



Howard County Council

George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043-4392

COUNCILMEMBERS

Calvin Ball, Chairperson District 2
Jon Weinstein, Vice Chairperson District 1
Jennifer Terrasa District 3
Mary Kay Sigaty District 4
Greg Fox District 5

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Eric Solomon – Public Information Officer
esolomon@howardcountymd.gov
(410) 313-1143

County Council to Hold Special Public Hearing on Resolution to Extend State of Emergency

Ellicott City, MD (August 25, 2016) – During its Legislative Session on September 6, 2016, the County Council will hold a special public hearing on Council Resolution 108-2016, which extends the County Executive's State of Emergency declaration until September 20, 2016, unless terminated sooner by the County Executive. Following the public hearing, the Council will vote on Council Resolution 108-2016 as part of its regular legislative session.

"As some businesses begin to reopen and the recovery process continues in Historic Ellicott City, the Council wants to ensure that the community has a chance to weigh in on extending the State of Emergency," said Council Chairperson Calvin Ball. "I am thankful for the outpouring of support from every resident, business owner, worker, and volunteer here to build a stronger Ellicott City."

On July 30, 2016, an Executive Order was issued in response to the severe flooding and destruction in Ellicott City. According to County code, the County Executive's Order cannot be extended without approval from the County Council. On August 5, the County Council extended the original declaration of the State of Emergency through September 7, 2016. On August 22, the County Executive requested that the Council extend the State of Emergency again to last until September 20.

"I'm pleased that the entire council is supportive of extending the State of Emergency," said County Executive Allan H. Kittleman. "While we hope to open Main Street sooner, it is important for us to provide some predictability to the residents, businesses, and customers so they can plan ahead during the next several weeks as the work continues. Ellicott City will rebuild and we'll continue to work together to make sure it comes back even better."

According to Emergency Management personnel, the State of Emergency allows the County Executive to focus on stabilizing hazards by closing off streets and sidewalks to all traffic. Crews will be able to bring in necessary equipment to perform such tasks as inspecting buildings and repairing essential public infrastructure such as water, sewer, and gas lines, as well as electricity, roadways, and sidewalks.

Councilman Jon Weinstein, whose district includes Historic Ellicott City shared, "In immediate aftermath and weeks since the flood, I have seen the intense efforts of nearly every part of the County government. These efforts have been marked by cooperation and collaboration across local, state, and federal agencies, and between the Administration and the Council. The Ellicott City community is grateful for the County departments and their dedicated staff who have worked so hard since July 30."

To sign up to testify, visit <https://apps.howardcountymd.gov/otestimony/>. If you would like to submit your testimony electronically, email councilmail@howardcountymd.gov.

###

(410) 313-2001

fax: (410) 313-3297

<http://cc.howardcountymd.gov>