



Jen Terrasa
Council District 3

Greetings!

This year is flying by so I wanted to take this opportunity to say hello, and to update you on a few things including the FY15 budget, recent legislation I've sponsored and co-sponsored, and other Council happenings that I think might interest you!

All the best,
Jen

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Upcoming Council Meetings

Monthly Meeting (Canceled)
June 9, 4:30 p.m., CVG

Public Hearing
June 16, 7:30 p.m., Banneker

Legislative Work Session (if needed)
June 23, 4:30 p.m., Banneker

Legislation Pre-file
June 26, 2:00 p.m.

Legislation Amendment
Pre-file
July 3, 2014

Legislative Session
July 7, 7:30 p.m., Banneker

FY15 Budget Highlights

On May 21, 2014, the County Council passed the County's FY15 Operating and Capital Budgets.

As you may know, evaluating and passing our County's budget is a complex and lengthy process, but I am pleased that we were able to work closely with County Executive Ulman pass a budget that reflects our priorities. Below are highlights from this year's budget that may interest you.



Continuing to prioritize our education and library systems:

- **HCPSS:** This year's Education budget was fully funded, exceeding the State's required maintenance of effort. The renovation of Laurel Woods Elementary School, Patuxent Valley Middle School.
- **HCC:** The County provided funds for HCC to create a \$2.5 scholarship program. In addition, HCC received funds to begin construction on a new parking garage on campus.
- **Libraries:** The Howard County Library System received \$22.3M. The Savage Library continues to move forward with completion expected this summer.

Check out Jen on the web!



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Budget Highlights (continued)

Responding to the need for more public safety resources:

- The FY15 operating budget includes the creation of 14 new officer positions and four civilian positions including a 3-person police unit to focus on human trafficking, especially along the Route 1 corridor, and a 7-person Pathway Patrol Unit dedicated to patrolling communities on bike.



Demonstrating a strong commitment to addressing mental health:



- I am please this year's budget includes the creation of a much needed behavioral health task force charged with identifying and bridging gaps in mental health services. We were also able to add a second full-time Mobile Crisis Team, a new police department position to focus exclusively on mental health cases, and County-sponsored mental health first aid training.

Focusing on bike and pedestrian access:

- A position has been created to form recommendations for improving bicycle and pedestrian accessibility and safety; educating the community on bicycle and pedestrian safety and initiatives; and to help implement the County's bicycle and pedestrian master plans.



Saving Merriweather:

- This year's budget makes a significant investment in the plan to renovate and "save" Merriweather Post Pavilion, which will accelerate much needed renovations, expand the scope of improvements, and immediately create the opportunity for community-based cultural programming. Renovations include a raised roof, new seating, new restrooms, and concession facilities. The plan calls for the venue to be transferred to the Downtown Columbia Arts and Culture Commission within 5 years, which would gain a funding stream for expanded community arts and culture programming.



Creating more recreational space:

- The creation of the new East Columbia Library ball fields, a QuickStart tennis court, and playground have been funded and are on schedule!

For more information about this year's budget, please [click here](#) to visit the Council's website. You can also view all legislation related to the budget by [clicking here](#).

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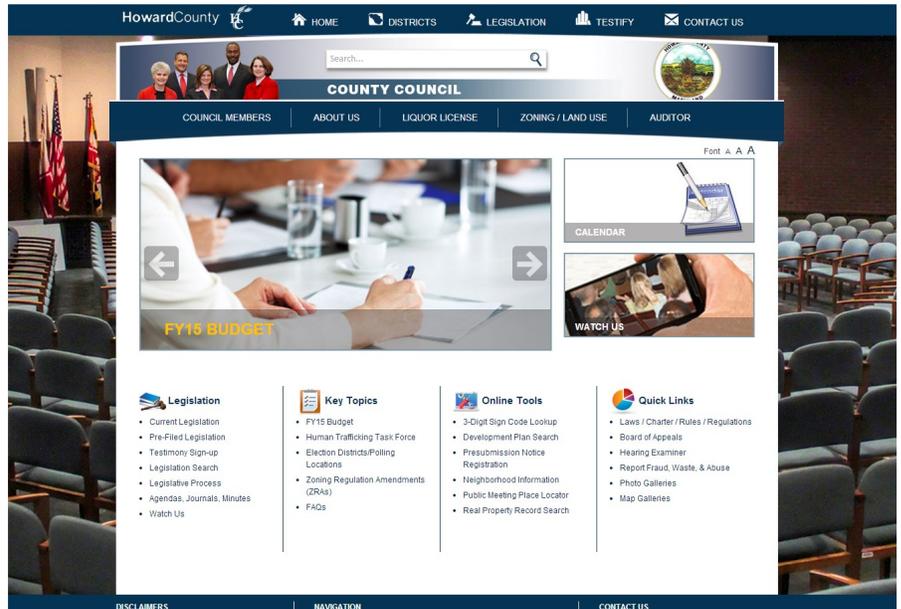
New County Council Website Unveiled!

In the last few weeks, the Council unveiled a redesigned website. This is a project that I have been closely involved with for years and I am so thrilled to see it come to fruition.

In an effort to increase usability, accessibility of legislative information as well as transparency, I was there every step of the way from design concept to testing to content publication to make sure we achieved just that.

I'm especially excited that the new website includes a completely new legislation search tool that allows you search for legislation by year, bill sponsor, bill status, and so much more! We have also revamped the online testimony sign-up process, which we hope you will find to be more user-friendly and intuitive.

With any major project like this, there is always room for improvement as we continue to perfect the new site. If you have issues or suggestions for improvement, please email or call our office at JTerrasa@HowardCountyMD.gov or (410) 313-3108.



Visit CC.HowardCountyMD.gov today!



New Traffic Signal Coming to Guilford Road

A Howard County construction project to improve an area of Guilford Road in the vicinity of Vollmerhausen Road in Jessup is expected to begin soon weather permitting. The project is expected to be completed by Fall 2015. For questions about Capital Project J-4214, contact Lisa Brightwell, Public Works Customer Service, at (410) 313-3440, or by email at PublicWorks@HowardCountyMD.gov. For more information [click here](#).

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Legislation Update

Bills Sponsored & Co-sponsored

CB14-2014 | Sponsor

Topic: Disabilities

At the request of the Commission on Disability Issues, this bill removes the word "handicap" from the Howard County Code and replaces it with "persons with disabilities".

Status: Passed as Amended

CR23-2014 | Co-Sponsor

Topic: Transportation

Tasks the Public Transportation Board to examine the County's public transportation system and to make recommendations on specific improvements to meet the increasing demand for public transportation in and around Howard County.

Status: Passed as Amended

CB33-2014 | Sponsor

Topic: Pre-submission Meetings

Revises notice requirements for pre-submission community meetings including notice to schools and PTAs near the proposed project. Replaces CB12-2014, which was tabled on June 2, 2014 in lieu of this more comprehensive bill.

Status: Under Consideration by Council

CB18-2014 | Co-Sponsor

Topic: Affordable Housing

Uses Rehabilitation Loan Program funds to for renovation/expansion; amends MIHU provisions to prohibit transfer to areas with high poverty concentration; requires fee in lieu funds be used for homeownership opportunities when invested in high poverty areas.

Status: Passed as Amended

CB13-2014 | Co-Sponsor

Topic: Transparency

Requires County Boards and Commissions and the Howard County Housing Commission to publicly post minutes and agendas of all open meetings.

Status: Passed as Amended

CB32-2014 | Co-Sponsor

Topic: Transparency

Would require that County documents and files be publically searchable through the County's website, where possible; and develop an online port in order to make available county data more accessible to the public.

Status: Under Consideration by Council

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Upcoming Events

Savage Fest

Enjoy live music from local bands, magic shows, historic reenactments with Joshua Barney, historic walking tours, and more on Saturday, June 7, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. at Baldwin Common, 9035 Baltimore Street, Savage. For more information [click here](#).

2nd Annual STEM Festival

The second annual County STEM Festival returns with free, hands-on STEM learning experiences on Sunday, June 8, 2014 at Howard Community College. For more information [click here](#).

5th Annual North Laurel Community Fair

This fair is an opportunity to bring programs, free food, massages, dental/health screenings and other fun activities on Saturday, June 14, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. at the Whiskey Bottom Shopping Center, 9105 All Saints Road, Laurel. For more information [click here](#).

Way to go Seniors!

It's that time of year when seniors are graduating and moving on to the next phase of life! Whether it's off to a 2 or 4 year college or right into the workforce, I extend my sincerest congratulations to all the graduates for achieving this important milestone! Best wishes for a bright future!

Congrats!



Class of 2014

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