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The disposition of the Bowie Racetrack Property is under discussion. Please consider Bill 1056 - Favorable with Amendment as a choice for both the history of Bowie and the State of Maryland.

In 2018, I retired as the "city historian" after spending 22 years as the Manager of Historic Properties. I do not live in Bowie, but write these comments as both a historian, a Bowie historian and a Maryland historian.

The Race track has been an important part of both Bowie's and the State's history on many levels. It contributed so much to the quality of what made Bowie what it was - a homeplace formed on the backs of Thoroughbred race horses (the Maryland State Horse) from the 1750s through the 1980's. It was a place of racing history, of economic development, and a place of employment for many residents. It was the first to have indoor grandstands - "when it snows, Bowie goes." Presidents visited the racetrack, as did other dignitaries. It is a place of local - and Maryland - history.

Please consider, affirmatively, Bill 1056, Favorable with Amendments. The property should become a City of Bowie property, with an area set aside as a memorial park. I urge this because I am a citizen of this state, and because I know the history of horseracing in Bowie. In its heyday, the race track entertained thousands of people, and offered employment to many, many locals. Please keep Bowie's and Maryland's horseracing history alive. Please vote favorably to keep Bowie Racetrack as part of the City's history. It deserves that.

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