



BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

Public Comments

Meeting Date

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS
80 Calvert Street
Annapolis MD 21401

Section 1: Comments Submitted Via BPW Website

Agenda: Department of General Services

Item: 29-LT

Daniel Butler: Oppose

My name is Dan Butler, and I am the Lead Field Representative at SEIU Local 32BJ. 32BJ is the largest building service union in the country, representing over 185,000 members up and down the East Coast and 4,500 in Maryland. Our members are primarily immigrants and people of color, and make up the workforce of essential cleaners, security officers, maintenance workers, airport workers, and other building service workers who keep our homes, workplaces, schools, and transportation hubs up and running.

On behalf of 32BJ SEIU, I am here to ask the Board of Public Works to reconsider 29-LT, which proposes leasing of office space at 100 North Charles Street for Maryland Department of Education.

This is not simply a question of where a State agency should locate its offices. This is a question of whether public dollars should support a building where workers who keep that building clean and safe are being denied the wages, benefits, and labor standards they previously earned.

Until recently, the cleaning and security work at 100 North Charles Street was performed by responsible contractors. The workers were protected by collective bargaining agreements negotiated with SEIU 32BJ, providing them with strong wages, benefits, and workplace protections.

Beginning in 2025, however, the building management replaced those contractors. Workers lost their benefits, raises, and the workplace standards they had fought to establish. The new contractors have also refused to bargain with SEIU 32BJ, despite their obligations as successor employers.

The State should not be entering into a new lease at this building without taking these circumstances seriously. Maryland taxpayers should not help subsidize a race to the bottom for the workers responsible for keeping the property safe, clean, and operational.

There are many office spaces available in downtown Baltimore who do not balance their budgets on the backs of Baltimore City Workers. There is no reason for the State to choose a building where workers have already seen their wages and benefits undermined and where there is an ongoing labor dispute.

Responsible contracting is good for the State and good for Baltimore. Contractors that pay local labor standards are more likely to have the experience, capacity, and track record necessary to provide reliable services at public properties.

On a personal note, I was part of organizing security this building for the first time. When we did, there was an instant increase in pay and benefits. And the opposite has happened with the hiring of the current security contractor. Pay has decreased. 100% Employer paid comprehensive health insurance is gone.

Should the State occupy these offices, it will find itself walking into another labor dispute similar to 100 S Charles St, 217 E Redwood St, and 201 N Charles St. The State has the opportunity to make a different choice today.

At a minimum, if the State proceeds with this lease, we urge the Board to insist that the building owner and management use responsible contractors that provide acceptable standards of living and respect workers' rights to organize and bargain collectively.

We respectfully ask the Board of Public Works to reject or defer approval of this lease until these labor concerns are addressed and to ensure that any future agreement protects good, family-sustaining jobs for the workers who keep the buildings clean and safe.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Item: 16-S

Stephen Bacon: Oppose

AshBritt, Inc. respectfully opposes Agenda Item 16-S relating to a proposed Intergovernmental Cooperative Purchasing Agreement (ICPA) between the Department of General Services (DGS) and DRC Emergency Services LLC (DRC) for emergency management professional services and logistics support services that include planning, training, and disaster recovery services. DGS intends to procure these services under a NASPO ValuePoint Master Contract awarded by the State of Oklahoma for debris removal and monitoring services. We appreciate that the State has a need for additional staffing to support emergency management and logistics, but we respectfully submit that DRC's NASPO Contract is not the appropriate vehicle to procure these services because it is specifically limited to debris removal.

DGS' written determination for this ICPA indicates that it intends to use DRC's NASPO Contract to complete tasks including tactical preparedness and operational plans, training exercises, analyzing and updating systems, financial management, and public/stakeholder relations (e.g. crisis communications). None of these services are properly included in DRC's NASPO Contract, which only includes established prices for offerings related to debris removal services that are

needed in the aftermath of a disaster. The only services DRC competed for and priced in the NASPO procurement conducted in Oklahoma were for debris removal. Thus, using DRC's NASPO contract to obtain other services to fulfill the State's additional staffing needs would amount to an improper sole-source contract that does not leverage the advantages of competition.

A competitive procurement will ensure that the State obtains these services at fair and reasonable prices, consistent with eligibility requirements for reimbursement established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). It is unclear how DGS intends to purchase the additional staffing services from DRC on a NASPO Contract that contains established pricing only for debris removal services. It appears that, after the NASPO Contract was awarded by Oklahoma, DRC somehow added various unpriced generic services to its NASPO price list under a "Value Added" category. Instead of including a price for these services, DRC's NASPO Contract price list simply states: "Priced at the time of event and activation." It would not be proper, or in the best interests of the State, to rely on these unpriced line items to negotiate a contract for these services with DRC exclusively, without any competition. Instead of relying on an inadequate NASPO Contract, DGS should instead hold a competition among interested contractors to fulfill the State's staffing needs. An accelerated procurement would allow the State to meet its immediate needs while ensuring that fair prices are obtained and FEMA reimbursement requirements are met.

If the Board would like additional information, AshBritt has submitted a bid protest to DGS that includes a more fulsome statement of its concerns with the intended ICPA.

Section 2: Comment Submitted Via Email

September 1, 2026

The Honorable Wes Moore
Governor of Maryland

The Honorable Brooke Lierman
Comptroller of Maryland

The Honorable Dereck Davis
Treasurer of Maryland

Subject: Support for the City of Hyattsville's Green Space Equity Grant Application for the Purchase of Land Adjacent to Driskell Park

Dear Governor Moore, Comptroller Lierman, and Treasurer Davis,

We, the undersigned nonprofit organizations, write to express our strong support for the City of Hyattsville's application for a \$3.5 million Green Space Equity grant to purchase land that lies adjacent to the City's David C. Driskell Park. We urge you to approve the full grant amount requested by the City and recommended by the Department of Natural Resources. This grant is essential to long-standing goals of seeing the City acquire that land, add it to Driskell Park, and restore it ecologically. Several of our organizations have worked since at least 2019 – through Prince George's County's land use review process and the State's permitting processes – to help realize those important goals.

The land the City seeks to purchase is located within a few hundred yards of the Anacostia River's Northwest Branch and is adjacent to a nontidal wetland (the Trumbule Trail Bog), a forested stream valley tributary to the Northwest Branch, and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commissions' Magruder Woods Park. Based on FEMA floodplain maps and others, most or all of the land the City seeks to purchase lies within the 100-year floodplain of the Northwest Branch.

Located in the midst of a socially and economically diverse community, Driskell Park is the City's largest and busiest park. It is within walking and biking distance of perhaps thousands of residences, including many apartments, and it serves as a treasured gathering place where local residents can rest, relax, socialize, recreate, and enjoy and learn about the area's human history and natural resources.

Purchasing the parcel by the park, restoring it, and making it available for public use and enjoyment would enhance local climate resilience, support stream health, expand local habitat for native biodiversity, and create a welcoming green space for local residents. (For one example of what such a restoration might look like, please see the attached presentation prepared by a master's student in the University of Maryland's School of Landscape Architecture as the focus of her master's thesis.)

Permanently protecting land along a major Anacostia tributary can help maintain and restore natural floodplain functions, reduce pressure for future development in a high-risk area, and create opportunities for wetland protection, riparian buffering, native plant restoration, and improved habitat connectivity. Attaining those goals by preserving and restoring land, especially land in floodplains and so close to streams and wetlands, is even more urgent in face of increasing weather extremes driven by global warming.

In an urban watershed where impervious surfaces contribute significantly to polluted runoff, land conservation is itself a critical stormwater strategy, especially when coupled with ecological restoration. Protected open space can absorb and slow rainfall, enhance stream base flows, reduce erosive flows, filter pollutants, and limit the movement of nutrients, sediment, trash, metals, and other toxics into local waterways.

This project would also directly support Maryland's broader commitments to protect and restore the Anacostia and Chesapeake watersheds by reducing a range of stressors, including trash, toxic pollutants, nutrients, and sediment loads. This is especially important given that the Maryland Department of the Environment lists the Anacostia and the Northwest Branch as impaired waters under the Clean Water Act.

The Bay Restoration framework depends on reducing both point and nonpoint sources, and urban stormwater remains one of the most persistent and costly sources to control. By preserving land so close to a major Anacostia tributary and by enabling nature-based stormwater and flood-mitigation practices, the proposed grant would help prevent additional pollutant loads while supporting the long-term recovery of a historically burdened Chesapeake tributary.

This investment can help the local jurisdiction meet regulatory and planning obligations related to stormwater management, flood resilience, climate adaptation, and water-quality protection. Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System permit requirements, including impervious surface restoration and related MS4 programs increasingly depend on durable, distributed green infrastructure and wetland practices that reduce runoff volume, treat stormwater close to its source, and protect receiving waters. Preserved and enhanced green space along an Anacostia tributary can complement engineered infrastructure while providing lasting, cost-effective ecological services.

In closing, this grant would provide myriad environmental benefits, improve the quality of life for the local community by facilitating the creation of a local sanctuary for people, plants and wildlife, and bring some measure of relief to a community that has spent years working to protect this land.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Greg Smith
Board Member
Sustainable Hyattsville
gpsmith@igc.org
(240) 605-9238

Trey Sherard
Anacostia Riverkeeper
trey@anacostiariverkeeper.org

Melissa Schweisguth
Vice-President
Neighbors of the Northwest Branch

Allison Kole
Board Member
Sustainable Hyattsville
allison.kole@gmail.com

Nicole Jackson, Chair
Sierra Club, Prince Georges' County Group
pgsierraclub.njackson@gmail.com

Gyasi Gomez, Vice Chair
Sierra Club, Prince Georges' County Group
vicechair.pgsc@gmail.com