



# NEWS RELEASE

## COUNCILMEMBER JON WEINSTEIN

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Eric Solomon – Public Information Officer  
esolomon@howardcountymd.gov  
(410) 313-1143

### **Council Chair Weinstein Submits Legislation to Establish Economic Opportunity and Prosperity Task Force**

*Ellicott City, MD (August 28, 2017)* – Howard County Council Chair Jon Weinstein has filed a resolution to establish an Economic Opportunity and Prosperity Task Force dedicated to exploring ways to create as many pathways to economic prosperity as possible for individuals and businesses in Howard County. This 13-member task force will examine a range of topics including workforce support, economic development, education, housing, and transportation.

"I am honored that these amazing and committed community members have agreed to take on this important task," Weinstein stated. "Each member has enthusiastically signed-on to share their insights and expertise and engage the broader community to develop recommendations." Council Chair Weinstein envisions the task force will result in a better coordinated and more comprehensive approach to expanding the economic environment for everyone in Howard County. Members of the proposed task force were selected to represent the personal, professional, and educational diversity of the community.

The task force will be co-chaired by former Howard County Director of Community Resources and Services Phyllis Madachy and Howard County Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Leonardo McClarty. "As noted from its many accolades, Howard County is a wonderful place to live and conduct business. Yet, our future prosperity will center on promoting a competitive, pro-business atmosphere coupled with our ability to adequately support those who are socioeconomically disadvantaged," said McClarty.

Anne Brinker, Vice President of the Howard County Community Action Council, is nominated to serve on the task force and noted, "This task force offers a valuable opportunity to take an innovative look at the economic system in Howard County. For some in our community, employment opportunities look like a job opening. For others, they must surmount barriers from transportation to affordable childcare that make that same job opening nearly impossible. I look forward to exploring the full system that contributes to economic growth and reporting on how the diverse parts of the system can interact more successfully."

The task force will submit a report to the County Council and County Executive in December 2018 that includes recommendations. Weinstein hopes that the report will serve as a blueprint for legislation, policies, and programs at the start of the new term for the County Council and County Executive.

The task force legislation, Council Resolution 119-2017, will be introduced at the Council's legislative session on September 5, 2017. Testimony will be accepted at the legislative public hearing on September 18, 2017. To sign up to testify, visit <https://apps.howardcountymd.gov/otestimony/>. If you would like to submit your testimony electronically, email [councilmail@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:councilmail@howardcountymd.gov).

###