

Ms. Shalanda D. Young
Acting Director
United States Office of
Management & Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Public Building Reform Board
1800 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20405

Hon. Benjamin Cardin
United States Senate
10201 Martin Luther King Jr. Hwy - Suite 210
Bowie, MD 20721

Hon. Chris Van Hollen
United States Senate
1101 Mercantile Lane - Suite 210
Largo, MD 20774

Hon. Steny Hoyer, Majority Leader
United States House of Representatives
6500 Cherrywood Lane, Suite 310
Greenbelt, MD 20770

Hon. Anthony Brown – 4th District
United States House of Representatives
9701 Apollo Drive - Suite 103
Largo, MD 20774

Re: Public Building Reform Board “First Round”
Prince George’s County Recommendations

Dear Acting Director Young, PBRB Members and Members of Maryland’s Congressional Delegation:

We write on behalf of the Prince George’s County government to express our joint position on the December 27, 2021 “First Round” Recommendations of the Public Building Reform Board (“PBRB”) that was required by the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016, P.L. 114-287 (“FASTA”). In particular, we provide comments on proposed PBRB recommendations on three properties in Prince George’s County: the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Research Services (ARS) Glenn Dale, Goddard Space Flight Center/NASA Area 400, and General Services Administration (“GSA”) White Flint Parcel K.

While we understand the purpose of FASTA and the PBRB to identify opportunities for the Federal government to reduce its inventory of real property to the benefit of the taxpayers, the disposal of these properties and their over 210-acres of undeveloped and/or wooded land would not benefit the public nor meet the goals of the statute. We provide the following comments on each of these proposed properties.

We understand that the Office of Management & Budget has requested the PBRB to conduct additional outreach and evaluation on their recommendations. It is also our understanding members of the Maryland Federal delegation as well as parks departments, several municipal and/or civic groups have prepared correspondence in response to the PBRB recommendations on these properties in the County.

USDA ARS Glenn Dale

As specified in the PBRB Specific Property Report, this 70-acre wooded parcel, that is zoned Reserved Open Space (R-O-S) under the County's Zoning Ordinance, was utilized by the USDA up until 2009. It is adjacent to the Glenn Dale Hospital property and the Washington, Baltimore and Annapolis Trail which are both owned by the Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission (M-NCPPC).

Over the past six years M-NCPPC has been engaged in a County and community-based process to redevelop the 60-acre core of the site of the Glenn Dale Hospital with an additional 150 acres to be used as parkland and open space. M-NCPPC has started a Master Park Development Plan to determine the types of amenities appropriate for the surrounding parkland and open space property to better connect it to the historic Glenn Dale Hospital campus and the greater Glenn Dale community. The USDA ARS Glenn Dale property, if provided to M-NCPPC, could easily be incorporated into the recreational Master Plan process, and be preserved as open space as it is currently zoned.

County Recommendation: Support the transfer of the USDA ARS Glenn Dale 70-acre property to the M-NCPPC through the Public Benefit Conveyance process pursuant to FASTA Section 14(f)(3).

Goddard Space Flight Center/NASA Area 400

As specified in the PBRB Specific Property Report, this 100-acre wooded parcel, that is zoned Reserved Open Space (R-O-S) under the County's Zoning Ordinance, was utilized by the NASA. It is adjacent to Patuxent Research Refuge area as well as the USDA Beltsville Agriculture Research Center (BARC) and could be utilized for expansion and preservation as requested by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

County Recommendation: Support the inter-agency transfer of the Goddard Space Flight Center/NASA Area 400 to the U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to be incorporated into the Patuxent Research Refuge area.

GSA White Oak Parcel K

As specified in the PBRB Specific Property Report, this GSA owned 41-acres vacant property straddles both Montgomery and Prince George's counties and is split zoned RE-2 and Reserved Open Space (R-O-S) under the respective County Zoning Ordinances. We understand that on January 11, 2022, Montgomery County Parks Department submitted a request to Office of Management and Budget to acquire this property. The expressed purpose of the acquisition would be for the development of a bi-county recreational park to serve residents in both counties in conjunction with M-NCPPC, which is in concurrence with this request (see M-NCPPC letter dated January 25, 2022).

County Recommendation: Support the transfer of the GSA White Oak Parcels K and 88, totaling approximately 41-acre property to the M-NCPPC through the Public Benefit Conveyance process to FASTA Section 14(f)(3). The County also believes that Parcel 88, the current access road to Parcel K, was inadvertently excluded and would request that it be included in any conveyance.

Other Issues

While the County supports the transfer or conveyance of the specific properties in Prince George's County to either Federal or Bi-County governmental agencies, we would support the PBRB's recommendations that the existing controlling agencies be provided funding to complete any relocations, environmental and site reviews, and any remediation necessary prior to any transfer.

We look forward to your consideration of these comments, response, and actions consistent with this request. Prince George's County stands ready to assist in these matters.

Sincerely,

Hon. Calvin S. Hawkins, II
Chair, County Council

Hon. Angela D. Alsobrooks
County Executive

cc: Members, Prince George's County Council
Ms. Elizabeth Hewlett, Chair, Prince George's County Planning Board
Mr. Bill Tyler, Director, M-NCPPC Department of Parks & Recreation