

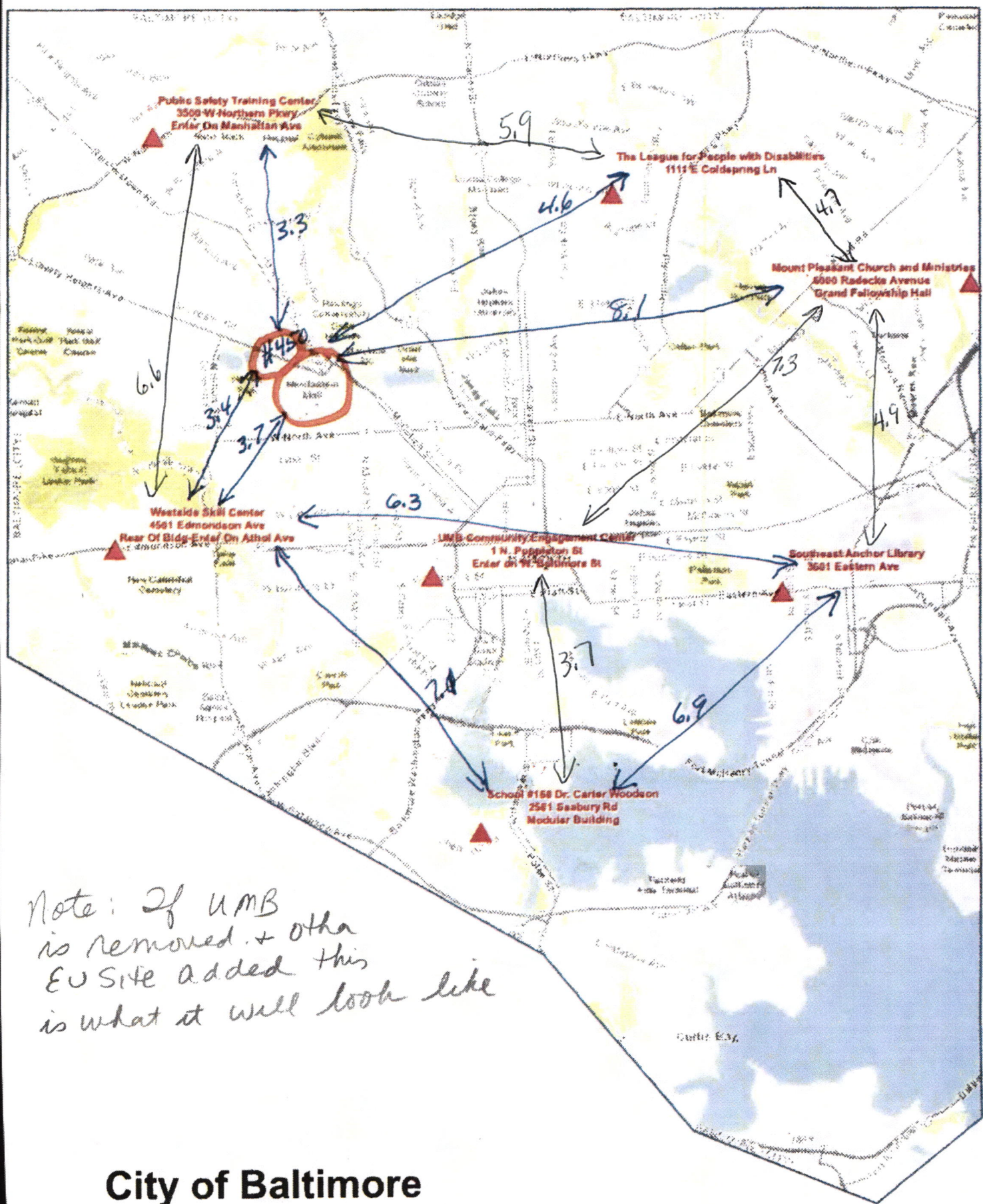
**Report of Baltimore City Board of Elections to Judiciary Committee
Council Bill 19-0167R – Creating Another Early Voting Polling Place in West Baltimore**

At its meeting on September 19, 2019, the Baltimore City Board of Elections considered a request from Senator Antonio Hayes for a new early voting center to serve voters in the 40th legislative district. By email earlier that day, Senator Hayes suggested five possible sites: Frederick Douglass High School, Coppin State University, Mondawmin Mall, Parks and People Foundation, and Kappa Youth and Community Center. After discussing it at some length, the Board members reached a consensus decision to maintain the seven early voting centers currently in use: Westside Skill Center, Public Safety Training Center, The League for People with Disabilities, Patapsco Elementary School, and UMB Community Engagement Center. The UMB Community Engagement Center is located in the 40th legislative district.

The Board members reached their decision based on several factors. First, the Board members discussed the geography of early voting sites. Because voters can go to any site during early voting, early voting centers are located so that there is coverage of the entire city as opposed to proximity to each legislative district. Currently, voters can get from any early voting center to the next within a roughly 5-mile radius. If the Board did not use the UMB Community Engagement Center as an early voting center, for example, it would create a gap in coverage of the city center. As for creating another early voting polling place, data from the State Board of Elections shows that 47,460 people (roughly 12% of eligible active voters) used an early voting center during the 2018 general election.

Second, the Board members discussed the practical challenges of approving a new early voting site at the time. Under COMAR 33.17.02.02, the Board must submit a form for each proposed early voting center to the State Board of Elections no later than September 30, 2019. Meeting this deadline requires more than the submission of a form, however; it requires staff to assemble additional information about each suggested site to demonstrate that it satisfies all technical and accessibility requirements, so that the Board can then address the site's adequacy and approve it for submission to the State Board. Senator Hayes' email request was submitted to the Board's Election Director on the same day as the Board's monthly meeting and did not independently contain information that would enable the Board to fairly consider the request without investigation. The Board concluded that it was infeasible to complete that process by the deadline.

On September 23, 2019, following the Board's vote, the City Council introduced its resolution endorsing the creation of another early voting polling place in West Baltimore. As a result of this (and similar action taken by the Montgomery County Council), the State Board of Elections convened an emergency meeting on October 8, 2019, to decide whether to ask the local boards of elections to identify a possible location for an additional early voting center as authorized by State law. *See* Md. Code Ann., Election Law § 10-301.1(b)(7). That law allows for the establishment of one additional early voting center "if the State Board, in collaboration with the local board, and the governing body of [Baltimore City] agree to establish an additional early voting center." *Id.* The State Board considered that the local board had not received additional funding from Baltimore City to establish an additional early voting center and that the local board voted unanimously to maintain its current sites. In the absence of a motion from any of its members, the State Board would not consider the matter further.



Note: If UMB is removed + otha EU Site added this is what it will look like

City of Baltimore Early Voting Sites 2018