



## HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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Howard County Board of Education  
10910 Clarksville Pike  
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Dear Chair Wu and Members of the Board of Education:

As you may be aware, the North Columbia Fire Station, currently proposed to be located at Cedar Lane Park East off MD-108, is under consideration by the County Council as part of our proposed FY2022 Capital Budget. The proposed location for the North Columbia Fire Station was shifted to Cedar Lane Park East after the Board of Education (BOE) previously declined an exchange of property at the old Cedar Lane School for a long-term lease at the Ascend One building in November 2019.

During the course of budget deliberations, members of the County Council suggested that the Administration explore use of the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) Central Office property as a possible alternative to the currently proposed site for the North Columbia Fire Station. Pursuant to this suggestion, the Administration has conducted a preliminary assessment and concluded that portions of the HCPSS Central Office property may be suitable for placement the North Columbia Fire Station.

The potential placement of the North Columbia Fire Station at the HCPSS Central Office property would allow efforts to replace the deteriorating Banneker Fire Station to proceed forward, while allowing the Department of Fire and Rescue Services (DFRS) to address demand for emergency services in the MD-108 corridor that are among the densest in the County. Further, placement of the North Columbia Fire Station at the HCPSS Central Office property would provide significant distance between the fire station and residential dwellings and eliminate the need to use existing park space for the fire station at Cedar Lane Park East.

Based on the above considerations, we are requesting that the BOE grant permission for staff to negotiate the use of HCPSS Central Office property for the North Columbia Fire Station in exchange for just compensation from the County prior to the May 26<sup>th</sup> vote to approve the proposed FY2022 Capital Budget. Placement of the fire station at the HCPSS Central Office property addresses community concerns about the proposed location while allowing the County to address critical public safety needs along the MD-108 corridor.

We appreciate the partnership and continued collaboration of the BOE as we work collectively to improve our County for residents and students alike. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

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Calvin Ball  
County Executive



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Liz Walsh  
Chair, Howard County Council (District 1)



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Opel Jones  
Vice Chair, Howard County Council (District 2)



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Christiana Mercer Rigby  
Councilmember, District 3  
Howard County Council



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Deb Jung  
Councilmember, District 4  
Howard County Council



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David Yungmann  
Councilmember, District 5  
Howard County Council

Cc: HCPSS Staff