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Councilman Ball and Weinstein File Legislation to Provide Residential Property Tax Credits for Ellicott City Flood Victims

Ellicott City, MD (September 23, 2016) – Today, Howard County Council Chairperson Calvin Ball and Vice-Chairperson Jon Weinstein will file legislation to establish an “Ellicott City Strong Tax Credit” for residential property owners in Ellicott City, who were affected by flood or sewage damage after the July 30, 2016 historic event.

Many residents experienced significant property damage, which would be very expensive, time-consuming, and difficult to overcome. The legislation would help residential property owners in their efforts to rebuild by temporarily reducing or eliminating County property taxes for property owners who are reinvesting in these efforts.

“These past few months have been a difficult time for property owners in Ellicott City, but it’s been an incredible sight watching our resilient community overcome the challenges and rebuild a stronger and more robust town, said Dr. Ball. “This legislation is just one more way that we can help ease the financial burden for the many residential owners who are continuing to clean up from the devastating flood.”

The proposed tax credit will be granted in an amount of 100% of the cost to repair, rehabilitate, restore, or redevelop the property, up to the full amount of the County property tax. A qualified applicant may receive the credit for tax years 2017 and 2018. The legislation states that a property owner would submit an application to the Department of Finance to receive the Ellicott City Strong Tax Credit and this would be granted in taxable years beginning after June 30, 2016 and ending before July 1, 2018.

“I have been inside many properties damaged by the July flood and know that any assistance we can provide will go a long way to helping Ellicott City’s recovery,” said Jon Weinstein, Council representative for the area hardest hit by the flood. “I will continue to work with the community our all elements of our county, state, and federal government to find ways to promote Ellicott City’s future.”

The proposed legislation will be introduced at the Council’s legislative session on October 5. Testimony will be accepted at the regularly scheduled public hearing on October 17. To sign up to testify, visit <https://apps.howardcountymd.gov/otestimony/>. If you would like to submit your testimony electronically, email councilmail@howardcountymd.gov.

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