



## HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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Senator Clarence K. Lam, Senate Delegation Chair  
Howard County Delegation  
420 Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Delegate Courtney Watson, House Delegation Chair  
Howard County Delegation  
216 House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: **TESTIMONY OF SUPPORT:** Ho. Co. Legislative Bond Initiative: Centennial

Dear Chair Lam, Chair Watson and Delegation Members,

I am proud to express my support for this project, which would establish funding to support the repair and replacement of the Centennial Park – West Area playground.

Howard County is one of the best places to play and enjoy the outdoors in Maryland, thanks in large part to our award-winning parks and playgrounds. Established in 1987 with the support of Program Open Space, Centennial Park in Ellicott City is one of the crown jewels of our Department of Recreation & Parks public park system. It is a destination for all who look to experience the beauty of nature and come together as a community.

I am grateful for the Delegation's support for our county's park and playground infrastructure, including the \$8 million in Local Parks and Playground Infrastructure Funding that the Delegation secured in the Maryland FY 2022 Capital Budget. Support for this \$200,000 bond initiative will build upon this investment by funding repairs to the Centennial Park – West Area playground. The thirty year-old playground is beyond its functional lifespan. Structure and surface improvements will enhance public accessibility, visitor safety, and the overall park experience.

Howard County's children and adults have enjoyed getting back outside as part of the COVID-19 recovery. Our community's public parks are among the best free and accessible places for residents and visitors to care for their mental and physical health. I urge support for this project so that the current and future park users can stay active, healthy, and build new friendships in a place that many have come to love.

All the Best,

Calvin Ball  
Howard County Executive