
Rabbi Yanky Baron's Full Remarks

From Rabbi Yanky Baron <rabbi@chabadellicottcity.com>

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To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Thanks for the opportunity to
testify this evening, here are my
full remarks.

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Good evening, Council
Members.

My name is Rabbi Yanky Baron,
and I am honored to be

considered for and accept my selection to the Howard County Inter-Faith Advisory Commission. My wife, Rebbetzin Leah, and I have been directing Chabad of Ellicott City for the past seven years.

Chabad of Howard County has been part of this community for forty years. My parents, Rabbi Hillel and Chanie Baron, the longest serving Jewish faith leaders in Howard County, established the very first

independent faith facility in Columbia, because they saw an opportunity, and a responsibility, to provide individual care support and space for faith communities, outside of the interfaith centers envisioned by Jim Rouse. For four decades, Chabad has supported, connected, and uplifted individuals across Howard County. The leader of Chabad, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson of blessed memory, taught that **the concept of**

individual support to community groups, is very much the story of America, a land which has assimilated new groups since its creation. When our founding fathers chose the maxim: E Pluribus Unum, “Out of the Many, One,” they did not want the oneness to obscure the plurality. Instead, with freedom and tolerance enshrined as the foundation of its system of values, America evolved into a society which teaches every individual to flourish,

accentuating every group's contribution to the cultural mosaic.

I have had the privilege of serving as a voice for the Jewish community, representing our stories to local and national news agencies on topics including antisemitism, community growth, and Jewish education and pride. I also serve as a Kennedy Krieger Institute Faith Ambassador, promoting inclusion across our community.

My father, Rabbi Hillel Baron, serves as chaplain for the Howard County Police Department and Fire Department, visiting local correctional facilities and serving as chaplain for Howard County General Hospital.

Personally, I have worked to harness the power of government and local agencies to better serve our community, through partnerships with the Howard County 50+ Centers,

Recreation and Parks, the Disability Roundtable, Economic Development Authority, and the Loan Closet. I have also represented Jewish parents when issues arise in Howard County Public Schools.

I have had the honor of working alongside all of you to promote character education in our schools through, Education and Sharing day, a Meaningful Moment, and ARK, Acts of Routine Kindness, a charitable

campaign inspiring generosity and kindness from our youngest to our oldest, as well as celebrating with you at various Jewish holiday and communal functions in the county. I

continue to coordinate with the Howard County Government and state legislators to better serve our broader community.

This work is supported by five Chabad centers across Howard County ,five dedicated synagogues and community

centers, along with nine Jewish youth programs, five social welfare initiatives, and five character education programs, together building a stronger, more connected Howard County.

Chabad is, and always will be, apolitical. As Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks taught: "When religion becomes political or politics becomes religious, the result is disastrous to religion and politics alike." Our strength lies in offering guidance and

encouragement without partisan involvement, allowing us to work constructively with every elected official and community leader.

I have lived in Howard County for all thirty-one years of my life. I came back as a rabbi to give back to the community that raised me. On this fortieth anniversary, as we look ahead to the next forty years, it is my honor and privilege to join this Commission.

Thank you for your consideration.



Rabbi Yanky Baron

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