

TOWN OF RIVERDALE PARK

March 1, 2022

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve
Chair, Environment and Transportation
Room 251
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Support with Amendment- House Bill 1057 Prince George's County - Recreation Authority - Authorization PG 406-22

Dear Chair Barve and Committee Members:

The Mayor and Council of the Town of Riverdale Park have concerns about House Bill 1057 Prince George's County - Recreation Authority - Authorization PG 406-22, which would authorize Prince George's County to establish a recreation authority in the County; establish the Prince George's County Recreation Authority Blue Ribbon Workgroup to study and make recommendations to the Prince George's County Council regarding the establishment of a recreation authority in the County; and state the intent of the General Assembly regarding the possible transfer of employees from the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) to a Prince George's County recreation authority.

The Town supports the concept of establishing a Prince George's County Recreation Authority Blue Ribbon Workgroup to study and make recommendations to the Prince George's County Council regarding the establishment of a recreation authority in the County. However, the Town opposes the statement of intent of the General Assembly regarding the possible transfer of employees from the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission to a Prince George's County recreation authority. Additionally, the Town opposes granting the County the authority to create a County Recreation Authority that might be expected take over recreation operations from M-NCPPC.

It would be premature to make a statement of intent or to create such an Authority without first receiving and carefully considering the findings and recommendations of the Prince George's County Recreation Authority Blue Ribbon Workgroup. Furthermore, it would be crucial to also receive input from a wide range of recreation stakeholders in the County before taking action. The Town recommends amending the legislation to only authorize the creation of the Prince George's County Recreation Authority Blue Ribbon Workgroup to allow for greater input from those most impacted by any proposed changes.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this important legislation. If you require any additional information, please contact me at akthompson@riverdaleparkmd.gov.

Sincerely,



Alan K. Thompson
Mayor