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**Howard County Local Bills Hearing Testimony**  
*Creation of a State Debt – Howard County – Harriet Tubman Cultural Center*

To: Howard County Delegation

From: A. Raul Delerme, Director of Recreation and Parks

Date: November 17, 2020

The Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks **SUPPORTS** nomination of this project by the Howard County Delegation.

The Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks is requesting your support for a \$200,000.00 Bond Bill Grant for the design, construction, renovation, and equipping of portions of the Harriet Tubman Cultural Center to provide further recreational and educational opportunities to the community, including the development of a playground at the site.

The Harriet Tubman School was established in Columbia as the first dedicated high school for African-American students in 1948 and produced its first graduating class in 1952. The school remained in operation until it was closed in 1965. The property has now been undergoing development into the Harriet Tubman Cultural Center, which will support the development and provision of programming and resources to the community that will honor the historical, multicultural, and educational legacies of the Harriet Tubman School.

The Department of Recreation and Parks has proposed the development of a new playground outside of the Harriet Tubman Cultural Center for the enjoyment of those from all over the county visiting the property. The Department of Recreation and Parks has also identified many improvements and resources that can be added to the interior of the facility to enhance and expand the possible recreational, cultural, historical, and personal health, wellness, and growth opportunities available. We believe additional funding for these improvements and resources will aide in realizing the vision of the Executive Advisory Team, the Harriet Tubman Foundation, the Howard County Historical Society, and the community for the Harriet Tubman Cultural Center.

Howard County is prepared to match this grant through matching funds in the Department of Recreation and Parks' proposed FY2022 Capital Budget.

Accordingly, the Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks respectfully requests the Howard County Delegation nominate this Bond Bill initiative request for inclusion in the 2021 Regular Session of the Maryland General Assembly.