

---


## Written Testimony - Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Commission

---

**From** Khalida Burton <khalidaburton@gmail.com>

**Date** Tue 5/19/2026 12:06 PM

**To** CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

 1 attachment (59 KB)

MLK Testimony - May 18, 2026 V2.pdf;

### **WARNING!!!**

This email originated from someone outside of Howard County  
**\*\*\*DO NOT CLICK LINKS OR OPEN ATTACHMENTS\*\*\***  
unless you recognize the sender and know for sure that the content is safe

Good Morning

Please see attached.

--

Thanks and Blessings,

Khalida Burton

**Khalida S. Burton**  
**Columbia MD - Council District 4**  
**Written Testimony**  
**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission**

May 18, 2026

Good evening, Chairperson and members of the Howard County Council.

My name is Khalida Burton, and I'm truly honored to be here this evening as the County Executive's nominee to the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission. I want to thank County Executive Calvin Ball for the nomination, and I appreciate your time and consideration.

I've called Howard County home since May 1999. I was born and raised in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and attended Virginia State University. After graduating, I came to Columbia to begin my career—and over time, this community became home in every sense of the word.

Professionally, I've spent more than 26 years in healthcare finance and reimbursement, and I currently serve as a Vice President. My work has always centered on helping organizations operate effectively, stay compliant, and remain financially strong so they can continue serving their communities. At the end of the day, it's really about access and fairness—making sure systems work the way they're supposed to for the people who rely on them.

That perspective is a big part of why this opportunity matters to me. The work of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission is not just about remembering Dr. King—it's about carrying forward his values in ways that people can actually see and feel in their daily lives. It's about service, connection, and creating opportunities for people to come together across differences.

If confirmed, I would be excited to support programming that feels meaningful and inclusive. I think about things like bringing more people into community service efforts across the county, creating spaces where young people can learn about Dr. King's legacy and see themselves as leaders, and partnering with local organizations to have real conversations about equity, health, and opportunity.

Given my background, I'm also especially interested in supporting initiatives that connect health and community—whether that's through outreach, education, or helping people better understand and access available resources. I think those kinds of efforts reflect Dr. King's vision in a very real and practical way.

Howard County is a diverse and engaged community, and I believe the Commission has a unique role in bringing people together—not just to reflect, but to act.

It would be a privilege to serve in this role and to help advance programming that not only commemorates Dr. King's legacy but also strengthens the fabric of our community.

Thank you for your consideration.