

Carol DeSoto

From: Charles County Government <charlescountymd@enotify.visioninternet.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 6, 2020 11:48 AM
To: Public Record
Subject: *NEW SUBMISSION* Public Comments for the FY2021 Operating and Capital Budget Public Hearing

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Public Comments for the FY2021 Operating and Capital Budget Public Hearing

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Public Hearing Comment Form

Questions or More Information (301) 645-0570 A public hearing on the FY2021 Operating and Capital Budget Public Hearing will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 5, 2020. The meeting will be held remotely via video teleconference. This virtual hearing is open to the public, and public testimony is encouraged. Comments are accepted using this form May 5, 2020 8 a.m. through May 11, 2020 5 p.m.

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Comment

First, given the revenue impacts from the current Covid-19 pandemic - i.e. significant increased unanticipated expenses, lost sales tax revenue, lost income tax revenue, potential reduced property assessments, etc., I strongly believe that it is irresponsible for the County's leadership to approve ANY increase in funding and recommend that the budget be frozen for ALL departments at the current levels. This recommendation is until at least the short and long term economic impacts can be firmly determined. Additionally, I was shocked that the DEpartment of Emergency Services would have the audacity of requesting an increase of 7.8% at the expense of other public safety functions. Some specific items in the proposed budget that give me concern and I don't feel justified include: Why are additional personnel required for both line staff and supervision/ officers? Have any citizens NOT received emergency care and/or transportation - the answer is NO. Why is a career / vounteer training coordinator required. We have a

world renowned fire and ems training facility provided by the University of Maryland located right in LaPlata. Why are two new EMS stations being included in the budget? Are these stations and locations consistent with the planning study recently funded by the County and the Volunteer Fire and EMS Associations? Have these recommendations been jointly determined reviewed by the County and the Volunteer organizations as the County committed would occur, or is this solely the recommendation of the Department of Emergency Services without and consultation / concurrence of the Volunteer organizations? My bottom line is hold the Line. Hold the budget as is until Covid ramifications are determined, DO NOT approve the outlandish request by the Department of Emergency Services at the expense of other public safety and other county agencies.

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Thank you,
Charles County, MD

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