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Office of the Mayor
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To: Members of the City Council
Jared Littman, Chair, Public Works Facility Task Force

From: Mayor Gavin Buckley *GB*

Date: November 12, 2019

Subject: Request to Delay Final Report of the Public Works Facility Task Force

On November 4, Director of Public Works David Jarrell and city staff met with the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to review the results of the Weems-Whelan soil characterization and testing and discuss what remediation might be required of the City. As we suspected, we learned that the amount of required remediation depends on the use of the field.

MDE advised that continued use of the field as an athletic field would not require the City to enter into a Voluntary Cleanup Plan. Remediation would be minimal and relatively inexpensive, with the likely maximum treatment being adding a layer of soil and monitoring for methane gas if methane gas is present.

If the Weems-Whelan field were used for residential development, the City likely would enter into a Voluntary Cleanup Plan. The MDE staff stated that a clay cap over which housing would be built would not meet MDE's remediation requirements. It is likely that MDE would require excavation of the contaminated fill material to approximately 15 feet below the surface of the field and removal of contaminated material from the site. Neither MDE nor the City have estimated the costs of this extensive remediation, but MDE staff stated that it would be much more than the \$500,000 allowance the proposed developer of the Spa Road site has offered towards the remediation costs.

Given this new information, I ask that the Public Works Facility Task Force delay the issuance of its final report until January to give the City time to undertake additional analysis to determine the impact of this information on the economics, timing, and feasibility of the proposed property exchange.

I thank the members of the task force for their hard work. Your analysis and input is valuable to me and the alderpersons, and I look forward to our continuing discussions on the best location to build our Public Works facility.