



NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL

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Councilman Calvin Ball Files Legislation to Provide Residential Property Tax Credits for Public Safety Personnel

Ellicott City, MD (December 21, 2017) – Today, Howard County Councilmember Calvin Ball filed legislation to establish property tax credits up to \$2,500 for public safety personnel who work and own their residence in Howard County. As a former Howard County firefighter and EMT and current Councilmember, Dr. Ball is a champion for first-responders and recognizes the importance having our public safety personnel living in our community.

“We must invest in those who stand up in the name of service and are on the front lines of protecting our citizens and their property,” said Dr. Ball. “Having first-responders living in our neighborhoods reinforces our community policing policies, assists in emergency situations, and helps reduce criminal activity.”

Baltimore City and Anne Arundel County recently passed similar legislation after local governments received authority from the State legislature last session to issue such a property tax credit through [House Bill 979](#).

“We’re thrilled to see Howard County take leadership on this issue and commend Councilman Ball for his work on this legislation,” said Mike Rund, President of the Professional Firefighters of Maryland. “This is exactly what we had been working on with our advocacy efforts in Annapolis, and we are glad to see Howard County will soon be offering these incentives to our first-responders who put their lives on the line every day.”

Dr. Ball, who remains a strong advocate for first-responders, also noted that the tax credits are necessary for those who have answered the call of duty, given selflessly in the service of others, and protected our County, State, or nation as law enforcement officers or fire, rescue, or emergency services personnel.

“I commend Councilman Ball for championing this tax credit in support of our men and women in blue and all our first-responders,” said Vince Canales, President of Maryland Fraternal Order of Police. “Our law enforcement personnel not only serve and protect our Howard County communities but they are your neighbors. As they continue to seek a pathway to affordable homeownership, the incentive put forth by Dr. Ball shows clear leadership and direction. The Fraternal Order of Police offers their support of this bill and thanks Councilman Ball for his ongoing support of our public safety personnel.”

The proposed legislation, Council Bill 5-2018, will be introduced at the Council’s legislative session on January 2, 2018. Testimony will be accepted at the regularly scheduled public hearing on January 16. To sign up to testify, visit <https://apps.howardcountymd.gov/otestimony/>. If you would like to submit your testimony electronically, email councilmail@howardcountymd.gov.

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