

## **Notice of Public Hearing on 9 St. Mary's Street – July 27, 2015**

<http://www.ci.annapolis.md.us/government/headlines/2015/07/20/public-hearing-on-9-st.-mary-s-street---monday-july-27>

Annapolis, MD (7-20-15) The Annapolis City Council will hold a public hearing during its Monday, July 27 meeting, at 7 p.m. in City Council Chambers, located at 160 Duke of Gloucester Street in Annapolis. The purpose of the hearing is to obtain public input on the potential use of the Old Recreation Center located at 9 St. Mary's Street.

The City Council is currently considering two proposals, one residential use which would be developed by the firm of O2/Lafayette, and one institutional use by the University of Maryland center for Environmental Services (UMCES).

A brief description of the two proposals follows:

### **O2/Lafayette**

O2/Lafayette is a local development company teamed with Hammond Wilson Architects. O2 proposes to purchase the property and convert the building into residential units. Their proposal would divide the existing Recreation Center building into six to eight residential condominiums, consisting of one, two, and three bedroom units and potential live/work space on the first floor. The residential units would be between 1,000 to 2,200 square feet, and would be constructed within the existing Recreation Center structure. The historic nature of the building would be preserved by retaining historical architectural elements. All parking needs will be accommodated via the existing parking lot. The project will generate an estimated \$2.5 million in construction and potentially \$5-6 million in assessed property value. O2/Lafayette has offered a purchase price and the project will provide annual property tax payments after completion.

### **University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES)**

University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES) proposes a long-term lease (30 years) and capital investment of over \$2.7 Million to renovate and reuse the Old Recreation Center while maintaining its historic integrity. UMCES would establish "The Annapolis Institute for Environmental Solutions" and revitalize the facility for repurposed offices and meeting space. The Institute would house programs that involve leadership in scientific research, assessment, education, communication and outreach focused on solutions to environmental challenges. UMCES has approximately 25 staff members supported by operating funds, grants, and contracts. UMCES anticipates drawing additional visitors by way of meetings and conferences that would provide other economic benefits. The anticipated daily parking needs estimate is 15 to 20 parking spaces with overflow parking at other public parking facilities including Navy Stadium parking for State employees. Their source of capital improvement funding is internal to UMCES and the University System of Maryland that has the financial wherewithal to establish the Annapolis Institute. There would be a modest annual lease payment to the City.