



Howard County Local Bills Hearing Testimony
Creation of a State Debt - Howard County – Barnard Fort House

Howard County Department of
Recreation & Parks' Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Howard County Delegation

Date: November 19, 2019

From: A. Raul Delerme, Director

Howard County Department of Recreation & Parks **SUPPORTS Nomination by the Howard County Delegation.**

The Howard County Department of Recreation & Parks is requesting a \$150,000.00 Bond Bill for the design, construction, restoration/rehabilitation, and equipping of the historic Barnard Fort House, located within the historic district of Ellicott City and the Patapsco Valley Heritage Area.

Howard County acquired this property in 2013, which was built by an English-born cabinet maker in the mid-1800's. The building is constructed of local materials, including local granite, and is an excellent example of a middle-class home typical to skilled craftsmen of the area and time. The property was owned and occupied by descendants of Mr. Fort for generations and underwent several renovations before experiencing some neglect and subsequently being acquired by the County prior to subdivision.

This project aims to restore and preserve the original structure while renovating the later additions to the house such that adaptive reuse of this vacant property will be possible. The site has great potential for public enjoyment and County use, but not in its current design and condition. Financial assistance through this Bond Bill will allow for the creation of classrooms, proper preservation of local historic artifacts, and the development and coordination of interpretive and appealing activities relevant to the site and surrounding area. Your nomination of this Bond Initiative Request for the Barnard Fort House is support for educational programming, entertainment, and tourism benefiting the local economy, the post-flood recovery of Ellicott City, and Maryland in general.

Howard County is prepared to match this Bond Bill request in FY 2021.

Accordingly, the Howard County Department of Recreation & Parks requests the Howard County Delegation Nominate this Bond Initiative Request for inclusion in 2020 Regular Session of the Maryland General Assembly.