

**County Executive  
of  
Howard County, Maryland**

**Executive Order: 2021-14  
Dated: August 2, 2021  
Subject: Harriet Tubman  
School Grand Opening Council**

**WHEREAS**, the Harriet Tubman School opened in 1949 as the Howard County's only all-black high school until it was closed through desegregation in 1965; and

**WHEREAS**, the Harriet Tubman School was used by the Howard County Public School System for more than 50 years as its central office and then for the departments of maintenance and school construction, and it also housed the Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center and Head Start classes; and

**WHEREAS**, on October 16, 2015, a Memorandum of Understanding was executed with the Howard County Public School System to transfer ownership of the Harriet Tubman School building and surrounding property (the "Harriet Tubman School site" ) to Howard County to be preserved as a historic, educational and cultural center; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 5, 2017, the County Council passed Council Resolution No. 110-2017 that established a School Surplus Use Committee to advance the transfer of the Harriet Tubman School site to County ownership; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 5, 2017, the County Council was informed that the Harriet Tubman School site would be retained for County Government use, recognizing its importance to the community, and the ownership of the Harriet Tubman School site was transferred from the Howard County Public School System to Howard County on April 4, 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 12, 2018, by the issuance of Executive Order No. 2018-12, the Harriet Tubman School Advisory Council was established and tasked with various duties related to identifying priorities and opportunities regarding the renovation of the Harriet Tubman School site; and

**WHEREAS**, the Harriet Tubman School Advisory Council established by Executive Order No. 2018-12 ceased to exist and by the issuance of Executive Order No. 2019-09, the Harriet Tubman School Operations and Use Advisory Council was established and tasked with, among other duties, identifying priorities for the use of the Harriet Tubman School site, exploring a Business Plan to include the development of both Vision and Mission Statements, and advising on an organizational structure that will serve to permanently sustain the vision for the Harriet Tubman School site; and

**WHEREAS**, the construction and renovation of the Harriet Tubman School Site is almost complete and we are now looking forward to a Grand Opening in early 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to achieve the vision of using the Harriet Tubman School site as a center to share an important piece of African-American and Howard County history, I wish to establish a Council to work within the recently completed renovation and the decided-upon uses of the facility to plan a dynamic and impactful grand opening fitting of such an vital piece of Howard County history.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED** that the Harriet Tubman School Grand Opening Council is established and shall complete the following duties and responsibilities:

1. While considering the recently completed renovations and previous Council recommendations, continue to identify priorities for how to best use the historic Harriet Tubman School site as an educational and cultural center.
2. Recommend ongoing opportunities to educate the community about the rich history of the students who attended the Harriet Tubman School.
3. Continue to review the organizational structure that will serve to permanently coordinate and sustain the vision for the Harriet Tubman School as an educational and cultural center. This shall include developing operations for a multi-use facility including, but not limited to, sponsorships, management required personnel, security, revenue sources and audio-visual needs.
4. Explore funding to allow for the advancement of recommendations made by previous Councils and to assist in Grand Opening events.
5. Serve as a liaison to the community and share information with community groups and networks regarding the Grand Opening events.
6. Share other findings and/or recommendations that the Advisory Council deems appropriate.
7. Continue to oversee the Business Plan Development which shall include:
  - a. The oversight of both Vision and Mission statements, operational overview, proposed management structure, priority of usage, and Program/Service opportunities; and
  - b. The development of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Harriet Tubman Foundation, the development of marketing and logos, and the determination of the names of rooms.
8. Plan a Grand Opening event and coordinate the invitations of dignitaries and the outreach and advertisement of the event.

**AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED** that the Harriet Tubman School Grand Opening Council shall consist of the following members:

Bessie Bordenave  
Herman Charity  
Fred Dorsey  
Willie Flowers  
Shawn Gladden  
Caleb Gould  
Melvin Kelly  
James LeMon  
Howard Lyles  
Becky McKirahan  
Kristina McKirahan  
Rev. Doug Sands  
Frank Turner

**AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED** that Bessie Bordenave shall serve as the chair of the Harriet Tubman School Grand Opening Council, and that the following staff members will serve as advisors to the Council:

Michael Kaminetz, Department of Public Works  
Raul Delerme, Department of Recreation & Parks  
Matt Madera, Department of Recreation & Parks  
Nicola Morgal, Department of Recreation & Parks  
Kori Jones, Department of Recreation & Parks  
Jennifer Jones, Office of the County Executive  
Lauren Myatt, Consultant

**AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED**, that the Harriet Tubman School Grand Opening Council shall cease to exist on August 1, 2022 and the terms of the Council members shall expire on August 1, 2022.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, Calvin Ball**, as County Executive of Howard County, have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of Howard County to be affixed this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of August, 2021.



---

Calvin Ball  
County Executive