

ATTACHMENT B**Written Public Testimony Received as of April 29, 2011
FY 2012 Operating and CIP Budgets**

| Exhibit | Name | Resident or Organization | Main Topic |
|----------------|--------------------------|---|--|
| #1 | Mary A. van Balgooy | Peerless Rockville | Montgomery County Heritage Area |
| #2 | Anna M. Derry | Resident | Reduce budget by 10% |
| #3 | Paul G. Murray | Resident | FY 2012 Budget General |
| #4 | Tower Companies | Tower Companies | Green Building Tax Credit |
| #5 | Chris Noonan Sturm | Chair, Swim & Fitness Center Advisory Committee | Swim Center Bathhouse |
| #6 | Paul G. Murray | Resident - duplicate of #3 | FY 2012 Budget General |
| #7 | Jeremy Martin | Traffic and Transportation Commission | Pedestrian Safety CIP Projects |
| #8 | Nancy Breen | Chair, Rockville Bicycle Advisory Committee | Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety |
| #9 | Eric L. Siegel | Rockville Chamber of Commerce | Green Building Tax Credit |
| #10 | David Berrigan | Resident | Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator |
| #11 | Jim Coyle | Resident | FY 2012 Budget General |
| #12 | Joseph McClane | President, Cambridge Walk II HOA | Rockville Pike Plan, RedGate Golf |
| #13 | Allan and Ardis Fisher | Residents | RedGate Golf Course |
| #14 | John McKee | Resident | Budget Principle #1 (1% COLA) |
| #15 | John McKee | Resident | Budget Principle #1 (1% COLA) |
| #16 | Oleg Obolensky, Ph.D | Resident | Montrose Discovery Preschool Program |
| #17 | Audrey Beck | Resident | Caregiver Agency Funding |
| #18 | George Sushinsky | Resident | Caregiver Agency Funding / Recreation Fees |
| #19 | George Sushinsky | Resident | Caregiver Agency Funding |
| #20 | James Goheen | Resident | \$100 Credit / RedGate Golf |
| #21 | Audrey Beck | Resident | Caregiver Agency Funding |
| #22 | Elizabeth Tuel-Jaques | Resident | Property Taxes |
| #23 | Kathy Michaelian | Resident | \$100 Credit / RedGate Golf |
| #24 | Saul Kravitz | Resident | Property Taxes / RedGate Golf |
| #25 | John McKee | Resident | Budget Principle #1 (1% COLA) / Bicycle Coordinator |
| #26 | Paul & Elsbeth Feys | Residents | \$100 Credit / RedGate Golf |
| #27 | Andrea Jolly | Executive Director, Rockville Chamber of Commerce | Buy Rockville Campaign |
| #28 | James Goheen | Resident | RedGate Golf / VisArts and Town Center |
| #29 | Santos Mayo | Resident | Property Taxes |
| #30 | James Headlee | Resident | Property Taxes |
| #31 | ACOLANDR | Resident | Personnel Costs / Cutting Costs |
| #32 | Gary & Barbara Nickerson | Residents | FY 2012 Budget General |
| #33 | Betsy & Steve Surprenant | Residents | RedGate Golf Course |
| #34 | Ciriaco Q. Gonzales | Resident | Senior Center Bus Service |
| #35 | Barry Bates | Resident | Property Taxes |
| #36 | Jonathan Weiss | Resident | \$100 Credit / RedGate Golf |
| #37 | David J. Thomas | Resident | 15% Reserve Level |
| #38 | Suzanne Sutton | Rockville Swim and Fitness Center Advisory Committee | Swim Center Renovations |
| #39 | Reeves Brenner | Resident | Bankshot Playgrounds |
| #40 | Jim Marrinan | Resident | Property Taxes |
| #41 | Norene Stovall | Senior Commission | Senior Center |
| #42 | George Sushinsky | Resident | Property Taxes |
| #43 | Ken Michaelian | Resident | Senior Center Bus Service |



November 24, 2010

The Mayor and Council of Rockville
Rockville City Hall
111 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Re: Montgomery County Heritage Area and FY12 Budget

Dear Honorable Mayor and City Council:

This is to express the enthusiastic support of Peerless Rockville for the City of Rockville to join the Montgomery County Heritage Area (MCHA).

The MCHA program has proven to be an effective tool at raising the profile of Maryland's heritage as well as increasing tourism and economic activity. Approximately \$3 million is dedicated to Heritage Area support in the State's annual budget and funds from the program can be used to rehabilitate historic buildings, develop exhibits and educational programs, and produce guidebooks and communication materials.

As part of the MCHA, the City, Peerless Rockville, and other groups would be able to apply for grants, loans and tax credits to restore buildings such as King Farm, create bicycle tour brochures and historical plaques, and develop educational outreach programs on historic preservation—all activities that will benefit everyone including city residents and businesses.

Therefore, Peerless Rockville requests that funds be included in the FY12 budget to pay for a qualified contractor to take the City's proposed Amendment through the State review process. If the cost is estimated at \$3,500 then that is a small expense for a much greater return on the City's investment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary A. van Balgooy".

Mary A. van Balgooy
Executive Director

Peerless Rockville Historic Preservation, Ltd.
PO Box 4262
Rockville, MD 20849-4262

budget/general fund
Anna Derry
to:
mayorcouncil
12/03/2010 11:33 PM
Show Details

Dear Mayor and City Council:

My request is to reduce spending, contributions, current programs, operating costs, etc. by 10% across the board. I am willing to help as a volunteer to do this on my off work time.

What I am suggesting would be both heroic and painful. It is time to be responsible.

Sincerely,

Anna M. Derry

City of Rockville FY12 Budget

Paul G. Murray

to:

mayorcouncil

12/06/2010 10:43 AM

[Show Details](#)

My name is Paul G. Murray and I reside at 1044 Carnation Drive in Rockville.

I was reading the recent edition of the Rockville Reports and was dismayed to read about the upcoming General Fund Expenditure Principles. As a CPA and a Chief Financial Officer for various companies over the past 10 years, I believe I understand the budgeting process as well as anyone. Some of the key considerations that I did not see mentioned that would and should be considered.

A) Has the City completed a 3 or 5 year budget outlook? This would be a long range view with various assumptions on expenses and revenues to provide a framework for the current upcoming budget. As the budget for FY12 is completed then a new 3 or 5 yr plan would be updated with the current plan as the baseline.

1) economic outlook for tax revenues over the next 3 years. I believe the City has to budget at tax levels below current levels to ensure the continuing balancing of budgets. If projected revenues come in higher than anticipated, then tax rates can be decreased (I know a foreign concept to Councils in MD County but worth introducing) or specific program spending can be increased.

2) Why is the City Government in the caregiver and outside agency funding business? what does this cost and why? who benefits. Appears items should be transferred to the County for better management instead of localizing at such a small level.

3) I was shocked to see employee compensation increasing at 1%. Obama just announced his attempt to control government wages by freezing for 2 years. What is the City's plan to headcount? As employees retire the City should take the opportunity to actually reduce wages over the next 3 years by not filling the slot or by then "rehiring" the employee as an outside consultant. Wages should be reducing in this environment by becoming "scrappy" and doing more with less.

4) When was the last pension plan funding requirements reviewed? are current benefit levels even sustainable into the future and do those levels need to be reviewed and renegotiated. We are seeing this negative effect of unsustainable Government Union obligations in many States and believe the local level like City of Rockville is the next can of worms to open.

5) I am further angered by the item referring to funding the operating expenses for capital projects. These amounts should have been known and already into the baseline budget for FY12. The Senior Center project is a complete waste of taxpayer money. This is not the environment to build it and they will come when the need for such services is clearly not demonstrated and there are other options for such services that already exist and are underutilized.

6) What does it cost to print materials City wide into languages other than English? We should cut expenses to print English only documents. If you disagree then explain why our documents are not in Korean or Mandrin as we have as many of those citizens as Latinos. Do it for all or do not it for just 1 section.

Anyway expect the standard reply from this Mayor and Council. But understand there are tough choices to make and I appreciate when those are made. To date I have not seen or read about any truly tough choices that you have made and this budget will provide the opportunity. We are seeing that the Montgomery County Council has had to become fiscal conservatives by situation and not by choice. I would hope that you all see and heed in the same direction.

Paul G. Murraypaulgmurray@verizon.net

(301)309-1519 home

(301)529-8772 cell

The Tower Companies supports the City's goal set forth in the Mayor and Council Vision, 2020; the "Quality Environment" theme contained in this Statement envisions Rockville as a "Green City" in all areas. This vision foresees that sustainability has economic and environmental components that must work together through education and innovative programs, incentives, and regulation where appropriate.

Therefore, Tower strongly recommends the adoption by the Mayor and Council of the Tax Credit Proposal put forth by The Rockville Chamber of Commerce and the Environment Commission, which will create a local property tax credit to accelerate the adoption, investment and implementation of green building practices in existing buildings. Nationally, 85% of the buildings which will exist in 2020 have already been built. Rockville is no exception to this, and the City has an existing commercial building stock that exceeds 25 million square feet. The City's current green building regulations have no applicability for virtually all of those existing buildings. Rockville will not be able to build its way to a sustainable future; instead, we must invest in our current inventory of buildings.

To create a Green City will require the improvement, performance and sustainability of the City's existing commercial building stock under a program which will encourage building owners and businesses to invest in energy efficiency and operational enhancements. Such a program would create green jobs in, and attract green businesses to, Rockville. Therefore as a way to encourage building owners, we support the proposal that recommends providing a local property tax credit for commercial buildings achieving official Silver, Gold or Platinum certification under the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design for Existing Buildings program (LEED-EB).

Tower is also supportive of local business, and we utilize the expertise of a LEED consultant and his staff based in Rockville; indeed, the owner of that firm is himself a Rockville resident. This tax credit proposal will allow Tower to accelerate our efforts to certify our existing portfolio in Rockville while using a Rockville-based firm in connection with our work.

About LEED for Existing Buildings (LEED-EB): LEED-EB is a green building rating system designed by the U.S. Green Building Council to assess the sustainability of occupied commercial buildings. LEED-EB addresses whole building operation and maintenance issues and can be applied both to older buildings seeking LEED certification for the first time and to new buildings certified under LEED for New Construction or Core & Shell. It is very different than LEED for New Construction because it focuses primarily on building operations, not construction materials.

December 6, 2010
Testimony at Public Hearing for FY2012 Budget
City of Rockville

Good evening Mayor, Council, City Staff, and Citizens,

My name is Chris Noonan Sturm. I live at 560 Azalea Drive in Rockville. I am honored to have been selected to chair the Advisory Committee of the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center. I succeed Terry Baker, who served in this role so very well for many years, for which we thank him.

I come before you as the voice of the nearly 300,000 attendees of the center this year (exactly 297,141).

More specifically, I am speaking for the 733 people who on average visited the outdoor pool complex this past summer EVERY DAY. Those folks used the decaying, 40-year-old bathhouse pictured in photos Terry Baker shared with you a few months ago.

Repairing and modernizing the 40-year-old bathhouse was planned for this year, but this capital improvement project was put on hold and is now unfunded.

I urge you to restore funding for this project in 2012.

This bathhouse is in crisis. It is more than 40 years old. How many of us have bathrooms that have not been updated in 40 years – especially if that bathroom is used by more than 700 people a day?

This bathhouse is a health and safety issue for the center's patrons, especially very young children, seniors, and the disabled. The building does not meet many building standards.

As you noted in Terry's photos:

- Concrete is decaying, uneven, and damaged.
- Fixtures for showers and sinks are decrepit, often damaged and unusable.
- The plumbing leaks, wasting water and causing danger of slipping
- Lighting and roof tiles are damaged.

Keeping such a failing physical plant functioning costs thousands of dollars every year. Some capital improvements are "nice to haves." This is a MUST have.

The Swim and Fitness center is not only heavily used, it is used by people of all kinds. Rockville is justifiably proud of its socio-economic and ethnic diversity. Spend one day at the Swim and Fitness Center, and you will see all of Rockville represented:

- You'll see people ages 3 to infinity
- You'll hear languages such as Chinese, Spanish, Russian, Persian.
- You'll see people with infirmities exercising gently in the pool and the whirlpool
- You'll see youngsters and young adults training and competing at all hours in a competitive swim program that is the best in the country
- You'll see babies and young children learning to swim
- You'll see young people learning to be lifeguards.
- You'll see adults of all ages swimming laps on their own and in the Masters program.

Have you noticed that the City of Rockville's home page lists the Swim and Fitness Center as one of the five most requested sites on the city's web site?

A facility so heavily used and so important to so many people must do better than provide a decaying, 40-year-old bathhouse to its patrons.

The bathhouse project is already two years ^{design} behind. The design stage is 95 percent complete, which means the money is already spent. Plans have already been scaled back to reduce costs. Let's finish the job and spend the \$713,000 to make the pool safe. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted by:

Chris Noonan Sturm
Chair, Advisory Committee
Rockville Swim and Fitness Center

560 Azalea Drive
Rockville MD 20850
cnsturm@verizon.net
240.423.0955

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Public Record for Public Hearing -- Fw: Traffic and Transportation
Commission Agenda (Dec)
Glenda Evans to: Brenda Bean

12/07/2010 11:46 AM

History: This message has been replied to.

Please add to the public record.

----- Forwarded by Matt Folden/RKV on 12/07/2010 11:34 AM -----

Thanks for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the traffic and transportation commission. There are two subjects we wanted to address this evening: pedestrian safety and neighborhood connectivity.

Three recent pedestrian fatalities on the Rockville Pike, one inside and two just outside the city limits, make it crystal clear that pedestrian safety is a life or death issue throughout the city, and especially on the Rockville Pike. This is a topic to which the commission devotes a great deal of time and thought, and we feel these fatalities quite acutely. I wanted to pass along a few thoughts to you in person.

There were a number of contributing factors to these recent accidents, including lighting problems, the location of bus-stops and the proximity of cross-walks, and generally intersections that are not pedestrian friendly. Several of these factors have been promptly addressed, and for this we want to commend the work of the city's interdepartmental task force on pedestrian safety.

But we need to avoid the next fatality, rather than react to it. To do this, we hope the city will encourage all city employees, especially those on the roads after dark: police officers, refuse collection and others, to report problems with street lights, so these dangerous situations can be quickly resolved.

We also need to ensure that the pedestrian safety projects are adequately funded in the upcoming budget. We hope that you can find the resources to fully fund the Accessible Pedestrian Signals, Sidewalks, the Intermodal Access Project on Baltimore Road, and Asphalt Repair. Keeping citizens safe on Rockville streets should be a top priority, even when budgets are tight.

The other topic I wanted to address is neighborhood connectivity. The recently proposed brand statement highlights the importance of connectivity between Rockville's neighborhoods and residents. Connectivity, for pedestrians, cyclists and all users is another topic to which the traffic and transportation commission devotes considerable energy.

Unfortunately, we have not been very successful improving connectivity.

Numerous examples, from the Princeton Place access to Montgomery College, the road abandonment associated with the Victory Housing project, and many others have failed to realize the potential for improved connectivity.

I didn't come here to grouse about these missed opportunities, but to offer our assistance, in whatever capacity would be most effective, to support improved connectivity throughout the city. The commission wants to remind the Mayor and Council of our commitment to improved connectivity, and our eagerness to work with you, with the planning commission, with the county, with the college, with the Rockville bicycle advisory committee, or whomever else we can engage to build a city that meets our ambitions for safety and connectivity. We hope you will think of us, and find ways we can work together in an efficient and effective manner to improve our city.

Thanks.

Jeremy Martin

on behalf of the Traffic and Transportation Commission

On Tue, Dec 7, 2010 at 10:42 AM, <MFolden@rockvillemd.gov> wrote:

Commissioners,

The December meeting agenda is attached. Following direction provided by the Mayor and Council at their November 22, 2010 meeting, we will be discussing the City's Guidelines for Neighborhood Traffic Management and the Truck Restriction map. Both of these documents are included in the agenda for your review. Additionally, the Mayor and Council discussion on this topic can be viewed online at:

http://rockvillemd.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=2

Once on this page, select "Mayor and Council Meetings", then select the "Video" link for Nov. 22, 2010 (near the top right hand side of the list). After this window opens, select Item #12: "Discussion- Neighborhood Traffic Management on Residential Street/ Truck Traffic". This discussion lasts approximately 35 minutes.

Please contact me with any questions.

Respectfully,

Matt

Matthew Folden

Transportation Planner I - Traffic and Transportation Division

Department of Public Works - City of Rockville

111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850

e-mail: mfolden@rockvillemd.gov

Tel: (240) 314-8509

A FULL-TIME PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE COORDINATOR IS NEEDED IN ROCKVILLE

Thank you for allowing me to address you this evening. I am Nancy Breen, Chair of the Rockville Bicycle Advisory Committee.

Rockville is a world-class city with a small town feeling. But Rockville's quality of life is threatened by over dependence on cars. The Rockville Bicycle Advisory Committee is grateful that many of the city's transportation projects now focus on calming vehicular traffic, building sidewalks and bicycle facilities that make the city safer and travel more pleasant.

The RBAC encourages the city to strengthen and accelerate its efforts. In order to remain a world class city with a small town feeling in the 21st century, Rockville must be a model for pedestrians and cyclists safety and convenience. This is an ambitious goal but we think that Rockville can achieve it with sustained leadership and support. Accordingly, we believe that a full-time bicycle and pedestrian coordinator is essential.

RBAC and the Rockville Police are planning initiatives for 2011 that are designed to increase safety for pedestrians and cyclists. Wherever the number of pedestrians and cyclists have significantly increased in other cities, safety follows. Motorists become more aware and watchful of others. But to increase the number of pedestrians and bicyclists there needs to be even more emphasis on engineering, education, enforcement and encouragement for everyone.

To do this, RBAC recommends:

- A full-time bicycle and pedestrian coordinator who will be the focal point, visionary and galvanizing force for envisioning a strategy, developing a plan and implementing it in Rockville. Currently there is enormous energy and activity in this area. A coordinator is needed to focus and strengthen it. A full time bike/ped coordinator will develop or already has a core of specialized knowledge to better guide the city in making cost effective recommendations. (the Coordinator would have proven effectiveness in strategic planning, development [obtaining federal grants and other funding], achieving planned outcomes, and passion for moving Rockville from auto-centric to multi-modal as quickly as possible.)
- Funding for publicity, training and education to promote safe cycling, walking and driving throughout the city.
- Funding and implementation of the complete street policy throughout our city to invite travel on foot and by bicycle as soon as the economy allows.

As the Mayor and Council know, walking and cycling are consistent with Rockville's "green" goals. Walking and cycling are non-polluting, promote fitness and good health and reduce stress.

Progress in the Twenty-first century involves correcting some of the mistakes of the previous 100 years. For thousands of years, transportation has been a daily physical activity for mankind, but in the last century we mistakenly believed that motor vehicles were infinitely better in all respects. We now know better and we need to make walking and cycling just as routine and inviting as driving.

Thank you

Nancy Breen
Chair, RBAC

PRESENTATION BY ERIC L. SIEGEL ON BEHALF OF ROCKVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

FOR THE RECORD FOR THE 2012 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING, DECEMBER 6, 2010

Green Building incentive legislation

At present, **Building owners have no obligation** to pursue operational and maintenance improvements in their existing buildings because of (1) the cost between \$100,000-\$200,000 to pursue LEED EB certification with the US Green Building Council and (2) Rockville's Green Building Code only applies to new construction. Therefore, 25 million SF is not impacted by the City's green building code unless significant renovations are undertaken.

This **real property tax credit option** provides owners with an **incentive to voluntarily pursue LEED-EB certification**, a lengthy 12-18 month process to complete. This tax credit is particularly **important for small building owners** because of the significant expense involved to pursue certification.

Why should Rockville adopt this tax credit incentive program?

1. **Increase revenue to the City over time through increased real property taxes**
 - a. Co-Star, a large real estate tracking company, has studied occupancy rates and rental rates in commercial buildings and has concluded that green buildings maintain higher occupancy rates and command greater rents
 - b. Therefore, the assessment value of the building will increase more over time than the appreciation of a conventional building
2. **Increase in green jobs** in Rockville to assist owners with pursuing whole-building operation and maintenance improvements
 - a. Contractors to optimize energy efficiency performance
 - b. Contractors to optimize water efficiency, treatment and conservation
 - c. Promote alternative commuting transportation by incentivizing employees to use more public transportation and bicycle use
 - d. Vendors to sell green cleaning products
 - e. Solid waste management through recycling
 - f. Stormwater quantity control
3. This last point has a direct financial benefit to the City as **private sector buildings reduce stormwater capacity and expenses by the City** through, among other features, the use of low flow toilets and rainwater harvesting for irrigation, toilet flushing and operating HVAC systems
4. This legislation evidences the **City's environmental leadership** as the City shows other jurisdictions how important this issue is to the wellbeing of the City and its residents

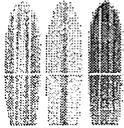
What are the options for you to consider?

1. Tax credit program that accelerates owner implementation
 - a. 25% silver; 50% gold; 75% for platinum
 - b. Recommended jointly by the Environment Commission and the Chamber
 - c. While the County has tax credit programs for both EB and new construction, Rockville needs more incentive to voluntarily pursue LEED-EB, given the number of small building owners

How much is this investment by the City?

1. Given the 12-24 month lead time to officially obtain LEED-EB certification after submitting monitoring reports and the documentation required by the LEED-EB Checklist (attachment B to your package), we recommend that the City **phase the cap in over a 3-4 year period, starting at \$50,000 in year 1, \$150,000 in year 2, \$250,000 in year 3 and then max out at \$300,000 in year 4 which is the per capita level of fund relative to the County's fund.**
2. The Council can **revisit the continued need** for this incentive program **at designated intervals** over the next 5 years to assess how the program is working and how many buildings have been certified.

Program details do not need to be solidified tonight. First step is to include cost to implement the program in the list of priorities for consideration in the upcoming FY 2012 budget process. If funded, Article 22 of the City Code would need to be amended to establish the tax credit program requirements.



Fw: Support for proposed walking/bicycling Coordinator
Brenda Bean to: sjlocke60
Cc: mayorcouncil, Emad Elshafei, Gavin Cohen, Stacey Webster

12/27/2010 09:28 AM

Dear Mr. Berrigan,

On behalf of the Mayor and Council, each of whom have seen your email, thank you for comments related to the FY 2012 budget. Your comments will be marked as an exhibit, placed into the official record and considered by the Mayor and Council as they work their way through the budget adoption process. As you may know, the Mayor and Council of Rockville conducted a public hearing on this matter on December 6th at 7:00 p.m. which can be viewed on-line in its entirety. Using the following link, click on item no. 10.

<http://rockmail.rockvillemd.gov/clerk/egenda.nsf/974908d310cc803e852576a300606ad6/323efc8631585392852577eb00708bc9!OpenDocument>

There will be a series of worksessions and additional public hearings before the FY2012 Budget is adopted in early June. Also, all meetings are broadcast live and can be viewed on The Rockville Channel 11 should you wish to tune in from home.

Having an informed and concerned citizenry is a trademark of our City and the Mayor and Council appreciate the feedback they receive. Again, thank you for your interest and for taking the time to write.

Brenda Bean

Brenda F. Bean
Deputy City Clerk
111 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20850
(240) 314-8280 - Direct
(240) 314-8289 - Fax
bbean@rockvillemd.gov
www.rockvillemd.gov

Buy Rockville! It's good for you and good for Rockville
Visit www.BuyRockville.org for a listing of Rockville retailers and restaurateurs.

To: csr@rockvillemd.gov, eelshafei@rockvillemd.gov, clerk@rockvillemd.gov
From: sjlocke60@aol.com
Date: 12/23/2010 08:57AM
Subject: Support for proposed walking/bicycling Coordinator

Dec. 23, 2010

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to reiterate my support for a full time walking/bicycling coordinator for Rockville.

I am a resident of Montgomery County.

My sons currently attend Rockville High school and Wood Middle School.

We selected our home in part so they could walk to these two excellent schools.

I testified about my support for this position during the citizens comment section of the Dec. 7th 2010 City Council meeting.

That weekend my son and I rode the millenium trail.

I support the budgeting for a walking/bicycling coordinator for several reasons.

1. My family and I like to walk and cycle and the city can help make these options fun and accesible to us and to all.
2. I am a researcher for the National Cancer Institute and my work focuses on the health benefits of physical activity. There is ample evidence that walking and cycling can make a positive contribution to health. Further more there is growing evidence that modest changes in the nevironment such as support for pedestrian infrastructure and good planning can foster walkable communities - and these indeed lead to more walking.
3. By making Rockville a walking and cycling friendly city, I think we make it a better and more attractive place to live - this has to be a good thing from a lot of different perspectives, including those perspectives based health, economic issues, and community.
4. A walking/cycling coordinator could promote Rockville, publicize our existing investments in making Rockville great, and foster healthy lives for all in our community.

Thanks for considering my opinions and please contact me if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely

David Berrigan
14200 Parkvale Rd
Rockville MD
20853
301-460-0689

Topical statements
Jim Coyle
to:
Mayor & Council
01/08/2011 03:38 PM
Show Details

M & C,

I enjoyed reading your articles in the January Issue. I know you are starting to examine policies as part of the upcoming budget process.

I would like to offer you a few observations given the challenges the City is facing:

1. I strongly urge you to press the State to assign a small share (1/2%) of the state sales tax to local cities. Virginia cities get the full sales tax. I tried to get this done in the mid-90's but was not successful. My reason has mostly to do with economic development. Rockville through its policies and services creates the environment for local economic activity to exist and prosper. Without this City role, very little serious development would be created nor would the City be viewed as a good investment. Yet, the taxpayers of Rockville gain very little financial benefit, except limited property taxes, from all the support we give to the local businesses. The cost/benefit isn't even close. This sales tax void is a travesty and should be challenged politically and legally if necessary.

2. I believe it is time to address the real challenge to our neighborhood stability; excessive commercial, retail and institutional development. The real purpose of a local economy is to provide the necessary services for a viable community for Rockville's citizens, not Montgomery County's or other communities' residents. For example, we have far more jobs in the City than required for the support of our own residents; therefore prudent policy would try to limit job growth to the projected needs of Rockville's residents. Secondly, the balance between residential and commercial retail development is dangerously close to changing the character of Rockville and its neighborhoods. Most of our neighborhoods could easily be overwhelmed by development if our planning is not effective. Most of the neighborhoods close to Rockville Pike have been under assault for 25-30 years. In 1989, we downzoned Rockville Pike by 2/3 and lowered building heights by right to 35 feet and these neighborhoods are still at severe risk. If you take an aerial view of Rockville, the percentage residential versus commercial use is getting dangerously out of balance. At some point, this imbalance can destroy a residential community; it has happened across the country.

I opposed the creation of REDI because I did believe that the City should not do business attraction; that is the responsibility of the developer who owns the property. And, in light of my statement above, why are we chasing more jobs? They don't bring us any sales taxes and cost us a lot in many services, day in and day out. Look what we are stuck with in terms of costs associated with the Town Center parking garages. In the original TC Plan we required the developer to provide the parking for all the increased uses in TC. We agree to add a City parking garage when the critical mass of visitors required it. It was not our responsibility to provide parking for the tenants of the new TC. Now, due to a poor policy decision, we are stuck with expensive garages again. We didn't learn from past mistakes. More job development will only add to these costs.

3. The expansion of state and county buildings including Montgomery College, the associated services costs to our taxpayers, and the omission of tax payments related to this is a serious issue. The new Court House will cost the City a lot in services without compensation. The City needs to push for serious revenue payments from the state and county in lieu of taxes. If the state and county refuse to provide resources, the City may have to consider legal action. But, this expanding governmental intrusion

without compensation is wrong. Just the impacts of the traffic from these uses and the lack of adequate parking is going to lessen our quality of life.

I appreciate your willingness to serve on the Mayor and Council; the challenges don't get easier over time. But, I believe Rockville is at a crossroads and if we don't take the right path, the consequences will be major.

Thank for listening,

Jim Coyle

Budget Priorities and Rockville Pike
McClane, Joseph C.

to:

'mayorandcouncil@rockvillemd.gov'

01/10/2011 03:37 PM

Cc:

'HOA'

Show Details

Mayor and Council:

I have had an opportunity to review the posted Rockville Pike plan and I have urged my community to do the same as many of my neighbors attended the earlier community planning sessions. I look forward to attending Tuesday night's event to learn more of this initiative. I strongly believe that the City should be focused on initiatives like the Rockville Pike Plan to prepare for the future. In these difficult economic times, the City should spend its valuable resources on inherently "governmental" and infrastructure priorities such as the Rockville Pike plan. I think the City's decision to employ outside planning professionals who compose such plans for a living is a good example of availing ourselves of the best expertise in the field. Too often, the City's inability to make swift decisions means that the City's planning process is overtaken by events to the citizen's detriment. By the time our town center was finally completed, the economy was already heading south. The City needs to be more proactive and less reactive.

What my community is not happy about is the waste of City funds spent on money losing recreational activities. Our Homeowners association has to pay a storm water management fee and a common ownership community fee while our tax money is wasted heavily subsidizing a failed golf course at the expense of basic City services; this is bad governance. You have repeatedly failed to come up with a strategy for a solution to this problem, constantly putting off an admittedly hard decision. Why don't you prioritize spending? I am sure that in any list of priorities that public safety, infrastructure and economic development would all top a million dollars for golf games. I would like to see the mayor and council make decisions that demonstrate leadership in the best interest of the City's future. The continual frittering away of funds is harmful and not defensible.

Joseph C. McClane
President
Cambridge Walk II HOA

FY12 Budget - NO to RedGate funding
Ardis and Al Fisher
to:
mayorcouncil
01/13/2011 01:12 PM
Show Details

Dear Mayor and Council:

I greatly appreciate the opportunity to provide input to your FY12 budget process.

As a 40 year resident of Rockville I appreciate its many services to the majority of residents and the special services provided to active interest groups when affordable.

That said, continued financial support of RedGate is a blatant example of fiscal irresponsibility. Do the diminished needs for a golfing facility outweigh all the other good causes that could benefit from additional support? Is the preservation of just one more golf course (competing unsuccessfully against numerous superior courses already serving City residents) more important than what those funds could do for core services like public health, safety and education? Does government exist to ensure the right to Life, Liberty and the pursuit of . . . *Golf*?

The Economist recently presented research on government election outcomes around the world which showed that leaders who cut services were more likely to be re-elected while those who raised taxes were more likely to be defeated. In essence, Rockville is proposing to tax all residents to pay for a risky experiment in operating RedGate, a non-competitive facility most residents do not use. Not fair. A fund drive or user's fee would be more appropriate.

Before obligating the City to lose more money for 3 more years, I urge you consider more worthy uses of RedGate funds. If possible, please put this matter to a straw vote of a sample of the general population of residents. Do not fund RedGate losses. Do consider returning RedGate to nature as a Model City, and use it as a case study and Lesson Learned for the future.

Allan H. Fisher, Jr.
301-424-7739



Budget Principals
johnrmckeej to: mayorcouncil
Cc: pgajewski, pmaruccio

02/13/2011 04:43 PM

Budget principal #1 is an artifact of negotiations last year anticipating better economic conditions and some cost of living/inflation increases. The reality is that there has been no cost of living/inflation increase for two years and only a slightly improved economy. Thus, people on social security received no increases. That applies to many Rockville taxpayers. Federal employees will have their wages frozen and County and School Board employees are facing budget cuts foreshadowing no salary increases and probable layoffs. Those represent more Rockville taxpayers. Rockville employees received 3.25 cost of living and 3.25 step increases in salary two years ago and have been benefiting for 2 years when the same economic climate was obvious. At that time I testified that was excessive given the already known economic data. The increases now should be dropped as a budget principle. The taxpayers of Rockville deserve not to be soaked again.

ATTACHMENT B

Please join me in calling on my colleagues to cut frivolous wasteful spending.

Kindest Regards,

Piotr Gajewski
Councilmember
City of Rockville
Rockville, MD 20850
240-314-8294

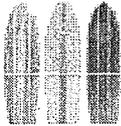
Buy Rockville ! It's good for you and good for Rockville.

Visit www.BuyRockville.org for a listing of Rockville retailers and restaurateurs to fill your holiday needs.

johnrmckeej---02/13/2011 04:43:47 PM---Budget principal #1 is an artifact of negotiations last year anticipating better economic

From:
johnrmckeej@netscape.net
To:
mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov
Cc:
pgajewski@rockvillemd.gov, pmaruccio@rockvillemd.gov
Date:
02/13/2011 04:43 PM
Subject:
Budget Principals

Budget principal #1 is an artifact of negotiations last year anticipating better economic conditions and some cost of living/inflation increases. The reality is that there has been no cost of living/inflation increase for two years and only a slightly improved economy. Thus, people on social security received no increases. That applies to many Rockville taxpayers. Federal employees will have their wages frozen and County and School Board employees are facing budget cuts foreshadowing no salary increases and probable layoffs. Those represent more Rockville taxpayers. Rockville employees received 3.25 cost of living and 3.25 step increases in salary two years ago and have been benefiting for 2 years when the same economic climate was obvious. At that time I testified that was excessive given the already known economic data. The increases now should be dropped as a budget principle. The taxpayers of Rockville deserve not to be soaked again.



To:
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Fw: Budget Principals

From: johnrmckeej@netscape.net
To: PGajewski@rockvillemd.gov
Cc: mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov
Date: 02/16/2011 12:41 PM
Subject: Re: Budget Principals

I was for now only commenting on budget principles; I would like to see a lot of things cut that don't jibe with difficult economic times and agree with that..

The real problem with budget principle #1 is the council allowed the city manager to negotiate raises a year ago in advance of information about the economy and cost of living. That is the same problem 2 years ago when they got 6.5% and Social Security got 0%. They have beat retirees/taxpayers for 2 years already. This time I would go for breaking the contract and removing prenegotiation authority. The state, county and school board will be doing that and Rockville employees should recognize economic strictures.

John McKee
3 Clemson Court

-----Original Message-----

From: PGajewski@rockvillemd.gov
To: johnrmckeej@netscape.net
Sent: Sun, Feb 13, 2011 9:37 pm
Subject: Re: Budget Principals

Thanks for writing.

The issue with respect to Budget Principal #1 is whether Rockville will stand by its collectively bargained contract. I hope that you agree that it is generally desirable to honor contracts.

Of course, it is possible to reopen a contract in extreme circumstances, but presently this would be a difficult proposition, so long as the City is committed to funding many programs that can easily be termed as frivolous. It would be hard, for example, to justify spending \$500,000+ in FY12 to subsidize the RedGate golf course while at the same time not living up to the contract with the City's employees. So, the reality is that if we are serious about rolling back Principal #1, we first need to make sure that the City is being frugal in other areas.

Realistically, if the City spends a half a million dollars on subsidizing golf for about 1% of Rockville residents and yet simultaneously tries to roll back the present employee commitments, the City will be successfully sued by the employees demanding that the contract be enforced.

From: Oleg Obolensky <o.obolensky@googlemail.com>
To: mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov
Date: 02/24/2011 10:53 AM
Subject: FY2012 budget planning

Dear Mayor and Council members,

I am writing to you to draw your attention to the importance of maintaining a sufficient level of support for childcare and recreation services in the city of Rockville.

My special concern is the continuation and further development of the Montrose Discovery Preschool program.

Montrose Discovery is a very successful and popular childcare program in Rockville. It is characterized and distinguished by its brilliant staff and its flexibility and variety in child care options.

Critical importance of the Montrose Discovery program is demonstrated by the fact that it is always full, often being preferred over NIH childcare programs by parents who work at NIH and have a choice of available programs.

And finally, as you know, Rockville is a very international city, with an extremely high percentage of immigrants and visitors from all over the world. Montrose Discovery is located in one of the centers of this international community and performs a very important function of gently introducing newly arrived children to American language and culture.

Therefore, I find it necessary to maintain and develop the Montrose Discovery program. Please, feel free to contact me if necessary.

Sincerely,

Oleg Obolensky, Ph.D.

266 Congressional In, apt. 101
Rockville, MD 20852



Grant for Counseling Services
Audrey Beck
to:
Mayor Council
03/01/2011 07:51 PM
Show Details

To: Mayor and Council

Child Center and Adult Services, Inc. 16220 Frederick Road #502, Gaithersburg, MD 20877, currently has a grant with Rockville City. They provide free counseling services for members of the Rockville Senior Center. Currently, Barbara Wilson, an excellent therapist who works for this company, provides free counseling on Tuesdays at the Center. Barbara has helped many of our members (using her intelligence, kindness and compassion) and her appointment schedule is usually filled to capacity.

The grant is funded through June 2011. Please continue the wonderful mental health services provided by the Child Center and Adult Services by renewing the grant.

For FY 2012, Child Center and Adult Services requests \$19,860 to continue and slightly expand mental health services for the Rockville Senior Center.

For FY 2011, the grant is \$12,252 for a pending contingency fund grant of \$4,320 to expand counseling services for the remainder of FY 2011.

CCAF is submitting this request based on unmet needs after consulting with the Director of the Rockville Senior Center.

Sincerely,

Audrey G. Beck
4 Monroe Street #602
Rockville, MD 20850
301-251-5885

No virus found in this message.

Checked by AVG - www.avg.com

Version: 10.0.1204 / Virus Database: 1435/3476 - Release Date: 03/01/11



George Sushinsky
to:
PGajewski
03/23/2011 11:24 AM
Cc:
mayorcouncil, Burt Hall
Show Details

Councilman Gajewski,

Thank you for your feedback after Monday's citizen's forum. I am heartened by your support of the Caregiver grants and the hope that you expressed about more funding in the budget.

On the point of raising recreational program fees, I disagree with your assessment that such a move would lose money. In order to lose money a large percentage of users would have to leave the programs. While there are similar programs in the county, they are not necessarily attractive to Rockville residents. I coached softball in the City and CYO leagues for many years. The quality of softball fields outside of the City for youth softball are inferior to those offered in Rockville. I suspect that it's also true for most adult fields. Add to that the convenience of staying in the neighborhood and it becomes a better value to play in Rockville. The convenience of staying in Rockville as opposed to travelling from Rockville to Damascus or Silver Spring is an intangible that is a reality independent of the quality of the facilities.

Not raising fees at some point doesn't make sense. If fees are not raised the deficit between the Recreation and Parks budget grows or programs are eliminated. Eliminating adult sports will not improve the quality of life in Rockville or balance the budget in the long run. My economics are naive, but so are those of the staff that suggested revenue loss in the face of increased user fees. Perhaps you won't see a \$650,000 increase in revenue with a 10 percent user fee increase, but the idea is at least worth an evaluation.

George Sushinsky

Caregiver grants
George Sushinsky
to:
PMarcuccio
03/23/2011 11:57 AM
Cc:
mayorcouncil, caparicio
Show Details

Dear Mayor Marcuccio,

I am responding to your question to me at Citizen's Forum. The citizen's panel was aware of a 1 percent increase in funding for caregiver awards in the projected FY 12 budget. Despite that, the panel recommended funding that exceeded the projected goal by more than \$25000 on its initial evaluation of the grant requests. We were then asked to reevaluate the grants adhering to the budget limitation. This resulted in reductions to 4 programs:

- Kaseman Health Clinic - \$15,000
- Latino Outreach Program - \$10,000
- RHE Reboot Project - \$1,804
- Twinbrook Swimming Pool - \$2,000

The panel felt that the Kaseman Health Clinic and Latino Outreach was deserving of the increased funding and expressed that opinion to Mr. Aparicio. If further funding is available in the budget (beyond the 1 percent increase), I would recommend that it go toward fulfilling increased funding for the Kaseman Health Clinic and Latino Outreach.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

George Sushinsky
301-424-0825



Red Gate Golf Course
James Goheen to: mayorandcouncil

03/29/2011 03:26 PM

Dear Mayor & council: I watched the council meeting on 3/28/11 & was dismayed with the councils dithering! I do not want to give up my home owner tax credit of \$100.00 to help subsidize Red Gate. In these

difficult economic times it makes no sense to use tax payer funds to keep the golf course open. The council has just postponed the inevitable ,the course is not going to survive.

The N.G.F report says that golf is a stagnant sport at the present time & the only way to get more players is to capture them from the county or develop new golfers. Neither of these things is likely to happen.

The revenue authority has excellent discount programs in place & the city is not being completive with them . Please have city staff begin to gather alternate uses for the property.

I do not plan on supporting any council member or mayor that continues to support keeping Red Gate as a city run facility!

Sincerely, James Goheen



Request for grant renewal
Audrey Beck
to:
scottullery
03/29/2011 04:29 PM
Cc:
mayorcouncil
Show Details

To: City Manager and Mayor and Council,

Please let me know the status of my request that I sent you on March 1.

Thanks from Audrey Beck

----- Original Message -----

From: Audrey Beck

Subject: Request for grant renewal

To: Mayor and Council

Child Center and Adult Services, Inc. 16220 Frederick Road #502, Gaithersburg, MD 20877, currently has a grant with Rockville City. They provide free counseling services for members of the Rockville Senior Center. Currently, Barbara Wilson, an excellent therapist who works for this company, provides free counseling on Tuesdays at the Center. Barbara has helped many of our members (using her intelligence, kindness and compassion) and her appointment schedule is usually filled to capacity.

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For FY 2012, Child Center and Adult Services requests \$19,860 to continue and slightly expand mental health services for the Rockville Senior Center.

For FY 2011, the grant is \$12,252 for a pending contingency fund grant of \$4,320 to expand counseling services for the remainder of FY 2011.

CCAS is submitting this request based on unmet needs after consulting with the Director of the Rockville Senior Center.

Sincerely,

Audrey G. Beck
4 Monroe Street #602
Rockville, MD 20850
301-251-5885

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Version: 10.0.1204 / Virus Database: 1498/3537 - Release Date: 03/29/11

Exhibit No. 22
 FY12 Budget (12/6/10 PH)

2

We have to move, and we really
 n't want to leave. I've heard it
 that many people, especially the
 ing, can not live here any longer.
 All need some relief, especially the
 on low incomes. We also are
 large majority (voting) in the city
 in days.

Thank you for your consideration
 this letter.

Sincerely,
 E. Fuel

Elizabeth Fuel-Jaques
 307 Carr Avenue
 Rockville, MD 20850

Tel.: (301) 762-5981

3-29-11

Council members:

I am writing to you because I get
 nervous if I have to speak in
 public.

I have lived in my house for
 it 50 years and love Rockville
 very much, except for ^{their} meddling to the
 city. I, and many others, are elderly
 live on a small fixed income. Please
 raise our property taxes as we can
 pay them now. For a long time,



City of Rockville
111 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, Maryland
20850-2364
www.rockvillemd.gov

240-314-6000
TTY 240-314-8137

April 1, 2011

Ms. Elizabeth Tuel-Jaques
307 Carr Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Ms. Tuel-Jaques:

Thank you for contacting the Mayor and Council regarding property taxes, and the FY 2012 City budget. We are delighted to hear that you have lived in Rockville in your own home for over 50 years. Rockville is a wonderful City, and it's a great place to retire! We appreciate that it is an expensive place to live, especially for people like yourselves who are on fixed incomes.

The advertisement which you saw in the Gazette on March 23, 2011 is required by the Constant Yield Tax Rate law. According to Maryland law, the constant yield tax rate is defined as the property tax rate that would yield the same tax revenue as the previous year, not including new construction. When assessments increase and the tax rate remains unchanged, property tax revenue increases. The constant yield rate is the rate that would offset the increase in tax revenue that results from the increase in assessed values. For FY 2012, the constant yield tax rate is calculated to be \$0.2891 per \$100 of assessed value, or \$0.0029 below the City's proposed real property tax rate. The difference equates to \$388,355 in property tax revenue resulting from increased property values, both residential and commercial.

A public hearing on this issue will be held as part of the Mayor and Council meeting this coming Monday, April 4, 2011. We appreciate that you are not comfortable speaking in public. Please be assured that the Mayor and Council have seen your note, and will consider your comments as they make their way through the budget process. Your comments are considered an exhibit and have been placed into the official record.

There will be a series of work sessions and public hearings before the FY2012 Budget is adopted in early June, and all meetings will be televised live on Rockville Channel 11. If you are not able to attend Monday's meeting, we hope that you will watch it on Rockville's Channel 11. A public hearing for the budget is scheduled for 9:05 p.m., and a public hearing for the Constant Tax Rate is scheduled for 10 p.m. Please note that times are approximate.

MAYOR
Phyllis Marcuccio

COUNCIL
John E. Britton
Piotr Gajewski
Bridget Donnell Newton
Mark Pierzchala

CITY MANAGER
Scott Ullery

CITY CLERK
Glenda P. Evans

CITY ATTORNEY
Debra Yerg Daniel



ATTACHMENT B



City of Rockville
111 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, Maryland
20850-2364
www.rockvillemd.gov

240-314-5000
TTY 240-314-8137

Again, thank you for your interest and for taking the time to write. Having and informed and concerned citizenry is a trademark of our City and the Mayor and Council appreciate the feedback they receive.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read "Louise Atkins".

Louise Atkins
Council Support Specialist

MAYOR
Phyllis Marcuccio

COUNCIL
John B. Britton
Piotr Gajewski
Bridget Donnell Newton
Mark Pierzchala

CITY MANAGER
Scott Ullery

CITY CLERK
Glenda P. Evans

CITY ATTORNEY
Debra Yerg Daniel



FY12 Budget
Kathy Michaelian
to:
mayorcouncil
04/04/2011 06:16 AM
Show Details

As a Rockville household that has seen its income fall over the last three months, we write to oppose two items in the proposed FY 12 budget. Revoking the \$100 property tax credit is a tax - no matter what it is called. **DON'T REVOKE THE \$100 PROPERTY TAX CREDIT.** Golf is a nice to have not a necessity. There are other options for local golfers besides RedGate. Shut it down. Turn it into green space. Let it go wild. **DO NOT SUBSIDIZE RED GATE.**

You want to do something that impacts more residents - put more police on traffic patrol to keep our streets safer. Speeding, red light and stop sign running are a constant issue. Figure out a way to keep cut through traffic out of the residential neighborhoods in the West End. Run an occasional trash patrol. The litter on Beall and in Welsh Park is obscene. We often walk with bags to collect the trash and they are filled within a block.

Katherine Michaelian and Keith Jacobson

Tax increases and Redgate
Saul Kravitz
to:
mayorcouncil
04/03/2011 10:01 PM
Show Details

I view the continued expenditures on Redgate as throwing good money after bad.
It would be reasonable to raise taxes ONLY if the council can make cuts to wasteful programs such as the Redgate subsidy.
Please close the course down, and end the subsidy.

Regards,
Saul Kravitz
1386 Stratton Drive
Rockville, MD 20854



Budget Presentation March 28 2011
johnrmckeej to: mayorcouncil
Cc: pgajewski, pmaruccio

04/02/2011 05:21 PM

This is my typed comments made on March 28:

John McKee 3 Clemson Court
Rockville
301-762-7282

By E-mail I sent comments 2/13 concerning budget principal of 1% cost of living increase. I opposed it because of 6.5% raises already given two years ago even when it was definite that Social Security recipients would get 0% (because COLA was 0%). 0% COLA continues for Social Security and a weak economy persists.

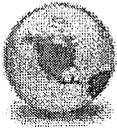
Federal employees are facing frozen wages, the county and school system will probably have to do the same, although no final decisions are made. Rockville should conform. I received response only from Councilman Gajewski, who, however, believes we should honor the negotiations done LAST YEAR which were in advance of current information about COLA and the economy. I think the budget process should set the parameters in CURRENT time and the council should not allow prenegotiation authority for the city manager.

This 1% is \$380K each year forever.

Also a bicycle coordinator was a budget proposal at \$72K a year. It appears to have been dropped. Such effort surely could be distributed among the existing recreation employees.

These numbers add up and impact the choices yet to be made and impact the taxes each household pays. The taxpayers should not be the also rans in this budget process.

We need more homeowners to come out and speak about excesses in the spending process that impact our lives. Government must make choices about the wisest ways to spend our taxes and the citizens need to participate. I seem to be the only one not asking that more dollars be spent; rather than asking they be cut.



2012 Budget
paul.elsbeth
to:
mayorcouncil
04/04/2011 10:58 AM
Cc:
letters
Show Details

From the Rockville Reports we learn that the proposed FY12 budget eliminates the \$100 property tax credit to all homeowners, but includes, for the first time, a \$630,000 subsidy for the RedGate Golf Course, with an additional \$2.6 million needed over the next 4 years.

For lower-income homeowners, \$100 is a considerably larger amount of money than for the golfers who use RedGate. Six thousand three hundred lower income homeowners could continue to receive their \$100 property tax credit if the RedGate Golf Course is left to fend for itself. We bet that not one of the lower income homeowners can afford to play golf there or anywhere else. Why not charge the golfers more, and if they don't like it they have several other accessible golf courses, both public and owned by Montgomery County?

The Rockville Reports proclaim that the quality of life in Rockville earns high marks. That may be true for citizens who are well off, but for most lower-income citizens, both seniors and younger people, Rockville in particular and Montgomery County in general are becoming more and more unaffordable. The proposed FY12 budget only reinforces this trend. We have lived in Rockville for 33 years, but even with our very modest life style (no golf, no travel except to visit family), we feel slowly but surely squeezed out.

Paul & Elsbeth Feys
214 Currier Drive
Rockville, MD 20850
301-424-7297
paul.elsbeth@verizon.net



- Increased chamber membership as a result of program
- Increased visibility of local businesses in the community

Rockville Restaurant Week 2010 was the second year for that program and most of the lessons learned from the first year have been implemented. If the Buy Rockville program is funded again for the next fiscal year, there will be few changes in Restaurant Week, except to build on our success and recruit additional restaurants. We have recruited several volunteers to assist us with this program and our goal for Restaurant Week 2011 is at least 40 restaurants including a greater number of ethnic restaurants.

The Rockville Rewards program is still in its "pilot" phase and thus there are several things that we intend to improve on in this program if it is funded for FY12.

- Increase the number and change the type of nonprofit organizations participating in the program with a greater emphasis on organizations that have experience "selling" products such as PTA's and larger nonprofit organizations.
- Ask each nonprofit organization how many cards they anticipate selling and give them that number. Many nonprofits currently participating were overwhelmed by trying to sell 1,000 cards each.
- Increase the number of locations that sell the cards on behalf of one or more nonprofit organization.
 - Seek grocery stores, pharmacies, banks and other locations with walk-in traffic that are willing to either sell the cards themselves or provide space for nonprofits to sell the cards.
- Sell the cards directly to all new or renewing Chamber members as part of their dues with the money perhaps going to the Rockville Scholarship Foundation.
- Increase the number of businesses offering discounts with a goal of 100 or more.
- Continue to build on the momentum that has already been started for both Restaurant Week and Rockville Rewards.

As has been pointed out on several occasions, the Rockville Chamber of Commerce has not requested an administrative fee from the City to run Buy Rockville. All funds have been used directly to implement the programs. This results in an in-kind contribution by the Chamber of approximately \$15,000 annually in the form of time contributed by Chamber staff and board members. As good corporate citizens and stakeholders in Rockville, the Chamber will continue to provide the same level of in-kind services during the next fiscal year of the program if it is funded by the City.

RECEIVED
CITY CLERKS OFFICE

2011 APR -8 PM 4: 34

Exhibit No. 27
FY12 Budget (12/6/10 PH)

April 8, 2011

Mayor Marcuccio and Members of the Rockville City Council
111 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Mayor Marcuccio and Members of the Council:

The Rockville Chamber of Commerce requests \$25,000 in FY12 to continue the Buy Rockville program now in its' second year of funding. We are proud of our accomplishments to date, and we feel strongly that we are in the midst of our goal to make Rockville a destination for shopping, eating and doing business. Thus, we do not want to abandon the program before we have been able to bring it to complete fruition.

Below are just a few of the accomplishments for this year's efforts:

- 30 restaurants participated in Restaurant Week
- Strong Page Views on Buy Rockville website:
 - 8,228 unique visitors; 4,763 for Restaurant Week alone
- Restaurant Week was picked up by Washingtonian, Examiner, & About.com, which drove traffic to the websites and to participating restaurants.
- Of the restaurants that completed the survey, the business resulting from Restaurant Week varied.
 - One restaurant saw 150 new customers for restaurant week, while others saw a marginal increase in new customers.
- Some restaurants noted although sales were not up for the week, due to the great deals they were offering, the new customers were quality customers for them, and felt they would retain these new customers.
- The restaurants surveyed thought the marketing materials and website were very helpful for promoting the week.
- 80 businesses are participating in the Rockville Rewards program
- 53 Twitter Followers keep abreast of the Rockville Rewards program @buyrockville
- 120 people have signed up for Weekly Hot Deals e-mails
- Rockville Rewards card sales thus far are estimated at 800 cards resulting in increased funding for area non-profits. The program is just beginning to get a real "buzz" and card prices have recently been reduced so we expect an increase in card sales for the remaining 10 weeks of the program



The \$25,000 we are requesting for FY12 will be used in exactly the same way that the FY11 funds are being used including to pay a contractor to help implement the program, advertising dollars, printing of promotional materials & Rockville Rewards cards, and the cost of maintaining the website.

We appreciate the opportunity to work with the City, individual businesses and nonprofit organizations as we promote Rockville and build community through the Buy Rockville program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Jolly".

Andrea Jolly
Executive Director



2012 Budget
James Goheen to: mayorcouncil
Cc: citymanager

04/11/2011 09:34 AM

Dear Mayor & Council:

Please carefully consider your support for RedGate & Vis-Arts in the next budget. The mayor & the council members that support these efforts should stop wasting our tax dollars on such poorly run enterprises.

RedGate in particular should not use tax payer funds to continue its operation. I'm sure that the voters would not support these endeavors if they realized how many tax dollars are being used to keep them open.

The concern about RedGate staff is admirable but I'm sure that most could easily find other jobs in their field. They would also probably have a buyout option or some other kind of separation pay.

I find it rather amusing that Joe Jordon is so concerned about RedGate staff but not the use of tax dollars for the golf course. His comments about remarks the council makes during their deliberations are ridiculous.

Town Center Questions: What is status of proposed grocery store? What other type stores are being considered for the site? The mix of businesses is still not attractive to many residents + lack of convenient

free parking.

Thank you all for your public service & I do appreciate your efforts even when I don't agree with your decisions.

Sincerely , Jim Goheen



Taxes
Santos Mayo
to:
mayorcouncil
04/08/2011 06:57 PM
Show Details

Dear Council Members,

I like to refer to pg.3 in "Rockville Reports" April/May Vol. 57 #4, where the Mayor and Council Members address opinions on topics of their choice.

I like to congratulate Council Member Piotr Gajewski for his column. I think the City of Rockville should not raise taxes now. I am living in Rockville since 1973 and had enough opportunities to pay my dues in good and bad times. Now I am retired from the Federal Government and for the second year in a row there has been no COLA adjustment to my pension on base that "there is no inflation". However, we all know how much we pay now for health insurance and at the supermarket or gas station.

It looks like the style today for people and institutions is to spend more than they can earn. In fact, the whole country is going this way. Rockville has a mixed population with various economic, professional and educational levels. I think the city was planned this way and should continue offering equal opportunities to all, without privileging special interests. *It should not be a golden rule that the budget increases every year.*

Respectfully,

Santos Mayo
Rockville, MD.

**Taxes**
James Headlee to: mayorcouncil

04/10/2011 09:48 PM

Mayor and Council

I wanted to add my frustration with the tax situation in Montgomery County and Rockville City. My wife and I have lived in the city 40 years. We purchased our home in 1971 and love living in Rockville very much. Unfortunately as the home increased in value our taxes of course increased dramatically. When the taxes were limited to a maximum increase of 10 percent most people think this is not a great amount. While 10 percent does not seem like a lot try a 700 dollar increase last year and the property lost more than \$120,00 in value. I am a retired federal employe of 20 years. The last 2 without cost of living increases. This did not stop the property taxes from increasing \$1400 over this period. Rockville has held the line on our tax rate but please understand that these taxes also increased 10 percent each year. You lower the city tax rate and the county just gets more because they raise the taxes 10 percent. If our tax system is not changed most of us retirees will no longer be able to live in this City. My wife and I love living here and do not want to relocate but it is getting difficult.

Jim Headlee

The 2012 Budget
ACOLANDR
to:
mayorcouncil
04/05/2011 08:13 PM
Show Details

I do not believe that the employee's of Rockville should receive the 1% increase in salary. No one, not even the seniors who live on a fixed income received any such raise, and we all must sacrifice. City employees received a big salary increase in the past two years, and this should suffice during these troubled times.

Also, we should not add any new contributions to their healthcare benefits or pension. Significant appropriations to these two items, is not called for at this time. The price city employees pay for the healthcare is way below other government agencies. I am a retiree and I had to pay 25% more in added expense to the cost of my hospitalization without any added benefits, and all have had to pay other expenses. Not only did my healthcare go up, but my initial costs are about 3 times higher than The City of Rockville Employee's cost for comparable hospitalization, dental, and other costs.

I believe that if every department cuts their cost by 1% or even 1/2% we should be able to keep costs down, and also not put any new burdens on already strapped citizens. I cannot afford to pay additional taxes and other fees, and would rather see costs cut from the budget to prevent this happening.

As I said, we all have to sacrifice and this should include The City of Rockville's Government as well.

Thank you in advance for listening to my recommendations.



City Capital Improvements
Gary Nickerson to: Mayor and Council, Rockville, MD

04/06/2011 01:19 PM

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

I am Gary Nickerson and my spouse Barbara and I live at 11 Leonard Court in Rockville.
I am a semi-retired consulting engineer (PE), and Barbara and I are both seniors.

We are very concerned about the tremendous rise of costs of living in the City of Rockville.

We have read your latest "Rockville Reports" newsletter and are greatly concerned at the increase in utility rates and some of the proposed capital improvements.

The rise in costs of maintaining the water treatment and distribution system is understandable since the City is in the midst of a multi-year program for replacement of major water lines and upgrading the plant as required by federal safe drinking act.

We object to the capital improvement project for the Redgate golf course. First, the National Golf Foundation report is flawed by their own admission, and we can not fathom why they should have been paid for this lame effort.
We urge the Mayor and Council not to make the recommended capital improvements at the course as we fear it will be wasted. We think a better course of action would be to hire the new management of the course, and then ask them what needs to be improved and how they can turn the course into a profitable entity. We are very concerned that Redgate is now a line item in the City's budget when it should be a self-supporting enterprise. I am a golfer and have played many rounds at Redgate, but do not feel we can support the course with augmentation from the City's budget.

When the course is run by City staff, there are too many rules and regs imposed by the City, and I have drifted away from playing at Redgate for this reason. Also the cost of play there is not as competitive as some of the other nearby courses.
We suggest you give the new management company more of a free hand to turn the course around into a successful operation.

We feel the capital project for the emergency generator at the senior center is not necessary and should be eliminated.
What is the reason for this project other than to eliminate some minor momentary inconvenience?

Concerning SWM, we presently see no cost for this on our current utility bill. Is this to go into effect on July 1 of this year? I see it will cost \$49.20 in FY11 and go up to \$62.48 in FY12; is that correct? We called the Rockville utility billing department and found that the SWM fee is actually on our property tax bill. This seems a covert way of adding utility fees. Please comment.

Concerning the capital project for the 3-year program for adding batteries to the 45 City owned street lights, is this needed due

ATTACHMENT B

to PEPCO'S failure to keep the power on in our region? We realize that this is a safety issue if Pepco continues to be less than reliable. Please comment.

Please comment on why the two capital projects for (1) city-wide document management and imaging system, and (2) the two year project to purchase and install a city-wide Enterprise Resource Planning software system are needed.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns. We look forward to hearing from you.

Gary and Barbara Nickerson
11 Leonard Court



you need to seriously consider closing Redgate golf course
Surprenant, Steve
to:
mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov
04/16/2011 12:28 PM
[Show Details](#)

Dear Mayor and Council,

We understand you are considering subsidizing the RedGate Golf Course with a \$630,000 subsidy in FY12, and an additional \$2.26 million needed over the next four years. As avid golfers and 23-year residents of the City, this makes no sense to us and is fiscally irresponsible. There are plenty of golf courses nearby, both public and private, and therefore plenty of choices for the residents of Rockville. Although Redgate is the closest golf course to our home, we continually drive by Redgate as we would rather play at Needwood or other Montgomery County golf courses.

Sinking this amount of money into Redgate will not bring you into contention with other local golf courses, and will just be taxpayer money wasted. Raising taxes to support the subsidiary would be absurd, for both golfers and non-golfers alike.

A robust recreation program is one of our City's trademarks, and one of the aspects we love about Rockville. However, it makes no sense for Rockville to raise taxes just to subsidize this amenity that has a very low probability of ever turning itself around.

This is our first letter ever to elected officials and demonstrates how strongly we feel about this issue. Although we understand it would be a tough decision, we hope you make the right decision and find a better use for the Redgate property to the benefit of the citizens of Rockville.

Betsy & Steve Surprenant

5 Stevens Court
Rockville, MD 20850
301.279.7531

Testimony for Senior Citizens Concerns on Senior Services Budget

Presented by Ciriaco Q. Gonzales

In reviewing the budget proposed for FY2012, there is a reduction in the Senior Services Budget which shows up as one less FTE, equivalent to a bus driver position for the Senior Center bus service. Seniors that rely on this service, are concerned that this will curtail some of the much needed transportation. In FY 2010 drivers carried 32000 riders from 148 private homes and six (6) apartment buildings where seniors live.: Bethany House, Heritage House, Ring Houses, the Town Center, The Americana and Congressional Apartments. The reduction in service would occur when increasing numbers of seniors are losing their independence as they get into their 80's and up, only to be further isolated in their homes.

These seniors need the transportation to do their grocery and other shopping as well as to get to the Senior Center where they can avail themselves of the following services: noon meals, health monitoring, recreation, socializing, educational activities and physical exercise activities.

Perhaps the social aspect of all the center activities is most important for the well being of those who lose their independence as regards transportation. The census data shows that more and more seniors are living longer and will require more of these type of services. Senior citizens continue to contribute to the vitality of the city years after retirement and they deserve to have the services offered by the senior services at the Senior Center, without any reductions and definitely future increases as that population increases in the city of Rockville.

The reductions in the budget add up to about \$56,000 including benefits. We Urge you to restore this to the budget and plan to address the increased needs in coming years Lets plan ahead before the "Tsunami" hits us.

RECEIVED
CITY CLERKS OFFICE

2011 APR 18 PM 1:55

ATTACHMENT B

EXHIBIT NO. 35
FY12 BUDGET



Please cut taxes!
Barry Bates
to:
mayorcouncil
04/20/2011 07:19 PM
[Show Details](#)

Rockville Council and Mayor,

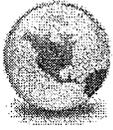
I have been a resident of Rockville since 1976 and have seen my taxes rise every year. I've been retired for 10 years and as the economy rose so did my taxes. Seems like if the economy tanks, as it has, taxes should be reduced, i.e., my tax bill should be less than it was last year or the year below. As a retiree, no raises past 2 years but medical has gone up substantially as have gas prices. We have cut back on vacations to Ocean City and other retreats in Maryland and eating out at the great Rockville restaurants. We will continue to cut back until we have to move, which we do not want to do.

Thanks for your service.

Barry Bates
5 Sunrise Ct
Rockville, MD 20854

ATTACHMENT B

EXHIBIT NO. 36
FY12 BUDGET



tax increase
Weiss, Jonathan (NIH/NCI) [E]
to:
'mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov'
04/21/2011 07:55 AM
[Show Details](#)

History: This message has been replied to.

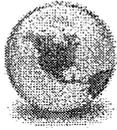
Dear Mayor and City Council,

I wholeheartedly agree with Piotr Gajewski's position that it is ill-conceived to raise the tax burden of homeowners (by removal of the \$100 credit) while at the same time paying a whopping \$630,000 subsidy for the RedGate golf course. I value the City's recreation program, but in these fiscal times, even virtuous programs need to be reconsidered. The availability of two private golf courses and proximity of other public golf courses in Montgomery County leads me to believe that there is simply no need for the RedGate subsidy. I urge you to maintain the property tax credit in favor of removing the RedGate subsidy. During these economic times, fiscal decisions such as this are of heightened importance to me and my family.

Thank you very much for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Jonathan Weiss
521 Nelson Street



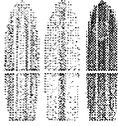
Thank you to Mark Pierzchala ref: Reserve Fund
Julia Thomas
to:
mayorcouncil
04/14/2011 06:18 PM
[Show Details](#)

History: This message has been replied to.

Mark:

My sincere thanks for your forthright and correct stand on the reserve fund (15% is what is necessary, they need to do just that). I hope that your excellent efforts to implement fiscal restraint and proper budgeting will find your colleagues getting the message. I do not know how to tell these people that the world has changed, and that prudence is now mandatory, and that lack of fiscal restraint will only lead to disaster. Thank you for your valiant efforts.

David J. Thomas, 818 Brice Rd, Rockville MD 20852-1002



To: Brenda Bean/RKV
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Fw: Swim and Fitness Center

From: Suzanne Sutton <suzanneasutton@gmail.com>
To: pmaruccio@rockvillemd.gov
Cc: jbritton@rockvillemd.gov, pgajewski@rockvillemd.gov, bnewton@rockvillemd.gov, mpierzchala@rockvillemd.gov
Date: 04/25/2011 10:55 AM
Subject: Swim and Fitness Center

Dear Mayor Marcuccio and Council members Britton, Gajewski, Newton and Pierzchala,

I am delighted to have been chosen to serve on the Rockville Swim Center Advisory Committee. The Rockville Swim and Fitness Center is a treasure that has been a part of my family's life for more than 25 years - from good healthy workouts inside to beautiful swims under blue sky, night stars, or falling rain, to the friendships and community we find there. I have also coached the Swim Team there, and worked and swum at many other pools, leading me to the firm belief that your Swim Center is a gem among recreation facilities, and I treasure this chance for me to offer something back for all it offers so many of us.

Despite having swum there for more than 25 years, I am still startled by just how beautiful the setting and facility is, and how rich the offerings. Many days, after my workout, I linger a bit and enjoy watching just how much others enjoy it too, and how much use it gets not just from members, but from community activities and offerings for the disadvantaged, disabled, and outside groups who rent several hours for special functions. It is a joy like few others to see the many ways so many use it, from our oldest citizens living stronger and healthier lives from participation in our classes, to the youngest children discovering the amazing joy of water at the outdoor Spray Ground, to the many shallow corners and gently sloping areas that were brilliantly designed to let families enjoy water safely with young children to the teens who congregate here in healthy, active play and swim team activities. I think this is a Rockville institution you can be very, very proud of.

But, as you so well know, it is an aging facility, in need of attention which of course means money. On behalf of the committee, I want to sincerely thank you for your decision to offer support in the current budget for renovations to the bathhouse. As you know, it is quite an old bathhouse, which many patrons avoid or complain about. The structure is difficult to clean properly, showers flood frequently, and space is very limited. Renovations have already been delayed once, so we are very pleased you have allocated funds in this year's budget.

The crack in the foundation and supporting structure of the South pool badly needs repair in order to prevent collapse, and we are encouraged that this is a budget item for next year. Phil has worked numerous times to patch this, but has done all he can do without the structural repair. We want so much to address these problems before they cause more expensive damage, a shut down to the usage of the facility, or a decision by members to leave for other, newer facilities.

Membership and usage have grown considerably, and we quite frequently hear complaints from members about crowding and limited hours, so we also are very pleased to see plans in the budget for a bubble over the outdoor fitness pool, allowing greater use of existing facilities and the corresponding increase in income from this expanded usage. Each of our improvements in the past has resulted in an increase in revenue that has far exceeded the cost of the improvement.

So we thank you for your support of this wonderful treasure among Rockville's offerings to its citizens. It is the most popular recreation offering we have, and one that plays a genuine role in the health - both

ATTACHMENT B

It is the most popular recreation offering we have, and one that plays a genuine role in the health - both physical and emotional - of tens of thousands of folks who fit this into busier and busier lives. We know how tight the budget is, and thank you for making this the priority we believe it is, and should be.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Sutton

Rockville Swim and Fitness Center Advisory Committee

EXHIBIT NO. 39
FY12 BUDGET

Nov. 15, 2010

Hi, I just emailed 6 pictures and 1 video to you.

This past Saturday I took my 6 year old son and his friend to the Bankshot playground at King Farm. He and his friend had a ball (no pun intended). They really enjoyed playing the circuit of hoop shots.

It sparked their imagination too! They tried making all sorts of crazy bank shots. They had fun and got lots of exercise.

This was the first time playing at this park. It's now my son's favorite and I will be sure to bring him back very soon.

I'm also going to approach my neighborhood about the bankshot park concept and introduce it to them!

Sincerely, Laura Dirlam

Laura Dirlam | President | Benefit Planning Group, Inc.
Telephone: 301-670-6850, ext. 115 | Secure Fax: 1-443-656-0290 | Address: 60 Market St., Suite 201 Gaithersburg, MD 20878

-----Original Message-----

From: tracy.marshall@comcast.net
To: info@bankshot.com
Sent: Mon, Nov 15, 2010 11:59 am

hey there-

It is Tracy. I met u at kings farm park the other day. I have to thank you because my kids absolutely love going there to play basketball. Like i told you there have been many times we have gone there many days in a row. I think that all parks should have this type of activity for kids. I'm a mom who think kids should be running around having fun not sitting in the house watching TV. So thank you for your effort to make the parks a better place. If i can help you in anyway please let me know, i want all kids to enjoy life and the outdoors.

I would love to come and help in anyway I can and you do not owe us a ball. I appreciate that there are people in this world who look-out and do nice things for children so thanks for what you do not only for my kids but many kids who enjoy what you do

Tracy Marshall

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: MARY LOU KORZENEWSKI <MARYLOU.KORZENEWSKI@Longandfoster.com>

To: Michelle Worthy <mrsworthy@yahoo.com>

Sent: Mon, November 29, 2010 11:16:08 AM

Subject: RE: from Bankshot Sports

I am so sorry it has taken me so long to get back to you, Thanksgiving and a bad case of pneumonia has set me back a little.

I really enjoyed meeting you at the park in King Farm the other day. I have had to opportunity to take all 5 of my grandchildren to the park on many occasions and the basketball area is the all time favorite. Because of the height of the rims, even the 5 year old can feel like a star when he makes a basket. The 7 year olds are figuring out how to "bank" the shots and enjoy the challenge, and the 9 year olds are becoming pros! My son in law had the chance to take the kids to the park and I didn't think we were ever going to get him to leave! This area iof the park provides fun and challenges to all ages. Although I bring balls with me, the kids really get excited when they find the balls your leave for them to use. (It is especially nice because I only own 2 balls and it helps to keep everyone happy) Being a realtor, I understand just how important neighborhood amenities are to prospective purchasers. I just wish there were more areas with the activities that King Farm has incorporated within the community. Thank you for the Bank Shot area, it is truly a hit!

Warmest regards,

Mary Lou Korzenewski

Realtor

Cell-301-922-3327

Md Office- 301-299-6000

DE Office- 302-227-2541

W.C. & A.N. Miller Realtors

a Long and Foster Company

10200 River Road

Potomac, MD 20854

Licensed in MD, VA, and DE

Doc. Co



Public Hearing
Proposed Real Property Tax Increase
April 4, 2011

Commend the Mayor & Council and the City staff for holding this Public Hearing that focuses on the Constant Yield Tax Rate. In some previous years mention of the state required CYTR was not highlighted.

As mentioned in the Public Notice, if the City maintains the current tax rate of \$0.292 per \$100 of assessment, real property tax revenues will increase by 1.0% resulting in \$338,355 of new real property tax revenues because of the increase in overall tax assessments. However, to fully offset the increase in assessments, the real property tax rate should be reduced to \$0.2891, the CYTR.

As a retiree, on a relatively fixed rate of income, I am concerned about any increase in my property taxes even at 1 percent. This increase, plus the proposed omission of the current \$100 property tax credit and increases in some utility rates is troubling. The cumulative effect of these proposals can have a significant negative impact on many Rockville households especially during these difficult economic times.

Therefore, I recommend reducing the real property tax rate to the CYTR of \$0.2891 instead of the proposed \$0.292 and maintaining at least some property tax credit.

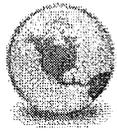
Respectively submitted,

Jim Marrinan

5 Old Creek Court
Rockville, MD 20854

ATTACHMENT B

EXHIBIT NO. 41
FY12 BUDGET



From Norene Stovall non RV Senior Center
Norene Stovall
to:
mayorcouncil
04/26/2011 03:39 PM
Show Details

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss my experiences at the Rockville Senior Center with you during the Citizen's Forum on April 25. I understand that you would like it in writing, but I did not write it out – I just put a few words on a card and spoke from the heart. I'll do my best to outline it for you here, but it may be somewhat different from my precise words. And in my zeal to stay within the three-minute maximum, I probably left some things out, so you will find them here.

Thank you again,
Norene

I would like to share with you just a few of my experiences at the Rockville Senior Center. I joined in February of 2007 and learned from Lorraine Schack that there was an opening on the Senior Commission, so I applied and was appointed shortly after that. I very much enjoy serving on that group. That brings me to the Center fairly often, and what I find there is people from many cultures interacting with each other and generally enjoying themselves. It's a happy place.

I have participated in many seminars on such things as stroke prevention and medication management. I attended a seminar conducted by State's Attorney McCarthy on senior fraud and safety. I went to one on decluttering, but those who have been in my home know that is not working very well, but that's not the seminar's fault.

A word here about Mark Barrick who runs our Senior Home Maintenance program. He has visited our home and given advice on problems we were having. He has recommended contractors who have done good work at a good price and give a senior discount. And Mark gives periodic seminars on issues related to aging in place, making it easier for us to remain in our homes as the years go on. The attendees fill the room, as for many other events,

There is Barbara Wilson, a social worker who is only at the Center only four hours a week. We need more time for her. She conducts discussion groups, gives individual counseling, and conducts quarterly seminars on aging comfortably. She gave me great help when I was struggling with the fact of being robbed in my home by a worker I had been led to trust.

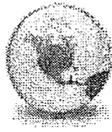
I know of a woman whose Medicare coverage for physical therapy ran out, and she was able to continue it at the Center with our trained help. I've been in arthritis exercise with a man who could not button his own shirt until he took the class.

I have ridden the bus when my car was in the shop, but it caused me to be late to such things as the Governors visit to the Rockville Senior Center, and it seemed that it was because the route was too long. That doesn't seem to be a good place to cut, but actually to add. On the bus, I found myself with people who obviously had no other way to get to the center, many of them for the lunch served there at very low cost through the County Monday through Friday. And I have been in those valuable seminars I mentioned when people had to leave early in time to catch the bus.

There are fun things at the Center, too. I particularly enjoy a series called "Peeking at the Presidents". I have enjoyed seminars on art, music, and Sudoku – but that last one didn't work out either – my mind just doesn't

work that way.

The point here is the Senior Center is not just fun, although we do have fun. It's a place for vital senior services. We are sustained physically and mentally, And Rockville is aging. In the City Scan on the City website, it says that the median age in Rockville is 40.2, older than in the U.S., DC, the DC Region, the State, and even in Montgomery County. So think carefully before you cut funding to the Senior Services in Rockville. You all know we vote, and in strong numbers. Thank you.



Homeowner tax credit
George Sushinsky
to:
mayorcouncil
04/26/2011 04:55 PM
[Show Details](#)

Madam Mayor and council members,

I understand how hard it is for a politician to advocate a tax increase during an election year. There should be some automatic process that takes this type of decision out of your hands.

Four years ago when the home owner tax credit and lower tax rates were set in place, the reserve fund was near 30 percent, housing values were 20 to 40 percent higher, and there was a boom economy. The tax rebate and lower property taxes were an appropriate course of action. By 2009, it should have been obvious that the economy changed and that there was need to remove those homeowner benefits for the long term fiscal health of the city. (It wasn't a Redgate problem then or now.) To continue that tax credit now is just wrong. To keep fighting about it at the Mayor and council meetings is just politicizing the issue long before the election season has started.

The homeowner tax credit is wrong on other accounts. It is discriminatory. About 40 percent of the households are renters. Where is their tax relief? It is also indiscriminate in that it gives to the rich and the poor. The state program that Council member Newton discussed last evening for state tax relief at least addresses household income and house value limits to be eligible for the state rebate. Shouldn't the City also have some limits on who gets relief?

Finally, this tax relief has limited clout in the community. The \$8.33 monthly reduction in the PITI of traditional mortgages is added to escrow and not to the households pocket. Some of us might notice it on the tax bill that comes each summer, but it is swallowed up in the larger numbers and bottom line of the tax bill. We don't go out and spend that rebate at the store, restaurant or movie theater. So is it anything more than political fodder?

If you continue to insist that tax increases are off the table, then I have a suggestion to how to end the discriminatory nature of homeowner tax credit if not its indiscriminate nature, give a tangible benefit to every household in Rockville, and keep the money in Rockville. The first step is to end the homeowner tax credit. Next, the City should develop a prepaid gift card and distribute it to each household in Rockville. The prepaid card would have a value of \$50 and be usable only at retail store, restaurants, movie theaters, etc. within the City of Rockville. The money stays in the community for a while and possibly circulates a little within the city. That way your hypothetical family of four might be able to go out for pizza or a matinee or dad/mom could play a round of golf at Redgate. It certainly beats the limited benefit of a tax credit.

George Sushinsky
908 Wade Ave
Rockville, MD 20851

EXHIBIT NO. 43
FY12 BUDGET

Mayers & Council
Rockville

Routed To:
 Council
 City Clerk
 City Manager

This note is written to express support for the Senior Center Bus Service.

Last October I was diagnosed with hydrocephalus; had a shunt put in my brain, and was generally a vegetable. I spent six weeks in S.G. Rehab Hospital and got home in December and continued rehab using equipment at the Senior Center. Since I could not drive the Center Bus, picked me up 3 times a week.

I now have passed the tests for driving on R and am senior to exercise at the Center and I will be forever grateful for the transportation provided by the City. From my observations the buses are an invaluable asset to many members who cannot longer drive, etc.

Sincerely

Ken Michaelian

1008 Neal Dr 20880

Michaelian

Michaelian
1008 Neal Dr
20880-7436
CAPITAL DISTRICT
ST. PETERSBURG FL 34714
RECEIVED
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
2011 APR 28 PM 4:22

Mayers & Council
City of Rockville

ATTACHMENT B



City of Rockville
111 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, Maryland
20850-2864
www.rockvillemd.gov

240-814-5000
TTY 240-814-8187

April 29, 2011

Mr. Ken Michaelian
1008 Neal Drive
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Mr. Michaelian:

Thank you for contacting the City of Rockville regarding the Senior Center bus service. I am responding on behalf of the Mayor and Council, each of whom have received a copy of your letter.

I am very glad to hear that you have made such a great recovery from your surgery. We appreciate that this was a very stressful time, and are so glad that you were able to use the Senior Center bus service to get to the Senior Center, and that you are able to continue your rehabilitation using the exercise facilities there. I have forwarded your letter to the City' Clerks office, to be included in the official record for the FY 2012 budget. Your comments will be marked as an exhibit and considered by the Mayor and Council as they work their way through the budget adoption process.

For your information there will be another budget worksession on May 2, and an additional public hearing on May 9 before the FY 2012 budget is adopted in late May. All meetings will be televised on Rockville Channel 11.

Again, thank you for your interest. Having an informed and concerned citizenry is a trademark of our City and the Mayor and Council appreciate the feedback they receive.

Sincerely,

Louise Atkins
Council Support Specialist

Cc: Brenda Bean, Deputy City Clerk

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