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Submit Comments - Commissioners' Public Comment Sessions

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Comment

208 Washington Avenue, the Winkler House Thank you for this opportunity to comment about the proposed destruction of the Winkler House in La Plata. I am putting forward a few ideas regarding how this home might have been preserved without any impact on the library or the extension of East Talbot Street. 208 Washington Avenue, the Winkler House, has not only structural integrity but the interior spaces retain a high level of their original finishes, moldings, and layout. On what would become a prominent corner of East Talbot Street and Washington Avenue 208 could easily become a visitor center for not only the town of La Plata but also for Charles County and Southern Maryland. The lot has ample size for limited parking. The interior spaces once restored could provide room for visitor/tourist information as well as panels highlighting La Plata and Charles County history, space could be devoted to county groups such as the African American Heritage Society, Charles County Historical Society, and the Southern Maryland National Heritage Area. There are many specimen trees on the grounds and preserving the house and grounds retains the setting for The Hermitage, enhances the La Plata Historic District, and provides one more important aspect to the goal of having a walkable town. Grant funding is available for all these initiatives. Its proximity to the new library would also be a positive aspect as visitors could easily walk along the new East Talbot Street. In conclusion this is a rare opportunity for La Plata to set an example for not only Charles County but Southern Maryland by being creative with adaptive reuse of one of its landmark buildings while still achieving the goal of having a new library in town. The project would garner positive public

attention in its commitment to innovation, preservation, and retaining a human scale in town planning all the while looking to the future while honoring the past. Thank you. Franklin A. Robinson, Jr. Chair, CCHPC

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Thank you,
Charles County, MD

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