

Good evening, council members. My name is Allison Eatough, and I'd first like to thank you for considering me as one of the next members of the Howard County Commission for Women.

I have resided in Howard County for more than a decade – the last four of which I have lived in Elkridge. For years, as a woman, a mother and a former daily newspaper journalist, I have observed women pursuing economic, social and political equality. I've admired their strength. When faced with extreme challenges like inadequate health care, low wages and sexual harassment, they have persevered, standing up for what is right and fair.

In recent years, I've taken a more active role in supporting young girls and women. As a volunteer coach for Girls on the Run, I've seen enthusiastic girls who have their whole lives ahead of them, learning how to support and encourage each other through their actions and words. I've worked within my community to support victims of domestic abuse and sexual assault by collecting everything from shampoo and conditioner to diapers and paper towels.

But I found myself wanting to do more to support the women of Howard County, which is why I am here today.

I am thankful for the Howard County Commission for Women's efforts to change attitudes, eliminate discriminatory behavior, and expand educational and employment opportunities for women, as well as its efforts to promote recognition of women's accomplishments and publicize activities that may be of interest to women. It would be an honor to be part of this well-respected group.