



HCCA

Howard County Citizens Association

Since 1961... The Voice of the People of Howard County

Date: 10 December 2025

Subject: **HCCA 2025 Annual Report**

ALL,

The Howard County Citizens Association, HCCA wishes everyone the most joyous of a Holiday Season and New Year. We appreciate your continuous support over the years. We hope you will take the time to renew or become a paid 2026 member by going to our website at <https://howardcountyhcca.org/>.

The HCCA established in 1961 continues to be proactive in supporting communities and trying to ensure we have good government. Our Mission is as follows:

- Maintaining and improving the quality of life in Howard County.
- Exemplary government and delivery of services.
- Sound fiscal policies and responsible administration of public funds.
- Orderly growth and development in the best interests of its residents and the environment.
- Educational system excellence.
- Preservation of agricultural, historical, and open space.

This past year we have tried our best to execute the mission statements particularly by working with various communities, such as Highland regarding the Go Kart Track, Cedar Creek about the W.R. Grace Plastic Facility, and Manor Hill constant complaints regarding their quality of life suffering due to the “Farm Brewery” violations experienced in their neighborhood. To this end we have been in the trenches testifying before the County Council, sending emails and going before the Board of Appeals (BoA). As many of you know the posture of the BoA has been abysmal and needs a drastic change which HCCA has been articulating for some time. We are very concerned that despite all our County Councilmembers stating their positive reaction to Council-member Deb Jung’s nominee regarding her outstanding qualifications to the BoA that Council-members Jones, Rigby and Yungmann voted Against. This was deplorable, especially because the appointment would have been a positive step to improving the BoA.

County Executive Ball's staff reached out to us to provide items to be worked upon before the end of his tenure. To date we have not received requested feedback and hope to hear back soon! The items we submitted can be found here — <https://howardcountyhcca.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Administration-Calls-HCCA-for-Action-Items-to-Pursue.pdf>.

We are extremely pleased we had a part in establishing the Inspector General office to be a major part of our government with our testimony and advocacy. This position will bring oversight and accountability to the community's concerns.

We also testified to the Compensation Review Commission suggesting that Council-members yearly salary be increased as the majority work more than a part-time job. To rectify this to a full-time position the Charter would have to be amended.

You can reference our many testimonials and activities by going to <https://howardcountyhcca.org/member-info/reports-documents-and-testimonies/>.

Our Board Members are extremely dedicated volunteers. There is a perfect quote which describes this group. "Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless." See <https://howardcountyhcca.org/us/citizens-in-action/> as our Board Members are also very active in various extra-curricular areas relating to the County and State. For example, Lisa Markovitz participated as a member on the Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO) Task Force; Brian England, New Town Task Force; Howard Johnson and Paul Verchinski the BWI Roundtable and Paul on the State Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Committee; Alan Schneider, Staff Member for Delegate Chao Wu; Kristy Mumma, serves on the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and was the 2025 Women's Leadership Chair; Karina Fisher and Ryan Powers are very involved with the Board of Education.

We were extremely pleased and honored we had as our special guests at our Annual Meeting in June, School Superintendent Bill Barnes and Congresswoman Sarah Elfreth.

It is indeed "Tis' the season to be jolly" because we are so fortunate to have two Councilmembers who truly believe in our mission — Deb Jung and Liz Walsh. THANK YOU BOTH. Opel Jones stated at a Public Legislative Hearing his appreciation for our organization. It is very rewarding to receive creditability from our elected officials and various community members.

We can only hope the New Year will be much more favorable towards our position with this being an election year. We look forward to conducting Candidate Forums for both County Executive and County Council races. Stay tuned for announced dates and times.

Yes — we are hoping 2026 will be the beginning of a more positive outlook to benefit our community — Howard County. With a new election and your advocacy this could become reality as hopefully our voices matter. All one can do is try and that's what we will continue to do.

HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Stu Kohn
HCCA President
Website: <https://howardcountyhcca.org/>