

DEB'S DISTRICT UPDATE

Deb Jung • District Four

With November behind us and the holidays fast approaching, it is time to take stock of some major milestones. We made it through a presidential election during a pandemic with flying colors.

All votes have been counted (and many recounted), the country has elected a new president and the first ever female vice president, and the percentage of people voting was the greatest it has been in decades. The volunteers who helped run the election and oversaw the implementation of voting both in-person and by mail-in ballot deserve a big THANK YOU for their success in carrying out their mission! While there were some places around the country that experienced long lines to vote, that was not the case in Howard County despite the record breaking number of people who voted in this election. The Howard County Board of Elections was well-prepared for any number of situations with contingency plans in place to make sure that everyone was able to cast their ballot.

On a personal note, my milestone this year has been completing my term as Council Chair, most of which took place during the pandemic. Virtual meetings require a slightly different approach as it is hard to make people feel as welcome and comfortable on a screen as it is in person, particularly when you can't even see their faces. My goal was to ensure that everyone had a chance to let us know what was on their minds even though they couldn't do so in the Banneker room. I hope I succeeded in that endeavor and Howard Countians continue to participate in our public process even though we have to do so through an electronic medium.

Finally, as we approach the December holidays, we will have to celebrate this season in a different way. I am a glass half-full kind of person, so here is my list of things that I am looking forward to doing during a holiday that is falling in the midst of a pandemic: taking my time putting up decorations, baking and cooking for friends and family to let them know how much I have appreciated their kindness and support over the past year, and crafting some of my gifts to personalize the experience of gift giving. Under normal circumstances I always hope to find time to do these things but that never seems to happen. This year we have the time to pursue those things that bring us, and those around us, a little joy. I hope you can find the time to pursue what brings you joy in the weeks ahead—here's to a glass half-full!

Deb

County Council Updates

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER-LEGISLATION

The following is noteworthy legislation voted on November 7.

MY LEGISLATION

CB55 Fiscal analysis provided by County Executive for specified legislation: A fiscal analysis from the bill's sponsor will help inform the deliberation process. This was originally proposed as a Charter Amendment (CR102-2020) but it failed on a 3-2 vote, needing four votes to appear on the 2020 ballot. **PASSED**

CB57 Removal of recommendations requirement from the Technical Staff Reports: I cosponsored this legislation with Councilmember David Yungmann in an effort to make the Zoning Regulation Amendment process more deliberative for the Planning Board and for the Council. By removing the recommendation requirement, the Department of Planning and Zoning can provide pros and cons to aid

the appropriate decision-making body. I also sponsored an amendment, which passed unanimously, that requires the Technical Staff Reports to include specific requirements, including review of the petition's effect on environmental policy goals of the General Plan. **PASSED AS AMENDED**

OTHER COUNCILMEMBERS' LEGISLATION CB56 Removal of APFO exemption for Turf

Valley: I supported Councilmember Liz Walsh's proposed bill to remove the exemption that Turf Valley received from the school and roads tests required of most new subdivisions. The zoned schools for the phased development are at or near 100% capacity and are expected to exceed the capacity thresholds by 2024. With the removal of the exemption, some planned units will be required to wait in the school bin until new school capacity is added or until the maximum wait period is reached. *FAILED*

Council Legislation: Click <u>here</u>.



UPCOMING COUNCIL SCHEDULE

December 4—Legislative Work Session—9:30am

December 7—Legislative Session—7pm

December 14—Monthly Meeting—1pm

December 25—Howard County Government offices closed

COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S LEGISLATION TAO1-2021 Transfer of \$54,652,000 from contingency to the New Cultural Center:

This is one of the most expensive and ambitious projects presented to the current Council. The cultural center is also tied to an affordable housing project that has secured Federal and State aid prior to introduction of the project in the FY2021 Capital Budget. The Council held multiple Worksessions on this project during the Budget deliberations that generated many unanswered questions about the financial viability of the primary private tenant, the annual operating costs that surpass revenues, and the timing of the project in relationship to other affordable housing amenities projects stipulated in the Downtown Columbia DRRA.

alive but allow for more time to consider the draft. I'm grateful to the BOE for making this details, I sponsored an amendment that put the project into contingency. A Worksession was held on October 26 to discuss new infor- NOVEMBER-DECEMBER LEGISLATION mation but the NCC agenda item required rescheduling because we weren't able to include it in the allotted time. We revisited this legislation during the November 23 Worksession. TABLED

CB53 Turf Valley Elementary School land purchase of \$6 million: A 10-acre parcel in the Turf Valley development will be purchased by the County for a new elementary school site. In 2018, a letter of intent stated that the parcel would be 15 acres for the same sale price. HCPSS also currently has 41 acres on Marriottsville Road—Route 40 that has no current development plans. This was discussed in detail at the October 26 Worksession. PASSED AS AMENDED

CR151 BOE Capital Budget request FY2022:

This resolution enables the BOE to request State funding for proposed Capital projects. An amendment was pre-filed representing a recent BOE vote adding High School #14 (Troy Park) and ES #44 (West Columbia) to the FY2022-2031 Long-Range Master Plan. I testified in front of the BOE during their Capital Budget public hearing on the need for reinstating ES#44 into the Long-Range Mas-In an effort to keep this Capital project ter Plan after its omission in the original critical adjustment. PASSED AS AMENDED

- **CB63** Prohibiting discrimination by County employees based on citizenship or immigration status, sponsored by Councilmember Opel Jones
- CB61 Amending PlanHoward 2030 to include the Ellicott City Watershed Master Plan, sponsored by the County Executive
- **CR174** Authorizing the sale of the Flier Building in Columbia, sponsored by the **County Executive**

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.

General Assembly: 2021 Session

State legislators released their plans to ensure social distancing procedures for the 2021 General Assembly convening on January 13. The plan will allow for House Delegates to meet as a body using a combination of virtual and inperson meetings. The Senate outlined a phased approach relying on virtual hearings with limited in-person debates, votes, and office meetings. Committee rooms and the Senate floor will be outfitted with plexiglass barriers. Sessions and hearings will be live-streamed. Public testimony will occur virtually, according to the Senate plan. Click here for more.



HOWARD COUNTY LOCAL BILLS

The Howard County Delegation of the Maryland General Assembly, chaired by Senator Clarence Lam and Delegate Jessica Feldmark, heard public testimony on November 17 for the following local bills:

Bond Initiative Requests

- Humanim Remodeling Gerwig, Ho. Co. 16-21; \$150,000
- Patuxent Commons, Ho. Co. 17-21; \$500,000
- 8125 Main Street Reconstruction and Renovation, Ho. Co. 18-21; \$500,000
- Centennial Park ADA Improvements, Ho. Co. 19-21; \$500,000
- Harriet Tubman Cultural Center Playground, Ho. Co. 20-21; \$200,000
- Robinson Nature Center Amphitheater and Stage, Ho. Co. 21-21; \$100,000
- Expanded Tiber Park, Ho. Co. 22-21; \$500,000
- Patapsco Female Institute Chapel, Ho. Co. 23-21; \$300,000
- Historic Barnard Fort House, Ho. Co. 24-21; \$150,000
- East Columbia 50+ Center, Ho. Co. 25-21; \$1,000,000
- Harriet Tubman Cultural Center, Ho. Co. 26-21; \$750,000
- Ellicott City Quaker School, Ho. Co. 27-21; \$150,000

Proposed Local Bills

Click here for more.

- Alcoholic Beverages Delivery, Ho. Co. 1-21, by Delegate Watson Allowing alcoholic beverage delivery in the County
- Class A Alcoholic Beverages Licenses Quota by Election District, Ho. Co. 2-21, by Senator Guzzone

Limiting Class A licenses to no more than one for every 4000 residents in each election district

 Alcoholic Beverages – Alcoholic Beverages Inspectors, Ho. Co. 3-21, by: Chair, Howard County Delegation

Authorizing trained civilians to inspect alcoholic beverage licenses and issue citations for violations

• **Alcoholic Beverages** – Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor License – Off–Premises Consumption, Ho. Co. 4-21, by Delegate Watson

Authorizing Class B beer, wine, and liquor license holders to sell those beverages for off–premises consumption

• **Board of Education** – Redetermination of Geographic Attendance Area, Ho. Co. 5-21, by Senator Lam

Requiring the Howard County Board of Education (BOE) to submit an annual report on the program capacity of each school facility and requires the BOE to submit a plan for meeting target utilization if it exceeds 10%. An assessment for redetermination of school attendance area will be triggered if capacity exceeds 20%.

- **School Redistricting** Public Testimony, Ho. Co. 7-21, by Senator Lam Requiring the BOE to allow one or more members of a household to testify on the proposed redistricting plan if their school assignment is changed before the final vote.
- **Howard County Board of Education** School Safety Personnel, Ho. Co. 10-21, by Delegate Atterbeary

Requiring the BOE to develop a plan to implement the Maryland Center for School Safety guidelines that does not assign school resource officers to public school and uses adequate local law enforcement.

• Commercial Building Excise Tax – Board of Education Deferred Maintenance, Ho. Co. 11-21, by Delegate Atterbeary

Authorizing the County Council to impose different excise tax rates on commercial building construction with revenues used only for deferred maintenance needs of the BOE.

 Howard County - Fee-in-Lieu of Moderate-Income Housing Units - Prohibition, Ho. Co. 12-21, by Delegate Atterbeary



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 establishes 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 8, 2021**, click here.

Howard County COVID Updates

COVID-19 cases continue to rise within the County and the State. Accordingly, additional gathering restrictions have been introduced in an effort to control the spread. There is a statewide mask order for all places where the public gathers including indoor facilities and outdoor areas where social distancing is not possible. Click here for more.

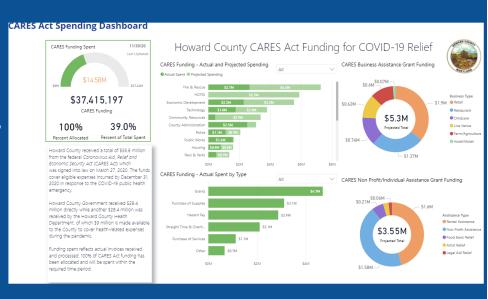




CARES Act Funding

To date, Howard County has received \$56.8 million in funding from the Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). Distributed funds are itemized online and updated every Friday.

Click here for more.



HOCO RISE COLLABORATIVE

In an effort to assess and respond to the ongoing impacts of COVID-19, the County Executive has formed the HoCo RISE Collaborative, chaired by former Howard County Executive Ken Ulman, supported by the Baltimore Metropolitan Council, and comprised of five workgroups.

- Jobs and the Economy: Chaired by Marcellous Frye
- Education and Workforce Development: Chaired by Minah Woo
- Public Health Response: Chaired by Dr. Elizabeth Kromm
- Family Opportunities: Chaired by Shonte Elridge
- Government Response: Chaired by Lonnie Robbins

Click here for more.



MD COVID Alert

The State of Maryland has launched a cell phone app called MD COVID Alert to notify the public of COVID-19 exposure. This works in conjunction with the contact tracing methods already in use. Opt-in to the program to help keep Marylanders safe from COVID. Click here for more.

FREE COVID TESTING

Howard County General Hospital, in partnership with the Howard County Health Department, is offering free COVID-19 testing at the Howard Community College and the Howard County Fairgrounds through mid-December. Click here for more.

TEMPORARY EVICTIONS MORATORIUM

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have issued a temporary halt to residential evictions in an effort to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Click <u>here</u> for more.



Office of Home Energy Programs



- Applying for Energy Assistance
 - ▶ En Español

Applying for Energy Assistance

Energy Assistance is a year round program. You can apply at any time during the year, but you can only receive benefits once each year and must reapply each fiscal year (July- June).

If you are having trouble affording your utility or heating bill, you do not need a turn off notice to qualify for assistance. The Office of Home Energy Programs strongly encourages you to apply for assistance before you receive a turn-off notice so that funds can be applied to your account as soon as possible. All OHEP program eligibility is income-based and you do not need a turn off notice to qualify for assistance.

Customers may apply through any one of the following methods:



Is your utility bill higher than usual? Do you need legal advice for overdue bills?

Free remote legal consultations available to Baltimore City residents.

443 - 703 - 3052

Please call the Pro Bono Resource Center to make an appointment.







MARYLAND OFFICE OF PEOPLE'S COUNSEL

Are you a homeowner?

Lower your property tax bill by applying for the Homeowners' Tax Credit (for those with incomes up to \$60k) and the Homestead Tax Credit. Call Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition's tax credit hotline at 443-961-6220 or visit www.marylandtaxcredit.com.

County News

FY2022 SPENDING AFFORDABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The County Executive announced the Spending Affordability Advisory Committee (SAAC) to convene earlier than previous years to allow more time for the committee to digest, discuss, and advise on fiscal planning. The SAAC is a non-partisan body made up of residents appointed by the County Executive. Click here for more.

TRANSPORTATION TOWN HALL

Transportation safety and projects, and Complete Streets were recently discussed at a Transportation Town Hall hosted by MDOT. Click here for a recording or here for the presentation slides.

PLANNING BOARD: SUSPENSION BRIDGE & TRAIL SDP

Howard County has petitioned the Planning Board for approval of a site development plan (SDP-19-025) for a Suspension Bridge and Trail system on New Town Open Space (TM35, P412, Lots A and 45). The Planning Board is scheduled to hear this petition on December 3, 7pm. Click here for more.

FY22 RESIDENT'S BUDGET HEARING



This year's budget hearing will be held virtually and can be watched live from the County Council's streaming website on December 9 at 6pm. Residents can sign-up to testify here.

COLUMBIA FLIER BUILDING

The County is seeking Requests for Proposals (RFP) for the sale of the property. Prior to the RFP, the County held a community meeting and a survey soliciting feedback from the community on the repurposing of the building. The survey indicted that future owners should value the history of the building, prioritize sustainability, and provide a benefit to the community.

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.

2020 Virtual Holiday Mart

This year, the County's 48th annual Holiday Mart juried arts and crafts show will be held virtually on December 5 from 10am to 5pm. Participants can speak directly through video with the crafters and support local and small businesses this holiday season. 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.

- Register: Provide your input and be added to the email list.
- <u>Community Ideas Exchange Workshop:</u> 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.
- <u>Better Communities Online Game</u>: 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.





School News

SCHOOL REOPENING

On November 16 the Board of Education voted to remain virtual until the end of the third marking period (April 14) on a 5-2 vote. Click here for more.

MEAL SERVICE

Meal service at Wilde Lake Middle School has been closed through December 11. Meal service at Gorman Crossing Elementary School has been closed through December 18.

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Congratulations to new board members Yun Lu (District 5) Jolene Mosley (District 3) Antonia Watts (District 2) Christina Delmont-Small (District 1) Jen Mallo (District 4)

And thank you to the outgoing members: Mavis Ellis, Sabina Taj, and Kirstin Coombs



WILDE WINTER WONDERLAND An out door holiday celebration! Saturday, December 5, 2020 1PM-2:30PM



Wilde Lake Village Center Courtyard

Join your friends and neighbors for some holiday cheer in Wilde Lake!

Holiday tunes by Gary and the Christmas Groove

Holiday photo op with Frosty

Special kids craft give away for Wilde Lake residents (while supplies last)

Tree lighting and more!

Visit WildeLake.org for more information
*Please wear your mask and practice social distancing.

Sponsored By:





Community News

COLUMBIA NAMED "SAFEST CITY IN AMERICA"

Columbia was recognized as the "Safest City in America" by WalletHub for the third year in a row. WalletHub compared 182 cities, including the 150 most populated U.S. cities, plus at least two of the most populated cities in each state, across three criteria, home and community safety, natural-disaster risk, and financial safety. Click here for more.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS FUNDING APPROVED

The Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC) voted to fully fund the Greater Baltimore Regional Integrated Crisis System (GBRICS) Partnership. This funding award will invest \$45 million over five years to support behavioral health crisis response infrastructure and services in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Carroll County, and Howard County. The goal of the project is to provide 24/7 access to high quality, effective, and timely care in the community, thus reducing unnecessary emergency department use and police interactions. Behavioral Health Systems Baltimore, the Horizon Foundation, Howard County General Hospital, and the 16 other hospitals are involved with the project. Click here for more.

CONGRATULATIONS DR. CARL PERKINS

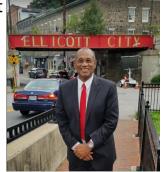


Carl Perkins, Ed.D. has been appointed to the Board of Trustees of Howard Community College (HCC) by the Governor of Maryland. Dr. Perkins will serve a six-year term through June 30, 2025. Currently, he is an adjunct faculty member at McDaniel College and the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) and a professional development school liaison and supervisor at UMBC.

Additional congratulations to Felícita Solá-Carter, who was reappointed to the board through 2026 and elected chair for fiscal year 2021, and Christopher Marasco, who was elected board vice chair through fiscal year 2021.

CONGRATULATIONS CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE QUINCY COLEMAN

Quincy L. Coleman has been sworn in as Howard County's newest Circuit Court Judge, replacing Judge John Kuchno. Judge Coleman, a longtime resident of Howard County and Maryland native, is an experienced trial attorney having practiced in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Prince George's County, Anne Arundel County and the District of Columbia. He and his wife of 40 years, Hope, are the proud parents of Candace and Courtney and grandparents to Nadia and Isaiah.

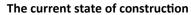


Out in the Community



Due to the COVID pandemic, I am no longer able to get out and about as much as I like. However, I did have the opportunity a few weeks ago to tour the new Howard County Circuit Courthouse, which, as you can see, is still very much under construction. The building sits on the same site as the Dorsey building on Bendix Road and will address technology and security challenges that were deficient in the old Circuit Courthouse in Ellicott City, which is 175 years old. The new Courthouse will house the Howard County State's Attorney, Sheriff, Bar Association, as well as the Maryland Public Defender, Clerk of the Court and Register of Wills, among others. There will also be a courtroom for a sixth judge, a larger and more comfortable jury assembly area, and a multi-level parking garage adjacent to the building. The opening of the new Courthouse is expected to be in July 2021.







Artist's rendering of the courthouse

Architecture should speak of its time and place, but yearn for timelessness.

- Frank Gehry







GATEWAY TO GREEN JOBS

Green Jobs encompass a wide variety of employment opportunities, many of which are outside and lend themselves to social distancing. These jobs can provide a viable transition opportunity for entry level workers who have been displaced from employment due to COVID. Through this training, individuals will receive a 30-hour training that will expose them to various opportunities in the environmental industry. Participants will be offered an opportunity to receive a Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional-Associate certificate.

When: 11/30 - 12/4/2020 from 9AM to 3PM.

and a \$50 travel stipend

Where: The Nonprofit Collaborative -9770 Patuxent Woods Dr, Columbia, MD 21046 Reimbursement: \$150 stipend for the training

Requirements

- Attendance for the full 30-hour training
- Current unemployment attributed or lack of re-employment due to the coronavirus
- Desire to explore Green Jobs
- Commitment to submit at least one job application, or equivalent follow-up, at the end of the training
- Agreement to participate in post-training surveys regarding employment
- Eligibility to work in the United States

For a full list of requirements and to apply howardecoworks.org/gateway-to-green-jobs For questions, email info@howardecoworks.org













The Howard County **OFFICE ON AGING AND INDEPENDENCE** is collecting **new** gift items for low-income seniors who reside in assisted living facilities and in the community. The **OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES** is collecting **new** gifts (including books and toys) for families in need with children ages 0 to 5 years old. Financial donations are also accepted.*

CONTACTLESS DONATION SITES

WILL BE SET UP AT THE FOLLOWING THREE LOCATIONS:

- Department of Community Resources and Services 9830 Patuxent Woods Drive, Columbia 21046 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- 2) Elkridge 50+ Center 6540 Washington Boulevard, Elkridge 21075 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (ring bell for assistance)
- Ellicott City 50+ Center
 9401 Frederick Road, Ellicott City 21042
 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
 - * Call 410-313-5956 to make a FINANCIAL DONATION or HAND DELIVER (do not mail, cash or gift cards) to: Howard County DCRS ATTN: Ms. Tené Young 9830 Patuxent Woods Drive Columbia, MD 21046

Donations of **NEW, NON-WRAPPED GIFT ITEMS** will be accepted from Monday, November 2, through Monday, December 7, 2020.

Thank you for your kindness and generosity!



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Tené Young — Office on Aging and Independence 410-313-5956 (VOICE/RELAY) • tyoung@howardcountymd.gov

Erica Taylor — Office of Children and Families 410-313-1483 (VOICE/RELAY) • etaylor@howardcountymd.gov

