

MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: David J. Deutsch
City Manager

SUBJECT: Budget Follow-up Memo #2

DATE: April 19, 2010

1. Freezer for storing animal carcasses to reduce number of trips to County facility. The City of Bowie owns a freezer, and has for a number of years. When the freezer gets filled, the carcasses are taken to the County facility in Upper Marlboro. The trips to the County facility are a function of activity. The spring mating season brings out more activity. The size of the animals picked up also impacts the number of trips. On average, staff goes to the County facility about five to six times a year for this purpose.
2. Screen at Jericho Park to prevent lost balls. This comment refers to the baseball field, the field farthest back in the Park. There currently exists a screen that is 30 feet tall and 70 feet long. The real problem is that a softball backstop was installed at this location, in lieu of a baseball backstop. The ultimate solution is a new baseball backstop, which would cost about \$25,000 to \$30,000 to acquire. If that is done, the screen would be moved down the first base line.
3. Field #1 at Mitchellville Road Fields needs a net to prevent lacrosse balls from being lost. Staff has reviewed the request. Staff will install a wire fence with some color sections in orange to identify the fence. Installation will be done within the next two weeks.
4. Type of HVAC System at the Mansion. The Belair Mansion has a gas-fired forced hot air system with four air handlers that utilizes a chiller system for cooling. The system is 15 years old.
5. Are there any historic issues with replacing the Mansion driveway? The Maryland Historic Trust has an easement on the property. The Trust will need to

sign off on it; however, there are no issues anticipated since this is a removal and replacement in kind. These types of approvals are routine.

6. Investigate moving old ballfield lights being removed from Allen Pond to Mitchellville Road fields. The lighting structures that will be removed are over 35 years old. They have deteriorated and need to be replaced and not moved. Lighting technology has improved significantly over this time. Additionally, there is no electric service available on the Mitchellville Road property. The City does not own the property, and such an undertaking would require owner approval. Outreach to the neighbors would also be necessary.

7. Senior Survey – Address Findings in Budget. The Senior Summit scheduled for next month focuses specifically on the top issues identified by the senior community in the survey. As far as the coming budget year, these subjects (Medicare, medical insurance, crime awareness and prevention, fitness, retirement and financial issues, and transportation) are all areas for which staff continues to provide speakers, fairs and special presentations on throughout the year. Staff has also created objectives during the year to redesign the area dedicated to senior activities in the *Bowie Spotlight*, look at other than print media to convey valuable information to seniors, and update the senior webpage as well.

8. Discount Prescription Plan. When Bowie was a member of the National League of Cities, we were eligible to participate with Caremark in offering a prescription discount plan to our residents. We started participating in the plan in late 2008, which allowed uninsured residents to get an average discount of 20% when they purchased prescription drugs. When the City of Bowie gave up its membership to the National League of Cities in July 2009, our ongoing participation in the program ended. However we were still permitted to distribute the supply of cards we had been given and the cards that were in circulation would continue to be honored. Almost a year later we still have about 1,000 cards on hand which are available to the public at all City facilities.

Through a similar program with the National Association of Counties, all Prince George's County residents are eligible to obtain prescription discount cards from Caremark. The program is administered by the Prince George's County Health Department. The card can be downloaded at <http://www2.caremark.com/naco/>. Paper copies of the card will also be provided at City facilities once our supply of the NLC cards runs out.

We will continue to advertise the availability of these cards.

DJD/LP/asf