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Council Chairman Calvin Ball Honored with this Year's Marilyn J. Praisner Public Service Award for His Commitment to the Community and Government

Ellicott City, MD (December 11, 2015) – Howard County Council Chairman Calvin Ball was this year's Marilyn J. Praisner Public Service Award recipient for his extraordinary service to the Howard County community and government. The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) Board of Directors honored Dr. Ball with this award at its annual winter conference on December 10, 2015.

This prestigious accolade is awarded in honor of Marilyn J. Praisner, a former Montgomery County Council Member and an extremely dedicated participant and leader in her community and across the state. The Board noted that Dr. Ball's accomplishments exemplify the spirit of Marilyn J. Praisner and her passion for public service.

Dr. Ball, who in 2006 became the youngest Council Member ever to be elected Chairperson, was unanimously elected earlier this week to serve his 4th term as Council Chairperson. In 2010, he was appointed as the local elected representative to the Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission, where he served as Chairman of the Education workgroup. He spearheaded the creation of the Growth Commission's sustainable growth awards, which continues to flourish. He was also appointed to the Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities in 2011 and appointed as Chair in 2013. Dr. Ball championed the creation of MACo's Diversity Caucus in 2012 where he presided for two years.

He is a strong legislative leader and advocate for education. His goal is to ensure all students have access to an enriched learning environment that puts them on the pathway to success while closing the achievement gap. Dr. Ball supports public safety, community revitalization, environmental sustainability and health and wellness among many other important initiatives.

Furthermore, Dr. Ball has been instrumental, in collaboration with his colleagues, in developing the plan for the redevelopment of Downtown Columbia; initiating legislation aimed at revitalizing the village of Long Reach; advocating for additional patrols and infrastructure to make our County a safer place; regularly working with Home Owner Associations, community members, and the County to identify and fund projects that enhance and revitalize.

The Marilyn J. Praisner Public Service Award was established to recognize current or former county elected officials who have demonstrated outstanding service to the county, his or her constituents, and MACo. The award is issued every year at the Inaugural Banquet and Awards Ceremony at MACo's Winter Conference.

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