

Jim and Janet Irvin retire after 75 years of collective public service

Howard County's Department of Public Works (DPW) Director Jim Irvin and his wife, Finance Director Janet Irvin, this week announced their retirement effective June 30, 2020, after 75 years of collective public service. Jim Director is a long-time supporter of public works in Maryland and across the mid-Atlantic region.



Jim and Janet Irvin with former Howard County Executive Allan Kittleman in 2015.

Jim Irvin has worked for Howard County since 1975 and has served as the director of DPW since 1989. Janet Irvin has served as the director of Finance since January 2018. Her 30+ years of public service include 20 years with Howard County Government and the Howard County Public School System.

“Janet and Jim are the definitions of public servants, and their expertise and presence will be sorely missed in Howard County,” said County Executive Calvin Ball. “The strength of a good leader is longevity, any organization is stronger when they have stability at the top, and for the DPW Jim has been that stability. For 45 years, Jim Irvin has dedicated his life to serving the residents and making sure Howard County’s public works infrastructure is robust and reliable.”

As director of DPW, Jim Irvin was instrumental in bringing single-stream recycling to the County, which led to a major increase in recycling participation rates. Additionally, Jim provided leadership in overseeing emergency response operations during several major weather events including blizzards, snowstorms, floods, earthquakes, hurricanes, derecho, and a train

derailment in Ellicott City. He has been a critical member of the County's emergency response and recovery efforts, including the 2016 and 2018 Ellicott City floods.

"The years of service to the citizens of Howard County have been an honor and privilege," said Jim Irvin. "I would like to thank all the county executives that have afforded me this great opportunity. Most importantly, I would like to acknowledge and thank the many dedicated, hardworking, and professional employees in the Department of Public Works who made Howard County a better place to live and work."

Article and photo is provided courtesy of Kevin Kinnally, Maryland Association of Counties, published June 9, 2020