

Howard County Council

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Council Member Calvin Ball's Report to the Citizens of Columbia, Elkridge, Ellicott City, and Jessup

Education

Our Howard County educational system is currently ranked number *one* in the State of Maryland. As an educator myself, I am committed to working together and partnering with our schools to make education a priority. Below are examples of how my passion for education has extended into our school system.

- Improvement of Facilities. Supported funding for the improvements of schools within our district, including Bellows Spring Elementary School, Howard High School, Mayfield Woods Middle School, Oakland Mills Middle School, and Talbott Springs Elementary School.
- **First Day of School Event.** Dedicated to welcoming our students back to begin a new school year. Several schools I have visited include: Bellow Springs Elementary School, Deep Run Elementary School, Long Reach High School, Mayfield Woods Middle School, Stevens Forest Elementary School, and Talbott Springs Elementary School.
- Youth Task Force. Sponsored, with several colleagues, legislation that created a youth task force to advise the County Council on youth related issues throughout our communities.
- School Engagements. Dedicated to supporting local district schools and attending events including: Achievement expos, Battle of the Books, Dr. Seuss Day, Graduation ceremonies, Men in the Kitchen, and Read Across America. I have had the opportunity to visit many schools throughout our district including: Howard High School, Long Reach High School, Oakland Mills High School, and Phelps Luck Elementary School.
- **PTA/PTSA Meetings.** Support the importance of PTA/PTSA's and attend meetings within our district to stay informed of comments and concerns in our community. I have had the opportunity to visit these organizations associated with many of our schools including: Bellows Spring Elementary School, Deep Run Elementary School, Howard High School, Jeffers Hill Elementary School, Mayfield Woods Middle School, Oakland Mills Middle School, and Oakland Mills High School.
- Watch DOGS. Supported the Dads of Great Students program, emphasizing the importance of male involvement in the school system. Schools participating in this program include: Bellow Springs Elementary School and Talbott Springs Elementary School.
- **Simulated Congressional Meetings.** Focused on sharing the history and importance of government and public service with our 5th grade students at several schools including: Jeffers Hill Elementary School, Phelps Luck Elementary School, Talbott Springs Elementary School, Thunder Hill Elementary School, and Waterloo Elementary School
- **Ribbon Cutting/Grand Opening.** Supported Howard Community College in many ways including celebrating several accomplishments such as: the Howard Community College Student Center, the Howard Community College Radiologic Technology Laboratory and Howard Community College's New Wing of the Children's Learning Center.
- **Robert Davidson Scholar Athlete Awards.** Supported our student athletes at the annual awards ceremony hosted by the Columbia Rotary Club.

Public Safety

I am committed to ensuring our residents feel safe and comfortable in our community. One of the best ways to accomplish this goal is to invest in our public safety. Some ways I've had the pleasure of doing this include:

- **Police Officers.** Supported funding which provided for the addition of fifty-four (54) new police officers. The funding supports community policing efforts, increased bike patrol presence, and antigang efforts within our communities with thirty (30) officers dedicated to community patrolling. In addition, a full-time detective has been assigned and charged with the responsibility of ensuring compliance with the Maryland Sex Offenders Registry.
- Satellite Police Offices. Supported efforts to increase the number of satellite offices throughout our communities. This proactive policing allows beat officers to get to know neighbors so they are aware of concerns before they may become problems.
- **Crime Statistics.** Supported police efforts which have lead to an overall reduction of crime within District Two. Robberies are down twenty percent, burglaries are down fifteen percent, and auto theft is down forty-nine percent as compared to when I took office in 2006.
- **Domestic Violence Unit.** Supported efforts to work with the Domestic Violence Center of Howard County ensuring victims receive necessary assistance during incidents.
- **Fire Stations.** Supported funding to construct new fire stations for the Jessup and Glenwood communities. These additions will reduce response time and help save the lives of our residents.
- **Healthy Howard.** Supported this program that offers health care to our qualified residents that may not otherwise be able to afford it. Creating a network of resources allows our neighbors to receive affordable health care that they may not have been able to have access to in the past.
- Vaccinations. Supported efforts on behalf of our County Executive Ken Ulman and the Howard County Health Department to offer free vaccinations to our Howard County residents and prevent the spread of influenza and H1N1 virus.
- **Street Lighting.** Dedicated to ensuring the safety of our residents and motorists through proper maintenance of our street lights. My office regularly monitors the effectiveness of lights throughout District Two and reports outages to BG&E.
- **Traffic Calming Devises.** Dedicated to ensuring the safety of our residents through appropriate installation of traffic calming devices such as speed humps, school flashers, traffic signals, and stop signs. My office continuously works with the Department of Planning and Zoning to conduct studies in communities to determine the appropriateness of these devises as a means of protecting our neighbors.
 - Traffic Signals and Improvements. Supported funding for these improvements at locations including: Lark Brown Road at Marie Curie Drive, Robert Fulton Drive at Lee DeForest Drive, Columbia Gateway Drive at Samuel Morse, and Route 175 at Oceano Drive.
 - o **Traffic Calming.** Supported funding for these improvements which include speed humps and other means of traffic calming at locations including: Glenmar Road between Waterloo Road and Birchmere Terrace, Rising Sun Lane between Glenmar Road and Forest Meadow Court, Rising Sun Lane between Forest Meadow Court and Hillmont Court, Rising Sun Lane between Hillmont Court and New Prospect Court, and Tamar Drive between Old Montgomery and Saddle Drive
- **Traffic Conditions.** Committed to improving traffic conditions within our county by supporting widening of county roads some of which are discussed below. In addition, supported improvements such as those along Marshalee Drive, Montevideo Road, Old Montgomery Road and Dorsey Run Road which will also assist our residents in minimizing time spent commuting.
 - Road Widening. Supported funding towards projects aimed at widening roads which minimize traffic conditions and reduce commuting times. Locations include: Snowden River Parkway at Snowden Square, Snowden River Parkway at Maryland Route 108 and Dobbin Road at Dobbin Center Way.

- Road Improvements. Dedicated to ensuring the safety of our roads. Supported improvement some of
 which include milling, paving, concrete repairs, and crack sealing. Some roads that have experienced
 these improvements include:
 - o Aspern Drive, Besthold Garth, Buggy Court, Dorsey Run Road, Drystraw Drive, Eaglebeak Row, High Tor Hill, Hillfall Court, Lark Brown Road (from Route 108 to Waterloo) Lincoln Drive, Log House Court, Margrave Mews, Nettlebed Court, Old Buggy Court, Pine Bottom Lane, Pirch Way, Shepherdess Court, Tidesebb Court, Wingsborne Court and Youngsea Place. Crisscross Court, Dried Earth Blvd, Granite Knoll, Hayshed Lane, Long Meadow Court, Pinecone Row, Saddle Drive, Saddlebag Row, Sanctuary Court, Sohap Lane, Wandering Way, Youngbuck Circle, Afternoon Lane, Babylon Crest, Battler Court, Bellfall Court, Bullring Lane, Caboose Court, Camelback Lane, Cameldriver Court, Castile Court, Catfeet Court, Commadore Court, Criss Cross Court, Fallen Stone, Farewell Road, Gales Lane, Gatsby Green, Good Lion Road, Hobnail Court, Highwind Court, Indian Camp Road, Jamina Downs, Kilimanjaro Road, Lapwing Court, Latchkey Row, Longlook Lane, Maera Court, Macomber Lane, Merryrest Court, Matador Road, Mirrorlight Place, Moongong Court, New Leaf Court, Nightstreet Hill, Oakland Mills Road (dead end), Offshore Green, Old Deep Court, Orient Lane, Ourtime Lane, Owen Brown Road, Pamplona Road, Parallel Lane, Pastora Place, Pinecone Row, Pursuit Court, Pushcart Way, Red Cart Court, River Meadows Drive, Rock Sparkle Row, Rosinante Run, Saddlebag Row, Sargossa Place, Sealed Message Road, Shadowfall Terrace, Sohap Lane, Torrent Row, Two Hills Court, Honeysalt Row, and Wandering Way.
- "Better Together" Enhancing the Long Reach Community. Supported community organization established for the protection of residents within the Long Reach community. My office regularly attends meetings and is involved in their organizational efforts to improve and protect our neighbors. There are many initiatives aimed at protecting the safety of our residents including the "Banning" initiative deterring criminals by removing any identified individual from the property.
- Pedestrian Sidewalk Accommodations and Improvements. Dedicated to the safety of our residents and creating a walkable community. Installations such as crosswalks, crosswalk signals, chokers and median islands have occurred at several locations including: Old Waterloo Road at Deep Run Elementary School, Snowden River Parkway from the Park and Ride to Dobbin Road, Columbia 100 Parkway to restaurant/shopping areas and Howard High School, Port Capital Drive from US Route 1 to New Colony Boulevard, Maryland Route 175 near US Route 1 to Pocomoke Drive, US Route 1 between Troy Hill Drive South and Troy Hill Drive North, Marshalee Drive, Broken Land Parkway at Stevens Forest Road, Columbia Gateway Drive at Samuel Morse, Columbia Gateway Drive at Eli Whitney, and Howard County Health Department entrance at Columbia Gateway Drive
- Robert Oliver Place Enhancement Project (ROPE). Worked together with Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning (DPZ) and the Oakland Mills community to revitalize and enhance public right of ways from the Barn's courtyard to the Oakland Mills Interfaith Center.

Budget

Over several years, my office has worked diligently to support and offer suggestions for the appropriation of funds in support of organizations throughout Howard County. Some of these projects are aimed at saving a significant portion relating to our county budget while some of the projects are geared towards improving the lives of our residents. You will find some of these projects discussed below.

- **Recycling.** Supported initiatives to provide recycling containers to our residents throughout our communities. These efforts have yielded an outstanding increase in recycling and reduced budgetary costs by approximately \$500,000.
- **Hybrid County Vehicles.** Supported use of hybrid vehicles in our county fleet and transit operations. With the prices of fuel soaring, this early investment saved the county hundreds of thousands of dollars and counting.
- Old Montgomery Road Bridge. Supported funding for construction of a replacement structure and approach for the Old Montgomery Road Bridge over Deep Run.

- Lincoln Drive at Cedar Villa Park Drainage. Supported funding to eliminate the freezing of runoff on Lincoln Drive and Cedar Avenue.
- **Montgomery Road Safety Improvements.** Supported funding for the improvement to Montgomery Road west of Landing Road.
- Marshalee Drive Improvements. Supported funding for the design and construction of Marshalee Drive to a minor arterial standard from relocated Montgomery Road (Near MD Route 103) to Montgomery Road (near Marshalee Woods) including the intersection with existing Montgomery Road.
- **Montevideo Road Improvements.** Supported funding to correct sign distance safety problems at the intersection of Montevideo Road and US Route 1.
- **Montgomery Road Improvements.** Supported funding to improve a portion of Montgomery Road between Marshalee Drive and US Route 1.
- US Route 1 Corridor Revitalization. Advocated for funding to improve and revitalize the Route 1. Voted for revisions towards the Route 1 Manual which recommends changes in the US Route 1 right-of-way width and implementation of streetscape, pedestrian, bicycle and public green space improvements on public property. Supported additional funds to finance important projects including the U.S. Route 1 Revitalization Loan Program
- Old Montgomery Road at Brightfield Road Improvements. Supported funding for improvements to the intersection of Old Montgomery Road and Brightfield Road.
- **Elkridge Branch Library.** Supported funding to provide additional required public library service space in the US Route 1 Corridor of Elkridge.
- **Meadowridge Road Main Rehabilitation.** Supported funding for the replacement of a water main in Meadowridge Road between US Route 1 and MD Route 100.
- **Dorsey Run Road Phase B Water Main.** Supported funding for the construction of a water main and relocation of a sewer within proposed Dorsey Run Road from existing Dorsey Run Road to Montevideo.
- **Dorsey Run Road Extension.** Supported funding for the extension of Dorsey Run Road from MD Route 103 to MD Route 175.
- **Dorsey Run Road Improvements.** Supported funding to reconstruct Dorsey Run Road to four lanes from MD Route 175 south to the CSX railroad spur crossing.
- **Dalton Drive Sewer Extension.** Supported funding for construction of sewer to serve homes on Dalton Drive.

Recreation & Parks and Environmental Initiatives

I am committed to improving the quality of life for our community. Our residents have the pleasure of enjoying many recreational activities throughout our County. In the past three years, I have supported several projects and legislation that enhance our community. Listed below are some of the exciting opportunities that I advocated for funding towards.

- **Blandair Regional Park.** Supported funding towards the construction of a 298-acre regional park to be located in off of Route175 between Tamar Drive and Thunder Hill Road. Included in this project will be the restoration of the exterior of the Blandair Mansion.
- **Meadowbrook Park and Athletic Complex.** Supported the development of this 77 acre park conveniently located between Columbia and Ellicott City. This sports facility is now open for residents to enjoy.
- **Troy Hill Park**. Supported funding to create this 106-acre recreational park to be located off Route 1 near Route 100.
- **Youth advisor.** Supported legislation which created a position for youth on the Recreation and Parks Board. This allows our youth to interact and make a difference in our community.
- **Parks Resurfacing Program.** Advocated for funding to improve roadways, pathways, parking lots, playgrounds and game courts resurfacing and replacement.
- **Banner placement**. Supported legislation which allows the placement of banners on playing fields. This permits acknowledgement and support of local businesses and organization.

Legislative Leadership

It is important to take initiative and create legislation that enhances our community. Listed below you will find legislation that I have sponsored and co-sponsored several pieces of legislation throughout the past three years that improve the lives of our residents, many of which you will find discussed below.

• Legislation.

- o Sponsored legislation requiring a living wage for certain Howard County employees.
- o Sponsored legislation condemning hate bias incidents in Howard County.
- o Sponsored legislation to provide for a credit against the County property tax for devices that generate electricity under certain circumstances.
- Sponsored legislation requiring rental housing owners to give notice of intended sale to the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Housing Commission, and tenant organizations for multi-family dwelling units.
- o Sponsored legislation requesting tax preparers to inform their clients about property tax credits.
- o Sponsored legislation to require New Town Village Center redevelopments to be reviewed by the Design Advisory Panel.
- o Co-sponsored legislation that required cable companies to adhere to certain requirements, including maintenance of temporary lines.
- o Co-sponsored legislation which established a youth position on the Commission for Women.
- Co-sponsored legislation providing a tax credit to Police Officers, Firefighters, and Correction Officers permanently disabled in the line of duty.
- o Co-sponsored legislation that calls for additional transparency by requiring pre-submission community meetings for residential subdivision applications to be held in public or institutional buildings within a five mile radius of the subdivision site.
- Co-sponsored legislation that would require pre-submission community meetings for residential subdivision applications in the County to be held for minor subdivisions outside the Planned Service Area for Public Water and Sewer.
- Co-sponsored legislation that requires developers to provide notice of pre-submission community meetings at least three weeks prior to the scheduled meeting and allow Department of Planning and Zoning staff to attend.

Legislative Awards and Accomplishments

I have had the humbling honor to serve as Councilmember for District Two of the Howard County Council. Listed below are awards and accomplishments I am honored to have received throughout my term, including my graduation from the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo), an organization dedicated to developing local officials so that they can best govern their constituents.

- **Graduate from MACo**. Honored by the Academy for Excellence in Local Governance through MACo. This is a professional development program designed to train informed and responsible local officials with objectives including: increasing understanding of local government and how it functions, promoting high ethical standards in public service, providing an informational base for more informed policy making, developing the capacity of local officials to govern effectively, and recognizing local officials for their educational efforts.
- **2007 Robert H. Kittleman Award.** Honored by receiving this award for outstanding contributions to our communities and demonstrated legislative excellence.

Community Involvement and Initiatives

I am committed to serving our community and maintaining awareness of what is happening in our neighborhoods. I invite all my constituents to write in or contact my office so that we can work together and provide meaningful experiences for everyone. Listed below are ways that I have been working diligently to communicate with our residents to best serve District Two.

• Community Initiatives. Sponsored events that raise awareness in our communities. Events include:

- Financial Literacy. Initiated, in partnership with many officials including County Executive Ken Ulman, Howard County Public School Systems, and Howard Community College, our annual Financial Literacy Event free to attendees to educate residents on the importance of fiscal responsibility. Exhibitors teach about investments, retirement options, real estate and much more.
- Men's Health Fair. Initiated, in partnership with our County Executive Ken Ulman, Congressman Elijah Cummings and the Howard County Health Department, our annual Men's Health Fair free to attendees which educates residents on the importance of personal health and fitness. Organizations offer blood pressure testing, BMI testing, fitness demonstrations, diet consultations and much more.
- The Calvin Ball Bulletin. Committed to informing our community on items of interest occurring throughout our neighborhoods. Within my bulletin you will find announcements of area events, programs and services offered to our residents, improvements throughout our community, and acknowledgements of outstanding residents and/or organizations. Listed below are examples of what you will find throughout my bulletin.
 - Area Events. Supported events occurring throughout District Two and Howard County. Events
 include: Green Initiatives, GreenFest, Howard County Men's Health Fair, National Night Out,
 Housing Fair, Coat Drives, Food Drives, and Book Drives.
 - O Programs and Services. Dedicated to providing our residents with information on Howard County Programs which may help to improve their quality of life. Programs available through our government include: FREE tax services to Low & Middle Income residents, Reverse Mortgage Counseling, Energy Block Grants, Stimulus & Revitalization Loan Programs, Disaster Volunteer Mobilization Simulation Exercises, Senior Health Insurance Assistance Program, and Neighbor Ride.
- Neighborhood Associations. Committed to community involvement. As a previous board member and community organizer on the Oakland Mills Village Board, I value the input of our community. To best serve our district, my office maintains regular contact with our communities and their respective neighborhood associations to stay informed on concerns, issues and suggestions. Organizations include the Cedar Villa Heights, Columbia Hills/Meadowbrook Farms Community Association, Glenmont Neighborhood, Greater Elkridge Community Association, Long Reach Village Board, New Colony Village, Oakland Mills Village Board, and Woodlawn Park Homeowners Association.
- **Horizon Council.** Dedicated to understanding the concerns and needs of the communities involved in this organization. Attended their respective meeting in Elkridge to receive community input.
- Governor's Commission on Hispanic Affairs. Dedicated to keeping our families in their homes, prevent foreclosures and loan fraud from devastating our communities. I understand the adverse impact of this crisis on the Latino community and attended the Maryland Foreclosure and Fraud Prevention Initiatives offered by this organization for ways to help combat this problem.
- **Jim Rouse Entrepreneurial Fund** (j-ref). Supported the j-ref mission to assist small and emerging businesses in financial need within Howard County.
- **NAACP Youth Council**. Supported this organization and attended their event which expressed the importance of youth involvement to ensure equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate occurrences of racial discrimination.
- Churches. Partnered with many of our churches throughout our District including: Bethany United Methodist Church, Bridgeway Community Church, Celebration Church, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church and St. John Baptist Church.
- Special Events. Supported our community by attending special events including:
 Commencement/Graduation Ceremonies of Howard Community College, Howard County Police
 Academy, Howard High School, Long Reach High School, and Oakland Mills High School. Other
 events include the 17th Annual Man-Man and 4th Annual Woman-Woman Awards & Recognition
 Ceremony, Black Student Achievement Program, Cedar Villa Back to School Cook Out, Chinese New
 Year Celebration, Dedication Ceremony for Good Deals Great Stuff honoring Edgar Shilling, Middle

- School Achievement Expo, OM CommUNITY Bowling Challenge, and finally, the Volunteer Recognition Ceremony recognizing Howard County General Hospital volunteers.
- Grand Openings/Ribbon Cuttings. Dedicated to supporting businesses and organizations within District Two and Howard County. I have had the privilege to attend the grand openings and support many businesses and organizations including: Ann's House of Nuts, Best Buy, Holiday Inn Express, Home Depot, Mathnasium, Oh What a Cake, Ollie's Bargain Outlet, Ridgelys Run Community Center, SAVAL Foodservice, Second Chance Saloon, Stan Crump's Karate, and Studio Inspire.
- Volunteer. Dedicated to assisting the residents of District Two and Howard County. Several organizations throughout our county provide outstanding services to our community including the Howard County Public Schools, the Community Action Council (CAC), and The Willis McGahee Foundation. These organizations plan several events throughout the year including the Turkey Distribution planned by the CAC and the Holiday Celebration offered through The Willis McGahee Foundation assisting families and children in need within Howard County. I was proud to be able to volunteer for these organizations at their respective events.

Recognitions and Acknowledgements

As a community advocate, I believe it is important to take a moment to acknowledge the great work our residents, organizations and businesses have accomplished. From business and/or organizational anniversaries to individual achievement awards, I strive to recognize our District 2 honorees with an Honorary Resolution from the County Council. Listed below are some of the recipients, both persons and organizations, which have been recognized throughout our community.

- Individuals. Nancy Thompson, Principal at Talbott Springs Elementary School, Henry Dagenais, previous Chair of the Long Reach Village Board and representative on Columbia Associations Board of Directors as the Long Reach representative, Victory Bailey, member of the Long Reach Village Board Tara Brown, kindergarten teacher at Talbott Springs Elementary School, Cynthia Hankin, Principal at Deep Run Elementary School, Kimberly Feldman, English teacher at Oakland Mills High School, Kevin Simmons, Deputy Chief of the Howard County Department of Fire & Rescue Services, Jack Nolan, 5th grade student at Deep Run Elementary School, Kevin Gonzales, student at Long Reach High School, Crystal Rivera, student at Long Reach High School, Linda McEwen and Diana Gray as Long Reach High School ARL Transition Assistants, Melanie Pereira, Director of Corrections for Howard County, Patricia Phillips, teacher at Phelps Luck Elementary School, Heather Graham, teacher at Phelps Luck Elementary School, Regina Lewis, teacher at Phelps Luck Elementary School, Laurie Downin, teacher at Phelps Luck Elementary School, Nancy Ottey, teacher at Phelps Luck Elementary School, Donna Uekermann, guidance counselor at Oakland Mills High School, Annie Bell Freeman Pickett, celebrating her 100th birthday, Kevin McDuffie, coach of the Howard Basketball Team and Karen Gray, Chair of the Oakland Mills Revitalization Initiative.
- Organizations/Businesses. Oakland Mills Middle School Concert Band, National Federation of the Blind of Howard County, Department of Fire and Rescue, Cradlerock School's MESA Team, Omega Psi Phi fraternity, Tau Pi Chapter, Long Reach High School ARL culinary team, Oakland Mills Black Student Achievement Program, Second Chance Saloon in the Oakland Mills Village Center, Voices for Change empowering youth to create positive changes in Howard County, Long Reach Cheerleading Team, Residents of Oakland Mills celebrating the 40th anniversary of its community, Howard High School Partnership Team, and the Faculty, Staff, Students, Parents and Community of Stevens Forest Elementary School who have helped students' consistently exceed State standards in mathematics and reading.

It has been an honor and a privilege to represent you and your neighbors residing within District Two of Howard County, MD for the past three and a half years! I remain committed to our community and will continue to fight on your behalf to ensure the most important issues and concerns of our residents are addressed.

I invite you contact my office at (410) 313-2001 and speak with either myself or my Special Assistant, Kimberly Pruim to share your thoughts and suggestions for our neighborhoods.

All the best,

Dr. Calvin Ball Council Member