



## GREENBELT HOMES, INC.

HAMILTON PLACE, GREENBELT, MARYLAND 20770

Area Code (301) 474-4161 Fax (301) 474-4006



February 1, 2022

Dear Honorable Members of the Greenbelt City Council,

When the Federal Government divested itself of the original Greenbelt community in 1952 and 1953, the existing storm water system serving the community was conveyed to the City of Greenbelt. The Board of Directors of Greenbelt Homes Inc. (GHI) is requesting that the City Council consider allocating some of the \$22.88 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds the City of Greenbelt will receive from the Federal Government, to investigate and take proactive steps to maintain and repair the aging underground storm water infrastructure that serves GHI and other communities in Old Greenbelt. One of the eligible uses of ARPA funding is to make necessary investments in storm water infrastructure.

Last year, GHI experienced two situations at 3 Court Eastway and 9 Court Ridge Rd where failure of storm water mains caused large sinkholes; the 12-inch diameter terra cotta pipes at these locations are installed at a depth of 10 feet. Though the City of Greenbelt is responsible for these storm water mains, GHI hired contractors to undertake emergency repairs, due to the immediate danger that the sinkholes posed to persons and animals. At 9 Court Ridge Road, a video camera used by the contractor, revealed that 100 feet of underground storm water mains from Ridge Rd to a point near the sinkhole location, contained hairline cracks; the 100 foot portion of pipe was not replaced. The condition of hairline cracks that was observed, may be indicative of the current state of the underground storm water infrastructure, due to its age. At present, there is no way of knowing which section of the storm water mains will fail, until a sinkhole develops at the surface.

GHI suggests that the City of Greenbelt consider using ARPA funds for hiring a contractor (s) to conduct a video investigation of the storm water mains throughout GHI and Old Greenbelt. Thereafter, pipes in imminent danger of failure should be replaced and a planned maintenance program implemented to coat pipes in fair to good condition with an epoxy lining, which would considerably extend their lifespan. Lining the pipes now, would be far less costly than replacing them eventually via the traditional trench-excavation technique that will cause significant collateral damage to above-ground structures and landscapes.

Thank you in advance for this consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Stefan Brodd  
President  
Greenbelt Homes Incorporated