

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2017 Legislative Session

Legislative day # 9

RESOLUTION NO. 72 2017

Introduced by: Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment Sonia He to the Environmental Sustainability Board.

Introduced and read first time on June 5, 2017.

By order


Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council

Read for a second time and a public hearing held on June 19, 2017.

By order


Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council

This Resolution was read the third time and was Adopted ☒, Adopted with amendments ☐, Failed ☐, Withdrawn ☐ by the County Council on July 3, 2017.

Certified by


Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing language; TEXT IN SMALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing language. ~~Strike-out~~ indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment.

WHEREAS, Section 404 of the Howard County Charter and Section 6.300 of the Howard County Code provide for the County Executive to appoint and for the County Council to confirm nominees to Howard County Boards and Commissions created by law; and

WHEREAS, Sections 6.339 and 6.600 of the Howard County Code provide for an Environmental Sustainability Board in Howard County; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive has proposed the appointment of Sonia He as a member of the Environmental Sustainability Board; and

WHEREAS, the County Council ratifies the County Executive's special trust and confidence in the abilities of the nominee.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland this 3rd day of July, 2017 that the following person is appointed as a member of the Environmental Sustainability Board to serve from the passage of this Resolution to May 31, 2018 or until a successor is appointed and confirmed:

Sonia He
Ellicott City, MD

Good Evening Members of the Howard County Council,

The Howard County Environmental Sustainability Board serves a very crucial role in our community: addressing environmental concerns to work towards a greener future. Each year, a student member is selected to bring in the youth perspective and represent our future environmental leaders. Thus, it is imperative for this individual to be experienced in environmentalism, passionate about sustainability, and dedicated to serving our planet. My name is Sonia He, and I am a rising senior at River Hill High School. I believe that I would be a great addition to the Sustainability Board, because I embody all of the abovementioned characteristics.

My passion for the environment began in my sophomore year of high school, when I conducted a year-long research project on various recycling signage to determine which type would be the most effective at encouraging students to recycle in a cafeteria setting. From this project, I was exposed to all of the environmental issues that our planet faces and saw the need for young people, like me, to take action. I also met other students who shared the same passion in the environment, and together, we formed the River Hill Green Initiative, a student-led organization dedicated to tackling environmental issues at our school. Over the past year, we have implemented many projects, including revitalizing our school's 2000 square foot rain garden, planting trees around campus, and spearheading a bathroom paper towel composting program. Beyond my work at River Hill, I worked with students from other high schools to organize the first-ever Howard County Environmental Symposium that brought together environmentally-inclined students from all over the County for booths showcasing environmental internship and volunteer opportunities and professional speakers, most notably Tim Foresman, former Chief Director of the United Nations Environment Programme.

I am experienced, passionate, and dedicated. I have served the environment in the past, and I hope to continue serving the environment as the next student member of the Environmental Sustainability Board. I am truly grateful for this opportunity, and I would like to thank you for your consideration.

Sonia He

Objective

To be accepted as the student member of the Howard County Environmental Sustainability Board.

Education

River Hill High School 2014-Present
12101 Clarksville Pike, Clarksville, MD 21029 · (410) 313-7120 GPA: 4.0

University of Maryland, College Park, MD Summer 2015
PSYC 221 - Young Scholars Program

Leadership

Co-President, Founder - River Hill High School Green Initiative 2016-Present

- ❖ Organize and supervise the green initiatives of River Hill High School and the surrounding community
- ❖ Revitalize a 2,000 sq. ft. rain garden and butterfly garden on school grounds for the purpose of filtering runoff water
- ❖ Organize tree planting event on school campus
- ❖ Analyze school energy bills to determine energy conservation measures
- ❖ Distribute environmental knowledge survey to student body
- ❖ Conduct monthly meetings with the school administration and teachers
- ❖ Write multiple grants in order to secure funds for the projects enacted

Executive Committee - Student Learning Conference 2015-2016
❖ Organized the 24th Howard County G/T Student Learning Conference, showcasing research projects conducted by high school students

Publicity Secretary - Class of 2018 Student Government Association 2014-2015
❖ Boosted membership and club events through promotional efforts
❖ Maintained correspondence with members via email and club meetings
❖ Organized the CandyGrams Fundraiser and Inspirational Note Project
❖ Composed the Freshman Slideshow, broadcasting student activity throughout the year

Honors and Awards

National Honor Society 2016-Present
Principal's Honor Roll Quarterly Achievements (10) 2014-Present
French National Honor Society
National French Exam Bronze Medalist 2016
Academic Excellence in G/T Independent Research 2016
Invited Presenter at 24th Annual Howard County Student Learning Conference April 2016
4th Place Global Business Maryland FBLA State Leadership Conference April 2015

Research Experience

Research Intern - Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences Summer 2016
Under the Guidance of Markos Koutmos, PhD

- ❖ Study effects of point mutations on the binding of Human Ribonuclease P to its substrate using various lab techniques: Mutagenesis, protein purification, binding and cleavage assays
- ❖ Create a research poster and presented findings to scientists in the field

Perfect Imperfections: Handmade vs. Machine-made Recycling Signs 2015-2016

Research Objective: To compare the effectiveness of hand-made signs vs. machine-made signs in encouraging students to recycle in a cafeteria-setting

- ❖ Gather information by reading articles from scholarly journals and conducting interviews with professionals
- ❖ Administer a behavioral experiment in the cafeterias of two local middle schools by weighing the recycling and comparing the waste diversion rates
- ❖ Create and distributed post-intervention survey to 300 students
- ❖ Compile results into a synthesis paper
- ❖ Present results to middle schools and the Howard County Office of Sustainability

Community Outreach

Member - River Hill Man in the Mirror 2014-Present

- ❖ Participate in service projects that help those in need: homeless families at Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center, impoverished children in Africa, deployed troops, patients at Mt. Sinai Hospital

Volunteer - University of Maryland Medical Center 2015-2016

- ❖ Assist with patient care
- ❖ Serve as a liaison between nurses and patients and between various hospital departments
- ❖ Stock patient rooms with appropriate materials to foster a sanitary environment
- ❖ Distribute water and other nourishment items to patients

Volunteer - "Read to Me" Program - Grassroots Crisis Intervention 2015

- ❖ Read to homeless children to inspire academic interest at a young age and provide their parents with leisure time

Junior Counselor - Howard County Recreation and Parks Summer 2015

Volunteered as a camp counselor for various youth camps

- ❖ Responsible for 30 children, leading arts and cooking projects and skill development activities
- ❖ Work with camp counselors and parents of the children to ensure a seamless camper experience

References

Available Upon Request