

DRAFT

January 7, 2020

The Honorable Douglas J.J. Peters
Senate of Maryland
Senate Office Building, Room 120
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis Maryland 21401

The Honorable Geraldine Valentino Smith
Maryland House of Delegates
House Office Building, Room 427
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Marvin E. Holmes, Jr.
Maryland House of Delegates
House Office Building, Room 313
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Ronald L. Watson
Maryland House of Delegates
House Office Building, Room 101
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Bowie Race Track Property
8311 Race Track Road, Bowie, Maryland, 20715
8406 Race Track Road, Bowie, Maryland, 20715
8408 Race Track Road, Bowie, Maryland, 20715
8410 Race Track Road, Bowie, Maryland, 20715
Southern Maryland Agricultural Association (SMAA)

Dear Senator Peters and Delegates Valentino-Smith, Holmes and Watson:

This letter is written as an expression of the City Council's interest in acquiring title to the approximately 180.844 acres that comprise the Bowie Race Track property (Prince George's County Department of Assessments and Taxation Account numbers 1679885, 1679851, 1679844, 1661099, 1679893, 2940518, 2940526, and 2940534). The City intends to use the property for public open space preservation and recreation uses. We hope the property can serve as a

Letter to Senator Peters and Delegates re: Bowie Race Track Property

community amenity within our City and help to satisfy the recreational needs of our growing population. Prince George's County's Approved 2006 Master Plan for Bowie and Vicinity identified the desirability of acquiring land along the Patuxent River to provide both a buffer and a trail system for hikers and equestrians that would help conserve natural areas. The Plan specifically calls for acquisition of at least 50 acres behind the race track for recommended park use.

The City is seeking County and State funds to convert the Bowie Race Track property for the above stated uses. Furthermore, the City is willing to enter a future Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Bowie State University to ensure they, also, may use the property for public recreational activities.

Acquisition of the Bowie Race Track property is a top City Council priority. The City is very serious about its public stewardship responsibilities and providing opportunities for a wide range of community recreational amenities. However, transfer of ownership of the property, especially the parcels associated with the existing stable functions, is contingent upon any environmental hazards being fully mitigated. A Phase II Environmental Assessment will be necessary to evaluate the situation, and adequate financial resources will have to be identified for the study, as well as to complete any related remediation. If environmental problems are found to exist, the City would only be willing to take title to the property when all required remediation actions become fully funded.

We thank you for the opportunity to communicate about this important subject and for your willingness to assist with the City's request.

Sincerely,

Bowie City Council
Timothy J. Adams
Mayor

BOWIE RACE TRACK PARCELS

