

## Howard councilman establishes 'community cabinet'



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Howard County Times

SEPTEMBER 29, 2015, 9:00AM

**H**oward County Councilman Jon Weinstein is trying out a new method of collecting input from his constituents.

Weinstein, a Democrat who represents Ellicott City, Elkridge and Hanover, is assembling a "Community Cabinet," made up of board members from local homeowners' associations and neighborhood groups, to provide feedback and advice on local issues.

Weinstein said inspiration for the committee comes from his other job, as founder and president of consulting firm Line of Sight.

"It's just one of those things, as you're trying to get things done and be successful, to have primary stakeholders as directly involved in the key decision-making as possible," he said.

Earlier this year, Weinstein held two town hall meetings to garner constituent input. He said this new cabinet is part of a goal to reach out and increase community engagement: "You get a lot of positive feedback from folks."

He hopes to see greater communication among communities in his district through the cabinet. "Groups might have similar issues," he said. "Maybe one group's solved an issue" and another could follow its lead.

The community cabinet's inaugural meeting will be Oct. 7 at 6:30p.m. in the Ellicott City/Columbia rooms of the George Howard building in Ellicott City. Weinstein is inviting one to two board members from each HOA or community group in the district to attend.

He said meetings of the cabinet would likely be held on a quarterly basis.

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