



## Virtual (WebEx) Commission Meeting

**WebEx URL:**

<https://howardcountymd.webex.com/howardcountymd/j.php?MTID=mcbab52641f8c5d8cec305dcef7e60706>

**Join from a mobile device (attendees only)**

[+1-650-479-3207](tel:+16504793207),[1800755173](tel:+1800755173)## Call-in toll number (US/Canada)

**Join by phone**

1-650-479-3207

**Meeting Agenda**  
**Thursday, February 4, 2021**  
**1900-2030 hrs**

**1. Roll Call of Commission Members for Establish Quorum:**

Mr. J. Greg Jolissaint, Chair  
Mr. Jonathan K. Branch, Co-Chair  
Mr. Reginald Avery  
Mr. Michael Blum  
Mr. Steven M. Bolen  
Ms. Nafrettifi Griffin  
Mr. Michael Griggs  
Ms. Kelly Kesler  
Mr. Robert Lowell  
Mr. Keith McGuire  
Mr. Paul Rivers

**Acknowledgement of Howard County Government Officials in Attendance:**

Jennifer Corcoran, LCSW-C; Coordinated Entry Manager; DCRS Office of Community Partnerships

Ms. Lisa Terry (Manager, Howard County Office of Veterans and Military Families [HCOVMF]).

**Special Guest(s):**

Dr. Cherron Blakely, Nominee for the HCoCVMF  
Colonel Eric Towns, Nominee for the HCoCVMF

**Others in Attendance:**



## 2. Meeting Opened by Meeting Chair

Meeting Chair will lead attendees in the **Pledge of Allegiance** (*everyone except the Chair should mute their microphones*)

## 3. Reminders of Virtual Meeting etiquette (please stay muted; utilize the WebEx Chat box to notify chair if anyone has a comment or question; if calling in, please don't place the phone on "hold")

## 4. Consideration of the January 2021 Meeting Minutes

## 5. Presentation by Invited Guest: Jennifer Corcoran – Prevention of Homelessness

## 6. Old Business:

### a. Update from the Commission's Subcommittee on Equity and Racial Justice (Jonathan Branch):

Subcommittee members: Mr. Branch (Chair), Mr. Avery, Mr. Blum, Mr. Gillette, Ms. Kesler, Mr. Lowell, Mr. Rivers, Ms. Griffin and Ms. Terry.

\*status of survey for response by HoCo Veterans

### b. Update on January Meeting of the Veterans Support Group (Paul Rivers, Kelly Kesler, Lisa Terry)

\*flyers for VSOs and Commissioners to distribute to military, VSOs, and contractors

### c. Feedback on January VAMHCS Meeting (Steve Bolen)

### d. Update on Veterans Day Presentations in HoCo Schools (Reg Avery)

\*elementary vs. middle schools

\*virtual vs. in-person presentations

### e. Update on MHFA Proposal to the FMA Foundation Board (John Way)

### f. Update on Regional Veteran Symposium in Lieu of Annual Veteran Resource Fair

### g. Update on Howard County Web-Based Veterans Tribute (similar to Montgomery County) – Lisa Terry

\*developing and hosting the website

\*developing guidelines for who can be included

\*soliciting HoCo-affiliated Veterans' names and biographies

\*legal review for permission requirements



\*volunteers to help deploy the website

[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/veteransday](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/veteransday)

## 7. Business “On Hold”

- a. **Columbia Lake Monument completion; fundraising for the monument; dedication ceremony** (donations can still be made by mail)
- b. **Howard County Schools “Buddy Program” for incoming military family members**
- c. **Exploratory Committee to Investigate the Feasibility of Building a Veterans Home in Howard County (Mike Blum)**

## 8. New Business

- a. **University of Maryland Research Study** – requesting Veterans with PTSD interested in training Service Dogs for Fellow Veterans; contact Deb Taber [dtaber@umaryland.edu](mailto:dtaber@umaryland.edu) or 410-706-4233 or 410-706-0659 for more information; compensation available for study participants
- b. **Update on 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans Day Parade and Ceremony 2021 (John Spain)**
- c. **Statements Released by VSOs regarding January 6 events at national capital**
- d. **Howard County Joint Military Council (JMC) significant items (Ed Hall, John Spain)**  
\*connection with Major Terri Taylor, CAP
- e. **Legislative Affairs Update (Steve Bolen)**
- f. **Other Items of Interest (Greg, Lisa)**  
\*see email from HoCo Office of Veterans and Military Families dated Jan 27
- g. **Update on new commission members (Lisa and Greg)**

**Monday, February 1, 2021 at 7pm** – HoCo Council Legislative Session. Resolution will be read into the record. Nominess are NOT required to participate.

- Stream the Council session online: <https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/Online-Tools/Watch-Us>



**Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 7pm** – Council Public Hearing (VIRTUAL). Nominees are REQUIRED to participate and testify (up to 3 minutes) on why they would like to serve.

- Current Commission members encouraged to participate; 1 or 2 able to testify
- Sign-up online: <https://apps.howardcountymd.gov/otestimony/>

**Monday, March 1, 2021 at 7pm** – Council Legislative Session.

- Council will take action on the 2 appointments. Assuming they vote to approve, Dr. Blakely and COL Towns will be officially appointed as commission members.
- Stream the Council session online: <https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/Online-Tools/Watch-Us>

h. **New business from Commission Members (Greg will facilitate)**

i. **Comments or requests for other meeting attendees (Greg Jolissaint)**

## **9. Other Announcements or dates of importance (All)**

\*Flu Shots; COVID Vaccinations

## **10. Next Commission Meeting Date(s)**

Thursday March 4, 2021; Thursday April 1, 2021; Thursday May 6, 2021

## **11. Adjournment**

Enclosure:

Email dated January 27 from Howard County Office of Veterans and Military Families, Subject: Resources for Veterans and Military Families