



HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

3430 Courthouse Drive ■ Ellicott City, Maryland 21043 ■ 410-313-2013 Voice/Relay

Calvin Ball
Howard County Executive
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FAX 410-313-3051

November 16, 2021

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: Historic Downtown
Ellicott City Wayfinding

Dear Chair Lam, Chair Watson and Delegation Members,

I am proud to express my support for this project, which would establish funding for a comprehensive wayfinding signage system for Historic Ellicott City.

The *Ellicott City Watershed Master Plan*, a comprehensive long-range document that creates a community-driven vision for historic Ellicott City and the Tiber Branch Watershed, recommended the development of a wayfinding signage and information system. This plan won the coveted Best in Category Award, competing with counties across the nation, from the National Association of Counties (NACo). A wayfinding system for Historic Ellicott City will help residents and visitors: find parking and attractions; enhance commercial district branding; and identify high ground in the case of an emergency.

The \$250,000 bond initiative will fund the production and installation of wayfinding signage in the historic downtown. A Baltimore Metropolitan Council-funded study is also determining the most appropriate locations for signage placement. Once installed, this information system will improve the quality of the visitor experience, support numerous small businesses, and build upon the vital public safety infrastructure projects that we have created through the *EC Safe & Sound* plan to avoid loss of life in extreme weather events.

Ellicott City is a special place that embodies the idea of resiliency and community. As one of the best places to live nationwide, according to *Money Magazine*, Ellicott City draws visitors from around the county and the country to enjoy the charm of historic downtown. This bond initiative will help visitors and residents find safe ways to explore the town and create unique experiences that last beyond their visit.



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I request your support for this project.

All the Best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Calvin Ball', is written over a faint, larger version of the signature.

Calvin Ball
Howard County Executive