



THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

6611 Kenilworth Avenue • Riverdale, Maryland 20737

June 1, 2026

To: The Honorable N. Aisha Braveboy
County Executive, Prince George's County

The Honorable Krystal Oriadha
Chair, Prince George's County Council

From: Artie L. Harris
Chair, The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

RE: Response to CB-057-2026 and CR-058-2026 – FY 2027 Budget Reductions

Dear County Executive Braveboy and Council Chair Oriadha,

On behalf of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC), we request an urgent meeting with you and your senior staff to address critical concerns regarding the Prince George's County FY 2027 Adopted Budget as it relates to the Commission's funding, legal sufficiency, and operational viability.

The FY 2027 Budget adopted by the County Council on May 27, 2026, as currently structured, contains material inaccuracies that raise fundamental questions about its legal sufficiency and significant funding gaps that will impact services for the County's residents. As you know, both the Commission and the County Government are waiting for the results of our independent bond ratings for the upcoming fiscal year. It is imperative that we work together to address these concerns and prevent severe repercussions on the residents of Prince George's County, the operational viability of the Prince George's County Planning Department and Department of Parks and Recreation, and our Bond ratings.

We believe these outcomes are not what the Council intended and we are committed to working collaboratively to correct them.

A detailed fund-by-fund analysis of the Adopted Budget has identified multiple material errors that make it impossible for the Commission to operate within the adopted appropriations. Below we have provided a quick summary of some of the issues:

Administration Fund: The zeroing out of the non-departmental line eliminates the Commission's ability to meet \$2.57 million in retiree health obligations and \$2.35 million in employee compensation commitments including COLA and merit pay.

Park Fund: The Council reduced revenue by \$17,619,240 while reducing expenditures by only \$2,639,258 creating an unaddressed funding gap of \$14,979,982. There is no mechanism in the adopted budget to close this gap without an additional \$15 million in cuts to park operations that will have a devastating impact on our County.

Recreation Fund: Revenue was decreased by \$7,344,773 while expenditures were simultaneously increased by \$7,668,219, producing a \$15,002,992 structural deficit. As well, new programming initiatives identified by the Council were listed in the budget without any corresponding appropriation, leaving more than \$3.9 million in unfunded mandates.

Capital Improvement Program (CIP): The adopted resolution and its supporting appendix contradict one another regarding the Park Police headquarters and the project listing that is a standard component of any CIP resolution was not included. The current structure also prevents the Commission from accepting more than \$12 million in state and Program Open Space funds. There are also unfunded projects totaling \$100M that were sent to M-NCPPC by the Council after the FY 2027 budget was adopted.

Entirely Omitted Funds: The Special Revenue Fund, Largo ISF, Enterprise Fund, and CAS budget were completely omitted from the Adopted Budget appendices. The Special Revenue Fund is the vehicle through which all County community centers are funded. We do not know whether these facilities and programs have been authorized to operate at all in FY 2027. In addition, \$8.5 million provided by the State of Maryland for specific M-NCPPC projects was omitted.

As you are aware, the Land Use Article has specific legal requirements governing the appropriation of public funds for a bi-county agency. A budget that contains internal contradictions, omits entire funds from the adoption record, and creates expenditure obligations without corresponding appropriations does not provide the Commission with clear legal authority to operate and we are not in a position to proceed into FY 2027 on this legal footing without resolution.

We are also concerned about the reallocation of \$39.3 million to project charges. While we understand the need for project charges, it is important to review the proposed allocation of these funds, together with the associated reporting requirements, to ensure full consistency with the Land Use Article governing their use.

As the budget currently stands, we are anticipating the following could directly impact County residents:

- Shortened hours or closures at community centers, pools, and senior centers across the County.
- Elimination or reduction of after-school programming, teen activities, senior engagement, and disability-inclusive services.
- Deferred Park maintenance and degraded public spaces.
- Potential partial or full shutdowns of Enterprise Fund facilities including Show Place Arena, golf courses, and ice rinks eliminating both public access and the revenue those facilities generate
- A potential Reduction in Force that could result in layoff notices to experienced Commission employees.
- No resources for an updated General Plan as part of the County Executive's goal of a *Plan 2050*
- No funding to begin planning for a complete count for Census 2030
- Elimination of all master/ sector plan amendments
- Significant reductions in all Placemaking initiatives throughout Prince George's County
- Inability to effectively and efficiently comply with legal public notice requirements such as the Open Meetings Act, Maryland Public Information Act, and both the Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Regulations.
- Limit the ability for the Planning Department to have designated urban design professionals needed to coordinate the complex high priority projects across multiple county agencies, State partners, and community stakeholders.
- Further extend the implementation of the Planning Department's ability to swiftly implement a Planning Rapid Response Process for entitlements.

We are prepared to present a detailed accounting of the errors, our legal concerns, and a constructive path forward that preserves the services Prince George's County residents depend on.

The Commission stands ready to engage immediately. Given the urgency of these matters and the July 1st start of the new fiscal year, we look forward to our meeting scheduled for this afternoon.

Respectfully,



Artie L. Harris

Chair, The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

cc:

Wes Aniton, Acting General Counsel, M-NCPPC

William Spencer, Acting Executive Director, M-NCPPC

Gavin Cohen, Secretary-Treasurer, M-NCPPC

Billy Okoye, Vice Chair, M-NCPPC Prince George's County Planning Board

Darius A. Stanton, Director, M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County

James Hunt, Acting Director, M-NCPPC Prince George's County Planning Department

Terri Charles, Corporate Budget Director, M-NCPPC