

Testimony On Behalf of County Executive Marc Elrich
Amendment to the FY23-28 Capital Improvements Program and
Special Appropriations #23-52 and 55 and Amendment Capital Budget

November 15, 2022

I am writing to testify on behalf of County Executive Marc Elrich in support of Special Appropriation Requests #23-52 and 23-55 which are amendments to the County's Capital Budget to fund the Farm Women's Market Garage and Parks Project.

The County owns, maintains, and operates over 8,200 parking spaces in the Bethesda Parking Lot District (PLD) including the existing parking on surface lots 10 & 24. Over the past two years the County has been working closely with the Parks department (MNCPPC), the Town of Chevy Chase, and private partners, to develop this exciting project in Downtown Bethesda.

The project includes the acquisition of an underground public parking garage at the Lot 24 site and enables adjacent development including a small portion of Lot 24. The project will an approximately 3.5 acres of public urban parks, consistent with the vision of the Bethesda Downtown Plan, on Lot 24 and Lot 10. The private development will include housing, retail, and rehabilitation and expansion of the existing Farm Women's Market and surrounding open space connected to the public parks that create an exciting destination east of Wisconsin Avenue.

Through a creative partnership, the project represents an investment of nearly \$28m from State, County, Parks, Town of Chevy Chase and private sources in public facilities to realize the Master Plan vision for this portion of Bethesda.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of special appropriation #23-55 and your favorable consideration of this Capital Improvement Project (CIP) amendment.