



# OFFICE OF THE COUNTY AUDITOR

Craig Glendenning, CPA  
County Auditor

March 6, 2023

## STATEMENT FROM THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY AUDITOR

As the Howard County Auditor, my work depends heavily on the trust of the community I serve. My actions in issuing the initial Howard County Library System (HCLS) investigation report damaged that trust relationship. I am going to work to restore that trust and hope to earn the forgiveness of those community members whom I hurt.

I acknowledge that my report may have brought undue scrutiny to a sorority chapter, which held an event at the library in early October 2022. My Office was responding to an allegation of misuse of taxpayer funds and/or resources by the HCLS management (specifically, that the HCLS management closed the Central Branch early in order to host a private event for their own gain). It was not my intent to investigate, or to even appear to investigate, any actions of the members of the sorority that happened to be holding the event in question. I apologize that, in my initial issuance of the report, my words did not adequately reflect my intent, and that those words led members of the Black community to feel targeted or attacked. Members of the sorority were not the targets of my investigation; in fact, the particular organization using the library's space was irrelevant.

It was inappropriate and unnecessary for my report to call out the dress, gender, or race of attendees of the event. I sincerely apologize for making members of the sorority, or the larger Black community of Howard County, feel targeted. It was not my Office's intent, but it happened nonetheless. I apologize for the hurt and pain I caused by my report's harmful remarks. I genuinely hope to learn from this experience and do better going forward. I will carefully reflect on the focus of my Office's investigations and how our reports may be perceived by the public. My goal is to provide government oversight, not to make third parties feel unduly victimized or scrutinized. I will do the work necessary to earn back the trust of the residents of Howard County. I am open to having a dialogue with individual members of the community whom I hurt, so I can hear how my actions have affected the public. I am committed to learning from my mistakes and improving on my ability to provide governmental transparency and accountability to the public.

Sincerely,

Craig Glendenning, CPA  
County Auditor