make up for this frustration, but it is time to make Merriweather become the undisputed leader in music experience. I appreciate the Council's commitment to ensuring that this plan is right not only for Downtown Columbia but all of Howard County. However this plan is long overdue and the final piece to saving Merriweather, once and for all. That is why I support this plan, and that is why I am asking you to as well.

Thank you,

Karl Anthony Ramos

Affordable Housing

Ken Walsh [kenwalsh3@icloud.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 5:18 PM

To: CouncilMail

I'm in favor of the 15% affordable housing set asides throughout the county. Let's all do our part.

Ken Walsh

11141 Wood Elves Way

Columbia

Sent from my iPhone

Park Merriweather

Berit Batterton [beritbatterton33@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 5:13 PM**To:** CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Council Members,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world-renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather. So many of us gathered in support to Save Merriweather when its fate was in doubt. You each have seen the tremendous love and pride that we show in our music venue and our community. Passing the legislation that is in front of you will finally give the venue a permanent, public parking lot that it needs to thrive. The venue draws thousands of people to each show. With the current development in Town Center, many have become stressed and frustrated with the difficulty in parking. Luckily, the venue, staff and performances more than make up for this frustration, but it is time to make Merriweather become the undisputed leader in music experience. I appreciate the Council's commitment to ensuring that this plan is right not only for Downtown Columbia but all of Howard County. However this plan is long overdue and the final piece to saving Merriweather, once and for all. That is why I support this plan, and that is why I am asking you to as well. Thank you.

-Berit Batterton

Merriweather parking

cmarrion@aol.com

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 5:10 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Councilmembers,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world-renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather.

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Thank you.

Carol Marrion
Columbia, MD

Merriweather parking

Carol Curley [carol.curley@hotmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 5:08 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Councilmembers,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world-renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather.

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Thank you.

Haley Armacost [haleylarmacost@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 5:06 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Council Members, I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world-renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather. So many of us gathered in support to Save Merriweather when its fate was in doubt. You each have seen the tremendous love and pride that we show in our music venue and our community. Passing the legislation that is in front of you will finally give the venue a permanent, public parking lot that it needs to thrive. The venue draws thousands of people to each show. With the current development in Town Center, many have become stressed and frustrated with the difficulty in parking. Luckily, the venue, staff and performances more than make up for this frustration, but it is time to make Merriweather become the undisputed leader in music experience. I appreciate the Council's commitment to ensuring that this plan is right not only for Downtown Columbia but all of Howard County. However this plan is long overdue and the final piece to saving Merriweather, once and for all. That is why I support this plan, and that is why I am asking you to as well. Thank you.

--

Haley Armacost

#MPP

Sam Ajala [samuel_ajala13@me.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 4:58 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Council Members, I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world-renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather. So many of us gathered in support to Save Merriweather when its fate was in doubt. You each have seen the tremendous love and pride that we show in our music venue and our community. Passing the legislation that is in front of you will finally give the venue a permanent, public parking lot that it needs to thrive. The venue draws thousands of people to each show. With the current development in Town Center, many have become stressed and frustrated with the difficulty in parking. Luckily, the venue, staff and performances more than make up for this frustration, but it is time to make Merriweather become the undisputed leader in music experience. I appreciate the Council's commitment to ensuring that this plan is right not only for Downtown Columbia but all of Howard County. However this plan is long overdue and the final piece to saving Merriweather, once and for all. That is why I support this plan, and that is why I am asking you to as well. Thank you.

Allison Barnabe [allibarnabe@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 4:57 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Council Members,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world-renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather. So many of us gathered in support to Save Merriweather when its fate was in doubt. You each have seen the tremendous love and pride that we show in our music venue and our community. Passing the legislation that is in front of you will finally give the venue a permanent, public parking lot that it needs to thrive. The venue draws thousands of people to each show. With the current development in Town Center, many have become stressed and frustrated with the difficulty in parking. Luckily, the venue, staff and performances more than make up for this frustration, but it is time to make Merriweather become the undisputed leader in music experience. I appreciate the Council's commitment to ensuring that this plan is right not only for Downtown Columbia but all of Howard County. However this plan is long overdue and the final piece to saving Merriweather, once and for all. That is why I support this plan, and that is why I am asking you to as well.

Thank you.

Merriweather Post Pavilion

Jessica George [97jessica.george@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 4:54 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Council Members,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world-renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather. So many of us gathered in support to Save Merriweather when its fate was in doubt. You each have seen the tremendous love and pride that we show in our music venue and our community. Passing the legislation that is in front of you will finally give the venue a permanent, public parking lot that it needs to thrive. The venue draws thousands of people to each show. With the current development in Town Center, many have become stressed and frustrated with the difficulty in parking. Luckily, the venue, staff and performances more than make up for this frustration, but it is time to make Merriweather become the undisputed leader in music experience. I appreciate the Council's commitment to ensuring that this plan is right not only for Downtown Columbia but all of Howard County. However this plan is long overdue and the final piece to saving Merriweather, once and for all. That is why I support this plan, and that is why I am asking you to as well.

Thank you.

MPP**Abby Wang [awang1329@gmail.com]****Sent:** Thursday, July 14, 2016 4:54 PM**To:** CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Council Members,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world-renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather. So many of us gathered in support to Save Merriweather when its fate was in doubt. You each have seen the tremendous love and pride that we show in our music venue and our community. Passing the legislation that is in front of you will finally give the venue a permanent, public parking lot that it needs to thrive. The venue draws thousands of people to each show. With the current development in Town Center, many have become stressed and frustrated with the difficulty in parking. Luckily, the venue, staff and performances more than make up for this frustration, but it is time to make Merriweather become the undisputed leader in music experience. I appreciate the Council's commitment to ensuring that this plan is right not only for Downtown Columbia but all of Howard County. However this plan is long overdue and the final piece to saving Merriweather, once and for all. That is why I support this plan, and that is why I am asking you to as well. Thank you.

Abby Wang

We support Merriweather Post Pavillion parking garage - TIF

Joe Neary [flash862@aol.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 4:54 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Councilmembers,

My family and I are Howard county residents, and have been for most of our lives, if not all. We are an enormous fan of the world-renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. We are writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather.

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Thank you.

Joseph Neary
Caroline Neary
James Neary
Zoey Neary

10017 Cape Ann Dr
Columbia, MD 21046

Merriweather Post Pavilion

Leah Allen [lallen@sas.upenn.edu]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 4:49 PM**To:** CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Council Members,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world-renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather. So many of us gathered in support to Save Merriweather when its fate was in doubt. You each have seen the tremendous love and pride that we show in our music venue and our community. Passing the legislation that is in front of you will finally give the venue a permanent, public parking lot that it needs to thrive. The venue draws thousands of people to each show. With the current development in Town Center, many have become stressed and frustrated with the difficulty in parking. Luckily, the venue, staff and performances more than make up for this frustration, but it is time to make Merriweather become the undisputed leader in music experience. I appreciate the Council's commitment to ensuring that this plan is right not only for Downtown Columbia but all of Howard County. However this plan is long overdue and the final piece to saving Merriweather, once and for all. That is why I support this plan, and that is why I am asking you to as well.

Thank you,

Leah Allen

Leah E. Allen

Candidate for B.A. Health and Societies 2017

University of Pennsylvania

[240-405-6332](tel:240-405-6332) | lallen@sas.upenn.edu

In Support of TIF Legislation

Ken Kessler [kkessler10@verizon.net]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 4:48 PM**To:** CouncilMail**Cc:** MPP@aaasn.net

Dear Howard County Council Members,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world-renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather. So many of us gathered in support to Save Merriweather when its fate was in doubt. You each have seen the tremendous love and pride that we show in our music venue and our community. Passing the legislation that is in front of you will finally give the venue a permanent, public parking lot that it needs to thrive. The venue draws thousands of people to each show. With the current development in Town Center, many have become stressed and frustrated with the difficulty in parking. Luckily, the venue, staff and performances more than make up for this frustration, but it is time to make Merriweather become the undisputed leader in music experience. I appreciate the Council's commitment to ensuring that this plan is right not only for Downtown Columbia but all of Howard County. However this plan is long overdue and the final piece to saving Merriweather, once and for all. That is why I support this plan, and that is why I am asking you to as well. Thank you.

FW: Providing moderately priced housing in Columbia

Sigaty, Mary Kay

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 4:47 PM

To: Sayers, Margery

From: Bonnie Orrison 2 <borrison@comcast.net>

Date: Thursday, July 14, 2016 at 4:41 PM

To: Mary Kay Sigaty <mksigaty@howardcountymd.gov>

Subject: Providing moderately priced housing in Columbia

Dear Council Member Sigaty,

I ask you to consider supporting whatever legislation will best ensure that all persons in Howard County have a change at decent housing. I believe a good start is to demand that any new development – including Town Center and Hickory Ridge – provides 15% moderately priced housing.

Bonnie Orrison

5060 Blacksmith Dr

21044

#ParkMPP

Joaybear [joaybear@verizon.net]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 4:46 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Councilmembers,

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Thank you!

Ron and Johanna Hebert

7535 Summer Leave Lane

Columbia, MD

Sent from my iPhone

Council Meeting July 14, 2016

Jeane Evans [sewjeane@outlook.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 4:44 PM

To: CouncilMail

I won't be able to attend tonight's meeting, but I agree with my neighbors from the Wyndham Condominiums. I don't want housing on the top of the new fire station Near my condominium. I feel that my wishes should be considered more than Howard Hughes Company. I live near the fire station.....I pay my taxes...the extra amount of people living in that Space will create a safety hazard for all of us
Will money rule the elected officials in Howard County? That is what seems to be most important
To all the people that we elected.

Sincerely Jeane Evans

5837 Wyndham Circle #103

Columbia, MD

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Merriweather

Lavis, Jeffrey R. [Jeffrey.Lavis@lfg.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 4:45 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Councilmembers,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world-renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather.

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Thank you.

Jeffrey R. Lavis | AVP Distribution | Washington, DC RSO
Lincoln Financial Group | Insurance Solutions Group Protection

Jeffrey.Lavis@LFG.com

Office 443.364.5436 | Cellular 301.395.0657

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Save Merriweather

Kaitlin Paddy [kaitlin.paddy@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 4:42 PM**To:** CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Council Members,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world-renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather. So many of us gathered in support to Save Merriweather when its fate was in doubt. You each have seen the tremendous love and pride that we show in our music venue and our community. Passing the legislation that is in front of you will finally give the venue a permanent, public parking lot that it needs to thrive. The venue draws thousands of people to each show. With the current development in Town Center, many have become stressed and frustrated with the difficulty in parking. Luckily, the venue, staff and performances more than make up for this frustration, but it is time to make Merriweather become the undisputed leader in music experience. I appreciate the Council's commitment to ensuring that this plan is right not only for Downtown Columbia but all of Howard County. However this plan is long overdue and the final piece to saving Merriweather, once and for all. That is why I support this plan, and that is why I am asking you to as well.

Thank you,
Kaitlin Paddy

MPP

David Hutzenbiler [davidhutz@icloud.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 4:39 PM**To:** CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Council Members, I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world-renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather. So many of us gathered in support to Save Merriweather when its fate was in doubt. You each have seen the tremendous love and pride that we show in our music venue and our community. Passing the legislation that is in front of you will finally give the venue a permanent, public parking lot that it needs to thrive. The venue draws thousands of people to each show. With the current development in Town Center, many have become stressed and frustrated with the difficulty in parking. Luckily, the venue, staff and performances more than make up for this frustration, but it is time to make Merriweather become the undisputed leader in music experience. I appreciate the Council's commitment to ensuring that this plan is right not only for Downtown Columbia but all of Howard County. However this plan is long overdue and the final piece to saving Merriweather, once and for all. That is why I support this plan, and that is why I am asking you to as well. Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

Merriweather

Julia Nguyen [juliangu8@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 4:36 PM**To:** CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Council Members, I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world-renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather. So many of us gathered in support to Save Merriweather when its fate was in doubt. You each have seen the tremendous love and pride that we show in our music venue and our community. Passing the legislation that is in front of you will finally give the venue a permanent, public parking lot that it needs to thrive. The venue draws thousands of people to each show. With the current development in Town Center, many have become stressed and frustrated with the difficulty in parking. Luckily, the venue, staff and performances more than make up for this frustration, but it is time to make Merriweather become the undisputed leader in music experience. I appreciate the Council's commitment to ensuring that this plan is right not only for Downtown Columbia but all of Howard County. However this plan is long overdue and the final piece to saving Merriweather, once and for all. That is why I support this plan, and that is why I am asking you to as well. Thank you.

Affordable Housing bills

Helen Ruther [heruther@hotmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 4:33 PM**To:** CouncilMail

I'm very disappointed in what appears to be some members support of the administration's bills on affordable housing. Why are you abandoning the 2010 zoning bill's requirement for 15% of all newly built housing in Downtown to be affordable? Why let Howard Hughes out of their obligation to provide affordable housing on their own property not on County owned property? These bills provide a big give away to the developer as well as adding 900 more units to the 5500 already planned for. Using TIF money is just an additional \$90 million giveaway to the developer. It is my understanding That TIF is designed for deteriorating neighborhoods which Downtown Columbia definitely is not. I strongly support Jen Terrasa's bill which adheres to the original 2010 zoning. I hope you all do the right thing. I will be watching closely.

Helen Ruther

Parking Garage for MPP

Amanda Egebrecht [amanda.egebrecht@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 4:32 PM**To:** CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Council Members,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world-renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather. So many of us gathered in support to Save Merriweather when its fate was in doubt. You each have seen the tremendous love and pride that we show in our music venue and our community. Passing the legislation that is in front of you will finally give the venue a permanent, public parking lot that it needs to thrive. The venue draws thousands of people to each show. With the current development in Town Center, many have become stressed and frustrated with the difficulty in parking. Luckily, the venue, staff and performances more than make up for this frustration, but it is time to make Merriweather become the undisputed leader in music experience. I appreciate the Council's commitment to ensuring that this plan is right not only for Downtown Columbia but all of Howard County. However this plan is long overdue and the final piece to saving Merriweather, once and for all. That is why I support this plan, and that is why I am asking you to as well.

Thank you.

Need for moderately priced housing

Bonnie Orrison 2 [borrison@comcast.net]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 4:16 PM

To: CouncilMail

I ask the County Council to please continue the spirit of Columbia by making sure new building, especially development in Town Center, provides moderate priced housing. I believe Jen Terrasa's bill will do this and support its passing.

Bonnie Orrison
5060 Blacksmith Dr
Columbia, MD

Downtown Columbia

Rebecc [jackson6home@verizon.net]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 4:10 PM**To:** CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Council members,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world- renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather.

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Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Regards,

Rebecca Jackson

Sent from my iPad

Parking Issue

Cook, Melody [Melody.Cook@wilmerhale.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 3:56 PM

To: CouncilMail

Cc: 4mykids311@gmail.com

Dear Howard County Councilmembers,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather. So many of us gathered in support to Save Merriweather when its fate was in doubt. You each have seen the tremendous love and pride that we show in our music venue and our community. Passing the legislation that is in front of you will finally give the venue a permanent, public parking lot that it needs to thrive. The venue draws thousands of people to each show. With the current development in Town Center, many have become stressed and frustrated with the difficulty in parking. Luckily, the venue, staff and performances more than make up for this frustration, but it is time to make Merriweather become the undisputed leader in music experience. I appreciate the Council's commitment to ensuring that this Plan is right for not only Downtown Columbia but all of Howard County. However, this plan is long-overdue and the final piece to saving Merriweather, once and for all. That is why I support this plan, and that is why I am asking to you, as well.

Thank you

Melody Cook (8 year Howard County Resident)

Melody Cook | WilmerHale

Legal Secretary

1875 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

Washington, DC 20006 USA

+1 202 247 4114 (t)

+1 202 663 6363 (f)

melody.cook@wilmerhale.com

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For more information about WilmerHale, please visit us at <http://www.wilmerhale.com>.

Merriweather

Beth Ivey [mrsivey18@yahoo.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 3:49 PM**To:** CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Councilmembers,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather. So many of us gathered in support to Save Merriweather when its fate was in doubt. You each have seen the tremendous love and pride that we show in our music venue and our community. Passing the legislation that is in front of you will finally give the venue a permanent, public parking lot that it needs to thrive. The venue draws thousands of people to each show. With the current development in Town Center, many have become stressed and frustrated with the difficulty in parking. Luckily, the venue, staff and performances more than make up for this frustration, but it is time to make Merriweather become the undisputed leader in music experience. I appreciate the Council's commitment to ensuring that this Plan is right for not only Downtown Columbia but all of Howard County. However, this plan is long-overdue and the final piece to saving Merriweather, once and for all. That is why I support this plan, and that is why I am asking to you, as well.

Thank you,

Beth Ivey

Samantha Kirkley [samk@930.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 3:44 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Councilmembers,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world- renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather.

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Merriweather, once and for all. That is why I support this plan, and that is why I am asking to you, as well.

Thank you.

Park MPP

Megan Freeman [mgfreeman0@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 3:43 PM

To: CouncilMail

Members of the Howard County Council,

Hello. My name is Megan Freeman and I have worked for Merriweather Post Pavilion for the past six years. I am writing you in support of Merriweather Post Pavilion and the public parking garage. As a supervisor, and as a member of the event staff before that, I have seen firsthand how acquiring a parking garage for patron usage would greatly benefit the patron's experience, the surrounding community centers, and the venue itself, all of which I am sure you will hear all about at the hearing this evening. While all of the above are immensely important, I would like to highlight one other facet of Merriweather that would benefit from a parking garage, which is the staff. In order to demonstrate the effect that the lack of patron parking has had on the Merriweather staff, I would like to share a story with you about my own experiences.

One year ago in August I was working at the venue's "North Gate" (directly across from the mall) when I was assaulted by a patron. According to the patron he had run out to make sure that his car had not been towed from the mall- despite knowing that Merriweather has a no re-entry policy. When he came back, instead of trying to reason with my staff or myself, this patron ran through the gate and when I tried to stop him, he turned around and punched me. While many things could have prevented this from occurring, it is undeniable that the lack of parking was a major contributor. This concert, like many others, was a sold out event and our lots were and are not big enough to accommodate those numbers, thus causing people to take chances parking elsewhere. Unfortunately this wasn't the first problem that was caused by people leaving to check on their cars and, unless something changes, I can guarantee that it will not be the last.

It is almost an every show occurrence when myself or one of my other colleagues must deal with multiple patrons who are upset about either the distance they had to walk after parking their car, having to gamble with parking at the mall/ Whole Foods, or the lack of parking in general. While we empathize with these patrons, this fight is getting pretty old, especially when it comes to those who decided to park in more risky places such as the mall or Whole Foods. Patrons have threatened to sue us if their car gets towed, they have gotten in our faces, and have used a lot of profanity to get their points across. I understand that I have voluntarily accepted a job at this venue, and I do not regret it, but it is pretty disheartening to get berated by patrons for something that we truly have no control over. Many of us are mature enough to brush it off, but we also have several employees who are 15, 16, and 17 years old who do not deserve to deal with this, especially when there is a fairly simple solution.

Members of the Council, I urge you to consider this other very important variable when making your decision regarding the potential parking garage for Merriweather. I love Merriweather, I think it is a great place and truly helps make Columbia, Maryland stand out. Please help make it an even better place for patrons, citizens, and employees alike!

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any further questions, I would be happy to answer them.

Sincerely,

Megan Freeman
Undergraduate Student
University of Maryland, College Park

Julie Canfield [juliemsla@msn.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 3:43 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Councilmembers,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world-renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather.

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Thank you.

Save Merriweather!

Jennifer Robbins [jgrobbins0519@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 3:41 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Councilmembers,

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Thank you.

Jennifer Robbins

12040 Little Patuxent Parkway, Unit I

Columbia, MD 21044

Proposed legislation CB 52 to CB 56 , CR 103 to CR 105 versus legislation CB 43 to CB 45

Jervis Dorton [jervisdorton@yahoo.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 3:38 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear County Council members

The legislation will have serious impact on Columbia's Downtown development and the County at large so it warrants more time for consideration by the public.

I question Howard Hughes' need for Tax Increment Financing : existing development has already proved the viability of Downtown. Statements that it is necessary to complete the Downtown according to Rouse's vision are over-reaching : the real core of Downtown is The Mall, Symphony Overlook, Warfield and Lakefront Neighborhoods, not The Crescent away on the other side of Symphony Woods !

I understand why development of GGP's Mall parking lots will be the last Phase and years away, but the lakefront restaurants and businesses are struggling lacking the former Rouse Company Headquarters' office customers and an empty American City Building. Tax Increment Financing would be more appropriate here, if Howard Hughes needs an incentive to redevelop the American City Building, its parking lot and the Wincopin deck. I question the relocation of the Library to the Crescent since it will further diminish the vibrancy of the real core of Downtown.

Binding the County to a 40 year Agreement committing not to change the applicable laws would be short-sighted in our ever faster changing world !

The public deserves more time to consider the merits of the two competing pieces of legislation, consequently I request that the Council defer any decisions until after the summer recess.

Respectfully,
Jervis Dorton
5963 Gales Lane, Columbia, 21045
410 992 5218

Park MPP

Lauren A Carroll [laur.carroll13@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 3:33 PM**To:** CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Councilmembers,

I am a employee and an enormous fan of our world-renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather.

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Thank you.

Lauren Carroll

**RE: Affordable Housing in Downtown Columbia - Council Bills 43 - 45,
Council Bills 52 - 55, and Council Bills 103 and 104**

Sachs, Steve [Steve.Sachs@WillisTowersWatson.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 3:33 PM

To: CouncilMail

FYI with correction relative to The Rouse Company not owning buildings in Columbia. I removed the sentence.

Steven W Sachs

Executive Vice President, Director Real Estate, Hotel and Gaming Practice

Willis Towers Watson

Willis Group | 225 Schilling Circle Suite 150 | Hunt Valley, Maryland 21031

D +1 410 584 8935

M +1 410 209 0712

steve.sachs@willistowerswatson.com

willistowerswatson.com

From: Sachs, Steve

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 8:15 AM

To: 'councilmail@howardcountymd.gov'

Subject: Affordable Housing in Downtown Columbia - Council Bills 43 - 45, Council Bills 52 - 55, and Council Bills 103 and 104

Council Chairperson Ball and Council Members:

My name is Steven W Sachs and I live at 2811 English Bond Court, Woodstock, Maryland, 21163. I have resided in Howard County since 1973. I worked for The Rouse Company for 12 years as an employee and as an outsourced contractor for managing their Risk Management function for 19 years. I also operated a business in Howard County, HoneyBaked Ham Café and Store (formerly Heavenly Ham) for many years. I presently am employed as an Executive Vice President for Willis Towers Watson, and international firm with 39,000 employees and offices in over 120 countries. I am Director of the Real Estate, Hotel, and Gaming Practice in North America. In that function, I travel extensively to major cities within North America and am engaged with many large owners of real estate assets. Howard Hughes Corporation is not a client of Willis Towers Watson. On a personal note, I strongly believe that a quality education "for all" and affordable housing are critical to our country's ultimate success and survival as a great nation.

In Howard County, I have been actively involved in non-profit boards over the years with a special interest in education, health and wellness, and the arts. I also feel strongly

about the need for sustainable affordable housing and my firm has many clients in that business. When Jim Rouse was involved with Jubilee Housing, which in some ways was the predecessor for his creation of what is now Enterprise Community Partners, I handled the risk and insurance function for the two initial apartment buildings purchased and rehabilitated in Washington D.C. I saw how Jubilee not only rehabilitated derelict buildings, but also created community on a broader scale.

When the Downtown Columbia Plan was being debated before the Council during County Executive Ullman's administration, I testified before the council and was actively engaged in the process and attended many of the council's legislative sessions. It was an interesting time for me as I had been disengaged from the community for a number of years as my wife Sam, was battling cancer. She had lost that battle, and the spirited discussion on the Downtown Plan was a signal for me to become re-engaged in the community. I also remember it fondly, because it is where I first really got to know my wife, Lee, who was working for the Howard County Chamber of Commerce.

I remember the discussions over the affordable housing component of the plan and the final agreement on the plan submitted by GGP and supported by the housing organizations and ultimately the Council. It seemed like a win-win for all concerned, but in reality it has not worked. That is what happens in 30-40 year plans. When something does not work, we re-adjust and as Jim Rouse would say, "you make lemonade out of lemons". When Jim developed the first Columbia Plan with the help of the best and the brightest that he could find, he perceived a build out as possibly a 12 year development cycle. The economy and social fabric of the country changed over the years as did the plan. I was with the company during many of those ups and downs of the US economy and the social changes taking place in our community and country.

I never for a moment believed that the plan agreed upon by the Council would not need some amendments as its execution unfolded. Some would be required to fix issues for both parties. The key to fixing problems is to find a win for both sides that ultimately is fair and benefits the community. Inherently the means the solution will not be perfect.

I believe that Council Bills 103 and 104 address the Affordable Housing issue in that context. The Council approved the original housing component by a 5-0 vote. As it became clear that the agreed upon structure would not achieve the desired results, the Council requested that the Downtown Housing Corporation find a solution and empowered them to negotiate with Howard Hughes Corporation. The DHC's members have considerable experience in Affordable Housing experience from a variety of disciplines. They also brought experience with respect to affordable housing structures and financing across the United States. For its part the developer hired Greg Fitchitt,

who was experienced in affordable housing, to determine from their perspective, how the problem might be resolved, while maintaining the economic viability of this project.

From my conversation with some of the participants, it is clear to me that the negotiation were complex and difficult. In the end, the Board recommended a proposal, which they believe is both viable for meeting the community's affordable housing for Downtown Columbia and supports the overall downtown development.

While some will disagree with me, I believe that the small increase in density is a long term win for both affordable housing and for downtown Columbia. While I understand Council Person Terassa's desire to go back to the original 15% requirement, I do not support it and feel that if the Council felt that was the way to go, it should not have requested the DHC to undertake the complex discussions and negotiations that have in fact led to a viable solution.

I also want to address one issue that has been discussed, which is the use of "public" land on which to build some, if not all of this addition housing. I see this as an increasingly viable and accepted structure across our country. In urban and upcoming areas, the high cost of land, even with the tax credit structures can make it very difficult to successfully structure projects affordable housing projects. I think that it is an appropriate use of County assets.

As I previously commented, I travel across the USA and visit many cities that have ongoing redevelopment. One thing that I have always noted is that vibrancy occurs when there are people congregated in areas. Cities are fun because of the interaction of people in safe environments, where there is a variety of activities, one of which is the watching of other people. That desired picture also comes with some predictable issues, one of which is also traffic. Infrastructure such as parking, roads, and planning for walkable landscapes and alternative transportation can minimize the impact. However, there will never be a "golden" book traffic free zone, as some might want. In my opinion, it is well worth the trade-off. As my friend and wife, Sam used to say to me, Steve, "it is not just about you." I think about that often as the future Downtown Columbia, which I hope to be able to enjoy "parts of", is about building a city that is even more diverse than now, by attracting young adults and professional to both want to work, live and play in a vibrant downtown, befitting of what Jim Rouse might have envisioned.

The TIF legislation, Council Bill 105 and 56 provides for an acceleration of the infrastructure creation. It seems to me that the County is protected under the terms of the TIF. As I understand it, until the assets are earning sufficient tax revenues to pay for

the bond's interest costs, the Developer will pay for them. In addition, once the asset is completed, if it is not providing sufficient tax revenues to suffice the interest payments, and additional levy is placed on the developer, who is responsible for paying it.

I read Liz Bobo's comment that The Rouse Company never required the County to front money for infrastructure. I respect the former County Executive and State Delegate, but I might offer some additional qualifying comments. For the most part HRD (The Developer of Columbia), who had Connecticut General as its deep pocket, was creating infrastructure that was limited to specific areas where land sales would repay the infrastructure investment on a more accelerated basis or "return on investment". I would also add The Rouse Company in the development of large projects, both Shopping Centers and mixed use, used Special Taxing Zones or TIF's to pay for the initial investment of infrastructure improvements. Two examples that I remember was Park Meadows in Denver and Bridgewater Commons in New Jersey. TIF's can be abused if not properly structured, but it "seems" as if this TIF is trying to look out for the possible issues that might impact the County.

As the Chair of the last two Howard County Spending Affordability Committees, I agree that we do not want to expose the County's operating budget to the downstream impact of borrowing and we have recommended a reduction in borrowing in the last two reports. The use of a properly structured TIF addresses that issue, while allowing the County to accelerate the development process of Downtown Columbia, which will ultimately bring needed additional commercial property tax revenue to the County as well as creating a vibrant downtown for people to live, work, play, and "grow".

If you have any questions, I would be happy to meet with you to respond.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven W Sachs

Steven W Sachs

Executive Vice President, Director Real Estate, Hotel and Gaming Practice

Willis Towers Watson

Willis Group | 225 Schilling Circle Suite 150 | Hunt Valley, Maryland 21031

D +1 410 584 8935

M +1 410 209 0712

steve.sachs@willistowerswatson.com

willistowerswatson.com

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Proposed public parking garage

Autumn Fischer [autumn1622@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 3:01 PM**To:** CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Councilmembers,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather. So many of us gathered in support to Save Merriweather when its fate was in doubt. You each have seen the tremendous love and pride that we show in our music venue and our community. Passing the legislation that is in front of you will finally give the venue a permanent, public parking lot that it needs to thrive. The venue draws thousands of people to each show. With the current development in Town Center, many have become stressed and frustrated with the difficulty in parking. Luckily, the venue, staff and performances more than make up for this frustration, but it is time to make Merriweather become the undisputed leader in music experience. I appreciate the Council's commitment to ensuring that this Plan is right for not only Downtown Columbia but all of Howard County. However, this plan is long-overdue and the final piece to saving Merriweather, once and for all. That is why I support this plan, and that is why I am asking to you, as well.

Thank you.

Autumn Fischer

Howard County Resident

Merriweather

Rita [raulebach@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 2:57 PM**To:** CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Councilmembers,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world-renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather.

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Thank you.

Rita Aulebach

Merriweather Post Pavilion parking garage

fatimah steffanoff [fatimah.steffanoff@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 2:49 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Councilmembers,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world-renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather.

So many of us gathered in support to Save Merriweather when its fate was in doubt. You each have seen the tremendous love and pride that we show in our music venue and our community. Passing the legislation that is in front of you will finally give the venue a permanent, public parking lot that it needs to thrive. The venue draws thousands of people to each show, many of whom are stressed and frustrated with the difficulty in parking. Luckily, the venue, staff and performances more than make up for this frustration, but it is time to make Merriweather become the undisputed leader in music experience.

I appreciate the Council's commitment to ensuring that this Plan is right for not only Downtown Columbia but all of Howard County. However, this plan is long-overdue and the final piece to saving Merriweather, once and for all. That is why I support this plan, and that is why I am asking to you, as well.

Thank you!

Fatimah Steffanoff

In praise of the TIF

Lin Eagan [lineagan@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 2:49 PM

To: CouncilMail

Cc: lin Eagan [lin.eagan@lnf.com]

Hi All.

So sorry not to be able to testify in person, but I need to be at the CA Board tonight. I feel very strongly about the importance of passing the administration's proposals so we can become the premier urban center we've always been promised.

Columbia is again at a crossroad and we need to give the county, the developer, and our citizens the tools to take us forward.

Back in the '80s as a real estate agent who was also a true believer in Columbia, my standard introductory tour to Columbia started with Wilde Lake, the oldest village, and worked forward. Always last was the circle around the Mall, in all its unbuilt glory, and I always said, "they are saving the best for last." I really believed that. I believed that the Rouse Company had great plans for that barren unfinished downtown. It wasn't til years later that I realized that nobody had a plan, or even a clue.

The few buildings that were put up in downtown were ordinary, functional and disconnected. If you lived in The Warfields, it was scary to even try to walk to the Mall, muchness any of the nearby lakes or offices. It was only when Rouse finished developing most of the easy residential and simple one story commercial areas that ring Columbia, that they packaged us up, took their profit, and dumped us on a clueless GGP. It was only then that everyone, including the county, saw the obvious need for a plan. And so we began 5 years of intense negotiation between all facets of the county that finally resulted in a very forward looking 21st century plan.

We need to make that plan work. Probably one of the best things that happened was GGP going bankrupt. That put us in the hands of Howard Hughes, a corporation whose expertise and sole purpose was to develop 6 master planned communities; a corporation with no debt in our deep recession. And they made Columbia a priority. Maybe it's real estate karma.

When I look at what might have been, I feel that the TIF is not a burden to the county, but a guarantee to all of us that Howard Hughes will do everything, in good markets and bad, to fulfill its obligations. It is Howard Hughes, not the county, that is on the hook in the inevitable economic downturns. They can't just build the easy stuff and take the money and run. They can't treat us like the Rouse Company did. We deserved better, and we're on the verge of getting it.

And the TIF is transparent. For all the concern about developer advantage with the TIF, I rarely hear any concern about all of the deals that our county, and all sensible jurisdictions, make to entice major business to locate here. Is there any record of favorable tax treatment available anywhere? But information about the TIF will be publicly available and constantly updated until paid off.

Yes, we should question assumptions, but I am proud of the collaborative way the county, the many special interest groups, and Howard Hughes have worked together to produce the legislative package now before you. In this moment of political chaos, I am proud to be from Howard County. Please pass it, amend it if necessary, but let's move on.

Respectfully.

Lin Eagan
5422 Smooth Meadow Way
Columbia, MD 21044
443-255-0733

Merriweather parking

lindalange10@verizon.net

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 2:40 PM**To:** CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Councilmembers,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather. So many of us gathered in support to Save Merriweather when its fate was in doubt. You each have seen the tremendous love and pride that we show in our music venue and our community. Passing the legislation that is in front of you will finally give the venue a permanent, public parking lot that it needs to thrive. The venue draws thousands of people to each show. With the current development in Town Center, many have become stressed and frustrated with the difficulty in parking. Luckily, the venue, staff and performances more than make up for this frustration, but it is time to make Merriweather become the undisputed leader in music experience. I appreciate the Council's commitment to ensuring that this Plan is right for not only Downtown Columbia but all of Howard County. However, this plan is long-overdue and the final piece to saving Merriweather, once and for all. That is why I support this plan, and that is why I am asking to you, as well.

Thank you.

Linda Lange
6725 Seneca Drive
Columbia, MD 21046

FW: In Support of TIF legislation this pm

Fox, Greg

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 2:36 PM

To: Sayers, Margery

From: Doug Parker [mailto:dougparker16@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 12:24 PM

To: CouncilMail

Subject: In Support of TIF legislation this pm

Dear Howard County Council members,

I grew up in Howard County and am an enormous fan of our world-renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather.

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Thanks,
Doug Parker

affordable housing downtown

Larry Carson [karasov1@hotmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 2:19 PM**To:** CouncilMail

Hi. Since I testified last time on this at the planning board, I figured to just send an e-mail with my views. I had the pleasure of talking about this with Mary Kay and she explained why she feels the coalition plan is best.

But I still think Jen Terrasa's bill is better. Here' why:

- 1.The administration plan is binding for 40 years. What if the housing isn't built (again) or gets bogged down in public debate, (as often happens in Columbia). Then what? No affordable housing? Again?
- 2.density. I have no problem personally with increasing density, but I think if that is a goal, it should be done separately, not via the back door riding on affordable housing.
- 3.I think Jen's plan is easily understood and easily implemented and is foolproof. So go with a bird in the hand, not one in the bush.

I understand the administration plan has several advantages: like not being tied to the developer's construction schedule and added pieces of Howard Hughes land, but it seems to me Jen's plan is guaranteed to work. It probably should have been done six years ago. Don't make the same mistake twice.

Larry Carson

Merriweather and TIF

Chris Kennedy [ctkmusic@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 2:25 PM**To:** CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Councilmembers,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world-renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather.

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Thank you!

Chris Kennedy (and family)

Columbia, MD

Merriweather parking

Chris Magnani [chrismagna1234@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 2:12 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Councilmembers,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world- renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather.

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Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

FW: Downtown Columbia News - Issue 5

Sigaty, Mary Kay

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 2:09 PM**To:** Sayers, Margery

From: C Philippides <cphilippides@hotmail.com>
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2016 at 11:38 AM
To: Mary Kay Sigaty <mksigaty@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Re: Downtown Columbia News - Issue 5

Dear Ms. Sigaty,

I have being interested in the development of the down town Columbia for all 42 years we reside here. We love Columbia.

I regret to say and feel ill about the doings of the CA officials and the Ho. Co. system, covenants?, miss concepts, arm twisting , or God knows what.

The owners of the land control all of us. Pity they can get away with so much. Remember the Columbia Zoo, the hot air balloon festivities, et., et. Those where the Columbia Days! All these years and the theater remains unimproved. The other day I thought and really felt they were banging on my head in my own bedroom, at about 10 PM or so and not on their drums!

Look what is done in the Wild Lake Village. Do you really like it, a center without a gas station, without a food Store for old people , especially those without transport?

And what about those apartments? How all those people will go in and out driving on the same size road since Columbia's birth? What is the County doing about that?

Think about Patuxent Park Way! I know the misery I live in the Birches. Has the County given it a thought about the traffic with several newly built mega-theria buildings downtown? I am certain the County has given lots of thought but have a plan mature yet to help? Just do not add more traffic lights on the Down Town portion of the parkway.

You remember how successful the people were to stop the high rise downtown? You were a part of it I believe with Ms. Bobo and the rest of us fighting for years and we had success that time. And look at the monstrosity done this time on that lot. You call that down town improvement? Where the County came in to require to leave space around the building for open space and green environment. They have the audacity the builders to put their walls almost up the path way. Please Just observe the new look at the corner of Broken Land and Patuxent parkways, and then look across street at the Old Look of Columbia and **please tell me what you think?**

Where are the covenants, where is the architectural comity, that once I was prevented to put a rotary antenna which was standing on the roof no higher than 12 inches. And look at what they allow now, especially to corporations, to do. You only have to look at the high rise next to the Wilde Lake by the Water Fall. Just look at those antennas on the roof.

All these OVERSIGHTS will make the New Columbia and you and I don't have a chance to change it. Do we want to call the new plan progress? beauty? or down town improvement most of all!??

Respectfully,

Constantinos Philippides

I have never forgotten your love and good work and leadership, commanding our daughters, well under the Girl Scout banner. Thank you.

Sent from [Outlook](#)

From: Sigaty, Mary Kay <mksigaty@howardcountymd.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 7, 2016 12:54 PM
To: Sigaty, Mary Kay
Cc: Clay, Mary
Subject: Downtown Columbia News - Issue 5

Good afternoon,

Please see the latest edition of the Downtown Columbia News.

Thanks.....MK

--

Mary Kay Sigaty
Howard County Council
District 4
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-2001

If you receive this newsletter in a forwarded email and you would like to receive it directly, please email me at mksigaty@howardcountymd.gov.

Please let me know if you no longer wish to receive this type of information and I will remove you from the distribution list.

FW: Howard Hughes

Sigaty, Mary Kay

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 2:06 PM

To: Sayers, Margery

From: Hedy Bookin-Weiner <hedy970@gmail.com>

Date: Thursday, July 14, 2016 at 11:40 AM

To: Mary Kay Sigaty <mksigaty@howardcountymd.gov>

Subject: Howard Hughes

Hi Mary Kay,

It's your Hollow Oaks neighbors hoping that you support Jen Terrasa's bill which would require Howard Hughes (the successor to The Rouse Company and General Growth Properties) to provide that 15% of all new housing in Town Center be moderately priced, as is required of developers in all other areas of Howard County.

We are outraged at the bill currently before the County Council granting a TIF to Howard Hughes. Why should taxpayers give approximately \$90 million to Howard Hughes? I don't see any benefit to us, only the company, which has rightly had to pay for infrastructure related to its development and profits in the past.

I hope that you agree and that the council will as well.

Regards,

Hedy and Jerry Bookin-Weiner

5678 Thicket Lane

▪

FW: TIF

Sigaty, Mary Kay

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 2:02 PM

To: Sayers, Margery

From: c greenwood <cgreenwood@outlook.com>

Date: Thursday, July 14, 2016 at 10:20 AM

To: Mary Kay Sigaty <mksigaty@howardcountymd.gov>

Subject: TIF

Mary Kay,

I am writing to share my concern about the tax increment financing (TIF) plan currently being studied. I feel this is an inappropriate use of public funding because the primary beneficiary is the developer. Howard Hughes purchased the development rights to Columbia and assumed the responsibility for providing future infrastructure to support that development. I urge you to oppose the use of TIF and hold Howard Hughes accountable for their investment in the future of Columbia.

Thanks,

Cabell Greenwood
Harper's Choice

FW: Downtown

Sigaty, Mary Kay

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 1:54 PM

To: Sayers, Margery

Begin forwarded message:

From: Valerie Montague <valeriemg1@gmail.com>

Subject: Downtown

Date: July 13, 2016 at 10:31:10 AM EDT

To: Mary Kay Sigaty <mksigaty@verizon.net>

Cc: Jen Terrasa <JTerrasa@howardcountymd.gov>

Mary Kay:

I urge you to support Jen Terrasa's clear, fair proposal for including 15% affordable housing in units approved for downtown Columbia, the same requirement developers must meet in other parts of Howard County.

Do NOT approve a TIF for the developer; Columbia is not the kind of distressed area for which TIFs are intended.

Valerie Montague

(Sent from my phone)

FW: Downtown Housing Plan

Sigaty, Mary Kay

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 1:52 PM

To: Sayers, Margery

From: "husker59@aol.com" <husker59@aol.com>

Date: Wednesday, July 13, 2016 at 8:12 PM

To: Mary Kay Sigaty <mksigaty@howardcountymd.gov>

Subject: Downtown Housing Plan

Please vote AGAINST the developer's plan. There is no reason to give the developer TAX INCENTIVES (TIF) to provide affordable housing. Downtown Columbia is NOT a blighted area. Increased density will make Columbia a more vibrant community and make public transportation options more viable.

Kathy Larson

Longfellow

Sent from Surface

FW: new development in Columbia

Sigaty, Mary Kay

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 1:51 PM**To:** Sayers, Margery

From: Dieuwke Zolas <dzolas@yahoo.com>**Reply-To:** Dieuwke Zolas <dzolas@yahoo.com>**Date:** Wednesday, July 13, 2016 at 7:54 PM**To:** Mary Kay Sigaty <mksigaty@howardcountymd.gov>**Subject:** new development in Columbia

Dear Mrs. Sigaty,

I moved to Columbia, MD last September from Maine. Communities in Maine are build with people from all walks of life, rich, poor, Mainers, people from away etc. It makes a town or city interesting, public schools become a place where children learn to mix with all kinds.

Recently I have been reading about the downtown Columbia area, the building of higher income housing and large tax credits to the investors? If Columbia is to remain a livable, viable city based on the original principals it was build with 40-50 years ago, these new plans are not well fitting. Do we want segregation in Columbia, the rich behind walls in one area, the poor in ghettos on the outskirts? A viable city is based on all walks of life mixed together.

I also find it disappointing to hear the city council is considering huge tax cuts for Mr Howard Hughes. Why are you asking me as a tax payer to pay into this man's pocket? Should I not be spending my hard earned money on supporting the shops and new cafe's, restaurants in the downtown area versus adding on to Mr Hughes millions? The tax rate in this city/ county is already high in comparison. Is the goal to chase people out of Columbia because of the ridiculous high tax rates so we can keep Mr Hughes happy?

Please support the average person in Columbia and keep this city a place where people of all walks of life can live together.

Thank you for your time,

Dieuwke Zolas

10530 East Wind Way

Columbia

Tax Increment

Mark Stinson [mstinson272@yahoo.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 1:41 PM**To:** CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Councilmembers,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world-renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather.

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I appreciate the Council's commitment to ensuring that this Plan is right for not only Downtown Columbia but all of Howard County. However, this plan is long-overdue and the final piece to saving Merriweather, once and for all. That is why I support this plan, and that is why I am asking to you, as well.

Thank you.

Mark Stinson

FW: Please oppose adding 1000 housing units downtown

Sigaty, Mary Kay

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 1:44 PM

To: Sayers, Margery

On 7/13/16, 5:26 PM, "David Albert" <david@dalbert.net> wrote:

>Dear Mr. Kittleman and Ms. Sigaty,

>

>I live in Columbia and own a small business in downtown Columbia; I am
>writing to implore you to OPPOSE the addition of 1000 units of housing
>downtown without requiring the developers to fund the associated
>infrastructure improvements and school expansions. Smart Growth was one
>of the key reasons I moved my home and business to Maryland; I lived in
>NoVA for many years and experienced the disastrous impact of unchecked
>growth without matching infrastructure improvements: traffic became a
>nightmare and schools became severely overcrowded. Please don't let
>this happen in Howard County; ultimately it is bad for your business and
>residential constituents.

>

>Sincerely,

>David Albert

>

>--

>David Albert

>10718 Vista Road

>Columbia, MD 21044

>410-531-0785 (home)

>301-728-0718 (cell)

>

SupportMPP

Joy Strianese [jstrianese@yahoo.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 1:33 PM**To:** CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Council Members,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world- renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather.

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I appreciate the Council's commitment to ensuring that this Plan is right for not only Downtown Columbia but all of Howard County. However, this plan is long-overdue and the final piece to saving Merriweather once and for all.

Thank you for all you do.

Sincerely,

Joy Strianese

Sent from my iPhone

MPP- Parking Support

Laci123@comcast.net

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 1:38 PM**To:** CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Councilmembers,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather.

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Thank you.

Sincerely,

Laci Radford

FW: Downtown Columbia Development

Sigaty, Mary Kay

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 1:35 PM**To:** Sayers, Margery

From: "lindaleslie@verizon.net" <lindaleslie@verizon.net>**Date:** Wednesday, July 13, 2016 at 10:55 AM**To:** Mary Kay Sigaty <mksigaty@howardcountymd.gov>**Subject:** Downtown Columbia Development

Dear Mary Kay,

I heard this morning about the legislation that is currently under consideration regarding development in downtown Columbia. I'm not a lawyer and I will admit that I haven't had time to read all the details, but I do feel very strongly that we need to hold up our principles and maintain or increase affordable housing options in downtown.

I work downtown (right across from Merriweather) and my kids are at Wilde Lake High School, so I am very familiar with the dynamics of the area. What I see going up are huge apartment buildings that very few working people will ever be able to afford. I see gigantic office buildings that will bring in professional workers by the hundreds or thousands. But where will the folks that service these buildings live? Where will the restaurant workers live? What about our teachers and public service personnel? We need to stand strong and retain affordable housing as these units are developed.

I also am very concerned about the idea that we are considering providing tax subsidies to the corporations that are developing these units. I find it puzzling why we would need to incentivize companies to develop in one of the most attractive counties in the country. I could understand if this was Detroit, but it isn't. Are we in such a rush to develop that we can't take the time to weigh our options and come up with the best plan for our county over the long term?

I have been a supporter of yours for many years and I appreciate the thoughtfulness you bring to situations like this. I will be sending good thoughts your way over the coming week, and hope for clarity for you and the rest of the members of the council. Please count me as one of your supporters in doing what is right. - Linda Lappert Leslie

FW: Thursday session, a written testimony

Sigaty, Mary Kay

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 1:32 PM

To: Sayers, Margery

Attachments: Councilhearing.doc (36 KB)

From: "melindaderick@gmail.com" <melindaderick@gmail.com>

Date: Wednesday, July 13, 2016 at 7:14 AM

To: Mary Kay Sigaty <mksigaty@howardcountymd.gov>

Subject: Thursday session, a written testimony

Hello, Mary Kay,

Good morning, I spoke with you after the Town hall meeting and used our conversation in my testimony. Hope you like it. Just another point of view for an amendment.

Thanks and may the best plan win, Melinda Derick

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Melinda Derick
6270 Cricket Pass
Columbia, MD 21044
melindaderick@gmail.com
443-878-3639

Page 1

Re: Administration's Legislative Package, and for Jen Terrasa's Proposed Legislation.

Dear County Council Members,

As a very long term resident of Columbia, since 1979 I've witnessed a lot of growth. I'm no enemy to builders as my mother made a very respectable business in interior design for most all of the builders in Columbia both residential and commercial. As a kid, I played in and around the mall when it still had a five and dime store, McRory's and Wilde Lake Village Center still had all small business owners who knew me. Now I avoid the mall as its size over whelms. Wilde Lake has less than a hand full of small business owners left. Columbia seems packed with people who rush by in cars.

As a resident of Hickory Ridge, I cherish the quiet paths and longtime neighbors, whose lives matter to me and mine to them. My daughter attends Wilde Lake Middle where I am amazed that even in a GT math class, she must sit up front in order to hear over the din of about 25 disruptive students. How many more students are projected at the middle school with this new development?

As I understand, this proposal to build a high rise on top of a fire station is an expedient way to fulfill a builders promise to provide affordable housing. Surely a promise that needs to be fulfilled. I spoke at the last months Town Hall meeting with Council representative, Mary Kay Sigaty. She said that her own daughter would love to live in this proposed high rise over the fire station. Her appreciation for the plan is also based on its expediency. Perhaps the location is good fit for 20 something's to live in. Especially if they worked at the mall. What a fit, a day job and night life all within walking distance! Although my question is who will be the likely residents of this high rise?

According to *The National Low Income Housing Spotlight, 2012,*

"Elderly households (those including a household head or spouse who is at least 62) are a large part of the tenant population across all programs. Nearly a third (30%) of public housing residents are elderly, as are nearly half (46%) of residents in Project Based Section 8 housing. Households including a member with disabilities are also a size-able group, composing one-fifth (21%) of those living in public housing, and over a quarter (28%) of voucher recipients. Both of these household types are very likely to be living on a fixed income such as Supplemental Security Income or Social Security and thus will need housing assistance for most of the rest of their lives. A little more than a third (35%) of public housing households include children under the age of 18, and 43% of households with vouchers have children."

<http://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/HousingSpotlight2-2.pdf>

And from a much older article in *The HUD User Periodical*, 1989,

“To summarize: 52 percent of all public housing is occupied by elderly or handicapped households, 43 percent by households with children (including some with handicapped heads of household), and the balance by nonelderly households without children.” <https://www.huduser.gov/periodicals/ushmc/spring95/spring95.html>

Despite this age of the later article, if the statistics have not changed dramatically in over 14 years, I doubt that they have changed dramatically in the 4 year span from 2012 to 2016. In this case then living over a fire house sounds pretty disturbing and stressful to me if I was either elderly or a single parent. And if the high rise houses younger folks, how would that fit the fire workers needs, to sleep and focus on taking care of themselves so they can be our dependable first responders? It seems like a bad fit either way with little likelihood of symbiosis. Everyone needs a “sense of place”. This is a term used by city planners to characterize a feeling people have about a place that makes it seem special or unique, as well as a place to foster authentic human attachment and belonging. Healthy soil has enough organic matter that when it rains, the water settles slowly to the roots of plants. Hard and un-porous soil sends water right off its surface. And, from injury or illness recovery comes from lots of small steps to rebuild strength, flexibility and functional movement.

Let’s not rush a plan that has not been worked through properly. Jim Rouse had a great *dream*, not only a bottom line. Make sure that the plan has full foresight into issues like projected school enrollment, enough parking, traffic leeway, and quality if fit for those already present. Clearly, the current lack of affordable housing speaks to a disregard for the community as a whole. But as an old time resident of Columbia once told me, “Howard County has come down with a bad case of “Afluenza” and bottom line decisions alone are not the cure, they’re the cause.

Melinda Derick, Hands On Health Massage and Resident of Hickory Ridge

Merriweather Post Pavilion

Steph H [seh234@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 1:31 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Council members,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world-renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather.

So many of us gathered in support to Save Merriweather when its fate was in doubt. You each have seen the tremendous love and pride that we show in our music venue and our community. Passing the legislation that is in front of you will finally give the venue a permanent, public parking lot that it needs to thrive. The venue draws thousands of people to each show. With the current development in Town Center, many have become stressed and frustrated with the difficulty in parking. Luckily, the venue, staff and performances more than make up for this frustration, but it is time to make Merriweather become the undisputed leader in music experience.

I appreciate the Council's commitment to ensuring that this Plan is right for not only Downtown Columbia but all of Howard County. However, this plan is long-overdue and the final piece to saving Merriweather, once and for all. That is why I support this plan, and that is why I am asking to you, as well.

Thank you.

Merriweather Post

Rob Op. [rso32@msn.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 1:31 PM**To:** CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Councilmembers,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world-renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather.

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Thank you.

-Robert Opatovsky

Merriweather parking lot

Thomas Wartzack [music.n.lacrosse@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 1:29 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Council members,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world-renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather.

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Thank you.

Downtown Columbia Parking Plan

Riley, Rebecca [rriley@smcm.edu]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 1:28 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Councilmembers, I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion.

I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather. So many of us gathered in support to Save Merriweather when its fate was in doubt. You each have seen the tremendous love and pride that we show in our music venue and our community.

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Thank You.

--

Rebecca Riley

English and French Double Major

Writing Center Tutor (2016)

Dean of Student's Advisory Committee (2015-2016)

"The truth is out there"

Merriweather parking proposal

Thomas Wartzack [twartzack@yahoo.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 1:20 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Council members,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world-renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather.

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Thank you.

Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation

Abbey Blum [ablum2014@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 1:21 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Council Members,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world-renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather.

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Thank you.

Park Merriweather

Evan Ponter [etponter@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 1:17 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Councilmembers,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world-renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather.

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Thank you.

-Evan Ponter

Support Merriweather!

Jacob Mathew [jake91234@hotmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 1:15 PM**To:** CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Councilmembers,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world- renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather.

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Thank you.

Downtown Columbia Public Hearing

Taylor Mann [tmann@terpmail.umd.edu]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 1:13 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Councilmembers,

I am a lifelong Howard County resident and an employee at Merriweather Post Pavilion. Growing up in Ellicott City, I spent many summer nights at concerts there, and fell so in love with the place I decided I had to apply for a summer job. I have worked at Merriweather since my freshman year of high school. Since then, I have spent thousands of hours at the venue and I am now approaching my seventh year of employment.

I love Merriweather more than anything else in this world – so much so that my family and I often joke that I am married to the place. My parents still don't really understand why I devote my entire summer (and some of the spring and fall) to a job that pays little more than minimum wage and has absolutely nothing to do with my career goals. It took six years for my father to admit that me getting a job there was the best thing that has ever happened to me. Because of Merriweather, I have become someone with an incredible work ethic, thick skin, a cool head, and life experience that most people will never get. Because of Merriweather, I found a career path that truly excites me. In two years, I will start nursing school because working at this venue has shown me my true passion – interacting with people and being a part of a community much bigger than myself.

Now that I have told you all about my love story with Merriweather Post Pavilion, I'll get to the point. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather. Since it's opening in 1967, Merriweather has faced its fair share of challenges. However, I think you would be hard-pressed to find a time when the community did not rally around Merriweather and support it in the face of these challenges. The people of Howard County love this venue, just as I do. We know what it means for the economic and cultural development of our county. Merriweather Post Pavilion makes Columbia, MD stand out on a map in a way that few other businesses in the area do.

Like many other residents, I am excited for all of the changes that are involved in the current development of Town Center. However, I have also seen firsthand the stress that this development has placed on the community. During several shows this season, patrons have arrived at Merriweather frustrated and confused about how difficult parking at the venue was. Some resorted to parking at other businesses, deciding that the risk of their car being towed was worth making it to the show on time. Our staff listens to their complaints and empathizes with them, but there is little we can do at that point. In the past few years, Merriweather has taken tremendous steps to improve and innovate, in the hopes of becoming one of the best venues in the nation. Our parking situation is one thing we have yet to improve, and we need your help to do so. Passing the legislation that is in front of you will finally give the venue a permanent, public parking lot that it needs to thrive. I have no doubt that with the completion of Merriweather's renovation and the passing of this legislation would make Merriweather Post Pavilion a leader in the music industry.

I have lived in Howard County since I was five years old. I attended Howard County Public

Schools, which I attribute all of my academic success to. I played in Howard County's parks and on their recreational teams and learned about the importance of teamwork and physical activity. I spent many nights in Columbia, watching movies and wasting time in the mall with my friends. I now attend the University of Maryland in College Park because I could not bear the thought of being far away from my family and the town I grew up in, and because I know that I want to start a family and raise my children here. But throughout all my time in this county, one place has been the center of it all for me, and that is Merriweather Post Pavilion. I can hardly remember a time I did not spend my summers there, and I will work there until I am too old to stand or until they kick me out (I won't go without a fight!). I want the best for this venue, and the best for Howard County, and that is why I support Merriweather's efforts to build permanent parking for the venue.

I appreciate the Council's commitment to ensuring that this Plan is right for not only Downtown Columbia but all of Howard County. However, this plan is long overdue and the final piece to saving Merriweather, once and for all. That is why I support this plan, and that is why I am asking to you, as well.

Thank you!

Sincerely,
Taylor Mann

--

Taylor Mann
University of Maryland 2018
School of Public Health
B.S. Public Health Science, Pre-Nursing
tmann@terpmail.umd.edu | (410) 245-3400

Michael Jones [mcjones123456@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 1:07 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Councilmembers,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather. So many of us gathered in support to Save Merriweather when its fate was in doubt. You each have seen the tremendous love and pride that we show in our music venue and our community. Passing the legislation that is in front of you will finally give the venue a permanent, public parking lot that it needs to thrive. The venue draws thousands of people to each show. With the current development in Town Center, many have become stressed and frustrated with the difficulty in parking. Luckily, the venue, staff and performances more than make up for this frustration, but it is time to make Merriweather become the undisputed leader in music experience. I appreciate the Council's commitment to ensuring that this Plan is right for not only Downtown Columbia but all of Howard County. However, this plan is long-overdue and the final piece to saving merriweather, once and for all. That is why I support this plan, and that is why I am asking to you, as well.

Thank you.

Merriweather

Maura Dougherty [mdoughe4@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 1:03 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Councilmembers,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world-renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather.

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Thank you.

Maura Dougherty

Sent from my iPhone

Parking garage at Merriweather

Joanie [joanie5reis@aol.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 1:02 PM

To: CouncilMail

Cc: Joan E [joanie5reis@aol.com]

Dear Howard County Councilmembers,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world-renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather.

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Thank you.

Joan Reisfeld

8801 Bosley Rd #308

Ellicott City, Md 21043

Sent from my iPhone

Anthony Scallio [anthonyscallio@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 12:56 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Councilmembers,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world-renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather.

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However, this plan is long-overdue and the final piece to saving Merriweather, once and for all. That is why I support this plan, and that is why I am asking to you, as well.

Thanks

support for the Downtown Columbia Tax increment

jmkraw@juno.com

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 12:49 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Councilmembers,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world-renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather.

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Thank you.

Howard County Council

Lana Vonblon [lanavonb@yahoo.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 12:42 PM**To:** CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Council members,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather. So many of us gathered in support to Save Merriweather when its fate was in doubt. You each have seen the tremendous love and pride that we show in our music venue and our community. Passing the legislation that is in front of you will finally give the venue a permanent, public parking lot that it needs to thrive. The venue draws thousands of people to each show. With the current development in Town Center, many have become stressed and frustrated with the difficulty in parking. Luckily, the venue, staff and performances more than make up for this frustration, but it is time to make Merriweather become the undisputed leader in music experience. I appreciate the Council's commitment to ensuring that this Plan is right for not only Downtown Columbia but all of Howard County. However, this plan is long-overdue and the final piece to saving Merriweather, once and for all. That is why I support this plan, and that is why I am asking to you, as well.

Thank you.

Judith P. Wolf [Judith_Wolf@hcpss.org]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 12:44 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Council Members,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world-renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather.

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Thank you,

Judith Wolf, Elkridge MD, Howard County

Merriweather Post Pavilion

Tasha Lobo [tashalobo@icloud.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 12:30 PM**To:** CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Councilmembers,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world-renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather.

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Thank you.

-Natasha Lobo

Sent from my iPhone

Merriweather parking

vjrivkin@aol.com

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 12:27 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Councilmembers,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world-renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather.

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Thank you.

Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation

Alex Gloth [agloth@me.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 12:20 PM**To:** CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Councilmembers,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world- renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather.

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Thank you,
Alex Gloth

Merriweather Parking

Russell Fithyan [swrep5568.appleid@icloud.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 12:09 PM**To:** CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Councilmembers,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world-renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather.

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Thank you.

Sincerely,

Russell

Russell Fithyan
Account Representative
Sherwin Williams
301-440-6592
Swrep5568@sherwin.com

Thank you for your business!!
Manage Your Account Online 24/7 Access:
mys-w.com

Lauriann Parker [lauriannparker@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 12:04 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Councilmembers,

I grew up in Howard County and an enormous fan of our world-renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather.

So many of us gathered in support to Save Merriweather when its fate was in doubt. You each have seen the tremendous love and pride that we show in our music venue and our community. Passing the legislation that is in front of you will finally give the venue a permanent, public parking lot that it needs to thrive. The venue draws thousands of people to each show. With the current development in Town Center, many have become stressed and frustrated with the difficulty in parking. Luckily, the venue, staff and performances more than make up for this frustration, but it is time to make Merriweather become the undisputed leader in music experience.

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Thank you.

-Lauriann Parker

Merriweather Garage

John Pascoe [johnpascoe@comcast.net]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 12:02 PM**To:** CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Councilmembers,

I am a Montgomery County resident and have been a patron of Merriweather for over 35 years. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather. Parking is so desperately needed for this incredible cultural venue.

So many of us gathered in support to Save Merriweather when its fate was in doubt. You each have seen the tremendous love and pride that we show in our music venue and our community. Passing the legislation that is in front of you will finally give the venue a permanent, public parking lot that it needs to thrive. The venue draws thousands of people to each show. With the current development in Town Center, many have become stressed and frustrated with the difficulty in parking. Luckily, the venue, staff and performances more than make up for this frustration, but it is time to make Merriweather become the undisputed leader in music experience.

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Thank you.

John Pascoe
Olney, Maryland

rwickl7439@aol.com

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 12:01 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Councilmembers,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world-renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather.

So many of us gathered in support to Save Merriweather when its fate was in doubt. You each have seen the tremendous love and pride that we show in our music venue and our community. Passing the legislation that is in front of you will finally give the venue a permanent, public parking lot that it needs to thrive. The venue draws thousands of people to each show, many of whom are stressed and frustrated with the difficulty in parking.

Luckily, the venue, staff and performances more than make up for this frustration, but it is time to make Merriweather become the undisputed leader in music experience.

I appreciate the Council's commitment to ensuring that this Plan is right for not only Downtown Columbia but all of Howard County. However, this plan is long-overdue and the final piece to saving Merriweather, once and for all.

That is why I support this plan, and that is why I am asking to you, as well.

Thank you!

Sincerely, Robert Wickline

Andrew Howard [andrewhoward2233@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 12:00 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Council members,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world-renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather.

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Thank you.

Andrew Howard

C 301.873.1545

O 845.255.7017

F 845.255.7152

E andrewhoward2233@gmail.com

Outdoor Resource Group
128 Mountain Rest Rd.
New Paltz, NY 12561

[Arc'teryx](#) | [Smartwool](#) | [Bigtruck Brand](#)

Letter of Concern regarding Town Center Development

gforgash@verizon.net

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 11:59 AM

To: CouncilMail

Attachments: Testimony July 14, 2016.doc (30 KB)

Please find attached my written concerns regarding development of the Banneker Affordable Apartments.

Sincerely

Gloria Forgash

Wyndham Condominium Community

Dear Council Members:

I am a long time owner in the Wyndham Condominium community. I have been to several of the meetings regarding the proposed building of apartment units above the new Banneker Fire Station. I wish to express my concern, and opposition, to the development of these units for the following reasons:

- Our open space being given away to a private developer for the purpose of building residential units on that space. It seems the only one to benefit will be the developer. I also question the legality. When I moved here, there was no question open space is Protected Space!
- The traffic and parking on Banneker Road is already overwhelming. It is a dead end road leading into the cul de sac of townhomes at the end, with our Wyndham Community on the left. This is particularly true in the winter when it is especially treacherous attempting to navigate between cars and commercial trucks. Adding an additional 200-400 cars would be unsafe and unmanageable.
- The increased density in this particular part of Downtown Columbia, will only contribute to an ever increasing and dangerous traffic pattern. With the installation of sidewalks, the hope is to increase foot traffic, but as recently as a month ago, a member of our community was struck by a car walking to the Mall! Think of the negative impact of more cars in this area of town and surely, the safety of our community would be in question.

I want to stress that I am NOT opposed to the building of affordable housing. I can attest I have been the recipient of such when I first moved to Columbia in 1984. I am STRONGLY opposed to the development of such on Banneker. I truly believe this will result in major safety disasters.

Sincerely
Gloria Forgash
5837 Wyndham Cir
#202
Columbia, MD 21044
gforgash@verizon.net

Merriweather Post Pavilion Parking Garage

Jordan, Kendra M. [KMJordan@email.msmary.edu]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 11:48 AM

To: CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Councilmembers,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world-renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather.

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Thank you.

Kendra Jordan

Mount St. Mary's University

Concerns over Downtown Development

Alyson Schuster [aschus1@yahoo.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 11:26 AM**To:** CouncilMail

I am emailing to say that as a Columbia Resident I am supportive of Councilwoman Jen Terrasa's bill requiring 15% of all new units be affordable and would like to see an even more aggressive goal. This is in line with Jim Rouse founding concepts of having Columbia be an inclusive community and this is one of reasons I choose to live here. With more and more economic disparities in this country, Columbia needs to continue to set an example and be model for other areas. I believe this reputation is a valuable asset to Columbia and we cannot risk losing it. In order to do this we also need to strongly oppose the other six bills currently before the County Council regarding development. In particular I have issues with the bill granting a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) to Howard Hughes Corporation. If a more aggressive target for affordable housing is not possible, not passing the TIF bill will at least ensure that Columbia's expansion does not come at the expense of Columbia taxpayers.

Again I strongly urge you to not pass the TIF bill and to consider expanding the target for affordable housing.

Sincerely,
Alyson Schuster
11041 Wood Elves Way
Columbia, MD 21044

Parking for Merriweather Post Pavillion, TIF, downwown development

Daniel Kirk-Davidoff [dkirkdavidoff@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 10:59 AM

To: CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin B

Cc: Ian Kennedy [ian.kennedy7@gmail.com]; jakepathiaf@gmail.com; Terrasa, Jen

Dear Council members,

I'm writing to you to support public investment in the long-term viability of Merriweather Post Pavilion.

Ideally this should include a combination of a transit center and transit lanes on US 29 that would allow easy transit connections between DC & Silver Spring to MPP, and parking structures on site that would replace the meadow parking spaces that will be lost to development and (I hope) parkland.

I think a TIF that devotes a fraction of the revenue from planned development in the Crescent makes sense as a way to fund this, as long as this is done in a thoughtful way that protects funding for the basic services (schools, roads, policing, etc.) that development of the Crescent will necessitate. I hope the TIF will be structured with expert input from folks who don't have a material interest in its administration.

I'd also like to urge the council to support Councilmember Terrasa's proposed downtown development bill, as a much more transparent model for downtown development than the rather complicated Hughes-sponsored agreement.

The current situation seems rather rushed and muddled- I hope you all have enough time and support to look at all these issues calmly and without feeling rushed. Your actions this summer will shape Columbia for decades to come. We can take the time we need to get it right.

Best regards,
Dan Kirk-Davidoff

--

Daniel Kirk-Davidoff
9501 Good Lion Rd.
Columbia, MD 21045
410-730-2780

Concerns

mary Streb [mary_s_21044@yahoo.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 10:29 AM

To: CouncilMail

I support Jeri Terrasa's bill to require including 15% moderately priced housing in all new development.

I am against the bill granting TIF to the Howard Hughes Development Company.

Mary Ament Streb
Columbia

Merriweather

Sarah Sahar-Khiz [sarahsaharkhiz17@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 10:14 AM**To:** CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Councilmembers,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world-renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather.

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Thank you!

Sincerely,
Sarah Sahar-Khiz

Merriweather Parking

Joanne Wuwer-Saukas [joannewuwer@verizon.net]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 9:46 AM**To:** CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Councilmembers,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world-renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather.

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Thank you!

Joanne Wuwer-Saukas

Merriweather and the public parking garage

Kathy Osborne [kathyosborne1@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 9:41 AM

To: CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Councilmembers,

I am a Howard County resident and frequent Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage. I really enjoy going to Merriweather, but I always dread the parking situation. For such a popular concert venue, we need better parking. So I support this plan.

Thanks for your attention,

Kathy Osborne
Columbia, MD

Proposed Legislation for Merriweather Post Pavilion Public Parking Garage

james kennedy [jkennedy@me.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 9:32 AM

To: CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Councilmembers,

I am a supporter of Merriweather Post Pavilion and I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather. I have been going to Merriweather since it first opened in the late 1960's with friends and family. The music has been uplifting and entertaining, and the place itself has enabled conversations, deeper relationships and shared memories. And there is a real sense of community that develops when so many people assemble in one place and experience similar feelings and associate them with Merriweather in particular and Columbia in general.

Passing the legislation that is in front of you will finally give the venue a permanent, public parking lot that it needs to thrive.

I appreciate the Council's commitment to ensuring that this Plan is right for not only Downtown Columbia but all of Howard County. However, this plan is long-overdue and the final piece to saving Merriweather, once and for all. That is why I support this plan, and that is why I am asking to you, as well.

Thank you!

Parking - Downtown Columbia

Phillip Dodge [dodge_phillip@yahoo.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 9:32 AM

To: CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Councilmembers,

I am a Howard County resident and a huge fan of Merriweather Post Pavilion. It's not the main reason I live in HoCo, but it certainly feels that way when I attend a concert. It's a very special place and we're unbelievably lucky to have it. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather.

This Tuesday (and for the first time ever), I was unable to park in the Merriweather parking lot. We arrived to a concert about 1.5 hours after the gates opened and found the lot already full. We were able to park at the lot near what used to be Copelands. While not a major inconvenience, it woke me up to the importance of publicly owned parking for Downtown Columbia.

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Thank you!

Support ParkMPP

Alison Dodge [alison_dodge@yahoo.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 8:55 AM**To:** CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Councilmembers,

I am a Howard County resident and an enormous fan of our world-renowned music and cultural epicenter, Merriweather Post Pavilion. I am writing to ask that you please support the Downtown Columbia tax increment financing legislation and the public parking garage it includes for the benefit it brings to Merriweather.

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Thank you!

Alison Dodge

Affordable Housing Bills

Matthew Eason [capfaneason@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 12:19 AM

To: CouncilMail

Cc: Matthew Eason [capfaneason@gmail.com]

Matthew Eason

5837 Wyndham Circle #301

Columbia, MD 21044

capfaneason@gmail.com

July 13, 2016

Dear Council Members Ball, Fox, Sigaty, Terrasa, & Weinstein

I am writing in relation to the bills related to the Downtown Columbia Affordable Housing currently before the council. I am a 40-year-old software developer working in Dorsey Search for the past 17 years. In 2008, after years of feeling locked out of the Rockville/Gaithersburg area I purchased a home in the Banneker neighborhood because I could reduce my commute as well as get "More for my money", even though it was still quite expensive. After feeling locked out of Montgomery county, not being well enough off to purchase, not bad enough off to qualify for the affordable programs, I fully understand and support the creation of affordable and especially workforce housing options.

I do however 100% disagree with the proposal contained in the administration plan to replace the Banneker fire station with a new fire station containing upwards of 200 additional residential units on top regardless if it is low income or luxury units. It is not possible to place a building of that size in our community and preserve the small neighborhood feel we have today. Many of the other sites do not appear to effect a fully developed neighborhood like the fire station proposal.

As others have testified, Banneker Rd is already quite full of street parking with at times very limited views due to cars parked near intersections. This road was never intended to support a large residential building. We have one way in, one way out. Do we need larger new fire station in downtown?

absolutely I think most in Wyndham would agree after recent events. This is not the way to do it.

I have heard that this is not a done deal, but I believe that once passed it will happen. Money will start flowing, the zoning and planning process, site plans will change but we will end up with a large residential complex that will most likely overwhelm the neighborhood, especially with the reduced parking requirements. Columbia does not have the public transport of Rockville Town Center, reducing parking will be a disaster. I frankly do not see how you build such a building on the fire station lot without a massive underground garage and build on every possible square foot of land allowed.

I still have not recovered the value of my home since the 2008 crash, adding a large multi-story residential complex is not going to help it recover either.

I viewed the Council work session from Monday however and was pleased to see our neighborhood was discussed.

On a secondary note, I have seen the construction of the new office/parking garage on the corner of Little Patuxent and Broken Land. I hope the future of the Crescent development will not contain similar dull grey concrete/glass bland generic architecture. If you truly want to create a thriving downtown, this will not attract visitors.

Sincerely,
Matthew Eason