



Howard County Council

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County Council Extends the Executive Order for State of Emergency

Ellicott City, MD (August 5, 2016) - Today, the County Council convened an emergency legislative session to pass CB57-2016, which extends the County Executive's State of Emergency declaration until September 7, 2016, unless terminated sooner by the County Executive. An amendment was added to the legislation that requests the County Executive to provide a report to the Council that updates the members on the emergency efforts.

On July 30, 2016, an Executive Order (2016-73016) was issued in response to the severe flooding and destruction that took place in Ellicott City. According to County code, the County Executive's Order expires tomorrow and cannot be extended without legislation from the County Council. Extending the State of Emergency is necessary to protect public health, safety and welfare, and to protect property.

"The Council is here to do anything we can to work with the community and assist the victims of Saturday's tragic event in Historic Ellicott City," said Council Chairperson Calvin Ball. "My hope is that this extension will ultimately provide residents and business owners with future opportunities to bounce back quicker and more resilient."

"My heart goes out to all of my friends and constituents in Ellicott City," said Council Vice Chairperson Jon Weinstein. "We have a long process ahead of us and I will be with you every step of the way. It's not a question of 'if' we are going to rebuild, but 'how' we are going to rebuild our city even stronger."

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 can now bring in necessary equipment to perform such tasks as removing vehicles, inspecting buildings, and repairing essential public infrastructure such as water, sewer, and gas lines, as well as electricity, roadways, and sidewalks. In addition, the Howard County Police Department is being supplemented with 40 Maryland State Troopers to ensure a strong perimeter.

The Council is in its August recess, but will continue to meet through this unpredictable period.

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