



HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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November 17, 2020

Senator Clarence K. Lam, Senate Delegation Chair
Howard County Delegation
420 Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Delegate Jessica Feldmark, House Delegation Chair
Howard County Delegation
216 House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: TESTIMONY OF SUPPORT: Ho. Co. 17-21 – Patuxent Commons

Dear Chair Lam and Chair Feldmark,

I am proud to express my support for Ho. Co. 17-21, which would establish funding to support the construction and equipping of Patuxent Commons.

Patuxent Commons, a 76-unit project developed by Mission First Housing Group, a Columbia-based 501(c3) nonprofit developer, on behalf of the Howard County Autism Society will help address the housing needs of adults with disabilities. My administration has committed \$2 million to the project through the Moderate Income Housing Unit program. Additional expected funding from the State's Low-Income Housing Tax Credit program could ensure that the project remains on track for completion by spring 2023. The \$500,000 bond initiative funding will allow future residents to integrate into the surrounding community while living independently. It is my hope to create and maintain inclusive communities and opportunities for all.

As children with disabilities grow into adults, their caretakers hope to find programs and resources that will help them maintain their independence. This year, my administration provided the Howard County Autism Society with a \$10,000 Innovation Fund grant to create a comprehensive program to develop a comprehensive countywide workforce pipeline with our local businesses for individuals living with autism. The FY21 Operating Budget also provided the Howard County Autism Society with a \$50,174 Community Service Partnership grant to improve access to services by providing information, support and advocacy to individuals and families with autism. Delegation support for the Patuxent Commons project will complement these investments in individuals with disabilities.

Thriving and healthy residents are key pillars for measuring Howard County's progress in my administration. The Patuxent Commons project will address housing instability, enhance residents' social connectedness, and serve as a national model for intergenerational housing developments. I urge your support for Ho. Co. 17-21.

All the Best,

Calvin Ball
Howard County Executive