Virtual (WebEx) Commission Meeting

WebEx URL:
https://howardcountymd.webex.com/howardcountymd/j.php?MTID=mcbab52641f8c5d8cec305dcef7e60706;

Join from a mobile device (attendees only)
+1-650-479-3207,,1800755173## Call-in toll number (US/Canada)

Join by phone
1-650-479-3207

Meeting Agenda
Thursday, February 4, 2021
1900-2030 hrs

1. Roll Call of Commission Members for Establish Quorum:

   Mr. J. Greg Jolissaint, Chair
   Mr. Jonathan K. Branch, Co-Chair
   Mr. Reginald Avery
   Mr. Michael Blum
   Mr. Steven M. Bolen
   Ms. Nafrettifi Griffin
   Mr. Michael Griggs
   Ms. Kelly Kesler
   Mr. Robert Lowell
   Mr. Keith McGuire
   Mr. Paul Rivers

Acknowledgement of Howard County Government Officials in Attendance:

   Jennifer Corcoran, LCSW-C; Coordinated Entry Manager; DCRS Office of Community Partnerships

   Ms. Lisa Terry (Manager, Howard County Office of Veterans and Military Families [HCOVMF]).

Special Guest(s):

   Dr. Cherron Blakely, Nominee for the HCoCVMF
   Colonel Eric Towns, Nominee for the HCoCVMF

Others in Attendance:
2. Meeting Opened by Meeting Chair

Meeting Chair will lead attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance (everyone except the Chair should mute their microphones)

3. Reminders of Virtual Meeting etiquette (please stay muted; utilize the WebEx Chat box to notify chair if anyone has a comment or question; if calling in, please don't place the phone on “hold”)

4. Consideration of the January 2021 Meeting Minutes

5. Presentation by Invited Guest: Jennifer Corcoron – Prevention of Homelessness

6. Old Business:

   a. Update from the Commission’s Subcommittee on Equity and Racial Justice (Jonathan Branch):
      Subcommittee members: Mr. Branch (Chair), Mr. Avery, Mr. Blum, Mr. Gillette, Ms. Kesler, Mr. Lowell, Mr. Rivers, Ms. Griffin and Ms. Terry.

      *status of survey for response by HoCo Veterans

   b. Update on January Meeting of the Veterans Support Group (Paul Rivers, Kelly Kesler, Lisa Terry)
      *flyers for VSOs and Commissioners to distribute to military, VSOs, and contractors

   c. Feedback on January VAMHCS Meeting (Steve Bolen)

   d. Update on Veterans Day Presentations in HoCo Schools (Reg Avery)
      *elementary vs. middle schools
      *virtual vs. in-person presentations

   e. Update on MHFA Proposal to the FMA Foundation Board (John Way)

   f. Update on Regional Veteran Symposium in Lieu of Annual Veteran Resource Fair

   g. Update on Howard County Web-Based Veterans Tribute (similar to Montgomery County) – Lisa Terry
      *developing and hosting the website
      *developing guidelines for who can be included
      *soliciting HoCo-affiliated Veterans’ names and biographies
      *legal review for permission requirements
volunteers to help deploy the website

[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/veteransday](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/veteransday)


   a. Columbia Lake Monument completion; fundraising for the monument; dedication ceremony (donations can still be made by mail)

   b. Howard County Schools “Buddy Program” for incoming military family members

   c. Exploratory Committee to Investigate the Feasibility of Building a Veterans Home in Howard County (Mike Blum)

8. New Business

   a. **University of Maryland Research Study** – requesting Veterans with PTSD interested in training Service Dogs for Fellow Veterans; contact Deb Taber dtaber@umaryland.edu or 410-706-4233 or 410-706-0659 for more information; compensation available for study participants

   b. **Update on 7th Annual Veterans Day Parade and Ceremony 2021** (John Spain)

   c. **Statements Released by VSOs regarding January 6 events at national capital**

   d. **Howard County Joint Military Council (JMC) significant items** (Ed Hall, John Spain)

   *connection with Major Terri Taylor, CAP

   e. **Legislative Affairs Update** (Steve Bolen)

   f. **Other Items of Interest** (Greg, Lisa)

   *see email from HoCo Office of Veterans and Military Families dated Jan 27

   g. **Update on new commission members** (Lisa and Greg)

**Monday, February 1, 2021 at 7pm** – HoCo Council Legislative Session. Resolution will be read into the record. Nominess are NOT required to participate.

- Stream the Council session online: [https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/Online-Tools/Watch-US](https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/Online-Tools/Watch-US)
Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 7pm – Council Public Hearing (VIRTUAL). Nominees are REQUIRED to participate and testify (up to 3 minutes) on why they would like to serve.
   - Current Commission members encouraged to participate; 1 or 2 able to testify
   - Sign-up online: https://apps.howardcountymd.gov/otestimony/

Monday, March 1, 2021 at 7pm – Council Legislative Session.
   - Council will take action on the 2 appointments. Assuming they vote to approve, Dr. Blakely and COL Towns will be officially appointed as commission members.
   - Stream the Council session online: https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/Online-Tools/Watch-U

   h. New business from Commission Members (Greg will facilitate)

   i. Comments or requests for other meeting attendees (Greg Jolissaint)

9. Other Announcements or dates of importance (All)
   *Flu Shots; COVID Vaccinations

10. Next Commission Meeting Date(s)
    Thursday March 4, 2021; Thursday April 1, 2021; Thursday May 6, 2021

11. Adjournment

Enclosure:

Email dated January 27 from Howard County Office of Veterans and Military Families, Subject: Resources for Veterans and Military Families