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August 9, 2022

The Honorable Marc Elrich, County Executive
101 Monroe Street
Rockville, Maryland 20850

The Honorable Gabe Albornoz, County Council President, and County
Councilmembers
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear County Executive Elrich, County Council President Albornoz and
Councilmembers,

We would like to thank the Montgomery County representatives who provided updates on the proposal for an MCPS/Ride On Bus Depot and a Restoration Center at the Seven Locks Detention Center site at our meetings on February 28 and July 11. The Rockville Mayor and Council are taking this opportunity to strongly object to the County's proposal.

Rockville supports the Crisis Now model which addresses service gaps and promotes the decriminalization of those suffering from mental and behavioral health challenges, and we applaud the County for developing a program for alternative care and support for those who are in crisis. However, we remain vigorously opposed to the placement of the Restoration Center as currently proposed adjacent to any neighborhood, in this case, the County's property at Seven Locks Road abutting and adjacent to 8 Rockville neighborhoods. Furthermore, given that we all wish to decriminalize mental health needs, the placement of this center next to a jail may be a deterrent to those who seek care, and may be afraid of its proximity to a correctional facility.

Rockville acknowledges the County's need to find a site for the relocation of the MCPS/Ride-On Bus Depot from the County Service Park on Crabbs Branch Way, however we oppose the proposed Seven Locks Road location which would place approximately 270 school buses and about 50 Ride-On buses immediately adjacent to 8 neighborhoods. It is unreasonable to assume that the existing intersections of Seven Locks Road, Wootton Parkway, and Falls Road can accommodate this additional congestion. The impact will endanger pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular safety.

Residents in the neighborhoods close to the County's property have become alerted to these proposed uses, and they have continually expressed strong opposition due to their numerous concerns about the negative impact on public safety, noise and air pollution, and traffic congestion. In resident emails and personal testimonies, we learned about detainees, escapees, and those released who imperiled residents. Whether entering private residences and confronting homeowners, attempting to enter vehicles stopped at traffic signals, or approaching neighborhood walkers and young children, these are unacceptable encounters created by a law enforcement facility located in a residential neighborhood. Just imagine how much greater will be the impact of a 24/7, new and expanded services facility releasing those with mental or behavioral health challenges, or criminal intent, back into residential neighborhoods. A more robust transportation plan, including shuttle service, is needed as the County rolls out this new service model, to show care and consideration. However, even with a

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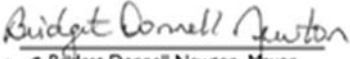

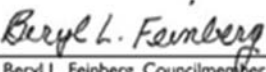
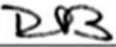

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transportation plan, clients can't be forced to use these services, and this creates the scenario for clients walking to nearby neighborhoods and City Parks (Potomac Woods Park and Orchard Ridge Park) and MCPS bus stops where children await transportation. Furthermore, County staff indicate that they do not have a fully developed security plan in place, which is a serious concern.

Finally, we are disappointed that the County recently informed us that it is not able to hold the promised community meeting in September. We expect a community meeting in October with participation from all stakeholders. Other opportunities for engagement include a co-sponsored County and City Town Hall and a walking tour of the site. Rockville would greatly appreciate very thorough advance notification to the community with respect to the date and time for this and all future County-sponsored meetings, including the following adjacent communities: Falls Ridge, Orchard Ridge, Saddlebrook, Fallsbend, Fallsmead, Falls Orchard, Potomac Woods, and Potomac Springs. Further, we request that all affected County departments participate so that the three Seven Locks CIP projects may be holistically reviewed including the County Executive's Office, County Department of General Services, County Department of Health and Human Services, Montgomery County Public Schools, County Police, County Fire and Rescue Services, County Department of Transportation, County Courts, and the County Sheriff's Office.

The concept of integrating two new high impact uses in addition to the existing detention services is inherently flawed. In fact, we believe it is not feasible to carry out this plan, and these services should not be located near any residential neighborhood in Montgomery County. The Rockville Mayor and Council are eager to partner with you to support this important work and find an alternate location in Montgomery County that would be much better suited for these services. Thank you for participating in our meetings mentioned above and we look forward to continuing to work together to find a solution that supports our mutual goals.

Sincerely,

 Bridget Donnell Newton, Mayor	
 Monique Ashton, Councilmember	 Beryl L. Feinberg, Councilmember
 David Myles, Councilmember	 Mark Pierzchala, Councilmember

Mayor and Council of Rockville

cc: Rich Madaleno, Chief Administrative Officer
David Dise, Director, County Department of General Services
Dr. Raymond Crowel, Director, County Department of Health and Human Services
Dr. Monifa McKnight, MCPS Superintendent
Encl: Adopted FY23-FY28 County CIP Sheets - Restoration Center, MCDC Partial Demolition and Renovation, and MCPS Bus Depot and Maintenance Relocation