



WHEATON URBAN DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Marc Elrich
County Executive

Luisa Montero-Diaz
Director

April 16, 2019

Hon. Nancy Navarro
President, Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear County Council President Navarro:

On behalf of the Wheaton Urban District Advisory Committee (WUDAC) and the residents of Wheaton, we commend and thank you for your unwavering commitment to the growth and development of Wheaton. This communication responds to the current FY20 budget process and provides an overview of our concerns moving forward to support the \$170+ million-dollar investment in the Wheaton Revitalization Project and beyond.

Recognizing the need to trim the outlays to meet Wheaton Urban District's budget reduction target cuts, we endorse the CE's recommendations for the FY20 budget as it pertains to the current operations of the Wheaton Urban District. We support the reinstatement of the TGIF concert series and understand the need to provide the current level of support to the community with less resources in FY20.

However, moving forward in the FY21 budget process, we want to ensure you are aware of the necessary budgetary additions that will be needed to make the new Town Plaza functional and to realize the benefit to the community originally envisioned. In a letter to Executive Elrich dated March 7, 2019, WUDAC identified several areas of concern as the budget process unfolds. We direct your attention to that letter (attached) and add the following comments in summary.

We support the County Executive and the Chief Administrative Officer's efforts to focus future budgets based on project priorities rather than across the board percentages. In that spirit, we want to reiterate two issues:

- WUD is disproportionately impacted by across-the-board cuts because our revenue source is the General Fund. Thus, our Urban District is unfairly penalized in comparison to the other County UD's when there are across the board savings plans or budget cuts.
- We anticipate a significant increase in the FY21 allocations for WUD to help ensure the viability of the County's investment in the Wheaton Revitalization Project. Specifically, additional funds are necessary to operate and maintain the physical changes to the Town Plaza, Reedy Drive and remaining Lot13 undeveloped land. Additional resources need to be allocated to:

- Manage and Program the new Town Plaza
- Coordinate with County Departments and Agencies including M-NCPPC, Recreation, CUPF, etc.
- Manage and encourage utilization of A & E District designation
- Continue development and inclusion in the CIP for Wheaton Community Cultural Arts Facility based on Feasibility Study and POR progress
- Purchase infrastructure equipment including Lighting, Sound and Marley-type Stage, etc. for new Town Plaza stage area

We appreciate the ongoing support of the County Executive, Council President and Councilmembers of Wheaton, and encourage the Council to continue to support the needs of this vital community as we move forward into the next budget process. Implementing economic development resources as well as A & E District program management resources (whether internal or third party) will help to continue the momentum. We look forward to more specific and further dialogue related to the FY21 Operational Budget.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Jelen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

William Jelen, WUDAC Chair

cc: County Executive Marc Elrich
County Councilmembers:
Councilmember Sidney Katz
Councilmember Tom Hucker
Councilmember Hans Riemer
Councilmember Craig Rice
Councilmember Gabe Albornoz
Councilmember Evan Glass
Councilmember Will Jawando
Councilmember Andrew Friedson