

Magruder's CIP

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Good evening,

My name is Alba Costa Lara. I am a senior at Colonel Zadok Magruder High School, our SGA vice president, and the PTSA student VP. I am here tonight to discuss our school's safety and security concerns, and to emphasize the importance of putting Magruder back on the Capital Improvement Program.

Imagine a school where every student feels safe and prepared for the future. Today, I urge us to make that vision a reality because student success is our shared responsibility—and Magruder is falling short of meeting those standards.

Magruder, despite being on the smaller side, is still a relatively large building with only two elevators, one on either side of the building. Each elevator is unreliable; sometimes they work, and sometimes they don't. I have been on crutches almost my entire high school career. As someone who needs the elevators to consistently work to get to class and learn, this issue personally affects my everyday life. The elevators have unreliably worked throughout my four years at Magruder, starting from freshman year. It is dangerous for me to be crutching unnecessarily across the school, and oftentimes I have been forced to use the stairs, despite doctor's notes stating otherwise. This is unacceptable and not ADA-compliant. Every student, regardless of physical ability, should have equal access to essential facilities like elevators. I've brought these concerns to the Board of Education, yet the problem remains unresolved. This

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negligence impacts our daily lives, creates unnecessary hardships, and hinders our ability to succeed in school.

The MCPS website emphasizes ADA compliance by requiring accessible parking with designated handicap spots. While Magruder does have these spots, our parking lot is in disarray, riddled with cracks, potholes, crumbling edges, and puddles. This neglect creates safety hazards, especially for those with limited mobility like me. The uneven terrain and faded lines make parking and walking into the building unnecessarily difficult and dangerous, leading to trips, falls, and vehicle damage. The lack of proper maintenance not only endangers individuals but also reflects poorly on our school community. No one should have to navigate crumbling pavement or water-filled cracks to get to class. Our parking lot's condition is unsafe and long overdue for repairs.

Our school bathrooms are in deplorable condition, making them nearly impossible to navigate for someone with limited mobility. Despite MCPS ADA compliance policies requiring accessible stalls, many Magruder bathrooms lack them. Every time I use the bathroom, I get stuck in a regular stall with inward-opening doors that make it difficult and humiliating to get in and out. The stalls are too small to accommodate crutches and are too small to fit the average person, creating constant stress, let alone with backpacks. Every student should have access to a bathroom they can comfortably fit in. Additionally, many toilet seats are loose, sinks are pulling away from walls, and locks barely function. Gaps in stall doors compromise privacy, while the outdated plumbing often produces discolored water. These conditions are unsanitary, unsafe, and unacceptable for students, teachers, and staff alike.

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These issues affect the safety, dignity, and well-being of our community. Removing Magruder from the CIP was unacceptable, especially considering the lack of ADA compliance. Every student and staff member deserves a secure, supportive environment. It's time for real action—Magruder must be reinstated on the Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

Thank you for your time.

Alba Costa Lara
Magruder High School Student