

Board of Charles County Commissioners
200 Baltimore Street
La Plata, MD 20646

Subject: Reopening the Indoor Swimming Pool at the La Plata Campus of the College of Southern Maryland

Dear Honorable Commissioners,

I hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits. I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the closure of the indoor swimming pool at the La Plata campus of the College of Southern Maryland. This invaluable community asset has served as a vital resource for our residents, especially those with a penchant for lap swimming, hydrotherapy, and local swim teams.

Lap swimming is a cornerstone of cardiovascular fitness, offering a low-impact yet highly effective form of exercise that is accessible to individuals of all ages and abilities. The availability of a pool designed specifically for lap swimming provides an unparalleled opportunity for residents to maintain their health and well-being, contributing significantly to the overall fitness of our community.

Furthermore, the need for daytime availability year-round cannot be overstated. While high school pools are indispensable to our community, they are often inaccessible during school hours. This restriction limits the availability of aquatic exercise for individuals who may rely on daytime hours for their fitness routines, including those who benefit greatly from hydrotherapy.

Hydrotherapy is a crucial form of rehabilitation for many individuals with disabilities or chronic conditions. The buoyancy of water alleviates stress on joints, making it an essential component of their treatment and recovery. A dedicated pool, open during the day throughout the year, would provide a lifeline to those in our community who require these therapeutic services.

Local swim teams are a cornerstone of our community's athletic endeavors, fostering teamwork, discipline, and a healthy competitive spirit among our youth. The closure of the La Plata campus pool has undoubtedly created a void for these teams. Reopening this facility would not only restore a much-needed training ground but also reaffirm our commitment to supporting our local athletes.

While the prospect of a new aquatic facility is certainly exciting, we recognize that such a project involves considerable time and resources. In the interim, reopening the existing pool at the La Plata campus represents a feasible solution that can be implemented in a relatively short span of time, ensuring continuity in the provision of these vital services to our community.

Moreover, the health benefits of swimming cannot be understated. It is a uniquely inclusive form of exercise that accommodates individuals with a wide range of abilities and disabilities. For many in our community, swimming may be the only viable form of exercise, making the availability of a suitable facility all the more critical. In conclusion, I implore you to consider the immeasurable value that reopening the indoor swimming pool at the La Plata campus of the College of Southern Maryland would bring to our community. It would not only serve as a beacon of health and wellness but also as a testament to our dedication to the well-being of all our residents. Thank you for your time and consideration of this pressing matter. I remain hopeful for a positive resolution that will benefit our community as a whole.

Sincerely,
Katherine Tracey