

FORWARD
MARYLAND



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MARYLAND ON

CITY AFFAIRS

PROPOSAL BY

The Forward
Maryland Team

LAST REVISED

April 15, 2020

EXPAND COMMUNITY-BASED RELATIONSHIPS



Beyond being involved in City politics, we'll be expanding relationships with the Office of Community Engagement in order to continue to be a key partner and student voice in community events and Good Neighbor Day planning. In addition, we'll be more involved in programming within College Park that benefits both students and long-term residents, alike. Lastly, participation with local businesses and being a key voice in the development of new businesses is key for our student government to participate in next year.



ESTABLISH A CITY/LANDLORD/SGA WORKING GROUP

It's important to build strong relationships with both the city and the landlords within the city. More importantly, open lines of communication are needed for all three parties in order to ensure safe and affordable living environments within College Park. Goals of the working group should include rent control, affordable housing options, keeping properties safe and up to date, and appropriate landlord and tenant relationships.

ESTABLISH A NEIGHBORS-MEETING- NEIGHBORS INITIATIVE

It's evident that there is a long-term resident and student resident divide within our city, however, in order to be a top 20 college town we must work better together to keep our city safe and growing. Creating an initiative focused on neighbors meeting neighbors will encourage students and long-term residents to meet each other and increase overall relations within the city. This leads to a safer and better College Park for us all.



ENSURE STUDENT REPRESENTATION ON CITY COMMITTEES

The city has several committees that have open spots that students could sit on. By having students sit on committees, we're ensuring student representation within College Park's politics, as these committees make key recommendations and initiate projects that the city council takes on. Specifically, as we head into the redistricting period after the 2020 Census, it's imperative that we have student representation on the redistricting committee in order to ensure student voice is not hindered by gerrymandering tactics.

BRING LOCAL LEADERS TO CAMPUS

Rather than encouraging students to simply reach out to their local leaders, it's important to bring our local leaders to our campus as well. Through topic-specific town halls with councilmembers, the mayor, and county representatives as well, we can ensure that the student constituencies of these districts are heard loud and clear. In addition, it allows for local leaders to see the great work that our campus leaders are doing and sets up a pipeline for internships, job offers, and general relationships for students on our campus.

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SGA Elections April 22-24