



Maryland State Archives
Fiscal Year 2021 Operating Budget Testimony
Response to the Department of Legislative Services Budget Analysis

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Health and Human Services Subcommittee
The Honorable Melony G. Griffith, Chair
January 31, 2020

House Appropriations Committee
Public Safety and Administration Subcommittee
The Honorable Keith E. Haynes, Chair
February 12, 2020

Chair, Members of the Subcommittee:

I am Timothy D. Baker, State Archivist and Commissioner of Land Patents. With me today are Elaine Rice Bachmann, the Deputy State Archivist, and Nassir Rezvan, Director of Administration. I would also like to recognize our Legislative Officer, Maya Davis who is with us today.

For your reference and further reading, our annual report is provided on our website in the form of Minutes and Agenda of the Hall of Records Commission, which we publish electronically following each meeting at

<http://msa.maryland.gov/msa/intromsa/hrc/html/hrc.html>

I would like to thank Ken Weaver for his thorough analysis of our budget. Ken is new to our agency this year and we appreciate the time he has spent at our agency learning about the Archives. In the interest of time, I will speak directly to the items mentioned in the Analysis and will then answer any additional questions you may have.

From the Analysis:

Given that the State Archives is the custodian of a wide variety of virtual data – from State land records to resident information – and cultural items of significant value, the agency should comment on its data and physical space needs, budget plans regarding items such as art acquisition funding, and any related issues.

Fortunately, our needs for physical space has been accommodated with the acquisition of our adjunct warehouse facility. Maintaining and operating this facility is entirely the responsibility of the Archives. I think we do a pretty good job, but no one on staff is a trained facility engineer and we have a very modest budget to maintain and repair the nineteen individual HVAC systems that control the environment in this very large building. Ideally, we would be provided with some additional resources to monitor the environmental conditions as well as the health and operational status of the systems.

As far as data storage is concerned, The Archives currently has sufficient storage to accommodate known data transfers. We also structure our data environment to ensure that there are multiple copies to guard against external threats. We maintain separate copies of our data - - one copy in Annapolis and a copy at our Rolling Run Drive facility. In this fiscal year we will also be looking at migrating a tertiary copy to a cloud provider by working through one of the DoIT contracts. Cybersecurity is something we all take very seriously. Protecting our information assets is a top priority of mine.

Finally, I would like to offer thoughts on budget matters relating to our State's fine art collections. We have been fortunate in recent years to have acquired a number of very fine objects. The statues of Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglas come immediately to mind. These treasures we were able to acquire through a capital budget program with the principal support from your leadership. The Archives has not had an actual acquisitions budget for quite some time. I should also point out that the funds to adequately care for the collections (conservation, exhibiting, moving and storing), have dwindled over many years to the point where they are almost non-existent.

Again, from the Analysis:

The State Archives should comment on its bond financing as well as any expectations regarding changes at the federal level that may affect the agency's budget

As noted in the analysis the cuts to the federal corporate tax rates in 2017 resulted in an adjustment to the interest rate of the bonds which financed the acquisition of our facility at Rolling Run Drive. Given the explosive growth in the federal budget deficit, I do not foresee a circumstance where corporate tax rates would be further reduced. Thus, I believe the rate will remain stable.

With that I would be happy to answer any questions.

Respectfully submitted and for more information:

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