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Burke/West Springfield Senior Center Without Walls (BWSSCWoW)

My name is Corazon Sandoval Foley, Founding Chairman of the Burke/West Springfield Senior Center Without Walls (BWSSCWoW). Thank you very much for this opportunity to testify that the Board of Supervisor should provide budgetary appropriations for the full-fledged Springfield Community/Senior Center – that has been in the approved Capital Improvements Project (CIP) list for years. The project has received active support from Chairman Sharon Bulova since our November 21, 2015 demonstration at the Fairfax County Government Center and from Springfield Supervisor Pat Herrity at my meeting with him on June 22, 2016.

So today, I am requesting the following measures from the Board:

1. Inclusion of the Springfield Community/Senior Center (listed in the CIP) in the 2016 bond referendum and if not possible, in the 2017 bond referendum or the next earliest bond referendum for community/senior centers. The 2016 bond referendum includes \$37 million for two senior centers: Lorton and Sully Senior Centers.
2. For this September budget hearing, a non-recurring budget of \$39,000 to pay for community-based facilities used by the Burke/West Springfield Senior Center Without Walls (BWSSCWoW) through June 2017. This would be necessary to stop the continuing loss of community-based facilities; as it is, seniors are sometimes forced to use corridors and parking lots for health programs when facilities are closed to them.
3. And next year, in the 2017 budget, an interim leasing arrangement in the Burke/West Springfield area that would be similar to Kingstowne and Lorton senior centers. This would require an annual budget of \$437,040 to cover \$103,040 for lease cost, \$152,000 for personnel costs, and \$182,000 for meals/fastran provision. The interim lease would continue until the full-fledged Springfield Community/Senior Center is finally built.

I submitted a package with information about our Seniors Giving Back to Community program with international folk dancing and local history seminars. Our International Folk Dance Team will perform “Oh Susanna” based on a very popular American folk music written in 1848. We believe that “Oh Susanna don’t you cry” and in our case “Oh Springfield Seniors Don’t You Cry” for despite the long and bumpy petition experience and the sad deaths of senior activists as described in our submission, our Springfield Community/Senior Center will be a reality with the support of the whole Board of Supervisors under the leadership of Chairman Sharon Bulova.