
From: Ammera Schmidt <ammschmidt@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2026 12:21 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Multi-Sport Indoor Facility

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Good Afternoon,

I am writing in support of funding for the multi-sport indoor facility being discussed at the budget meeting this evening. I am speaking as a parent who had a child run indoor track for River Hill HS as well as a head coach for the last 8 years at RHHS. If there is an indoor facility that Howard County athletes can use for track meets alone this is well worth it. The amount of time that we need to factor in to leaving school early to get to the PG sports complex (which is where the majority of meets are located) would greatly benefit our student athletes in being in school for longer alone.

We currently spend a good bit of money to utilize other facilities outside of our county that could be kept in county and benefit the entire community. This would also create an environment for other surrounding counties to utilize and be a great source of income for Howard County. We have seen great success with the privatized pole vault/high jump facility that has recently come to Columbia. Athletes across the county have greatly benefited from this by having a convenient space to actually practice their craft when weather dictates that we cannot practice these events at our own HS stadiums.

A multi-sport indoor facility benefits not only the student athletes but their parents/guardians, coaching staff and local community.

Please fund this endeavor.

Ammera Schmidt

From: Chad Boothe <Chad_Boothe@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2026 12:40 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Indoor Track in Howard County

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I am writing to formally express my enthusiastic support for the construction of a dedicated indoor track and field facility in Howard county. Currently, the only Indoor Track facility is in Prince Georges County. Having only one facility in Maryland to compete at limits the number of meets Howard County teams can participate in. All Howard County track teams are limited to 3 league meets, and these are limited further by how many entries we are allowed, which means many newer runners only get to compete once or twice in the season. Teams are then forced to travel to Indoor facilities in Philadelphia, New York, or even Boston to intend a race.

The facility should be well utilized as mentioned above; the only comparable facility is in Prince Georges. All schools in the west, north, and east currently have to run at facilities such as the Baltimore Armory and multi-purpose community college gyms.

[Chad Boothe](#)
Twitter: [@CompSciHCPSS](#)
River Hill High School
Computer Science Teacher
Cross-Country / Track Coach
E: chad_boothe@hcpss.org

*Before I do anything important, I always ask myself:
"would this gain house points for Gryffindor or lose house points for Gryffindor?"*

From: Ed Wilson <epwilson4g@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2026 7:32 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: FY2027 Capital Budget - Indoor Track Facility

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Dear County Council,

Let me lend an enthusiastic voice in favor of including funds in the capital budget for the design and subsequent construction of a Multi-Sport Indoor Facility to include a premier indoor track.

Currently, the only viable venue for Indoor Track events for Howard County athletes is the PG Sports Complex in Landover. Having a national class facility in Howard County makes sense for a host of reasons:

- For Howard County high school student athletes, the lengthy journey to, and facility restrictions associated with, the PG Complex makes Indoor Track meets there meets a significant time burden. (For example, early dismissal is required for all PG Complex meets.) Not only does this create an additional time constraint for students trying to study but some athletes simply choose not to participate in Indoor Track because of the hassle. A Howard County facility would eliminate missed class time, reduce the impact on study time, and facilitate additional student participation.
- As seen again this past winter, weather can have a lasting impact on Indoor Track. While streets can be plowed, school tracks cannot and the ability to train for extended periods can be put at risk from a single significant weather event. While scheduling would need to be worked out, the availability of an indoor facility at least holds the promise that Howard County athletes might not be put at a competitive disadvantage.
- There is a market for Indoor Track meets that Howard County can tap into with a new facility. Aside from the scheduled meets at PG Sports Complex, some of the nearest quality tracks where Howard teams travel to for meets are in NYC, Staten Island, and VA Beach. A new facility in Howard County would easily draw the attention of timing/event companies to host meets. Such meets would not only provide competitive opportunities for local athletes but would doubtless create economic impact as athletes from outside the area book hotel rooms and eat at local restaurants, just as our Howard County athletes do when we travel to NYC or VA Beach.
- Community availability. The Armory Track in NYC bombards me with emails (after we participated in a meet there) touting its community programs. The same would be true for an Indoor Facility in Howard County. As a senior member and regular visitor to the Roger Carter Center (my wife is also a senior fitness member), I see how well used these facilities are. I have zero doubt that a

Multi-Sport Facility in Howard County would see the same utilization. My only fear would be the conflict over the excessive demand for the space.

I urge you to approve funding for this facility. It is consistent with the core values that make Howard County a place to visit and live. I'd be happy to provide any additional information I can to help move this proposal forward.

Many thanks,

Ed Wilson
Boys Track & Cross Country Coach
Howard High School
410-206-1433

From: Jerry Bookin-Weiner <throwsguy@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2026 7:37 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Hester, Maya
Subject: Fwd: HoCo Track

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Testimony re Budget Request

See attachment below.

Jerry Bookin-Weiner
Vice President, NCCMA
Immediate Past Chair, USATF Masters Track & Field Committee
Meet Director, 2013 and 2018 USATF Masters Indoor Championships
Phone: 410 740 1332
Mobile: 410 336 0198
Email: throwsguy@gmail.com

----- Forwarded message -----
From: **Jerome Bookin-Weiner** <jbookinweiner@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Apr 13, 2026 at 5:39 PM
Subject: HoCo Track
To: Jerry Bookin-Weiner <throwsguy@gmail.com>

I am pleased to have this opportunity to address you on an issue near and dear to my heart. I have been a track and field athlete and administrator since I was in 8th grade Kensington JHS in 1961. When I was a student at B-CC in the early 1960s, facilities in the area were few and far between, with no real indoor facility in the area. It's not much better today in Howard County and only PG

County has a dedicated facility - the Sportsplex in Landover, which has some severe limitations.

For the past 25+ years I have been deeply involved in USATF Masters and served five years as the USATF MTF Chair. Now I am Vice President of the Masters World Regional organization. In these capacities I have been responsible for site selection and promotion/presentation of some of the largest indoor Masters events in the US and World, so I have a pretty fair understanding of what it needed. From what I understand, the planned facility would be perfect!

I mentioned a few seconds ago that the Sportsplex has limitations for Masters events. First and foremost, it is a flat track, which nowadays eliminates it as a venue for National Meets (we DID host the indoor Nationals three times - 2009, 2015, 2018). The 2018 meet is still the largest indoor nationals ever held, despite the lack of a banked track.

It also only has one "real" throwing area, which is now insufficient for that meet today.

There is a HUGE need for this facility not only for Howard County but for the whole DMV area and for the entire east coast.

I do not want to go on and on, but Masters alone would probably use it for national and regional championships on a regular basis. Howard County high schools needs a local facility for both training and for local meets.

There will be a strong community ready to use this facility from the day it opens, and the local track and field community stands ready to assist in any way it can to make this much needed facility a success!

Thank you and I am ready to take any questions you might have.

Jerome B. Bookin-Weiner, PhD
5678 Thicket Lane
Columbia, MD 21044 USA
Phone: +1-410-740-1332

From: Pamela Jock <pjock13@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2026 1:10 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Multi-Sport Indoor Facility

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Good evening,

Howard County student athletes and the diverse, large running and walking community need an indoor track facility to utilize year-round. At this time Howard County student athletes, runners, walkers, and seniors in many organized groups, fitness programs, and adaptive sports do not have access locally to a safe, climate-controlled facility to stay active. Howard County constituents currently need to:

1. Pay to use extremely limited facilities in the area (i.e., Sandstrom for pole vault & high jump)
2. Pay to use a gym to have access to a treadmill (CA, HoCo Rec & Parks)
3. Purchase their own treadmill (expensive!)
4. Practice outside in extremely cold and dangerous conditions for ~6 months a year, which results in illnesses, injuries, and broken bones
5. Practice indoors in their high school, which is less than ideal and dangerous with other people using the hallways.
6. Miss many hours of school as a result of travel time to the PG Indoor Complex. This past year they missed lunch once, and had to be dismissed before their last two periods on a consistent basis. This resulted in lower grades for some of the student athletes. In my opinion, this is not acceptable.

Student athletes cannot train and compete at the highest level. Voting to have a year-round indoor track and facility will send a clear message to our student athletes: Howard County values youth, opportunity, and excellence. They will have the ability to train and compete at the highest level—right here in Howard County.

This facility would quickly and easily provide a return on the investment. Teams and Track & Field invitationals from Maryland, the DMV area, and beyond would take place in Howard County for meets. They will pay to rent the facility, hotels will be booked, they will eat at our local restaurants, shop at our stores, and make Howard County a regional hub for championship indoor track and field events. Howard County currently is doing the opposite by expending money for a sub-par flat indoor track facility in PG county:

- Thousands of dollars annually to rent a facility
- Expending thousand of dollars with contracts for buses (drivers, gas) for each meet
- Not spending our limited funds smartly; does not support long-term economic growth.

Let's make Howard County the most desired Indoor Track & Field facility destination. Please keep our funding local, and provide our students and constituents a facility that is needed as a year-round community resource.

Thank you in advance for your consideration, and for supporting our local community and student athletes.

Pamela Jock
Wilde Lake High School Girl's Head Coach

From: Philip Rogers <Philip_Rogers@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2026 10:33 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Statement in Support of Multi-Use Indoor T&F Facility
Attachments: Howard County Multi Use Facility Statement 2026.pdf

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Good Morning Howard County Council,
Please see my statement in support of the Multi-Use Indoor Track & Field Facility.

My apologies for not being able to attend the meeting this evening.
Any questions, please feel free to reach out.

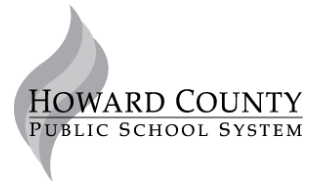
Phil Rogers
410-212-0442

Philip Rogers
Reservoir High School
Mathematics Educator
Cross Country, Head Coach
Indoor/Outdoor Track & Field, Head Coach
410-888-8850 (w)
410-888-8849 (f)
Team Twitter Account: @RezziXCTF
Cross Country/Track & Field Website: <http://xctf.rhsgators.com/>



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TO: Members of the Howard County Council

FROM: Philip Rogers
HCPSS, MPSSAA, Howard County Resident

SUBJECT: Testimony in Support of a Multi-Sport and Indoor Track & Field Facility

I have been a cross country, indoor, and outdoor track & field coach in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) for 23 years. As a resident of Howard County for the past 15 years, with children currently attending HCPSS schools, I am deeply invested in the well-being and development of our youth.

Throughout my career as an educator and coach, I have been committed to supporting student-athletes in their growth—both as athletes and as future contributors to society. The current indoor facility utilized by Howard County Public Schools, the PG Sports and Learning Complex, has become increasingly costly, and access for competitions there is diminishing. Expanding opportunities for our student-athletes within HCPSS remains my top priority, both as a coach and as a member of several local and state committees. The need for a modern indoor track & field facility is now more evident than ever.

Currently, many Howard County schools allocate substantial funds to travel to facilities in states such as New York, Virginia, and Massachusetts. Establishing a local indoor facility would allow these resources to remain within the county. A state-of-the-art venue would not only provide consistent and equitable access for local teams during inclement weather but also attract teams from across Maryland and neighboring states.

If designed appropriately, this facility could host local, state, regional, and national events. Such events would stimulate economic activity for local businesses—including hotels, restaurants, and service providers—and are projected to have a positive financial impact on the county.

Moreover, a multi-sport indoor facility would support year-round community use, including fitness programs and youth sports. It would serve as a centralized location for athletic programming and community engagement.

Approval of this project would address current limitations and support both the athletic and community needs of Howard County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Philip Rogers", with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Philip Rogers
Reservoir High School, HCPSS
Head Coach, Cross Country/Track & Field
Bullseye Running Youth Coach

From: DeRosier, Philippe <pderosier@howardcc.edu>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2026 5:51 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Written Testimony in Support of the Proposed Indoor Track

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Good Evening,

Howard County, Maryland has a clear and growing need for an indoor track and field complex, as the area continues to produce high-level athletes from strong high school and collegiate programs. With emerging talent like Ameer Mowad of Howard Community College and Zachary Johnson in YEP Track and Field, along with impactful training from Sanjay Air, the foundation is already being built. An indoor facility would provide year-round access, strengthen community engagement, and elevate athlete development across all levels. It also allows local athletes to stay home and train, keeping their talent within Howard County while continuing to grow its reputation in the sport.

Sincerely,

Philippe DeRosier Jr.

Relator, Strategic, Arranger, Deliberative, Responsibility

Manager of Fitness and Recreation

Head M/W XCTF Coach

YEP! Track and Field Program Coordinator

Howard Community College

Office: (443) 518-4685

www.howardccdragons.com



From: Sanjay Ayre <sanjayayre@2eaglesports.com>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2026 9:29 AM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Hester, Maya; Philip_Rogers@hcpss.org; Adam_Eldridge@hcpss.org; chrissielazaris@gmail.com; hcharity@comcast.net; sanders@sandstormvault.com; throwsguy@gmail.com; Knoerlein, Matthew; coachlang@hotmail.com; pderosier@howardcc.edu; thasseltine@marylandsports.us; Zachary_Dickerson@hcpss.org; Mooneyhan, Nicholas; Delerme, Raul
Subject: My Testimonial: Support for Multi-Sport and Indoor Track Facility Funding in FY2027 Capital Budget
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Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

My name is Sanjay Ayre, a three-time Olympian and long-time resident of Howard County. I am writing this testimony to respectfully urge the Council to allocate funding in the Fiscal Year 2027 capital budget for the development of a multi-sport and indoor track facility in Howard County. Although the design funding is already included in the capital budget, it will take much more funding to make this project a reality.

As someone who has dedicated much of my life to athletics, I have seen firsthand the transformative impact that access to quality training facilities can have on individuals and communities alike. Howard County has a strong and growing population of student-athletes, yet there remains a significant gap in available indoor training and competition spaces—particularly for track and field.

Currently, many of our student-athletes are forced to travel long distances to access indoor track facilities for training and competition. This creates unnecessary burdens on families, schools, and coaches, and limits opportunities for consistent development. A local indoor facility would provide equitable access for athletes of all levels, allowing them to train and compete close to home.

Additionally, the winter months present a major challenge for outdoor sports in our region. An indoor track facility would offer a safe, reliable environment for year-round training, ensuring that Howard County athletes can continue to develop their skills regardless of weather conditions.

Beyond the direct benefits to our local athletes, this project also represents a strong economic opportunity for Howard County. A multi-sport and indoor track facility would attract regional and national competitions, bringing visitors to our area and supporting local businesses, including hotels, restaurants, and retail establishments. Such a venue would position Howard County as a hub for athletic excellence in the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast regions.

There is currently a significant shortage of indoor track facilities in the Northeast, and this project would help fill a critical void. By investing in this infrastructure, Howard County has the opportunity to lead in providing accessible, high-quality athletic spaces while fostering community pride and engagement.

I respectfully ask the Council to consider the long-term benefits of this project and to include funding for the multi-sport and indoor track facility in the FY2027 capital budget.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and continued commitment to the well-being and success of Howard County residents.

Kind Regards,
Sanjay Ayre, OLY.
C.E.O 2 Eagle Sports & Entertainment
410-440-7475
sanjayayre@2eaglesports.com



From: Thema Napier Collins <napiercollins@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2026 11:30 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Howard County Indoor Track Facility

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Good afternoon.

As a formal Howard County Track Athlete, I fully support a county indoor track facility. We live in one of the most beautiful cities in the world and I feel like our athletes should have access to one of the most amazing complexes possible for the following reasons:

- An indoor track facility would provide year-round training opportunities, eliminating weather-related disruptions and improving athlete safety and consistency.
- It would expand access for students across all schools, promoting equity in athletics and physical wellness.
- The facility could host regional and state competitions, bringing positive economic impact and visibility to the county.
- Indoor training space supports not only track athletes, but also other sports, fitness programs, and community health initiatives.
- Investing in this facility demonstrates a commitment to student development, teamwork, and excellence beyond the classroom. Not to mention possible opportunities for students to learn, work, volunteer.

I remember when I ran, we were bussed to Baltimore Armory to run on wooden floors, now HC track athletes are bussed to PG sports complex to compete and wouldn't it be amazing if they could train and compete in their own county.

Thank you for your support.

Thema Napier Collins

From: Tom McManuels <tjmcmanuels@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2026 11:42 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please fund the Howard County indoor facility

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Good morning,

I just wanted to share my support for the funding of an indoor facility in Howard County. It is unfortunate that HoCo track and field athletes are forced to travel to PG County for their indoor track meets. I am sure that we (HoCo) could build a facility that is in-demand across the entire region and profitable.

Thank you so much for your consideration.

Tom McManuels
Hammond T&F Coach
Parent
240-459-9180

From: JACQUELINE LLOYD <jlloyd44@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 5:36 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Indoor track facility in Howard County

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To whom it may concern.

I support the design and development of the Multi-Sport Indoor Facility that can be used for indoor track meets. Having an indoor track facility in the county would be beneficial for schools, students, families, and the county at large.

Thank you.
Jacqueline

PLEASE DO THIS BEFORE 5pm today.
Sent from my iPhone

From: John Oputa <jooputa@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 2:19 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Written Testimony in Support of the Multi-Sport Indoor Facility – FY Budget

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Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

My name is John, and I am a lifelong Maryland resident, currently a track and field coach residing in Columbia. I am writing in support of the funding proposal for the design of a Multi-Sport Indoor Facility included in Dr. Calvin Ball’s budget.

As a coach, one of the most consistent challenges I face is the lack of accessible indoor training and competition space for student athletes. Outside of university-owned facilities, the Prince George’s Sports and Learning Complex is essentially the only dedicated track and field venue in the state that is open for high school and recreational use. That is a significant gap for a state with as many young athletes as Maryland has.

A facility like this in Howard County would do more than just fill that gap. If designed as a true multipurpose space, it becomes an economic driver for the county — capable of hosting regional and state-level competitions, tournaments, and events that bring visitors, revenue, and visibility to our community.

Beyond athletics, the case for structured afterschool programming is well-documented. Recent Baltimore studies confirm that the hours between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. are peak times for juvenile delinquency and victimization, and that programs keeping youth in structured environments during those hours meaningfully reduce youth crime. A facility like this gives young people in Howard County somewhere purposeful to be during those critical hours — and that matters just as much as any athletic benefit.

I strongly urge the Council to support this funding. The return on this investment — for our youth, our community, and our economy — is well worth it.

Thank you for your time and your service to Howard County.

Respectfully,

