

TOPIC: University of Baltimore: Assignment of Lease for the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Task Force from Mercyhurst University

COMMITTEE: Finance

DATE OF COMMITTEE MEETING: November 16, 2017

SUMMARY: The High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) task force operating within the Center for Drug Policy and Enforcement in the University's College of Public Affairs (formerly at the University of Maryland, College Park), performs a coordinating role for law enforcement entities investigating illegal drug trafficking. It provides training and facilitates cooperation between the FBI, CIA, ATF, Customs Department, State and local police.

The University of Baltimore (UB) requests approval from the Board of Regents to execute a lease assignment from Mercyhurst University and to extend the lease through December 31, 2021. Mercyhurst University is a partner in this collaborative program. The lease will be funded by a grant from the Office of National Drug Control Policy. The 32,248 square foot space will lease for \$885,530 as of January 1, 2018. The lease contains two five-year renewal options.

The space is located at 9001 Edmonston Road in Greenbelt, MD. HIDTA has occupied this space for the previous ten years, with the initial lease for this space having been between the Landlord and the University of Maryland, College Park. That lease expired on December 31, 2016.

LESSOR: Science Park Associates, LLC
Erik Bolog
6701 Democracy Blvd.
Bethesda, MD 20817

ALTERNATIVE(S): UB could choose not to execute this lease assignment. This would result in a termination of the program as there is no available space on campus. This program is important to the mission of the University and to ensuring the support of the war against drug trafficking in the United States.

FISCAL IMPACT: No fiscal impact to the University as the lease is funded by non-University sources.

CHANCELLOR'S RECOMMENDATION: That the Finance Committee recommend that the Board of Regents approve for the University Baltimore to execute a lease assignment under the terms described above.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

DATE:

BOARD ACTION:

DATE:

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

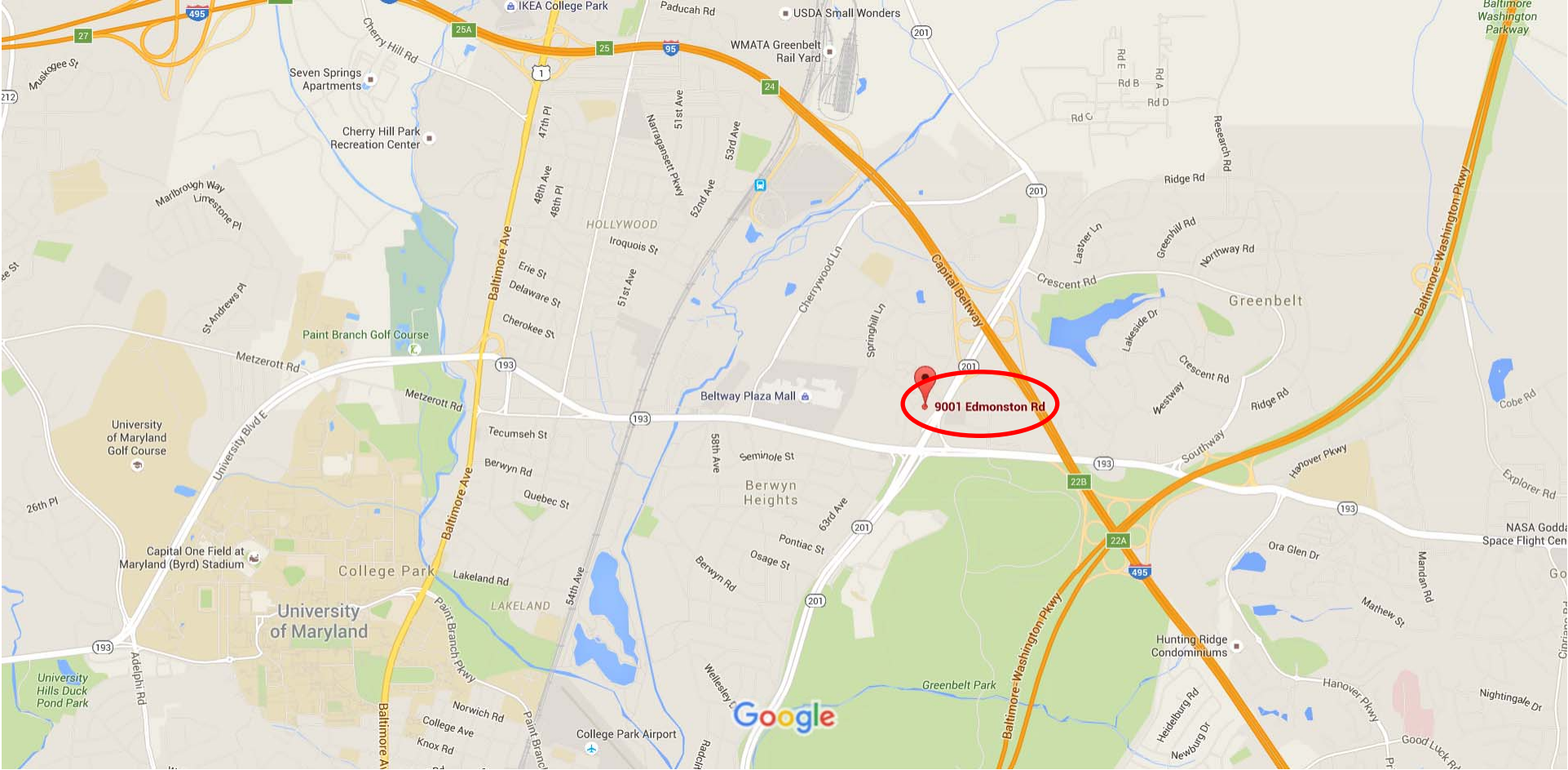
Background

In March 2017, the UMCP Center for Safe Solutions transitioned to the University of Baltimore and became the (UB) Center for Drug Policy and Enforcement (CDPE) within the College of Public Affairs. The HIDTA taskforce is an integral part of the new center. The CDPE brings together policy experts, advocates and scholars dedicated to scientific research and best practices for stopping the proliferation of drugs and violence in our communities. The center focuses on applied research initiatives to reduce drug trafficking, money laundering, firearms trafficking, drug-related violence, and gang activity, and pursues strategies to advance a public-health approach to resolving the core problem of addiction. This center brings both paid and unpaid undergraduate and graduate internships to our students.

The HIDTA taskforce is currently a joint partnership between UB and Mercyhurst University (MU). The lease held by the University of Maryland, College Park expired in December, 2016. UMCP did not to renew it because the HIDTA taskforce was transitioning from UMCP (Center for Safe Solutions) to UB (Center for Drug Policy and Enforcement) in the very near future.

The lease holder change to MU was done in preparation for this transition, as MU was a fiduciary partner in the HIDTA taskforce. This lease (in Greenbelt, MD) is the main location for the center's UB employees. It is important for UB to hold this lease because it is not only the main center of operations and coordination for CDPE and its law enforcement partners on the HIDTA taskforce, but also the base of operations for other grants and contracts with our state and local government partners. UB feels that it is important to control the spaces where its employees work and be responsive to the needs of their funding agencies. There is currently no space at UB to hold an operation of this size, although on-campus location alternatives are being explored for the long-term operations of the center.

Google Maps 9001 Edmonston Rd



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