



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

March 9, 2021

Capital Budget Hearing
Senate & House Capital Budget Subcommittee

Senator Doug Peters, Chair
Senate Capital Budget Subcommittee
120 James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Delegate Ben Barnes, Chair
House Capital Budget Subcommittee
151 House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairpersons and Members of the Capital Budget Subcommittees:

On behalf of the YMCA of Metropolitan Washington, serving youth and families in Maryland's Montgomery and Anne Arundel Counties, I thank you for your partnership in building strong communities. I thank you for partnering with us in building a better future for the residents of Bethesda by funding extensive renovations to YMCA Bethesda-Chevy Chase. Today, I ask that we continue our partnership and that you approve the \$565,000 that the Governor has included in his FY22 capital budget for projects at our YMCAs in Bethesda and Silver Spring in Montgomery County and our resident camp in Edgewater in Anne Arundel County.

The YMCA of Metropolitan Washington is an inclusive organization. The successful completion of these three capital projects will make our Maryland communities stronger by insuring all residents have opportunities to work out, to swim, and to spend a week away at camp.

Project 1: YMCA Bethesda-Chevy Chase (\$150,000). Over the last five years, the State of Maryland has invested \$975,000 in YMCA Bethesda-Chevy Chase, helping us make this facility accessible to the growing number of older adults, senior citizens, and persons with mobility impairments we serve there. In 2017, when renovations began, Y Bethesda had 13,648 members, including 1,748 seniors. In 2020, after construction ended, Y Bethesda membership had increased by 12%, and the number of seniors increased by 27%. An additional \$150,000 investment in Y Bethesda will enable us to make the men's and women's locker rooms larger and accessible to persons in wheelchairs.

Project 2: YMCA Silver Spring (\$350,000). As an inclusive organization, we are knowledgeable about differences and active in changing structures so that everyone has the

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opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive. The indoor and outdoor swimming pools at YMCA Silver Spring are not accessible to people in wheelchairs and may be difficult for people with mobility impairments to get into. With \$350,000 we will create slight slopes, or “zero entries,” into the two pools so that individuals do not have to use steps to get into the water.

Project 3: YMCA Camp Letts (\$65,000). As funding has been secured, YMCA Camp Letts has been renovating its cabins to make them safer and healthier living quarters. Funding of \$65,000 will cover the renovation of one more cabin, which sleeps 20 campers, including the application of stronger and longer lasting hardieplank siding, the installation of a bigger exhaust fan to increase ventilation and cooling, and the replacement of the bathroom floor and installation of fiberglass shower units that have tighter seals to keep water off the floor.

For over 168 years, the YMCA of Metropolitan Washington has helped to bridge communities, support the welfare of families, and influence social justice and change. In 2019, over 250,000 adults, families, and children in D.C., Southern Maryland, and Northern Virginia were Y members, yet we positively impacted the lives of more than 1,350,000 individuals who participated in our programs in the areas of youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility.

In 2020, in the first six months of the Covid-19 public health emergency, the YMCA provided emergency childcare services, distributed meals and produce, conducted senior wellness checks, hosted blood drives, and posted virtual fitness classes on our website and social media.

In closing, the YMCA is a cause-driven organization that is for youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility. I ask that we continue our partnership in building strong communities in Montgomery and Anne Arundel Counties. Approving the \$565,000 funding that is included in the Governor’s FY22 capital budget will help us insure everyone in the community has opportunities to learn, grow, and thrive. If you require additional information, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Angie Reese-Hawkins
President and CEO
YMCA of Metropolitan Washington

cc: Senator Craig Zucker, Vice-Chairman, Senate Capital Budget Subcommittee
Delegate Mark Chang, Vice-Chairman, House Capital Budget Subcommittee
Senate & House Capital Budget Subcommittee Members
Neil L. Bergsman, Assistant Director, Maryland Department of Budget and
Management, Office of Capital Budgeting