



FAIR ACCESS

FOR WESTERN MONTGOMERY COUNTY

- ★ ALL NEW POOLESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
- ★ COLLOCATED COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER

September 30, 2022

The Honorable Marc Elrich
Montgomery County Executive
Executive Office Building
101 Monroe Street, 2nd Floor
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear County Executive Elrich:

The Fair Access Committee was so pleased you could make it to our annual Poolesville Day breakfast. We hope you agree that it was a wonderful opportunity to interact with local leaders and learn more about the key concerns of the Western County.

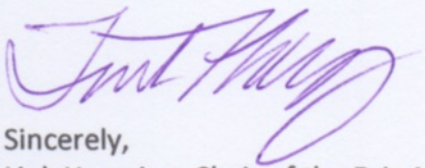
We know county agencies are in the process of pulling together their budget proposals for the year. We wanted to highlight three key issues that require funding. We hope money for these projects can be included in your upcoming budget submission.

- Building the Community Center – As you indicated in your remarks at the Poolesville High School groundbreaking ceremony, your Administration did include funding in last year's budget to prepare a POR for a proposed community center for our area. We want to commend the hard work of Greg Ossont, Amy Donin and Ronnie Warner in the facilities planning group who have made great headway in shaping the POR. As you noted in your comments at the groundbreaking "We'll find the money" for the new center. We know budget resources are likely to be more constrained in coming years and ask that funding for design and construction of the community center be included in this year's budget proposal.
- New Wellness Center at Poolesville High School - We supported a proposal in the County Council to fund Wellness Centers at all high schools in coming years. Our understanding is that the funding for the new program is focused initially on establishing new centers in existing space and providing operating funds. Since

Poolesville High School is being rebuilt thanks in good measure to your support, now is the time to ensure that capital funds are included to build in a new Wellness Center as school reconstruction moves forward.

- Covered Year-Round Swimming Pool - We are very grateful that the county constructed an outdoor swimming pool for our area some years ago. We have a very active and successful swim team and as you learned at our breakfast, we also have a large and growing aging population. Both of these groups, along with families, would benefit tremendously if the pool could be covered so that it can be used year-round. As it is, this wonderful facility is only available about three months out of the year and it is such a waste to have it remain idle for much of the year.
- Funding White's Ferry Easement – As you know, it has been apparent for some time that the private parties involved in the operation of White's Ferry are unable to reach an agreement to reopen the Ferry. The Fair Access Committee has been supporting your Department of Transportation in an effort to negotiate an easement with the Virginia landowner who controls the Ferry's Virginia termination point. Indications are that the landowner is interested in negotiating an agreement and has been working with DOT in this regard. Public funding will be needed to support the agreement and we urge that an estimate for funding this project be included in the FY24 funding request.

We thank you again for your continuing support and look forward to a successful year.



Sincerely,

Link Hoewing, Chair of the Fair Access Committee for the Western County on Behalf of:

Jim Brown, President of the Poolesville Commissioners and Founding Member of Fair Access
Ed Reed, Vice President of the Poolesville Commissioners and Member of Fair Access
Kevin Schramm, Member Fair Access
Lynn Schraeber, Member Fair Access
Maria McGuire, Member Fair Access
Adam Sroka, Member Fair Access

Cc: County Council Members
Greg Wims, Upcounty Regional Services Director
Dale Tibbitts, Special Assistant to the County Executive
Monifa McKnight, Superintendent of Schools