



DEB'S DISTRICT UPDATE

Deb Jung • District Four

November-December 2022

Greetings & Happy Holidays

As an ode to holiday letters, my salutation this month is a year in review from a personal view. I am excited to begin a second term as the District 4 Councilmember and I am grateful for the support of my constituents.

First a shout out to all the wonderful female leaders who retired this year: Barb Nicklas, Columbia Mall Manager; Stacie Hunt, Executive Director of Howard County Leadership; Kate Hetherington, President of Howard County Community College; Rabbi Grossman, leader of Beth Shalom congregation; and Bitá Dayhoff, Executive Director of the Community Action Council. Howard County will miss your capable and experienced leadership.

I also want to recognize a few of our nonprofits. I attended dozens of events from beautiful concerts at the Chrysalis and St. Louis Church to fundraisers for Bright Minds and the ARC of Howard County. We are fortunate to have so many organizations serving our community.

Education was also a focus for me in 2022. I attended the graduation ceremonies for the four high schools in District 4 and the Community College. The virtual versions of the Simulated Congressional Hearings were challenging but there were still highlights. And it was a pleasure to fully fund the School District's budget request this year!

On the legislative front, I focused on a State bill introduced by Senator Lam and Delegate Hill to improve citizen input on airplane noise and continued to represent Howard County on the BWI Roundtable. We are making progress, but it is slow. I was successful in revising the Citizens' Election Fund (CEF) to ensure timely distributions and I sponsored a bill to address APFO waivers that allow our schools to become overcrowded.

In all it was a busy year. I hope you and your families stay safe and healthy.

Deb

Council Updates

All five current Councilmembers won their 2022 elections and were installed into office for another four-year term on December 5. The following Councilmembers will serve in the following leadership positions for 2023:

- Council Chair: Christiana Rigby, District 3; Vice Chair: Deb Jung, District 4

- Zoning Board Chair: Liz Walsh, District 1; Vice Chair: Dr. Opel Jones, District 2
- Board of License Commissioner Chair: David Yungmann, District 5; Vice Chair: Dr. Opel Jones, District 2
- MACo/NACo Representative: Deb Jung; Alternate: David Yungmann



Addressing the crowd at the Installation Ceremony.

Upcoming Council Meetings



January 3, 7pm — Legislative Session
January 9, 9:30am — Monthly Meeting
January 17, 7pm — Public Hearing
January 23, 9:30am — Work Session
February 6, 7pm — Legislative Session

Zoning Board Updates

Rules Rewrite On November 17, the consultants reviewing the Zoning Board's Rules of Procedure presented their recommendations to the public for comment. Redlined revisions can be found [here](#).

Subscribe to my newsletter [here](#).

General Assembly

2023 Session

The General Assembly will convene for its 2023 session on January 11. Other key dates include:

- February 2: Senate bill introduction
- February 10: House bill introduction
- March 20: Opposite chamber bill crossover
- April 10: Adjournment (Sine Die)

The two chambers are still finalizing public hearing procedures, including deadlines and in-person and/or virtual appearances. Stay tuned for more.

This is the first year in the history of the State legislature that the General Assembly will have the authority to move money around in the Governor's proposed budget. Previously, the General Assembly only had the ability to cut but not to reassign funds.



Howard County's Christmas tree in hallway of the State House.

Howard County Delegation Local Bills & Bond Initiatives

The Howard County Delegation has filed its 2023 Local Bills and Bond Initiatives. Click [here](#) for more.

Noteworthy bills include:

HoCo 10-23 Board of Education Membership Alterations: Sponsored by Delegation Chairs Senator Clarence Lam and Delegate Courtney Watson, this bill would alter the selection process of Board of Education (BOE) Members from an elected board to a hybrid board (partly elected and appointed). The original bill would have transferred the two at-large BOE positions from being popularly elected to being appointed by the County Executive and realigned the BOE districts from the current Councilmanic districts to the State Senatorial districts.

The bill sponsors have issued a public statement outlining the following amendments:

- Retain the current structure of seven elected BOE members. Add two appointed members.
- A nominating commission will make recommendations selected by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council.

General Assembly

- Establish a compensation review commission to make salary recommendations for BOE members.
- Introduce a bill to allow BOE candidates to use Citizens' Election Funds.

I testified against the bill at the public hearing held on December 12. I also spoke out against the bill at the rally that preceded the hearing. Click [here](#) for the *Baltimore Sun* article covering the rally. My written testimony is below.



Howard County Council

George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043-4392

Deb Jung
Councilmember

District 4

December 12

Dear Members of the Howard County Delegation:

I am here tonight to engage in the public discussion on HoCo 10-23, which would alter the composition of the Board of Education (BOE) from an entirely elected membership to a partially appointed body.

In Maryland, 19 of the 24 local boards of education are comprised entirely of locally elected members. The remaining five Counties have a hybrid system of appointed and elected members with the majority of appointments selected by the Governor. Only Prince Georges County and Baltimore City have Boards with appointments made by the County Executive and the Mayor, respectively.

The trend in the State has been to move away from appointed membership. Anne Arundel began transitioning to an all elected board in 2018. Baltimore County introduced a majority elected board that same year. Baltimore City just elected two at-large members in the most recent election. Prince George's County adopted appointed members in 2013 but has taken legislative steps to transition back to an all elected board after a controversy involving a discredited ethics probe.

(continued on the next page)

General Assembly

Howard County residents voted in 1972 to change from an appointed school board to an elected one. The first members were elected in the 1974 election. Howard County Board of Election director Guy Mickley said he knew of no governing body in the county that has gone from being elected to appointed. Most recently, the Howard County BOE switched to districtwide representation for five of its members. Many members of the Delegation here tonight voted in favor of this adjustment that now provides each Councilmanic district with an elected school board member.

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) remains clear in their opposition to bills granting initial board appointment authority to local county governments. MABE's 2022 Legislative Positions states the following, "Because local boards are fiscally dependent on local governments, it is appropriate that local boards remain an independent voice for the school system and that a "check-and-balance" relationship continues between local boards and their respective local governments."

I agree with the MABE that elected bodies ensure more independence. If the Delegation is seeking to make adjustments to the local BOE, I strongly urge the following:

- Allow BOE members access to Citizens' Election Funds so that it is financially feasible to run a campaign, especially for at-large seats.
- Pay BOE members a salary so that the time commitment is commensurate with the compensation.
- Budget for staff for BOE members so that they can respond to constituents, prepare for meetings, and be informed about the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.
- People are also discouraged from running for Board of Education positions because they have observed members of the public disparage, make threats, and infringe upon the privacy of elected Board members. This behavior must stop if we believe in the importance of an elected Board.

To the Delegation, I ask that you continue the current membership selection process as an all-elected board and augment the elected Board's ability to carry out its duties with increased resources.

Other Noteworthy Bills

- HoCo 7-23 Candidates for Village Board or Columbia Council in a Village of Columbia—Reports of Donations and Disbursements (Delegate Terrasa)
- HoCo 14-23 Public Campaign Financing (Senator Lam & Delegate Watson) for BOE candidates.
- HoCo 15-23 Archery Hunting—Safety Zone (Senator Hester) Reduce the safety zone for archery hunting.

County Updates

HoCo By Design

The draft recommendations for the General Plan, HoCo By Design is now complete and will be submitted to the County Council in March 2023. Public input is open until January 16. Click [here](#) for more.

A few highlights include the following housing recommendations:

- Establish a new mixed-density and mixed-use zoning district that encourages diverse housing types.
- Provide provisions for Accessory Dwelling Units, both attached and detached.
- Expand the Moderate Income Housing Unit requirements in areas with fewer affordable options.
- Add duplex and multiplex housing types in more zoning districts.
- Ensure bulk regulations support diversification of housing types.
- Expand housing types allowed in the Zoning regulations to include stacked town-

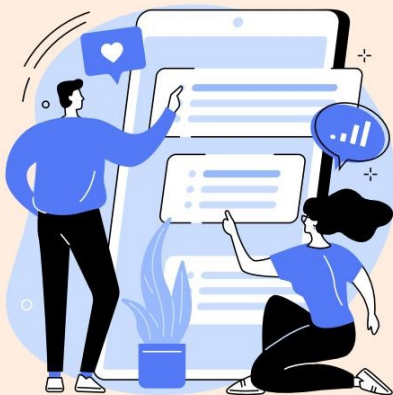
homes, cottage clusters, multiplexes with appropriate parking requirements.

- Evaluate lot sizes, tax incentives, density bonuses, and overlay zones to encourage missing middle housing.
- Disperse missing middle housing throughout the County.

Zoning Regulation Amendments Website

Zoning Regulation Amendments (ZRA) are now available to the public. ZRAs are legislative acts that change the text regulations dealing with zoning. ZRA petitions are initially submitted to the Department of Planning & Zoning, reviewed by the Planning Board, and are then filed as bills to be voted on by the Council after the Planning Board's final decision. ZRAs differ from Zoning Board cases in that they do not change the County map that assigns Zoning Districts to specific parcels. Click [here](#) for more.

KEY NEXT STEPS



- **The Plan is open for public comment!** Read the Plan and share your input in the General Plan Comment Form, now through January 16, 2023, at HoCoByDesign.com.
- The Plan is reviewed at the Planning Board in February 2023.
- The Plan is presented to the County Council for adoption in March 2023.

County Updates

Design Advisory Panel Members

Deadline December 30

Architects, landscape architects, and urban planners are invited to apply for consideration on the advisory panel that reviews plans that have design guidelines. Click [here](#) for more.

Historic Preservation

Commission Members

Deadline December 30

Property owners and residents from Howard County's two historic districts, Ellicott City and Lawyers Hill, are strongly encouraged to apply. Click [here](#) for more.

Climate Action & Resiliency Plan

Howard County has released its draft climate action plan. Public input is being collected through January 12. Click [here](#) for more.

DPZ Notify

Stay updated on public information meetings and hearings through the Department of Planning & Zoning's new one-stop announcement program. Click [here](#) for more.

Bright Passage Stormwater Management Project

The Departments of Public Works and Recreation & Parks will remove the undermined pedestrian bridge behind 11856 Bright Passage. The bridge will be replaced with a new culvert and pathway over the culvert. The project will

also stabilize the eroded storm drain channel in the area and is funded through the County's Watershed Protection and Restoration Fund.

Spending Affordability Advisory Committee (SAAC)

The County Executive has named the members that will serve on the FY2024 SAAC, which reviews the County's budget and revenue, economic trends, long-term forecast and debt projections. Click [here](#) for more.

2023 Listening Sessions

The County Executive will be holding the following public listening sessions:

January 9, 7pm — Bain 50+ Center

January 12, 7pm — North Laurel Community Center

January 13, 11am — Elkridge Library

January 19, 7pm — River Hill High School

January 25, 7pm — Ellicott City 50+ Center

January 27, 1pm — Gary J. Arthur Community Center

January 30, 7pm — Harriet Tubman Cultural Center

February 1, 7pm — Long Reach High School

Holiday Closings

Howard County Government will be closed on December 23 and 26.

Click [here](#) for more.



School Updates

School Start Times

HCPSS is planning to shift school start times under the School Start Time (SST) program. The following recommendations were made to the BOE for the 2023/24 school year:

- 8am: high schools and six middle schools
- 8:40am: remaining middle schools and 14 elementary schools
- 9:15am: remaining elementary schools

HCPSS is confident that SST can be made without adding buses. The BOE will review the implementation plan. Click [here](#) for more.

For many years, I have advocated for later school start times for high schoolers. Later start times better sync school schedules with teenagers' sleep patterns. Research shows that teenagers who start their school day at 9am or later outperform their peers who have earlier school starts. I want our high schoolers to be the best they can be.

Key Dates:

January 17 & 26: SST Public hearings

January 19 & February 15: SST Work sessions

How many hours of Z's are enough?

AGE	HOURS OF SLEEP
4-12 MONTHS	12-16*
1-2 YEARS	11-14*
3-5 YEARS	10-13*
6-12 YEARS	9-12
13-18 YEARS	8-10

* INCLUDING NAPS

Source: *Recommended Amount of Sleep for Pediatric Populations*, American Academy of Sleep Medicine



School Updates

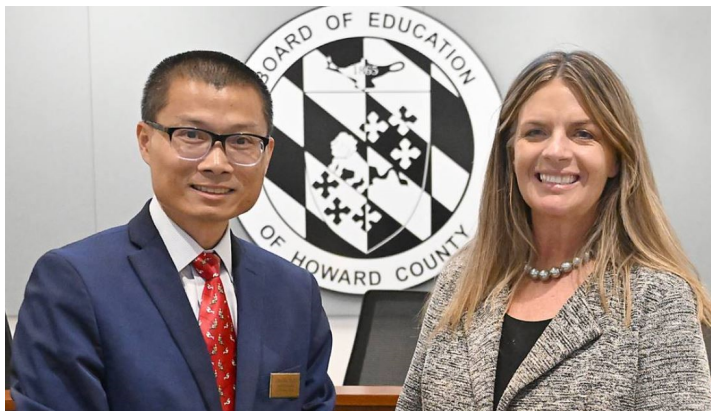
BOE Coffee & Conversation

January 7, 9:30-11am

The BOE is holding their next Coffee & Conversation with the public at Mayfield Woods Middle School. RSVP at boardoffice@hcpss.org.

BOE Members

Thank you to outgoing members Dr. Chao Wu and Vicky Cutroneo for their service on the BOE. Welcome to newly elected at-large members Jacky McCoy and Dr. Linfeng Chen. The Board elected Antonia Watts as Board Chair and Dr. Yun Lu as the Board Vice Chair.



High School #13 Naming Committee

The committee tasked with proposing a name for High School #13 in accordance with Policy 6050 recommended Quarry Heights High School. The BOE held a public hearing on the school name on December 15. The final vote will be January 12.

FY2024 CAPITAL BUDGET

Click [here](#) for more.



Apply Now!

Click [here](#) for more.

HCPSS is hiring for school- and office-based positions. Details on current openings and links to apply are available online.

Apply for JROTC

Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC) programs are offered at Atholton (Army), Howard (Army) and Oakland Mills (Air Force) high schools. Each JROTC program provides an introduction to career opportunities in the United States Armed Forces and teaches principles of leadership, discipline and civic responsibility.

Any student who wishes to participate in JROTC but does not attend one of the schools that offers the program may apply for participation. To apply for participation for the 2023-2024 school year, students must contact a JROTC official before January 3 to schedule an interview. Click [here](#) for more.



Keeping up with Deb



Columbia Cricket & Sports Complex Grand Opening



St. Louis Church Concert Series



Tai Chi Health Center

Lakefront Building

Community Updates

River Hill Post Office

The Post Office in River Hill Square is now open and ready to serve the public.

COVID Tests

The Federal government will supply requesting households with free at-home COVID tests. Click [here](#) for more.

Welcome CAC Early Childhood Education Director

Erin Adelsberger has been named the new Director of the Community Action Council's Early Childhood Education, which runs Head Start and Pre-K for income-eligible households as well as before- and after-care programs. Click [here](#) for more.



Community Updates



Season of Giving

Consider a small donation to these non profits helping others in our community.

Community Action Council (CAC): This longstanding non-profit runs the County's Food Bank and rent and utility assistance. Click [here](#) for more.

Food Drive at The Columbia Mall: Bring non-perishable food to the drop-off location at The Carousel entrance on the second level of The Mall. All items benefit Grassroots crisis intervention center and shelter.

Howard County Center of African American Culture: Assist this local museum preserve and tell the story of African Americans in Howard County. Click [here](#) for more.

Animal Welfare Society of Howard County: This center rescues animals from euthanasia and rehomes them. They also offer low-cost vaccine clinics. Click [here](#) for more.

NeighborRide: Volunteer drivers deliver older

residents to doctors' appointments, shopping, church and social outings. Click [here](#) for more.

The Village in Howard: This organization provides social activities and other assistance for seniors to age in place. Click [here](#) for more.

Rebuilding Together: Home repairs and other modifications keep low-income residents in their homes. Click [here](#) for more.

Bridges to Housing Stability: Monetary donations starting at \$25 can help struggling families secure stable housing. Click [here](#) for more.

Blessings in a Backpack: LindaBen Foundation runs this food-access program for school children. Click [here](#) for more.

CEI/Freetown Farm: Support community farming and nutrition efforts. Click [here](#) for more.

Columbia Community Cares: Food and personal care pantry. Click [here](#) for more.

Community Updates

MLK Day of Service

Watershed Makeover: Howard EcoWorks will be working on beautification and improvements on local streams and waterways. Click [here](#) for more.

Howard County Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission



GOT TALENT?

**STUDENT PERFORMERS WANTED FOR
JANUARY 15, 2023 LIVE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HOLIDAY CELEBRATION!**

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission seeks students ages 8 to 18 to perform in our annual in-person celebration program that features emcees, musicians, dancers singers and spoken word artists.

Submit a three minute video of your performance that reflects Dr. King's commitment to service, peace and justice.

Selected performers will be notified by December 15th, 2022 and must attend virtual and live rehearsals.

Videos and signed permission slip must be submitted via email, or be hand delivered by 5:00 PM EST December 1, 2022.

Email: MLK@howardcountymd.gov
Address: Howard County Office of Human Rights & Equity
ATTN: MLK Celebration Audition
9820 Patuxent Woods Dr. Suite 237
Columbia, MD 21046

For More Information:
Call (410) 313-6430 or
Email MLK@howardcountymd.gov



The "I Can, I Will Create Peace" Workshop

Click [here](#) for more.

“Peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek, but a means by which we arrive at that goal.”

Martin Luther King Jr.

Monday, January 16, 2023

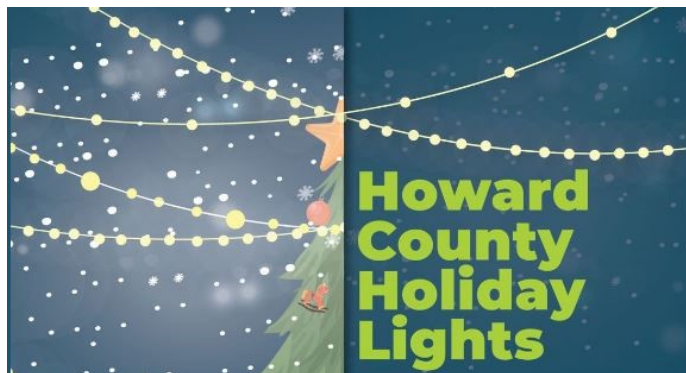
2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Appropriate for ages 8+



Living the Dream MLK Day of Service Celebration

Upcoming Events



U.S. Army Blues Swamp Romp

February 17, 7.30pm St. Louis Church

Click [here](#) for more.

Mardi Gras-music from the U.S. Army Band is the next performance in St. Louis Church's exceptional concert series.

Holiday Light Displays

Explore the many colorful light displays in the neighborhoods and business areas to celebrate the season. Click [here](#) for more.



Public Menorah Lighting

Public menorahs throughout Howard County will be lit on each day of Hanukkah. A finale celebration will occur at Merriweather's Color Burst Park. Click [here](#) for more.



LUNAR NEW YEAR

YEAR OF THE RABBIT

 Calvin Ball
County Executive

Saturday, January 21st, 2023 | 1PM - 3PM



The Mall in Columbia
10300 Little Patuxent Pkwy, Columbia, MD 21044
Lower level center court

Upcoming Events

New Year's Eve in Columbia



2022 *New Year's Eve*
PEACE PARTY

WITH CO-HOSTS

Gina Dent	Angela Davis	D. Watkins
Dave Zirin	Sonia Sanchez	LaTosha Brown
Konda Mason	Ibram X. Kendi	Amy Goodman
Medea Benjamin	Michael Eric Dyson	AND MORE!

EAT | DRINK | DANCE **FRIDAY DEC 31**

for tickets visit busboysandpoets.com/peaceparty

BUSBOYS AND POETS

Symphony of Lights: Fireworks & Walk Through

December 31 , 7pm

Click [here](#) for more.

