August 18, 2018

Dear Alexandra Straus:

Subject: Request to Speed Up Pothole Repair

In the past six months, the number of pothole related accidents and vehicular damage incidents has risen sixty-five percent. On Commonwealth Avenue alone (the street I live on), there have been seven incidents where cars have been damaged seriously. These potholes are causing a heavy financial strain on our community and residents. They also pose a real danger to anyone driving a car in the area.

In 1995, the Terrapin City Council repaved all one hundred and fifty miles of roadway in Malvern Gardens. Since then, hundreds of thousands of cars have traveled these neighborhood roads. Over the span of twenty-three years, the roads have deteriorated through general use and many harsh winters. Why haven’t these roads been touched since? Private contractors hired by the Malvern Gardens Homeowners’ Association have estimated the cost of repaving at around two-hundred million dollars, a small price to pay for a city that just raised tax rates by ten percent. However, all we want as homeowners in the area is for the various potholes to be filled.

For the potholes on Commonwealth Avenue to be filled, it costs, on average, twenty-three dollars per hole. There are fourteen potholes on this block and with simple math the cost to the city isn’t overwhelming or out of the infrastructure repair budget.

For only a couple hundred dollars the City of Terrapin can fix a problem that has been in the works for over twenty years. We believe that due to the community’s high amount of racial minorities and low income families, these issues have been overlooked.

We are asking you to help citizens who can’t afford to fix their cars, or deal with filing lengthy reimbursement papers. These potholes are hazardous and have caused potentially serious accidents and cost the community thousands in car repairs. Please send a construction crew to fix these hazards. They are low cost to repair, low labor, and low time commitment.

It is imperative that the City of Terrapin act now. If these roads are fixed within the next two weeks, the Malvern Gardens Homeowners Association will not file a civil suit against you. Twenty-three years have passed since the last replacement. Help us fix our roads and make the community a better place.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Irby

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