

**TOPIC:** University of Maryland, College Park: Sale of 0.3 acres located in Burtonsville to Montgomery County

**COMMITTEE:** Finance

**DATE OF COMMITTEE MEETING:** March 30, 2017

**SUMMARY:** The University of Maryland, College Park requests Board of Regents approval to convey property known as the Burtonsville Fire Tower to Montgomery County. The property is located north of Route 198 and between Old Columbia Pike and Columbia Pike (Route 29), in Montgomery County. The University acquired the property in 1985 from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, for \$8,160. At that time, it included a fire lookout tower which doubled as a communications tower for various public agencies. The deed restricts the property's use to a communication facility.

Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services (MIEMSS) is a statewide network that oversees and coordinates all components of the statewide EMS system. MIEMSS was a former user of the tower until it had to remove its equipment due to the deteriorating condition of the tower, which the University demolished in 2013. MIEMSS has not been able to fully replace the coverage the tower provided in that part of the County. In conjunction with its public safety partners, Montgomery County and the Maryland Department of Information Technology, MIEMSS plans to build a new tower that would play a vital role in the County's and State's public safety communications networks. The deed restriction, combined with the property's size and awkward location, significantly limit its use for the University, as well as its market value. Selling it to the County would restore its use as an important public safety and communications facility.

**PURCHASER:** Montgomery County

**ALTERNATIVE(S):** The University could retain ownership, in which case the property would continue to be unused, instead of being restored to public use as a vital communications facility.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The University and the County have agreed on a sale price of \$18,000, which is the price the University purchased it for, adjusted for inflation. The appraised value of the property is \$19,200.

**CHANCELLOR'S RECOMMENDATION:** That the Finance Committee recommend that the Board of Regents approve for the University of Maryland, College Park to sell this property, and delegate to the Chancellor the authority to execute, after appropriate legal review, all documentation required for the disposition consistent with applicable University System of Maryland Policy "Acquisition and Disposition of Real Property."

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COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

DATE:

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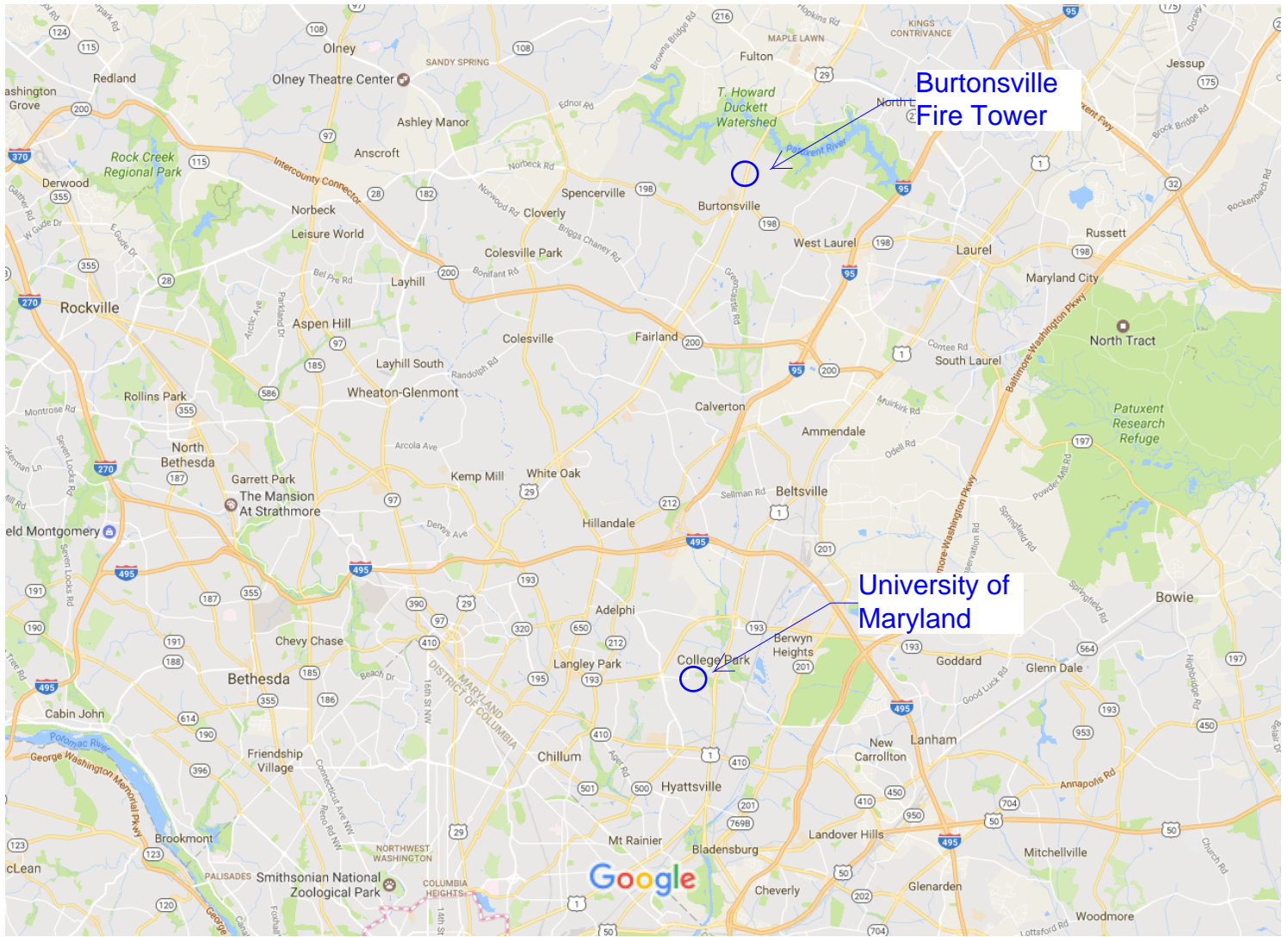
BOARD ACTION:

DATE:

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SUBMITTED BY: Joseph F. Vivona (301) 445-1923

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Burtonsville  
Fire Tower

University of  
Maryland







Fire Tower Property

Old Columbia Pike

Dustin Rd

Bell Rd

Columbia Pike

Amina Dr

29

Google earth

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1000 ft