



# DEB'S DISTRICT UPDATE

## Deb Jung • District Four

President Biden and Vice President Harris will prioritize bringing the country together. As Amanda Gordon said in this excerpt from her poem on Inauguration Day:

...And yes we are far from polished  
far from pristine  
but that doesn't mean we are  
striving to form a union that is perfect  
We are striving to forge a union with purpose  
To compose a country committed to all cultures, colors, characters and  
conditions of man  
And so we lift our gazes not to what stands between us  
but what stands before us  
We close the divide because we know, to put our future first...

I look forward to the promised 100,000,000 vaccines in 100 days. I know you are frustrated at the slow pace of vaccination distribution. I have received many emails about this concern and I continue to advocate for clear and consistent communication to our County residents. I was assured on Monday in our weekly COVID-response call that the County is getting every vial of vaccine that we receive into the arms of those who have signed up. Priority group 1A has been completed and group 1B has begun. The State is receiving 75,000 doses per week from the Federal government and is distributing them to Health Departments in all 23 counties and Baltimore City, pharmacists responsible for vaccinations in nursing homes and assisted living facilities, and hospitals. The County has received a total of 10,500 vials of vaccine in the past four weeks. The bottom line is that demand currently outpaces supply but I'm confident that supply will soon improve.

I want to thank you all for doing the right thing to keep yourself and others COVID free. Every time I go to a grocery store or run an errand, I am heartened to see everyone wearing their masks and maintaining social distances. Because of your diligent efforts, Howard County continues to have one of the lowest COVID infection rates in the State. Hang in there, the light is beginning to appear at the end of the tunnel.

*Deb*

# 2020 Legislation in Review

## School Funding & Capacity

- Eliminated rollovers of housing unit allocations to help prevent school overcrowding (CB14).
- Testified in front of BOE for inclusion of a West Columbia school (ES #44) in HCPSS's Long-Range Capital Program (CR151).
- Included BOE members on the General Plan's Planning Advisory Committee (CR110).
- Supported the removal of Turf Valley's APFO exemption to alleviate overcrowding in the zoned schools (CB56).
- Voted against legislation that would allow increased residential density in elementary school districts that are facing unsustainable enrollment growth (CR89).
- As Chair, scheduled a special APFO session per the Howard County Code to review school capacity issues when a school region has reached 95% capacity utilization.
- Voted for an alteration of the number of years (from four to seven) a project must be re-tested for school capacity under Adequate Public Facilities Act (CB1).
- Supported increased revenues for school Capital projects (CR84).



## Good Governance

- Required the County Executive to submit fiscal analysis on submitted bills in an effort to provide accurate information for collaborative legislative decision-making (CB55).
- Amended the Howard County Charter to enable the Redistricting Commission to commence their work (CB93).
- Proposed a Charter amendment to require the County Auditor to attend the annual credit rating meetings to ensure fiscal representation by the Legislative branch (CR97).
- Proposed a Charter amendment to allow the County Council to appropriate funds to Capital projects and departments (CR101).
- Required an in-depth review of the proposed New Cultural Center that resulted in a better defined, more financially viable public investment (TAO1-2021).
- Voted for a balanced FY2021 Budget that reduced proposed tax increases and avoided maxing out our County's borrowing capacity during uncertain fiscal times.



# 2020 Legislation in Review

## Environmental Protections

- Required commercial and government buildings to use LEED standards to reduce bird strikes on reflective and translucent glass (CB11).
- Amended the Department of Planning and Zoning's Technical Staff Reports to include analysis of environmental policy goals of the General Plan for Zoning Regulation Amendments (CB57).
- Proposed an amendment to protect easement setbacks and inform property owners in writing of variance petitions involving easements (CB9).



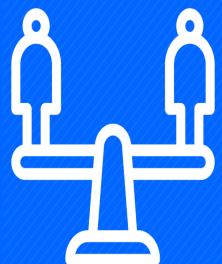
## Housing & Transportation

- Prevented evictions and rent increases during the COVID-19 health and economic crises (CB33).
- Amended the electric scooter agreement to ensure a safe and accessible program in Downtown Columbia (CB37).
- Added an amendment to preserve a permanent multi-modal path through the Columbia Flier Building property that connects to the Wilde Lake Village Center (CR174).



## Racial, Economic, & Immigrant Justice

- Voted to end the Howard County Detention Center's contract with ICE in an effort to protect our County's congregant community from increased exposure to COVID-19 (CB51, *vetoed by the County Executive*).
- Supported a Racial Equity Task Force to analyze legislative processes and decisions through a racial justice lens (CR142).
- Supported the "Fight for \$15" resolution urging State legislators to support the phase-in of a state-wide minimum wage (CR143).
- Voted in favor of the Liberty Act (CB63).
- Voted against the extension of the Development Rights & Responsibilities agreement between Camilla and Philip Carroll. The original agreement is an example of exclusionary zoning that prevents housing diversity in the area (CR107).



# County Council Updates

The Council's last Legislative Session of 2020 occurred on December 6. No new legislation was introduced due to the December recess.

## JANUARY-FEBRUARY LEGISLATION

The following pre-filed bills were introduced on January 4 and will be voted on February 1.

### Councilmember's Legislation

**CB9** Repeals the prohibition on installation of multi-used sewerage systems; introduced by David Yungmann.

**CR15** Appoints members of the Councilmanic Redistricting Commission; introduced by the Council Chair.

### County Executive's Legislation

**CR12** Adopts a new Forest Conservation Manual.

**CB1** Requires private animal shelters to apply for a license with the County and subjects such facilities to violation fines.

**CB4** Changes the deadline for the County Auditor's fiscal analysis of current legislation to match the County Executive's deadline. Presently the County Executive is required to submit a fiscal analysis of his proposed legislation upon bill filing and the County Auditor reviews all filed bills with a corresponding analysis due on or before 5pm on the Thursday before the public hearing.

### Zoning Regulation Amendments

**CB7** (ZRA 192, Annapolis Junction Town Center) Allows structures within 750 feet of a MARC station to exceed 100 feet in height up to a maximum of 180 feet in a Transit Oriented District.

**CB8** (ZRA 193, Blue Stream) Allows Corridor Activity Center (CAC) properties to reduce the required commercial square footage below 20 square feet per dwelling.

While the Council meetings continue to be virtual, we are here for you.  
Please reach out to us at 410-313-2001 or [djung@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:djung@howardcountymd.gov).



### UPCOMING COUNCIL SCHEDULE

February 1—Legislative Session—7pm  
February 3—Monthly Meeting—1pm  
February 15—County Offices Closed (Presidents' Day)  
February 16—Legislative Public Hearing

Council Legislation: Click [here](#).

Subscribe to my newsletter [here](#)

# TA01 New Cultural Center



At the January 4 Legislative Session, TAO1 (funding for the New Cultural Center “NCC”) was removed from the table for a vote. It passed by a 3-1 vote with one abstention. I cast the abstaining vote. Below are the reasons for my abstention.

The NCC was originally to be financed by the private sector, but under the FY2021 Budget proposed to use General Obligation (GO) bonds that could otherwise finance necessary school, road, and other infrastructure projects. These are my priorities when it comes to allocating scarce capital funds. Yet, I realized there was merit in this type of investment, as well as a need for more affordable housing. Thus, Councilmember Yungmann and I sponsored an amendment last spring to the FY2021 Budget to place the requested funding into a contingency fund to allow the Council to fully examine the financing, budget, and programmatic aspects of the proposal.

We spent months conducting due diligence and exploring financing models that would minimize the impact on our debt obligations. The pandemic made it very clear that the County should mitigate business risk should

the proposed anchor tenants, Toby’s Dinner Theatre and its non-profit CCTA, not be able to meet their financial projections. Analysis of the project was complicated by an unwillingness of certain parties to share documents. Moreover, I learned that members of the CCTA Board included members that were affiliated with entities that would benefit financially from this project and that this project will require the County to enter into an after-the-fact sole source contract.

Nonetheless, I wanted to get to yes. David Yungmann and I drafted a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to deal with governance, escrow of funds for the furnishing and fit-out of the dinner theater, security deposits, and similar provisions to protect the County. Two days prior to the vote, I received a significantly revised MOU and was told by the administration that no further changes could be made. The revised MOU forced the County to turn over any State money it received to pay for all of the fixtures in the privately owned theatres and accessory commercial kitchen, as well as pay for the security deposit owed under the CCTA/Toby lease. There were numerous other revisions I found concerning. Given that I was informed no changes could be made, I abstained from voting. I noted that my abstention reflected my concern with the NCC, yet I did not vote no because the project provided much needed affordable housing.

# General Assembly 2021

## 2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The 442nd session of the Maryland General Assembly convened in Annapolis, Maryland, on January 13 and will be in session through April 12. Due to COVID-19 social-distancing restrictions, hearings will be streamed via YouTube. Witnesses giving oral testimony will participate through Zoom. Participants will receive a Zoom link, and login into a virtual waiting room prior to be elevated to testify. Witness should close their YouTube window when they've been admitted to avoid audio feedback.

Senate YouTube Links: [Budget & Taxation](#) | [Education, Health & Environment Affairs](#) | [Finance](#) | [Judicial Proceedings](#)

House YouTube Links: [Appropriations](#) | [Economic Matters](#) | [Environment & Transportation](#) | [Health & Government Operations](#) | [Judiciary](#) | [Ways & Means](#)

## STAY UP TO DATE ON COUNTY NEWS AND POLICY:



**WEBSITE:** [www.mdcounties.org](http://www.mdcounties.org)

**BLOG:** *Conduit Street* (<http://conduitstreet.mdcounties.org>)

**e-NEWSLETTER:** *This Week on Conduit Street* ([avalliant@mdcounties.org](mailto:avalliant@mdcounties.org) to subscribe)

**TWITTER:** @MDCounties (<https://twitter.com/MDCounties>)

**FACEBOOK:** [www.mdcounties.org/Facebook](http://www.mdcounties.org/Facebook)

**PODCAST:** [www.mdcounties.org/Podcast](http://www.mdcounties.org/Podcast)

**PLEASE NOTE:** MACo has provided this information, but it is subject to change at any moment.

Please always check the individual committee witness guidelines on the [MGA website](#) for the most updated policies and procedures.

### Bill Hearing Timeline

	<u>Monday</u> <u>Hearing</u>	<u>Tuesday</u> <u>Hearing</u>	<u>Wednesday</u> <u>Hearing</u>	<u>Thursday</u> <u>Hearing</u>	<u>Friday</u> <u>Hearing</u>
<b>Witnesses from Sponsor</b>	Wednesday @ 5PM	Thursday @ 5PM	Friday @ 5PM	Monday @ 5PM	Tuesday @ 5PM
<b>Witness &amp; Testimony Sign up</b>	Thursday from 10AM - 3PM	Friday from 10AM - 3PM	Monday from 10AM - 3PM	Tuesday from 10AM - 3PM	Wednesday from 10AM - 3PM
<b>Signup Link Sent/Witnesses Finalized</b>	Friday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday

# Racial Equity Taskforce

The County Council-sponsored taskforce is divided into six subgroups, all of which held their first meetings in December. Meetings have been recorded and are available online.

Click [here](#) for more.

## Upcoming Meeting Dates

Date & Time	Subgroup
January 27, 6pm	Public Health and Environmental Policy
February 8, 4pm	Legislative Process
February 8, 5pm	Education
February 9, 4pm	Land Use and Housing Policy
February 10, 6pm	Economic and Workforce Development
February 11, 5pm	Personal and Public Safety
February 17, 6pm	Public Health and Environmental Policy



With the 2021 theme “The Black Family: Representation, Identity, and Diversity,” Black History Month returns to its foundation with an emphasis on Black family ties. This focus seeks to explore the many forms that family can take, and the importance of those bonds.

Check out the Howard County Center for African American Culture for information on events near you. Click [here](#) for more.

The Howard County Library System is offering Forgotten Stories: Middle School Books for Black History Month. Click [here](#) for more.

# Howard County COVID Updates

The Health Department is requesting that all Howard County residents age 75 and older who want to be vaccinated provide their contact information via this [questionnaire](#). Every eligible individual who completes this survey will be added to a contact list and receive a separate email with appointment and registration information in the next 10 days.

After two weeks prioritizing those most vulnerable adults age 75 and older, the Health Department will open up vaccinations to Howard County residents ages 65-74. Howard County residents ages 65-74 who wish to join a separate contact list for Phase 1C vaccine availability should complete this [survey](#).

Those who are unable to complete the survey online can also email [HoCovaccine@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:HoCovaccine@howardcountymd.gov) or call 410-313-1234 for assistance.

Click [here](#) for more.

## CDC VACCINATION PHASES



\*1A CURRENT PHASE

\*1B OPEN FOR PRE-REGISTRATION TO BEGIN JANUARY 25<sup>th</sup>

# COVID-19 VACCINE



StayCOVIDSafe



Calvin Ball  
Howard County Executive

## ARE THE COVID-19 VACCINES SAFE?

Yes. COVID-19 vaccines are being held to the same rigorous safety and effectiveness standards as all other types of vaccines in the United States.

## DO I HAVE TO WEAR A MASK AFTER GETTING VACCINE?

Yes. Early clinical trials only tracked how many vaccinated people became ill with COVID-19. That leaves open the possibility that some vaccinated people get infected without developing symptoms and could then silently transmit the virus to others.

## WHERE CAN I GET A VACCINE?

The initial distribution of vaccine will be limited until manufacturing ramps up. During the first phase of limited supply, the Federal government will ship vaccine directly to hospitals, contracted pharmacies and State Health Departments. State governments will prioritize groups who should receive the initial doses.

### STAY VIGILANT



Wear a mask



Wash hands frequently

6<sup>ft</sup> Practice physical distancing



Avoid travel and large gatherings

For more information, please visit <https://bit.ly/2KtPeDk>

# County News

## FY2020 REVENUE WINDFALL

In FY2020, Howard County experienced a \$61.2 million revenue surplus resulting from Federal 2017 tax cuts on businesses and individuals. Details of this revenue boost and other budgetary matters were published in the annual Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. Click [here](#) for more.



## WELCOME TO DR. DENISE BOSTON

The County's new Equity and Restorative Practices Manager, Dr. Denise Boston has joined the Office of Human Rights & Equity with more than 20 years of education experience, most recently reinforcing the values of social justice, equity, inclusion, belonging, and multicultural global diversity. Boston has been a visiting professor at Yonsei University in Seoul, Korea, and Zhejiang University in Hangzhou, China.

## MODERATE INCOME HOUSING UNIT APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

*Deadline January 29*

The Department of Housing and Community Development is now accepting applications for its Moderate Income Housing Unit (MIHU) program. Click [here](#) for more.

## HIRING SURVEY

Do you make hiring decisions at your organization? The Howard County Library System is asking those who fill employee vacancies to participate in an anonymous survey about skilled immigrants, who often face challenges joining the workforce. The library is hoping to determine what employers are looking. Click [here](#) for more.

## CONGRATULATIONS HOWARD COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

Our County Library System has earned the Five Star Library ranking by *Library Journal* for excellence in public education for all ages. Howard County's library was the only library system in Maryland to earn this honor.

## STATE OF BUSINESS

*February 24, 11am*

The County Executive will be providing an outlook on the Howard County economy during his annual State of the Business address. County Executive Ball will also participate in a live question and answer session with Howard County Chamber President Leonardo McClarty. Click [here](#) for more.

## PRE-SUBMISSION MEETINGS

*February 17, 6pm*

Sapariya Property, two residential units in R-20. Click [here](#) for more.

# HoCo By Design: General Plan

The Department of Planning and Zoning invites residents to share their visions for Howard County through the following input opportunities. Click [here](#) for more.

Initial recommendations and observations from the process have been assembled into seven Physical Assessment reports. Click [here](#) for more.

- [Register](#): Provide your input and be added to the email list.
- [Community Ideas Exchange Workshop](#): A virtual 3-D interactive workshop with 8 different activities.
- [On The Table](#): Host a small group conversation focused on how we can make our community stronger.
- [Better Communities Online Game](#): A map-based activity where you choose where and how the county grows.
- [What Makes Howard County a Special Place?](#): Share your thoughts about what makes Howard County exceptional.



## BGE SMALL BUSINESS GRANTS

*Deadline March 3*

BGE is awarding \$20,000 Energizing Small Business Grants to power small businesses in Maryland. Companies owned by historically underrepresented groups will receive priority consideration. Click [here](#) for more.

We're pledging **\$15 million** to Maryland small businesses.



Apply now for grants of  
**\$20,000**  
at [bge.helloalice.com](http://bge.helloalice.com).

BGE ENERGIZING  
small business  
GRANTS

In partnership with  


# School News

## SCHOOL REOPENING

HCPSS is currently planning on reopening to the general school population with a hybrid model starting March 1 if key health metrics are met. Click [here](#) for more.

On January 11, the Board of Education (BOE) and the County Council held their joint meeting. I requested that school reopening plans be included on the agenda and I advocated for the return of students to in-person instruction as soon as possible. It was reported to the Council that the Superintendent will make the final decision with input from the BOE. Click [here](#) for more.

HCPSS will coordinate vaccinations for K-12 educators and staff in the Phase 1B group. School nurses are being trained to administer the vaccines within the school system.

## STUDENT HYBRID IN-PERSON MODEL

**Week of March 1**

Students identified for the 5-days-per-week program

**Week of March 15**

Students in grades preK-2

**Week of March 29**

Students in grades 3-5, 6, 9, 12 & students who participate in Career and Technical Education at ARL

**Week of April 12**

Students in grades 7-8 & 10-11

# School News

## HIGH-SCHOOL GRADUATION

Dr. Martirano announced at the January 7 Board of Education meeting that HCPSS is planning on in-person Senior activities as best as possible. The window for the 2021 graduation ceremonies will be May 24, to May 28 and June 1 to June 11. More details will follow.

## OPERATING BUDGET

The public hearing for HCPSS's FY22 Operating Budget will be held on February 2 at 7pm. The Superintendent's proposed budget will be presented to the Board of Education on January 21. Click [here](#) to register to testify.



**HOWARD COUNTY  
LIBRARY SYSTEM**  
Public Education for All

Howard County Library System's (HCLS) Board of Trustees invites county residents to apply for an HCLS Board vacancy representing District 4. Overseeing an educational institution that ranks among the finest in the country, HCLS' Board es-

tablishes policies, approves budgets, and ensures that HCLS fulfills its mission of delivering high-quality public education for all ages.

Trustees, who serve in a voluntary capacity, are appointed to five-year terms, and may be reappointed for a consecutive term.

For more information regarding selection criteria, and to submit an application by **Friday, January 29, 2021**. Click [here](#)

## VILLAGE NEWS

[Wilde Lake](#)

[Harper's Choice](#)

[Hickory Ridge](#)

[River Hill](#)

[Town Center](#)



# Community News

## BLOOD DONATIONS NEEDED



The American Red Cross now faces a severe blood shortage due to an unprecedented number of blood drive cancellations in response to the coronavirus outbreak. Healthy individuals are needed now to donate to help patients counting on lifesaving blood. Click [here](#) for more.

## BEHIND ON YOUR BGE BILL?

Service termination should be a last resort. If you have a past-due balance, BGE can arrange a payment plan. Click [here](#) for more.

## HAPPY KOREAN-AMERICAN DAY

On January 13, 1903 the first Korean immigrants came to the United States. Every year the Korean American community organizations recognize this date as Korean-American Day.

## COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION VIRTUAL TOWN HALL



On January 21, Columbia Association held a town hall to provide an overview of programs and facilities, a review of the impact of COVID-19 on the organization, a brief look at the latest budget considerations and answers to your questions. Click [here](#) to see a recording of the meeting.

## ROSLYN RISE REDEVELOPMENT

The public is invited to provide online comments on Enterprise Community Development's redevelopment plans for Roslyn Rise. Click [here](#) for more.

## INPUT NEEDED: STATE RAIL PLAN

The Maryland Department of Transportation has launched an update of the Maryland State Rail Plan, which sets priorities and goals for efficient, safe and sustainable freight and passenger rail service across the state. MARC and Amtrak rail passengers, the general public, and other freight and passenger rail stakeholders are invited to provide input online. Click [here](#) for more.

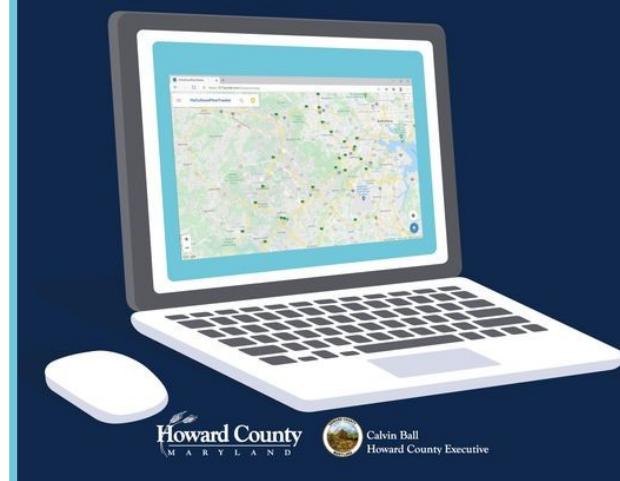
## COMMUNITY ECOLOGY INSTITUTE

Hickory Ridge area residents are invited to provide input for developing a walkable watershed around the Freetown Farm and the Middle Patuxent River. Click [here](#) for more.

## MERRIWEATHER DISTRICT ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

Four artists will be selected to work, live and create in the Downtown Columbia community. Studio space, housing and a stipend accompanies the six-week residency program. Applications are now open. Click [here](#) for more.

Track our winter weather response at [hocosnowplowtracker.org](http://hocosnowplowtracker.org)



# Upcoming Events



residents without internet access. Click [here](#) for more.

## EVENING IN THE STACKS

Support the Library's annual fundraiser with an evening of Italian cuisine, wine, and culture. Three bestselling guest authors will join this interactive online experience. Get dressed up, turn on your cameras, pour a glass of wine, and connect with other guests. The fundraising goal for this year is \$150,000 intended for learning activity kits for K-12 students, Chromebooks, and hotspots for

## HOWARD COUNTY RESTAURANT WEEKS

More than 32 restaurant and craft beverage creators are featuring specialty menu items and beverages during the County's winter restaurant weeks through January 31. Residents can opt for curbside pickup, front-door delivery, or dine in-premises. Participating restaurants and craft beverage businesses are required to follow all CDC guidelines. Residents should directly contact businesses to learn more about their current operating procedures. Click [here](#) for more.



## CELEBRATING DIVERSITY WITH MET OPERA STAR AUNDI MARIE MOORE

February 21, 4pm

St Louis Church in Clarksville presents this streaming concert in honor of Black History Month. Click [here](#) for more.

## LEADERSHIP HOWARD COUNTY SPEAKERS SERIES

February 5, 11am

“Leading in Crisis: High Altitude Performance During Challenging Times” is the first in a new speaker series hosted by this community organization. Click [here](#) for more.

**LEADERSHIP**  
HOWARD COUNTY