

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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**January 10, 2023**

Columbia Association Board of Directors  
Columbia Association, Inc.  
6310 Hillside Court, Suite 100  
Columbia, MD 21046

**COLUMBIA COUNCIL**

Lin Eagan

**RE: FY 24 and Beyond: Town Center Community Association Board Budget Requests**

Dear Columbia Association (CA) Board of Directors:

The Board of the Town Center Community Association (TCCA) is asking for budgetary support for various capital projects in FY2024. In addition, we would like those projects prioritized within the CA Budget process and published each year for all Villages to review. Our original FY24 CA Budget submission to the CA executive staff was done at the beginning of the Budget process on October 13, 2022. We also sent another letter to the CA Board on December 28, 2022, requesting support for the elevator project.

To avoid any confusion as to what TCCA's priorities are for the CA Budget FY2024 Budget below is a recap of those requested projects in priority order:

1. **Install Elevator**: As usual, the need for an elevator in Oakland Manor is our top priority. After our village manager facilitated a \$300,000 grant from the State of Maryland to be used in its construction, he asked CA, as the facility owner, to submit all required documents to the State. Town Center sent the documents to CA in May and June. Although updated verbally by the CA staff, the Village would like something in writing from CA executive staff about the progress of this request to the state.

Will the CA Board ensure that CA will continue to build this critical project by granting approximately \$700,000 in one lump sum in FY2024 **and/or over multiple budget years** toward updating the construction plans so that the elevator will be on its way to becoming a reality.

2. **Veranda Awning**: The plastic/vinyl awning panels on the Veranda need to be replaced as they are ripped in certain spots and do not close properly. Repeated attempts at repair are not effective. The awning panels were installed in January 2011. Vendors and clients complain about the awning panels not fully closing especially during Fall, Spring and Winter when temperatures are colder. We had to resort to using electric space heaters/fans at times to keep the area cooler or hotter depending on the conditions. \$15,000-\$40,000 estimate.

3. **Paint Entire Manor**: Paint the inside of Historic Oakland...last done 15 years ago and it is looking very tired. \$15,000-\$35,000 estimate.

4. **Replace Town Center Room flooring**: The existing carpet is old and smelly. This room is used for Board meetings, events, and Sunday church. Replace existing carpeting with vinyl laminate wood flooring to match the upstairs. We have been getting complaints. \$10,000 estimate.

5. **Install EV Charging Stations in the parking lot of Historic Oakland**: 10-15% of our customers use electric vehicles. This is especially important for our wedding and special event customers. \$10,000-\$20,000 estimate.

It is important for the Village Board to know how these projects will be addressed in the 2024 budget. In past years we received comprehensive information about what requests were being granted and how they fit into CA's priority projects. Back in 2016, the elevator and replacing the flooring were in the Priority 4 category. Surely, 7 years later, they must have moved up on the priority list.

As the caretakers of Oakland Manor, a valuable CA asset, we respectfully ask you for a response to our list of needed repairs and, of course, the elevator status.

Your approval of these requests will make one of Howard County's most historic buildings, Historic Oakland, accessible to all and keep it maintained in excellent shape.

Thank you for considering our request. Please feel free to reach out to us with any questions.

Sincerely,

*Lynn Foehrkolb*

Lynn Foehrkolb  
Chairperson, TCCA Board of Directors

Cc: D. Matthey