

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING – NEWS RELEASE

The Annapolis City Council requests public comment on the issue of residential versus institutional use of the Old Recreation Center, located at 9 St. Mary's Street in Annapolis. A public hearing on the matter will take place during the Regular Council Meeting on Monday, June 22. The public hearing is scheduled for 7 p.m. in City Council Chambers - 160 Duke of Gloucester Street in Annapolis.

The City Council met in closed session on Thursday, May 28 to consider applications associated with the potential sale or lease of City property at 9 St. Mary's Street, known as the "Old Recreation Center."

Five presentations were made. Three proposals were to convert the building to residential use and two proposals were to use the facility for institutional uses as either administrative office space and/or as recreational space. In accordance with the City's procurement procedures, proposals under consideration that contain proprietary data such as financial information may not be disclosed until a contract is awarded.

The three residential proposals include 02/Lafayette, Pilli Development and ARC House to build from 6 to 10 residential units. The residential proposals would involve a purchase price and the uses would generate property tax revenue.

The two institutional proposals would assist educational institutions to meet their office space needs: the Maryland Center for Environmental Science (MCES) and St. Mary's Parish. The MCES offer is a 30 year, low annual payment lease in exchange for substantial property improvements; the St. Mary's offer is a purchase and a one-time payment in lieu of taxes. Neither institutional use would be subject to property taxation.

The MCES offer is the only proposal being considered that retains the property as a city asset. Based on the current information available, it appears a choice to be made rests on the consideration of two competing interests: residential or institutional use, including city retention of the property. And, consequently, the City Council may decide to either maximize "current receipts" or establish a source of additional tax revenue. With regard to "current receipts," the St. Mary's Parish purchase offer provides the most immediate cash while the residential options provide a source of real property tax revenue.

If you are unable to attend the City Council meeting on June 22, it is available live on Comcast, channel 99/100 and Verizon, channel 34. It can also be viewed on all mobile devices and computers by going to <http://bit.ly/1gCd4pL>.

<http://www.ci.annapolis.md.us/government/headlines/2015/06/16/public-hearing-on-june-22-on-9-st.-mary's-street>