

Christine M. Feintheil

May 19, 2022

Testimony On budget proposal to add \$250,000 to Dept. of Recreation

I am Christine Feintheil of Silver Spring MD, a retired county employee and a volunteer for the Department of Recreation Therapeutic Swim Program. I come in every Saturday from 9:30 to 11:30 am and work as a swim aide helping children on the autism spectrum to enjoy the water and to introduce them to swimming.

The county charges for the class, but I get nary a thanks, not even a swim pass to get in free. The county might as well tell me *Virtue is its own reward*.

The Department can offer a limited swim pass to its swim program volunteers.

I am also a retired county employee. Current county workers, as part of the health wellness program to keep health costs down, get a free swim pass, upon application.

Most retired county employees count on the county subsidizing their health benefits. It would be a savings to the county to give the same swim pass to its retired employees.

No extra costs are involved. The pools are there. The lifeguard is there. The water is there. I've written to you the county council and to the health benefits manager with no response. It's time to consider the volunteers doing important work in the Department of Recreation. It's time to consider the real health benefits and cost savings to the county and its retirees.

Thank you and I await your response to including us in your spending project.