



HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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

Calvin Ball
Howard County Executive
cball@howardcountymd.gov

www.howardcountymd.gov
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: West Friendship Park

Dear Chair Lam, Chair Watson and Delegation Members,

I am proud to express my support for this project, which would establish funding to support improvements to the display building, public access, and trail system at West Friendship Park.

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. West Friendship Park is a welcoming and cherished place for West Friendship families to exercise, socialize, and build community together. Through an agreement between the County and the Howard County Antique Farm Machinery Club, West Friendship Park also operates as a heritage site. Each year, this park welcomes visitors looking to experience the beauty of nature and celebrate our county's rich agricultural tradition.

I am grateful for the Delegation's support for our county's park and playground infrastructure. Support for this \$400,000 bond initiative will build upon this investment by funding repairs to the worn trail system and construction of the Howard County Antique Farm Machinery Club's display building. The building will allow the Club to conduct educational programming and use program revenue to maintain portions of the park. Parking and infrastructure improvements will also help the Club draw more visitors to the park.

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