

Sunday, February 23, 2020
Mrs. Patricia Reimer
12150 Long Ridge Lane
Bowie, MD 20715

Re: HB 1056 (Favorable AS AMENDED with language included that the Bowie Rack Track parcels be conveyed to the City of Bowie/MNCPPC as outlined in SB 987)
SB 987 (Favorable)
Racing and Community Development Act of 2020
Before the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee and House Ways and Means Committee
Tuesday, February 25, 2020 at 1 pm

Dear Senator and Delegates:

I am a lifelong resident of Prince George's County. My family has lived in Bowie for over a century. I am deeply concerned about the future ownership of the former Bowie Training Facility and Bowie Racetrack property. This property should remain open space owned by the City of Bowie/MNCPPC (as outlined in the Senate bill) for passive recreational use by residents. If Bowie State University is interested in using part of the property for active recreation, they should negotiate a reasonable agreement with the City of Bowie that also protects public use of the space. There are housing development proposals pending in Bowie (including one large proposed development project nearby). We need to protect remaining open space.

On the morning of Saturday, January 4, 2020, a well attended community meeting was held in Bowie. The meeting was scheduled so that our Senator and Delegates could discern the sense of the community regarding this property prior to the start of the General Assembly in light of future legislation. The overwhelming and consistent consensus of the local resident speakers that morning supported keeping this property as open recreation space.

I urge a FAVORABLE vote on SB 987. Under this proposed legislation:

- 1) the MNCPPC would own 100 feet from the top of the Patuxent River bank;
- 2) The City of Bowie would own the rest of the land, and
- 3) The City of Bowie would develop a Joint Use Agreement with Bowie State University for use of part of the property for active recreation, and
- 4) allow for one structure up to 50,000 square feet on the property.

I urge a FAVORABLE vote on HB 1056 AS AMENDED with language included that the City of Bowie/MNCPPC would own the Bowie Racetrack parcels as outlined in the Senate bill. It is my understanding that an amendment may be offered so that the land would be conveyed to the City of Bowie and MNCPPC as outlined in SB 987. Please support the House bill if the bill is amended to reflect the Bowie Racetrack/Training Facility land ownership provisions in the Senate bill.

I am unable to attend the committee hearings in person. Thank you for your time, consideration, and the opportunity to provide written comments.