

Howard County Housing Affordability Coalition

February 19, 2019

Dr. Calvin Ball, County Executive
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear Dr. Ball,

As you likely know, the Howard County Housing Affordability Coalition was recently formed to “achieve community understanding, policymaking and regulatory decisions that will lead to an increase in and equitable access to Howard County housing affordability.”

Our Coalition members are appreciative that you continue to draw attention to the need for affordable housing in our community. And we are heartened that your Transition Team Report recognizes that the “challenge of housing is not new to Howard County...that...during the last fifteen years, panels, task forces, community organizations and even transition committees...have analyzed data showing our growing housing deficit and the imbalance between household incomes and housing costs.”

As the critical first step in meeting this challenge, we encourage and support the inclusion in the Administration’s FY 2020 budget the funding necessary to develop the “comprehensive, actionable strategic plan with measurable goals and a diverse set of legislative, regulatory, economic and social tools for expanding housing opportunities in Howard County” called for in the Transition Report and in the County Council’s Economic Opportunity and Prosperity Task Force Report. Our research indicates that the development of a comprehensive plan could cost as much as \$400,000 and with appropriate planning and execution the plan can be developed within the next year.

As noted above, over the years many groups have studied the problem of housing affordability in the County and have concluded that a plan is necessary. We can finally make that plan a reality in 2020. We look forward to discussing with you and your staff this funding request in greater detail.

Thank you for your consideration and best regards,

Howard County Housing Affordability Coalition

INSERT LIST OF ORGANIZATION/INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTERS

Cc: Sam Sidh, Chief of Staff
Carl DeLorenzo, Director of Policy and Programs
Christiana Rigby, Chair, Howard County Council
Coalition Members