



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

NANCY NAVARRO
COUNCILMEMBER, DISTRICT 4

MEMORANDUM

February 5, 2015

TO: Vivian Yao, Legislative Analyst
FROM: Nancy Navarro, Councilmember
SUBJECT: Wheaton Library & Community Recreation Center (P361202)

On March 5, 2012, a joint meeting of the Planning, Housing, and Economic Development (PHED) and Health and Human Services (HHS) Committees unanimously supported my motion to expedite the Wheaton Library and Community Recreation Center project.

WHEATON LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER

Table with 9 columns: In \$000s, Total, Total 6 years, FY13, FY14, FY15, FY16, FY17, FY18. Rows include C.E. Recommended and HHS & PHED Committee Recommended.

Recommended funding source: \$35.683 million in GO Bonds and \$300,000 in current revenue
No appropriations are requested or estimated for FY13 and FY14.

When the joint committees made this change, we acknowledged that the dollar amounts included in the Project Description Form (PDF) were placeholders until the Executive Branch finalized the feasibility study, program of requirements (POR), and conceptual and schematic design.

WHEATON LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER

Table with 9 columns: In \$000, Total, Total 6 years, FY15, FY16, FY17, FY18, FY19, FY20. Row includes Recommend.

Recommended funding source: \$57.872 million in GO Bonds, \$183,000 in PAYGO, and \$300,000 in current revenue
Requested FY15 appropriation: \$52.034 million
There is no estimated appropriation for FY16.
FY13-18 approved total: \$35.983 million

The Wheaton Library and Community Recreation Center is a top priority of the Department of Recreation and Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL). Since I was elected to the Council in 2009, I have worked to move this project forward at an accelerated pace. The community has waited patiently for this project to come to fruition for more than two decades. Wheaton Library is one of the busiest libraries in Montgomery County, and the Wheaton Recreation Center is one of the most dilapidated facilities in the Recreation Department portfolio. The community has been promised a state-of-the-art combined library and recreation facility with underground structured parking and significant, continuous open space throughout the entire property. The time has come to approve a PDF that accurately reflects the cost of this project so it can finally move forward.

Recent media reports, Mid-County Citizen's Advisory Board meetings, and constituent correspondence suggest Executive Branch officials are considering recommending that the County Executive scale back the project to reduce costs. My view is that the community has waited long enough for this project and deserves the best facility possible. I will oppose any proposal that limits the scope of the project or reduces the program that will serve my constituents.

In anticipation of receiving an amended PDF from the County Executive during our FY16 Budget deliberations, I am requesting the following information that will help the Council respond to any possible amendments the Executive may transmit:

1. The approved POR as currently configured by the Department of Recreation and MCPL for the Wheaton Library and Community Recreation Center;
2. The current cost estimate for the Wheaton Library and Community Recreation Center;
3. A comparison of how this project's estimated cost compares to other large libraries and community recreation centers throughout the County (in today's dollars); and
4. Renderings or other relevant information from the architect that diminishes or reduces the approved program or design.

Thank you in advance for obtaining this information from the appropriate departments and individuals within the Executive Branch.

CC: Councilmembers
Jennifer Hughes, Director, Office of Management and Budget
David Dise, Director, Department of General Services
Gabe Albornoz, Director, Department of Recreation
Parker Hamilton, Director, Montgomery County Public Libraries
Ana Lopez van Balen, Director, Mid-County Regional Services Center