



CITY OF CUMBERLAND MARYLAND

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SEP 20 2017

September 18, 2017

The Honorable Jacob C. Shade, President
Board of County Commissioners
Allegany County Government
701 Kelly Road
Cumberland, Maryland 21502-2803

ALLEGANY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Dear President Shade:

In recent weeks we have heard concerns expressed that the City of Cumberland has not adequately communicated its needs to Allegany County Government. It is our opinion that a healthy Allegany County depends significantly on a healthy City of Cumberland. While we have great respect for our fellow municipalities in Allegany County and the outstanding work they do, Cumberland serves as the county seat of Allegany County and faces some unique challenges associated with having the largest concentration of county population and hosting most of the state and county public service agencies within its borders. Therefore, we would like to request the Board of County Commissioner's assistance in several areas.

MAYOR

BRIAN K. GRIM

COUNCIL

SETH D. BERNARD
DAVID J. CAPORALE
RICHARD J. CIONI, JR.
EUGENE T. FRAZIER

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

JEFFREY D. RHODES

CITY SOLICITOR

MICHAEL SCOTT COHEN

CITY CLERK

MARJORIE A. WOODRING

First, the City implores the Board to move forward with consolidation of EMS services by July 1, 2018. It is clear that Allegany County is under increased pressure to provide reliable EMS services and we believe the demand for these services will only grow. To this end, we are ready and willing to cooperate on consolidation of these services and believe that talks should begin immediately to ensure a smooth transition and fair treatment of employees who may be impacted by the consolidation.

Second, we request the assignment of two Deputy Sheriffs within the borders of the City of Cumberland on a 24/7/365 basis for patrol and law enforcement purposes. Just recently, President Shade expressed his concern directly to Police Chief Hinnant about vagrants found around the Market and Valley Street Bridges. This is an example of a growing concern that the Allegany County Sheriff's Department could help address. While we all can agree that the Cumberland Police Department and the Allegany County Sheriff's Office do an outstanding job in an increasingly difficult environment, we believe it is time that the Commissioners provide funding for an increased law enforcement presence in the City of Cumberland on a permanent and ongoing basis.

Our request is supported by the fact that the ratio of county law enforcement to city law enforcement is misaligned. The Allegany County Sheriff's Office is one of, if not the smallest Sheriff's department in the State of Maryland on a per capita basis. In fact, Worcester County, which has a particularly unique situation, is the only other Maryland county we could identify that has a smaller law enforcement presence than any municipality within its border. We believe it is time that the County provide greater



MEMBER MARYLAND
MUNICIPAL LEAGUE (MML)

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funding to the Sheriff's office to allow for the expansion of the Sheriff's law enforcement operations and the assignment of at least two Deputies to serve the residents of Cumberland on a full time, round the clock basis.

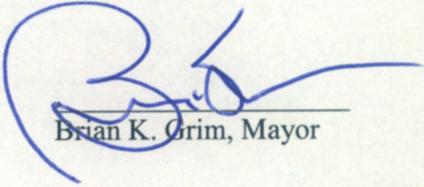
Third, the Tax Differential is a continuous topic but one that cannot be ignored. Rather than use a court decision that is decades old as reasoning for the continuance of a formula-based municipal tax differential in Allegany County, the City requests that the issue be revisited. Each year Allegany County, after tax differential, collects in excess of \$7 million in real property tax revenues just from City of Cumberland residents. We believe that amount is excessive unless Allegany County steps up to provide a greater level of services to the Cumberland residents who are paying these county taxes. Compared to how their city tax dollars are spent, many city residents see very little in return for their county tax dollars.

Fourth, as construction of the new Allegany High School progresses we have received complaints about additional street damage due to heavy vehicle and equipment use at the construction site. Once construction on the school is complete, the City will make plans to improve Braddock Road (from Seton Drive to the corporate boundary near LaVale), Seton Drive, and Bishop Walsh Road to provide suitable access to the new school. The City is requesting that Allegany County provide a 50% match of up to \$500,000 to assist with milling and paving of these streets that will not only serve as access roads to the new school, but provide access to the homes of some of the highest tax payers in the County. We believe these improvements are necessary to adequately serve the school and residents of the area around the new school.

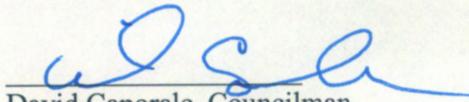
Fifth, and also related to the construction of the new school, the City of Cumberland is requesting that Allegany County ensure demolition of the old Allegany High School if and when the Board of Education ceases to use the building and declares it surplus. While the County will certainly hear calls to save the gym and/or save the auditorium, history has shown that the redevelopment of former school buildings seldom work and the vacant facilities often become a burden to the community. Ultimately, most end up as property that is vacant, blighted, and a source of endless requests for public assistance to help renovate the building. The City does not want to see Allegany County convey the high school property to a private entity without reversionary contingencies that would bring the property back into the County's ownership if the private entity does not follow through with their development plans. As you know, should that happen, the local community, not Allegany County, would be left to deal with the situation. We need look no further than the former East Side School as a prime example of how cases such as that can negatively impact a community. East Side School sat as a visible blighted property for decades after numerous failed attempts to redevelop the building and the City of Cumberland ultimately was forced to deal with the situation.

Finally, we point out that Allegany County's own FY16 audit, which is attached, indicates nearly \$24 million in unassigned and assigned fund balance just in the General Fund. While the County's financial stewardship is commendable, communities throughout Allegany need your help, including the City of Cumberland. We therefore respectfully urge the Board of Commissioners to consider our requests as soon as possible. We look forward to discussing these issues with you and welcome any questions you may have.

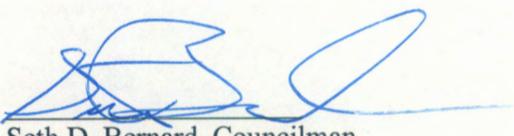
Respectfully,



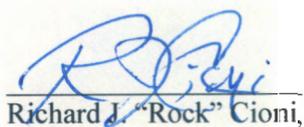
Brian K. Grim, Mayor



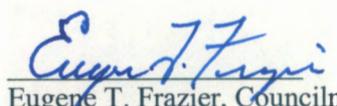
David Caporale, Councilman



Seth D. Bernard, Councilman



Richard J. "Rock" Cioni, Councilman



Eugene T. Frazier, Councilman

cc: Creade V. Brodie, Jr., Commissioner
William R. Valentine, Commissioner

ALLEGANY COUNTY, MARYLAND
BALANCE SHEET
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
JUNE 30, 2016

ASSETS:	General Fund	Revolving Building Fund	Public Improve Bond Fund	Other Governmental Funds	Total
Cash	\$ 25,125,676	\$ -	-	\$ 1,150	\$ 25,126,826
Cash -restricted	-	-	-	62,375	62,375
Investments	8,752,495	-	-	2,846,171	11,598,666
Investments-Restricted	1,623,360	-	8,059,000	-	9,682,360
Property tax receivable	4,785,277	-	-	-	4,785,277
Receivables					
Notes and loans	-	-	-	289,771	289,771
Other receivables	4,337,297	290,392	5,703	1,509,623	6,143,015
Due from other funds	-	10,273,171	3,558,575	1,820,024	15,651,770
Advances to other funds	1,200,000	-	-	-	1,200,000
Inventory	-	-	-	45,460	45,460
Prepays	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous assets	49,247	-	-	-	49,247
Total Assets	\$ 45,873,352	\$ 10,563,563	\$ 11,623,278	\$ 6,574,574	\$ 74,634,767

LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES AND FUND BALANCES:

Liabilities:					
Accounts payable	\$ 1,485,480	\$ 1,404,446	-	\$ 1,004,729	\$ 3,894,655
Accrued payroll	851,763	12,606	-	46,960	911,329
Accrued payroll fringe	387,801	4,328	-	23,067	415,196
Due to other funds	12,064,375	-	-	1,120,715	13,185,090
Amounts held in escrow	648,514	-	-	279,182	927,696
Unearned Revenue	39,752	-	-	730,779	770,531
Miscellaneous liabilities	307,360	22,500	-	-	329,860
Total Liabilities	15,785,045	1,443,880	-	3,205,432	20,434,357
Deferred inflows of resources:					
Unavailable Revenue	4,835,365	65,032	-	616,816	5,517,213
Total Deferred inflows of resources	4,835,365	65,032	-	616,816	5,517,213
Fund Balances:					
Nonspendable	1,200,000	-	-	45,460	1,245,460
Restricted	173,170	-	11,623,278	1,102,645	12,899,093
Committed	150,000	9,054,651	-	680,276	9,884,927
Assigned	5,637,360	-	-	1,342,978	6,980,338
Unassigned	18,092,412	-	-	(419,033)	17,673,379
Total Fund Balances	25,252,942	9,054,651	11,623,278	2,752,326	48,683,197
Total Liabilities, deferred inflows of resources and fund balance	\$ 45,873,352	\$ 10,563,563	\$ 11,623,278	\$ 6,574,574	

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position are different because:

Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the funds.	86,785,445
Other long -term assets are not available to pay current -period expenditures and are deferred in the funds.	1,657,498
Deferred Inflows of Resources	5,517,145
Deferred Outflows for Pension benefits	2,302,077
Long-term debt, including compensated absences, is not due and payable in the current period and therefore is not reported in the funds.	(26,575,440)
Deferred Inflows for Pension benefits	(206,830)
Other long -term liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and therefore are not reported in the funds.	(13,826,555)

Net position of governmental activities **\$ 104,336,537**

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.