



DEB'S DISTRICT UPDATE

Deb Jung, District 4

Chair, Howard County Council

Conducting business virtually during COVID means we are getting to know colleagues in ways we have never done before — meeting family members and pets who wander into our virtual workspaces. One of my favorite family moments was when I

heard a child in the background say to her mother, “I wish I could be that monkey because it has such cute outfits.” This one made me laugh out loud.

As we all have learned to be more patient with our coworkers, particularly those who are tending to small children while trying to work, we are also treated to the unique observations of children, their understanding of what is being communicated, and their need for parental attention. It is a hard time for parents with young children who are working from home; keeping their families nourished; and, for public school parents, who are overseeing the children’s daily education for the first half of the school year. That’s a very full plate.

Howard County parents have expressed a range of views on the school district’s decision to reopen on January 28, 2021. There are parents who are relieved that their children will not be exposed to COVID through school. There are parents who strongly believe that their children will get farther behind if they cannot be in a school building with a teacher face-to-face. And many parents believe they are not up to the task of teaching their children from home whether it is because they are working from home or they don’t believe they have the skills needed to help with the curriculum. I know that feeling. Once my daughter started with advanced math classes, she stayed after school if she needed extra help because her parents could not assist.

It is important though, that we know what it will take to return students and staff safely to our schools. We know that just sending them back to school buildings without masks and other safety measures is a recipe for disaster after we witnessed what happened when public schools in Florida and Georgia reopened and had to quickly close after a COVID surge occurred. The good news for Maryland is that all 24 school superintendents voted to ask the State for universal metrics for safe school openings. I am hopeful that State leaders will develop these metrics so that we will have a plan for reopening based upon the best science available to us.

Until then, I am guessing that I will learn more about cute monkey outfits, whether it is okay to eat candy before noon, and most importantly, the infinite patience of parents trying so hard to juggle it all during these unique and trying times.

Deb

Subscribe to my newsletter [here](#)

County Council Updates

The Council held a wrap-up Legislative session on July 29. We voted on legislation introduced at the beginning of July and certain tabled bills. No legislation was introduced due to the August recess.

SAO1 Supplemental Appropriation for Department of Housing; *Passed as Amended*

CB38 Personal Property Exemption for Data Center Equipment; *Passed*

CB39 Multiyear contract agreement for the installation of LED street lights; *Passed as Amended*

CB40 FY21 Pay Plan adoption for Howard County Local 2000's collective bargaining agreement; *Passed*

CB41 Collective bargaining agreement approval for

Local 3085, Council 67, AFL-CIO; *Passed*

CR90 Housing unit allocation chart approval; *Passed*

CR91 School Capacity Chart approval; *Passed*

CR105 Minimum square footage amendment for the Conservation Landscaping Reimbursement program; *Passed*

CR106 Categorical transfers for BOE FY21 Operating Budget; *Passed*

CR107 Doughregan DRRA extension; *No Vote Taken This Session*

CR108 Normandy Shopping Center easement conveyance; ; *Passed*

CR109 Grace Pond conveyance to the State of Maryland; *Passed*

Council Legislation: Click [here](#)

The 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment



Last week we celebrated an historic anniversary that made our nation a more perfect union. On August 18, 1920, women's inalienable rights were securely established in our nation's founding document when Tennessee ratified the 19th amendment. Harry Burn, aged 22 and a member of the all-male state legislature broke the tie vote that gave women the Constitutional right to vote.

The women's suffrage movement worked for nearly three quarters of a century to overcome just one of many discriminatory exclusions marginalizing nearly half of the population. It is important to remember that our historic anniversaries for equality are milestones not finales. Even once the 19th amendment was ratified, women of color faced continued opposition at the polls well into 20th century.

Sadly, we continue to witness disenfranchisement efforts even in our most recent elections. I am thankful for organizations like the League of Women Voters who are the modern inheritors of the original women's suffrage groups and who continue through today to fight for equal access to the ballot box.

I was happy to celebrate with the League of Women Voters on the 100th anniversary of women's voting rights and know they will always work for full enfranchisement.

Charter Amendments

Every eight years, the Howard County Charter is reviewed by a Council-appointed Commission, which prepares recommendations for Council-sponsored amendments. These Amendments follow the standard Legislative process and those that received four votes will become ballot initiatives in the fall of 2020. Legislative votes were taken on July 6 and July 29. Here's the final vote outcome for all proposed Charter Amendments.

My Amendments:

The intent of these amendments that I proposed is to improve the functioning of the Council and the County government. One amendment dealing with the timing of the Redistricting Commission passed.

CR93—Amending the dates for Councilmanic redistricting based on the Census and Primary Election; *Passed as Amended*

CR101 — Allowing the County Council to appropriate funds to capital projects and departments in the annual Capital Budget; *Failed*

CR97 — Requiring the County Auditor to accompany the County Executive and Council Chair on all discussions with credit-rating agencies; *Failed*

Other Amendments:

CR94— Altering the appointment of members of the Councilmanic Redistricting Commission; David Yungmann; *Tabled*

CR95—Changing the term “Councilmanic” to “Council” in the Charter; Opel Jones & Christiana Mercer Rigby; *Failed*

CR96 — Altering the minimum time between introduction of a bill and the public hearing from 10 to seven calendar days; David Yungmann; *Withdrawn*

CR98 — Requiring confirmation by the County Council of appointments for Department directors and the Chief Administrative Officer; David Yungmann; *Failed*

CR99 — Reducing the citizen board term from five years to three years; Christiana Mercer Rigby & Opel Jones; *Passed*

CR100 — Altering the dates that the County Executive submits the proposed Capital and Operating budget to the Council to March 31; David Yungmann; *Failed*

CR102 — Requiring the County Executive to submit fiscal analyses on each bill and resolution; David Yungmann; *Failed*

CR103 — Requiring voter approval of property tax rate increases; David Yungmann; *Withdrawn*

Do You Have a Voting Plan?

Due to the COVID-19 health emergency, the **2020 Presidential General Election** will offer voters the opportunity to vote-by-mail, in addition to in-person voting during early voting and on Election Day. In order to ensure that you receive your ballot for this election, you should make sure your voter registration information is up-to-date. To review your voter registration, use the [Voter Lookup](#) tool on the Maryland State Board of Elections website. If you need to update your registration or would like to register, you can use the [Voter Registration](#) tool on the Maryland State Board of Elections website.

TO VOTE BY MAIL

If you are eligible to vote in the 2020 Presidential General Election and would like to vote-by-mail, you must request a vote-by-mail ballot. Ballots will not be mailed to you automatically. I strongly encourage you to do this now, given the delays we are currently experiencing with the postal system.

- To request a vote-by-mail ballot, click [here](#)
- Or, text “VBM” to 77788 to have a link sent to your phone to request the ballot online
- To mail your request for a vote-by-mail ballot, click [here](#) to download a printable application

When you receive your actual ballot you will also be provided a postage-paid envelope in which to return your ballot. If you don't want to return your ballot by mail, you can take it to an official Ballot Box.

SO WHAT IS MY VOTING PLAN?

I am going to request a ballot through the State Board of Election's website. In June, during the primary election, I dropped off my ballot at the Florence Bain Center and that is what I will do again, probably on the first day of Early Voting, October 22. It was easy, fast and felt secure.

IMPORTANT DATES:

- Deadline to Register to Vote – October 13, 2020
- Deadline to request a vote-by-mail ballot – October 20, 2020
- Early Voting – October 26, 2020 – November 2, 2020, 7am-8pm
- Election Day – November 3, 2020, 7am-8pm

Watch for a Special Edition of my newsletter with updated voting center information as soon as it is available by the State Board of Elections.

ELECTION JUDGES NEEDED

The Howard County Board of Elections is seeking judges for early voting and Election Day. This is a paid position with paid training.

Click [here](#) for more information about qualifications, duties, and application forms. Or Contact the Board of Elections at (410) 313-5820.



Howard County Reopening

Howard County continues to see low positivity and hospitalization rates as well as high testing rates.

2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) will open virtually for the first semester starting September 8, 2020, to January 28, 2021. Individual schools have started posting school supply lists and announcing virtual Back to School Nights. Click [here](#) for more.

CHILD CARE FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR

RecZone: Howard County's Department of Recreation & Parks is providing full-day child care in certain public schools during the school year. Click [here](#) for more.

Columbia Association: Full-day child care during the school year will be offered at certain public schools. Click [here](#) for more.

FOOD RESOURCES

Distribution Map: County residents seeking food assistance at food pantries or distribution sites can use

this new online tool to locate resources. Click [here](#) for more.

Summer Meals: HCPSS will extend its meal program through Aug. 28 to accommodate the later start of the 2020-2021 school year. Click [here](#) for more.

SUMMER CAMPS

The Department of Recreation and Parks is offering two additional weeks of the Ultimate Sports & Games Camp during the week of August 24th and August 31st due to the later start time of the HCPSS school year. Click [here](#) for more.

HEALTH & WELLNESS TOWN HALL

August 25, 2020 at 6pm

The Health and Wellness Town Hall will feature nine health professionals who will discuss health topics, including COVID-19, behavioral and mental health, and innovations in healthcare.

Click [here](#) for more.

Howard County COVID-19 Rental Assistance and Eviction Prevention

FACT SHEET



Beginning July 6, 2020, Howard County residents may contact one of the participating providers to complete an application for assistance to pay past due rent and/or mortgage payments and/or to prevent eviction. Maximum assistance per household is 3 months of housing expense.



Calvin Ball
Howard County Executive

Maximum Household Income Limits
based on 80% of Howard County Area
Median Income

Family Size	Amount
One Person	\$64,723
Two Person	\$73,969
Three Persons	\$83,215
Four Persons	\$92,461
Five Persons	\$99,858
Six Persons	\$107,255
Seven Persons	\$114,651
Eight Persons	\$122,048

Residents may contact one of the participating providers for an application beginning July 6th:

Provider	Website	Email Contact for Residents	Phone Contact for Residents
Community Action Council	cac-hc.org	n/a	410-313-6440
The United Way	uwcmm.org	n/a	211 (Comm. Res. Specialist)
Grassroots	grassrootscrisis.org	evictionprevention@grassrootscrisis.org	410-531-6677
Family and Children's Services	fcsmd.org	lsipivey@fcsmd.org	443-864-0379
FIRN	firnonline.org	housinghelp@firnonline.org	443-276-3166 (Kristin Lilly)



Picture taken - October 30, 2019



Howard County Housing Opportunities Master Plan & Task Force VIRTUAL COMMUNITY MEETING

ABOUT THE TASKFORCE

The Housing Opportunities Master Plan Task Force was created to identify Howard County's housing affordability issues and offer holistic and sustainable strategies to address them.

TAKE THE SURVEY

We want to hear about your experiences with housing in Howard County so that we can develop recommendations to improve housing opportunities. Find the survey on the project website, or at www.surveymonkey.com/r/MD69JH8. Responses will remain anonymous.

LEARN MORE

A narrated video presentation will be posted on the project webpage the week of August 17th, 2020. Join one of our three online discussions to share your input with the Task Force.



HOWARD COUNTY

GET INVOLVED



JOIN AN ONLINE DISCUSSION

Tuesday, August 25, 2020 - 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM

Wednesday, August 26, 2020 - 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Thursday, September 10, 2020 - 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM

**Advanced registration will be required to attend an online discussion.*

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER FOR A MEETING, VISIT:

<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/HousingTaskForce>

PROJECT SCHEDULE

February - December 2020	Task Force & Workgroup Meetings
Spring/Summer 2020	Research & Analysis. Stakeholder Interviews
August/September 2020	Community Meeting #1
August - November 2020	Develop & Refine Recommendations
November 2020	Community Meeting #2
December 2020	Finalize Recommendations
March 2021	Final Plan & Presentation to County



COVID-19 COMMUNITY TESTING

HOWARD COUNTY GENERAL HOSPITAL is bringing testing for COVID-19 to neighborhoods around Howard County.

Advance registration is strongly encouraged. Children and adults can be tested. Please register here <https://bit.ly/39aitTX>.

St John Baptist Church

9055 Tamar Drive, Columbia 21045

Saturday, Jul. 25, 2020 | 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Tuesday, Aug. 11, 2020 | 4 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 13, 2020 | 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Christ Episcopal Church

6800 Oakland Mills Road, Columbia 21045

Thursday, Jul. 30, 2020 | 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 29, 2020 | 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 19, 2020 | 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

To learn more, community members can email HCGH-J2BH@jhmi.edu or call (410) 720-8788.



Funding for these events provided by
Howard County Health Department



**HOWARD COUNTY
GENERAL HOSPITAL**
JOHNS HOPKINS MEDICINE

STOP THE SPREAD

WHO CAN GET TESTED

As we stated in MDH's Amended Directive and Order Regarding Various Healthcare Matters issued on June 12, 2020, the following populations should now be prioritized for testing:

Calvin Ball, Howard County Executive
June 20th 2020

Maura J. Rossman, MD, Howard County Health Officer

Any Symptomatic Individual



Fever



Shortness of breath
/ Difficulty breathing



Cough



Chills / Repeated
shaking with chills



Headache



Muscle Pain



New loss of
taste or smell



Sore throat

Asymptomatic Individuals Where Covid-19 Exposure May Be Possible, Including:



Contacts of confirmed
COVID-19 cases



Residents and staff
of congregate living setting
and long-term care facilities



healthcare workers
and first responders



Patients, especially high-risk
unstable patients, whose
care would be altered by
a diagnosis of COVID-19



Individuals employed in
close contact settings



Health authorities who
are associated with
a cluster, outbreak
or contact investigation



Individuals previously
in a large gathering

For more information, please visit [HCHHealth.org](https://www.hchealth.org)

WHERE TO GET TESTED

Robust testing and contact tracing are the formula for stopping the community spread of COVID-19. Here are some places where residents can get tested for COVID-19 in Howard County.

Calvin Ball, Howard County Executive

June 26th 2020

Maura J. Rossman, MD, Howard County Health Officer



VEIP Site in Columbia
6340 Woodside Ct, Columbia, MD 21045
Drive-Thru testing
Appointment and referral required



CVS Pharmacy in Fulton
8197 Westside Boulevard, Fulton, MD 20759
Drive-Thru testing
Appointment required



First Call Urgent Care Center
10981 Johns Hopkins Rd, Laurel, MD 20723
Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. – 9 p.m.
Walk-Ins accepted.



All Care Urgent Care
9396 Baltimore Nat'l Pk, Ellicott City, MD, 21042
Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Saturday: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., Sunday: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Walk-Ins accepted.



Ouch Urgent Care
6020 Meadowridge Center Dr., Elkridge, MD 21075
Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Appointment required



Righttime Medical Care
6334 Cedar Lane, Columbia, MD 21044
Monday-Friday, 6 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Appointment and referral required

***Please note, residents can also get tested by pharmacists per the Governors Executive order.**

For additional information on testing, visit [HCHHealth.org](https://www.hchealth.org)

Recent News

BWI Noise Complaint Update

The Fourth Circuit of the US Court of Appeals dismissed Howard County's petition for judicial review of the Federal Aviation Administration's changing of the flight paths a part of its implementation of NextGen at BWI airport.

Consumer Protection Advisory Board Seeking Applicants

Deadline September 4

The Board is composed of seven voting members, with members representing consumer and business interest groups, economically disadvantaged groups, and the general public. Activities include participating in community activities and advising the Office of Consumer Protection and the County Executive on policies, programs and practices that can improve consumer protection-related services in the county. The Board's meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at 7pm at the Office of Consumer Protection (9830 Patuxent Woods Drive in Columbia). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, meetings are currently taking place virtually via WebEx. Click [here](#) for more.

Transit System Award

Howard County is among two other Maryland Counties to receive annual Federal funding from the Federal Transit Administration. Howard received \$1.2 million, which will be used to replace three buses with new clean diesel shuttles that are likely to join scheduled routes by winter 2021.

2020 Census

Stand up and be counted so that Howard County receives its fair share of Federal support. The deadline to complete the census has been moved up by a month. Census forms are now due no later than September 30, 2020. Click [here](#) for more.



Sheppard Lane Realignment Project to Begin

The intersection improvement project at Sheppard Lane and MD108 will begin on or about August 24. The work will include the realignment of Sheppard Lane and the installation of a new traffic signal at the MD108/Sheppard Lane intersection. The project is expected to take three days to complete.

Northbound and southbound Sheppard Lane between 5450 Sheppard Lane and MD108 will be closed to thru traffic during the work. Motorists will follow a clearly marked detour using Homewood Road and MD108.

Community News

PREPARE FOR SUCCESS

There are more than 13,000 students in Howard County who qualify for free and reduced lunch. In addition to experiencing food insecurity, these students often do without critical school supplies. Prepare for Success Schools Supplies Connection is a partnership between non-profits and HCPSS that coordinates monetary donations to purchase and distribute school supplies to students. Purchased school supplies are also accepted.

For the coming school year, Prepare for Success would like to provide over 2,500 students with new backpacks full of supplies.

Click [here](#) for more.

WATERSHED STEWARD PROGRAM

Help protect the watershed by becoming a Watershed Steward. Howard County Master Watershed Steward Certification program teaches volunteers

about how to assess residential stormwater issues, including soil profiles, geographic information system applications, and other citizen science-based tools.

Click [here](#) for more.

AUTISM HIRING PROGRAM

The Howard County Autism Society advances workplace diversity by connecting small and mid-sized businesses with a competent workforce.

Click [here](#) for more.



**RESIDENTS AND VISITORS IN
MARYLAND CAN NOW TEXT
911 IN AN EMERGENCY**

TEXT 911 Maryland residents and visitors can now text 911 in an emergency.

To learn more about "Text-to-911" click [here](#).

Remember, you should only text 911 in an emergency. Prank-texters can be identified and prosecuted according to local laws and regulations.

Howard County Police Department FAQ

The recent deaths of George Floyd and others at the hands of police officers have put focus on how police departments use force, how officers are held accountable, how they are trained, and what steps can be taken to make policing better for everyone in the community.

The Howard County Police Department recognizes these concerns and are dedicated to uphold policy, law, and humanity so that every person is treated equally and with respect. The Department has prepared a FAQ that addresses use of force, officer training, and police accountability.

Click [here](#) for more.