



Friends of White Oak  
Montgomery County  
1700 April Lane  
White Oak, Maryland 20904

October 17, 2019

Mr. James Shalleck, President  
Montgomery County Board of Elections  
18753 N. Frederick Ave, Suite 210  
Gaithersburg, MD 20879

Re: Support for Additional Early Voting Site in at the White Oak Recreation Center

Dear Mr. Shalleck and Board of Election Members:

The Friends of White Oak (FOWO) is a nonpartisan community-based body focusing on the implementation of the 3,000-acre White Oak Science Gateway Master Plan, approved by the Montgomery County Council in 2014. FOWO Board Members include residents, business owners, and property owners who represent a broad diversity of backgrounds and interests; advocating for responsible development in White Oak.

As advocates for the White Oak community, we want to add our voice to those supporting a 12th early voting site at the White Oak Community Recreation Center (1700 April Lane). Since it is already used as an Election Day polling site, it has the needed parking and electrical requirements; and is located in a heavily populated community of voters from diverse backgrounds, cultures, ages, and socioeconomics. What unites them is that many do not have vehicles and rely on public transit, which is limited due to the absence of Metro or Marc trains and the fact that bus service is limited on the weekends.

The nearest early voting centers are the Marilyn Praisner Community Recreation Center and the Silver Spring Civic Building which are both over four miles from White Oak, difficult to access by public transportation, and have a history of long lines during early voting and on Election Day. The White Oak Community Recreation Center, on the other hand, is for many,

within walking distance and early voting is an effective way to reduce Election Day wait times. More importantly, voting is the foundation of our democracy and every citizen, regardless of their socioeconomic status, should be afforded the same opportunity to exercise this fundamental right. Therefore, the Friends of White Oak fully and wholeheartedly endorse the addition of a twelfth early voting site at the White Oak Recreation Center.

Thank you for your attention to this important community matter.

Sincerely,

Friends of White Oak

Barry Wides	North White Oak Civic Association
Brian Downie	BF Saul Companies
Bruce Cole	Montgomery County Police
Chris Gillis	Montgomery Housing Partnership
David Feehan	Gatestone Townhomes
Elisse Wright Barnes	Whitehall Square
Fatmata Barrie	White Oak Resident
June Henderson	White Oak Resident
Ken Jones	Burnt Mills
Kim Jones	The Nonprofit Village
Rachael Evans	Whitehall Square
Rob Richardson	LabQuest
Shana Davis-Cook	Hillandale Citizens Association
Shane Pollin	The Duffie Companies

Cc: Marc Elrich, County Executive  
Nancy Navarro, County Council President, District 4  
Tom Hucker, County Council Member District 5  
Peter Fosselman, Master Plan Coordinator, Office of the County Executive