February 8, 2022

The Honorable Gabe Albornoz, Council President
Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Council President Albornoz,

The Rockville Mayor and Council are thankful for the opportunity to comment on the County Executive’s Recommended FY 23 Capital Improvements Budget and the FY23-FY28 Capital Improvements Program.

Many clusters serving Rockville students are still plagued with aging and overcrowded facilities. We ask for your support for the following Rockville priority MCPS capital projects:

- The inclusion of a Twinbrook Elementary School Major Capital Project to completely rebuild the school. A feasibility study must occur as soon as possible. This is a matter of equity and inclusion. The aging building is not ADA compliant, is plagued with plumbing challenges, and the pavement surrounding the school is significantly damaged.

- The Wootton Major Capital Project expedited to an August 2026 completion date, instead of the current August 2027 planned opening. The project must address school safety concerns, including, 380 ADA issues identified by an MCPS assessment, unseparated bus drop-off and pick up areas, and staff and student parking areas that are insufficient, crowded, an unsafe.

- The Crown Farm High School expedited to open in September 2025, instead of the August 2026 planned opening. The new school will relieve persistent overcrowding at the Richard Montgomery High School.

- Funding to be included in the CIP for the build-out of the second-floor shell of the Carl Sandburg Learning Center, which has been collocated with the Maryvale Elementary School.

- The design work underway for the reopening of Woodward High School in August 2025, and the construction of Gaithersburg Elementary School #8, which is scheduled to open in August 2022.

- The newly recommended CIP project for the MCPS Materials Management Facility to begin the search and design process to relocate the warehouse from its current location. The City is eager to work with the County on a solution that addresses the glaring inequity of this blighted property located in the historic African American Lincoln Park community.

- The Lincoln High School Project in the Recommended CIP, which would renovate the facility to prevent further deterioration of the historic building.
Rockville is aware of the planned MCPS Bus Depot and Maintenance Relocation, and as many as 200-250 busses, to the future Criminal Justice Complex, after that project is built at the current Montgomery County Detention Center site. The Mayor and Council will receive a presentation on the project from the County’s Department of General Services on February 28, 2022. The City is reserving our comments until after that discussion. In closing, we ask that you give every possible consideration to our requests.

Please actively engage with us so that we can work together in support of County CIP projects that optimally impact our residents.

Sincerely,

Rockville Mayor and Council

cc: Montgomery County Councilmembers