



# Howard County Council

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## 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

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## County Council Passes Emergency Legislation to Waive Licensing and Permit Fees for Residents and Business Owners Affected by the Flood in Howard County

*Ellicott City, MD (August 17, 2016)* - Today, the County Council convened an emergency legislative session to pass Council Bill 58-2016, co-sponsored by the Administration and all five Council Members. The bill waives certain permit, licensing, and Health Department fees.

This emergency bill provides relief to residents and business owners performing extensive reconstruction and repairs requiring County-issued permits. These permits could cost anywhere between \$20-\$200. Some of the more common permits include: building, fire, electrical, sewer, plumbing, HVAC, and food service. The fee waiver will be retroactive to August 1, 2016 and continue through December 31, 2016.

“We are trying to minimize the impact for everyone affected and the fees that we are waiving can make a difference for some property owners,” said Council Vice Chairperson Jon Weinstein, who represents Historic Ellicott City. “Every part of the Howard County Government is here to make sure recovery in Ellicott City and other areas in the County are not impacted by additional costs.”

Property owners are encouraged to promptly apply to the County for permits and licenses as part of their repair and recovery efforts.

“We as a Council, joined by the support of our united community, are committed to a full recovery for Historic Ellicott City,” said Council Chairperson Calvin Ball. “We have the authority and the ability to provide support for displaced residents and business owners looking to recover and rebuild and that’s what this emergency legislation is all about. Our hope is that the focus will shift away from the stress and worry that arises when trying to find the finances to pay for fees and permits and allow those impacted to begin re-envisioning a beautiful tomorrow for Historic Ellicott City.”

The Council is in its August recess, but will continue to meet through this unpredictable period to address emerging needs in the community and by the County Government.

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