

January 18, 2022

The Honorable Todd Turner
Prince Georges County Council
14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive, 2nd Floor
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772

Dear Councilmember Turner,

The City of Bowie was recently informed that, after 30+ years of partnership, the Prince George's County Department of Family & Aging Services, will no longer provide a Certified Nutrition Site Manager to supervise the Senior Nutrition Program at the Bowie Senior Center. The County is continuing to provide this position at other nutrition sites throughout Prince George's County. If the City wishes to have the congregate meal program continue at the Bowie Senior Center, the City of Bowie will ultimately be required to assume the cost of paying that individual's salary and provide City staff to supervise their on-site work.

Our most vulnerable and frail seniors attending the Senior Center are usually the ones who take advantage of this meal program. The hot lunch, which has traditionally been available at the Center five (5) days a week, provides not only a healthy meal but also the important opportunity for seniors, who often live alone, to join with others in a group setting to talk and laugh as they once did with their own families.

The Bowie Senior Center is the only Senior Center in Maryland to earn three consecutive National Senior Center Accreditations. This prestigious certification makes the Bowie Senior Center a model for other Senior Centers nationwide. Outstanding community partnerships such as this congregate meal program have contributed in a significant way to this certification and the Center's ability to meet the needs of our aging community.

The Bowie Senior Center has over 3,000 registered members and membership is open to all seniors not just Bowie residents. Over 1,000 of our members live outside the city limits, most in Prince George's County but some from places as far reaching as Silver Spring and Annapolis.

It is our sincere hope that you can intervene with the appropriate agencies/individuals to assist the City of Bowie in retaining this critical position of Certified Nutrition Site Manager and that our partnership with the County can remain unchanged so that together we can continue to provide nutritious, hot meals daily to our seniors.

Sincerely,

Bowie City Council
Timothy J. Adams, Mayor