

Board of Directors
Leisure World Community Corporation

3701 Rossmoor Boulevard
Silver Spring, MD 20906

April 4, 2025

**Testimony of the Leisure World Community Corporation
On April 9, 2025 before the Montgomery County Council
FY 26 Solid Waste Charges**

The County Executive proposes substantial increases to Solid Waste Service Charges as described in his memorandum to the Council dated March 14, 2025. Leisure World is testifying on this matter because it impacts the 29 mutuals at Leisure World (27 condominiums, a cooperative, and a homeowner association) with more than 5600 unit-owners who pay these fees.

Leisure World operates apart from the County its recycling, refuse, and leaf collections. Its residents do pay Base System Benefit Solid Waste charges as well as the Incremental System Benefit charges. While most units in the Leisure World community are multi-family units there are 85 single family homes.

The solid waste charges for multi-family units are increasing from \$19.12 to \$39.11. **This is an increase of 104.6%.** For single family homes, the charges are increasing from \$255.01 to \$351.18. **This is an increase of 37.7%.** This will increase the total housing costs of the more than 8000 senior residents at Leisure World who average 78 years old by more than \$100,000. It is not clear to Leisure World why the solid waste needs of dwellers in multi-family units deserve an increase three times the increase of single-family homes that likely generate more waste given the number of occupants in a single-family home.

Leisure World recognizes that the County needs revenue to provide solid waste services to its residents. However, the charges for solid waste are substantially higher than the County Executive proposed 3.5 cent property tax increase. It is noteworthy that the County Executive March 14, 2025 memorandum proposing the increased solid waste fees does not provide any information why these substantial increases are needed and why the fee for multi-family units are three times the amount for single-family homes. A fundamental question is what are these fees intended to cover? Is it to cover the cost of providing solid

waste services, or is it a taxing method in disguise to generate additional revenue not related to the cost of providing solid waste services?

Leisure World respectfully asks the Council to object to these proposed increases in solid waste charges without the Council receiving a full explanation why they are needed to cover the cost of disposing of solid waste. If these charges are not related to solid waste services but rather are designed as a method to obtain general revenue, these charges should be voted down by the Council.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Hempstead
Chair of the Board of Directors