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Subject: *NEW SUBMISSION* Legislative Proposals for September 13, 2023 Public Hearing
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Legislative Proposals for September 13, 2023 Public Hearing

Submission #: 2697769
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Public Hearing Comment Form

Questions or More Information (301) 645-0555

Name

Dee Sapp

Address

2332 Audrey Manor Ct
Waldorf, Maryland 20603

Phone

Email

dsapp@accessibilitybridge.com

Are you:

For Topic

Comment

I wholeheartedly support the reopening of the pool at CSM. All 3 of my children began their competitive swimming on a swim team that operated out of the CSM pool. They began swimming as early as 4 years old with a summer swim team, all 3 continued to swim in high school and 2 of the 3 continued to swim in college (one is still in high school). Two of my children were able to secure employment (in Charles County) as lifeguards, which pays more than the average summer job. Learning to swim is a lifelong skill that provides more benefits than athletic ability - it can be lifesaving. 50% of children with autism elope (wander away from a caregiver)– nearly all gravitate towards water. According to the American Red Cross, children with autism spectrum disorder are 160 times more likely to experience nonfatal and fatal drowning than their typically developing peers. Having an indoor facility that operates year-round provides additional opportunities for families to learn to swim during the fall and winter months when

the outdoor pools have closed. Lastly, reopening the pool at CSM brings revenue back to Charles County. My family joined a competitive swim club in Alexandria, Va about 9 years ago because there weren't adequate USA swim teams or practice locations in Charles County (at that time). There is a high interest in competitive swimming in Charles County and is evident by the high registration numbers on both summer and high school swim teams. People need and want a local place to train and compete. Otherwise, they will continue to travel to Calvert or Virginia to swim and spend money that could benefit Charles County. I appreciate your consideration and hope that the proposal to reopen the pool will move forward. Thank you.

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Thank you,
Charles County, MD

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