



OFFICE OF RACIAL EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE


Marc Elrich
County Executive

Tiffany Ward
Director and Chief Equity Officer

MEMORANDUM

February 19, 2025

To: Jennifer Bryant, Director
Office of Management and Budget

From: Tiffany Ward, Director
Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice 

Re: Racial Equity Impact Assessment (REIA) Supplemental Appropriation (SA) #25-20
FY25 Capital Budget, Department of General Services-Silver Spring Recreation and
Aquatic Center (\$2,000,000)

- I. **FINDING:** The Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice (ORESJ) finds that Supplemental Appropriation #25-20 - FY25 Capital Budget, Department of General Services-Silver Spring Recreation and Aquatic Center will advance racial equity and social justice in the County. The additional funding will provide the resources needed to aid in the project's final completion. While the supplemental provides funding for final activities needed to complete the project, the supplemental would enable the completion and delivery of a facility designed to provide services and amenities in a historically underserved area of the County.
- II. **BACKGROUND:** The purpose of SA #25-20 is to provide the funding needed to complete the final construction of the Silver Spring Recreation and Aquatic Center. This additional funding will enable the Department of General Services and the Housing Opportunities Commission to resolve all pending change orders and general terms and conditions, and work towards the final completion of the project, which is a component of the larger Elizabeth Square mixed-use redevelopment project. Once completed, Elizabeth Square will include three mixed-income, mixed-use multifamily residential buildings, the Silver Spring Recreation and Aquatic Center (SSRAC), essential health services and programming for older

adults provided by Holy Cross Health Center, and the Housing Opportunities Commission's new headquarters located adjacent to the site.¹

According to the PDF, the SSRAC was identified as one of four regional recreation facilities to serve the County in the Recreation Facility Development Plan, 2010-2030, which is based on the results of the 2011 County's Vision 2030 assessment. The PDF notes how the Greater Silver Spring Area “was found to be significantly underserved for recreation and park amenities when compared against total population. Only two smaller community recreation centers, one small indoor pool, and one seasonal outdoor pool serve this area currently and no services are available in downtown Silver Spring.” The SSRAC and Elizabeth Square project meet the County goal of co-locating affordable housing with other County services, enabling cost savings and efficiencies in greater service delivery.²

- III. **ANALYSIS:** Over the years, ORESJ has developed Capital Improvements Program Budget Equity Tools (CIP BET) and Guidance Manuals³ to help stakeholders in Montgomery County incorporate a racial equity lens into CIP project development and resource decisions. Best practices for using a racial equity tool, such as the CIP BET, suggest that the tool should be used early and often in project development and involve a diverse set of project stakeholders—including community members and intended beneficiaries of the program. While the SSRAC project is nearing completion, ORESJ would advise reviewing the REIAs previously completed for the housing portion of the Elizabeth Square redevelopment project. These assessments for REIA’s #23-74 Elizabeth House Demolition & #23-75 WSSC Sewer and Storm Line Improvement apply a racial equity lens to housing access, transit availability, and public amenity access benefits of the Elizabeth Square redevelopment project. Our assessment can be reviewed here: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ore/Resources/Files/23-74-23-75.pdf>.

cc: David Dise, Director, Department of General Services
Robin Riley, Director, Department of Recreation
Tricia Swanson, Director, Strategic Partnerships, Office of the County Executive

¹ Available at: <https://www.hocmc.org/portfolio/elizabeth-square-redevelopment/>.

² Available at: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OMB/Resources/Files/omb/pdfs/fy26/ciprec/P721701.pdf>

³ Montgomery County Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice. Budget Equity Tool Resources. 2025. Available at: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ore/bettool.html>.