

*WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Wednesday, August 3, 2016, to meet with the Prince George's County Department of Pupil Accounting and School Boundaries.*

*Mayor Jordan started the meeting at 8:00 p.m. The meeting was held in the Council Room of the Municipal Building.*

*PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Judith F. Davis, Konrad E. Herling, Leta M. Mach, Silke I. Pope, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Emmett V. Jordan. Councilmember Edward V.J. Putens was detained at work and arrived at 8:50 p.m.*

*STAFF PRESENT WERE: Michael McLaughlin, City Manager, and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.*

*ALSO PRESENT WERE: Johndel Jones-Brown, Director of Prince George's County Department of Pupil Accounting and School Boundaries.*

*Mayor Jordan stressed the importance to Council of having all Greenbelt children attend Greenbelt Schools. He said children residing in the Greenbelt Station are currently assigned to Berwyn Heights Elementary, Greenbelt Middle School and Parkdale High School.*

*Mayor Jordan said Greenbelt had experienced almost no growth in the past 15 years and was now starting to see some new development, such as Greenbelt Station, around the Metro station. He stressed that he, along with Council, were shocked when they learned that children residing in Greenbelt Station would not be going to all Greenbelt schools. Mayor Jordan noted that residents of the City expect that their children will attend Greenbelt schools.*

*Ms. Mach, Council liaison to the Advisory Committee on Education, said the student population at Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) is now 2,506, which is the lowest it's been since 1994. She said ERHS could accommodate the children from Greenbelt Station. Ms. Mach added that both Parkdale High School and ERHS are considered 15.8% overcrowded, by State capacity ratings.*

*Ms. Mach recognized that Springhill Lake Elementary School was too overcrowded to accommodate the students from Greenbelt Station, but suggested the students be sent to Greenbelt Elementary School. She added that Berwyn Heights Elementary was more overcrowded than Greenbelt Elementary School.*

*Mayor Jordan and Ms. Mach mentioned the City and its Advisory Committee on Education supports Greenbelt schools with its grants to educators program, awards for outstanding educators and students, funding of after-school Science and Reading clubs and funding a Student Resource Officer. They noted that taxpayer money is used to fund these programs and the children in Greenbelt Station attending Berwyn Heights Elementary School and Parkdale High School are not able to benefit from them.*

*Ms. Davis mentioned that several years ago, Council had supported an addition to DuVal High School rather than to ERHS with an agreement that Greenbelt students would always attend Greenbelt Schools. Mr. Jones-Brown said he was not aware of this agreement and requested the information be forwarded to him. Ms. Davis said there are a large number of students from Lanham currently enrolled at ERHS and suggested the reassignment of the Lanham students to Duval, which has a below capacity enrollment.*

*Mayor Jordan asked what could be done to reassign the Greenbelt Station students to Greenbelt Schools. Mr. Jones-Brown said that for developed areas (already have addresses), his office acts in an advisory capacity to Dr. Maxwell, Prince George's County Public Schools Chief Executive Officer, and the Board of Education regarding changes to established boundary assignments. He noted that the Board normally does not want to change established boundaries because of the impact the decision will have on assigned students.*

*Mr. Jones-Brown explained that undeveloped areas of the County do not have any school assignments. He said he is notified by the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) that an area is being developed and new street addresses are assigned, then his office determines school assignments based on existing conditions of schools in the area. Mr. Jones-Brown said once the boundaries are assigned, it requires an action by the Board of Education to be amended.*

*Ms. Davis and Ms. Mach said the City did not receive any prior notice when the school assignments were made. Ms. Davis emphasized that when assignments are made within a municipality, the municipality should be provided an opportunity to provide input.*

*Mr. Jones-Brown said that his office acts in an advisory capacity to Dr. Maxwell and the Board of Education. He encouraged Council and the community to participate in PGCPs public forums in the fall and make the request for reconsideration of boundaries at the forum. He said items raised at the forums would be considered for the next school year.*

*Ms. Pope added that residents purchasing in a new development are not necessarily residing there yet when public forums/school assignments are made, so it is very important to involve the City in the process.*

*Mr. Jones-Brown said the CEO can make the proposal to the School Board that it would be beneficial to make the boundary change or individual School Board members can make the proposal. He said there would be an opportunity for public comment if the Board considers the proposal.*

*Mr. Putens suggested the matter of undeveloped areas being assigned to schools without municipal input be discussed at the next Four Cities meeting.*

*There was discussion regarding school enrollment projections through 2026. Council said the enrollment at Springhill Lake Elementary School was at an unacceptable level and noted the need for a new school. They also said that based on the projected enrollment numbers for Greenbelt Middle School, a new middle school needs to be considered in College Park.*

*Mayor Jordan thanked Mr. Jones-Brown for attending. Mr. Jones-Brown said he will share the information received this meeting with his staff and will update Mr. Maxwell.*

*It was requested that staff determine if there may be an opportunity for the City to comment on Greenbelt Station Phase 3 school assignments. Ms. Davis suggested telling Woodlawn Development to notify the City as soon as address assignments are being requested.*

*Mr. Jones-Brown encouraged Council's participation in the public hearing process which will be held late in September. He noted that PGCPs will be faced with making some tough decisions in the future and the input of the public is very important.*

*Mr. McLaughlin and Council summarized that the City will be sending a letter to Mr. Maxwell which will be the basis for comments at the community forum meetings.*

*Council requested a work session be scheduled with Prince George's School Board member Lupi Grady.*

*Informational Items*

*Several informational items were discussed.*

*Executive Session*

*Ms. Davis moved that Council moved into Executive Session in accordance with Section 3-305(b)(1) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of the Public General Laws of Maryland to discuss a personnel matter.*

*Ms. Davis announced that Council will not return to open session at the conclusion of the executive session.*

*Ms. Mach seconded.*

<i>ROLL CALL:</i>	<i>Ms. Davis</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>yes</i>
	<i>Mr. Herling</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>yes</i>
	<i>Ms. Mach</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>yes</i>
	<i>Ms. Pope</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>yes</i>
	<i>Mr. Putens</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>yes</i>
	<i>Mr. Roberts</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>no</i>
	<i>Mayor Jordan</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>yes</i>

*Council moved into executive session at 10:15 p.m.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Cindy Murray  
City Clerk*