



**CIVIC ASSOCIATION**

**12138 Central Avenue, Suite 305  
Mitchellville, Maryland 20721-1932**

**March 3, 2022**

**The Honorable Kumar Barve  
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee  
Prince George's County House of Delegates  
Taylor House Office Building, Room 251  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401**

**RE: HB 1057 (PG 406-22), Prince George's County-Recreation Authority-  
Authorization**

**Dear Chair Barve:**

**The Lake Arbor Civic Association, Inc., (LACA) representing the Lake Arbor Community consisting of 3,500 households in the unincorporated area of Mitchellville in Prince George's County by this letter records its opposition to HB 1057 (PG 406-22). We are requesting that you vote no on this bill. As a community we were blindsided by and question the necessity for this proposed legislation to be a late-filed bill. The current organizational structure has been in place for >50 years so what justification is there for this late filing of this bill which will dismantle and destroy the Parks and Recreation Operations of the Maryland National Parks and Planning Commission as we know it. What is abundantly clear is that the late filing effectively prevented all but one opposer to testify and that person had to come in the back door through an elected official who knew about the bill's filing. Therefore, other representatives of organizations and community groups, had they known about the bill, were not afforded the opportunity to testify on its impact to and in the community. This lack of transparency gives us great concern on what the intended purpose of this legislation is and how, if enacted, it will benefit the people of the County it is supposed to serve.**

**We can see no rationale contained in this proposed legislation to move Sports, Arts, Youth, Teens, and Seniors programs and its county employees out of the current Department of Parks and Recreation and establish a quasi-government agency that would, in any way, enhance the operations to the community. The Revenue Authority was cited as what this agency would compare to, which based on our knowledge of its operations in a recent independent and non-transparent operation in a recent adjacent development project regarding 20 acres of land in the County, is definitely not an example to be followed.**

**We have a community center within Lake Arbor and this bill threatens the removal of these community-oriented services and programs for which Lake Arbor and the surrounding communities, especially many of its seniors, have come to depend. We also believe that this legislation will bring harm to the lives of the current employees and those that have retired.**

**We strongly urge you to vote in opposition to this legislation, in any form, because the wellbeing of the County's Department of Parks and Recreation employees nor the County residents seems not to have been considered in the haste to get this bill filed before the current legislative session ends. Finally, an adage that remains true today states: "If it's not broken don't fix it." From our perspective the current Department of Parks and Recreation is not broken and operates very efficiently to serve the County residents of all ages.**

**Sincerely,**

*Thelma Murray Fisher*

**Thelma Murray Fisher  
President**

*Diane Ferrell*

**Diane Ferrell  
Secretary**

*Samuel H. Dean*

**Samuel H. Dean  
Vice-President**

*Willie Graves*

**Willie Graves  
Treasurer**