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DELEGATE WARREN E. MILLER
DELEGATE SHANE PENDERGRASS
DELEGATE FRANK S. TURNER

THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401
HOWARD COUNTY DELEGATION

September 22, 2016

STATEMENT BY THE HOWARD COUNTY DELEGATION

We are appalled and deeply disturbed by the findings of the investigation into the Howard County Sheriff's Office by the Howard County Office of Human Rights. The report details truly unacceptable and intolerable behavior by Sheriff James Fitzgerald. These findings are especially upsetting at a time when we face a national crisis of confidence in law enforcement's relationship with minority communities.

This investigation concludes that Sheriff Fitzgerald has, through his words and actions, created an environment in the Sheriff's Office where racism, bigotry and intolerance are accepted and promoted. This behavior fails to keep faith with the values of our Howard County community. Howard County is great because of our incredible diversity and because we deeply believe that every single one of us deserves to be treated with dignity and respect.

In light of these findings we believe that Mr. Fitzgerald has created an untenable environment in his office and no longer has the trust of the people to complete his term. We strongly condemn Sheriff's Fitzgerald's words and actions and call on him to resign immediately.

Guy Guzzone, Senate Delegation Chair
Vanessa Atterbeary, House Delegation Chair
Gail H. Bates, Senator
Edward J. Kasemeyer, Senator
Eric Ebersole, Delegate
Terri L. Hill, Delegate
Trent Kittleman, Delegate
Clarence K. Lam, Delegate
Warren E. Miller, Delegate
Shane Pendergrass, Delegate
Frank S. Turner, Delegate

Robert L. Flanagan was unable to be reached at time of printing.