



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: Ellicott City Drop-Arm Barriers

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 installation of four drop-arm barriers in Historic Ellicott City to prevent serious threats to life safety during a Flash Flood event.

As County Executive, my number one priority is the safety of all who live in, work in, and visit Howard County. After taking office, I announced the *EC Safe & Sound* plan to ensure that in extreme weather events like the historic floods of 2011, 2016 and 2018, businesses, residents, and visitors of Ellicott City have as much warning and direction as possible to find safety. I am grateful for the continued partnership and financial support that the Delegation has provided to support this plan for our historic town. If approved, the Ellicott City Drop-Arm Barriers bond initiative will complement the public safety improvements that have been put in place since I took office .

We intend to install four remote activation vehicle barriers to physically restrict vehicle access points to Main Street when flash flooding is imminent. Current standard operating procedure requires nine Howard County Police officers to block vehicle access during these events. This presents a safety risk to our public safety personnel. If an officer responding to an emergency call is unable to restrict access to Main Street, residents and visitors may be exposed to a life safety threat. Remotely activated drop-arm barriers will allow our police officers to focus on other needs. The barriers will also divert vehicular traffic to roadways leading to higher ground.

This bond initiative will help keep our Historic Ellicott City safe and ensuring that all who visit feel safe. I urge your support for this project.

All the Best,

Calvin Ball
Howard County Executive