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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Howard County files Petition for Judicial Review against the Federal Aviation Administration over air traffic at BWI

ELLCOTT CITY, MD – Howard County Government has filed a Petition for Judicial Review of orders issued by the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) concerning the implementation of air traffic procedures at Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (BWI), and FAA’s failure to perform certain non-discretionary duties. The Petition was filed this month in the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

The Petition was determined to be the best course of action after the FAA abandoned working with the BWI Community Roundtable which the FAA itself established to address the air traffic issues and then denied the County’s formal request for action. The County has been engaged with the Maryland Aviation Administration and FAA since 2014 when new air traffic control procedures were implemented under NextGen, a satellite-based air traffic control system. The use of that system resulted in increased noise and additional negative impacts on County residents.

The County asserts that FAA has failed to undertake environmental reviews required by law and failed to notify the public about its decision-making. “Despite repeated requests, FAA has failed to take the actions necessary to remedy its non-compliance with these non-discretionary duties,” according to the Petition submitted by the County to the Court of Appeals.

The County Executive and County Council trust that their successors will be committed to resolving this issue and continue to evaluate all possible resolutions to obtain relief for Howard County and its residents.

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