

Introduced 2/5/18
Public Hearing 2/20/18
Council Action 3/5/18
Executive Action NA
Effective Date 3/5/18

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2018 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. 2

Resolution No. 23-2018

Introduced by: Calvin Ball and Jennifer Terrasa

A **RESOLUTION** requesting that the Commission on Disability Issues study Howard County's ability to provide services to the county's residents with disabilities in the areas of Education, Peer Relationships, Employment, Transportation, and Housing; requesting that the Commission submit a report and recommend actions that should be taken by the County as it continuously strives to become a model community for residents with disabilities; and generally relating to the continuous improvement of disability issues in Howard County.

Introduced and read for the first time on February 5, 2018.

By order Jessica Feldmark
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council

Read for a second time and a public hearing held on February 20, 2018.

By order Jessica Feldmark
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council

This Resolution was read for the third time and was Adopted , Adopted with amendments , Failed , Withdrawn by the County Council on March 5, 2018.

Certified by Jessica Feldmark
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council

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

1 **WHEREAS**, Howard County is often rated as one of the top places to live and is
2 celebrated for the value the community places on its diversity as well as for its commitment to a
3 stellar public education system; and

4
5 **WHEREAS**, Howard County continuously strives to be a community that is accessible to
6 and inclusive of all residents; and

7
8 **WHEREAS**, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, approximately 4.4% of the Howard
9 County population, under 65 years of age, has a disability; and

10
11 **WHEREAS**, with passage of Council Bill No. 40 – 1988, the Howard County
12 Commission on Disability Issues was established to:

- 13 • Increase public awareness of disability-related issues,
14 • Serve in an advisory capacity on County Government programs, policies, and budget, and
15 • Assist County Government to ensure compliance with the requirements of Section 504 of
16 the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990; and

17
18 **WHEREAS**, Section 12.401(h)(2)(ii) of the Howard County Code states that one of the
19 duties of the Commission is to, “Advise the County Executive and County Council on the needs,
20 inequalities, unmet needs, and gaps in such areas as housing, transportation, recreation,
21 employment, education, community services, treatment, rehabilitation and related matters, which
22 may preclude the full integration of persons with disabilities into the community.”; and

23
24 **WHEREAS**, Section 6.307 of the Howard County Code states that Boards and Commissions
25 may conduct studies and reviews, advise and recommend, and assume other functions as provided by
26 law.

1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the County Council of Howard County,
2 Maryland this 5th day of March, 2018, that the Council requests that the
3 Commission on Disability Issues research, review, and prepare a report for the County Council
4 and County Executive on best practices in the area of disabilities services, specifically in the
5 areas of Education, Peer Relationships, Employment, Transportation, and Housing, with
6 recommendations on how Howard County Government can support a facilitate full inclusion of
7 all residents in all aspects of community life.

8 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the scope of this request be confined to the
9 capabilities and resources of the Commission on Disability Issues, as to not put an undue burden on
10 resources.

11 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the County Council of Howard County requests
12 that the Commission on Disability Issues:

- 13 1. hold at least one public hearing;
- 14 2. consult with:
 - 15 a. the Commission on Transitioning Students with Disabilities;
 - 16 b. the Howard County Public School System;
 - 17 c. Howard Community College;
 - 18 d. the Department of Community Resources and Services;
 - 19 e. the Department of Recreation and Parks;
 - 20 f. the Department of Housing and Community Development;
 - 21 g. the Howard County Housing Commission;
 - 22 h. the Office of Workforce Development; ~~and~~
 - 23 i. the Office of Transportation; and
 - 24 j. Organizations that serve people with disabilities and their families;
- 25 3. meet with other commissions to understand the needs of the disability community from
26 their points of view;
- 27 4. look within the Commission on Disability Issues own member's disciplines to determine
28 where gaps might exist in the County's current service delivery systems, schools, and
29 community as a whole. These observations are to be expressed through the lens of the

1 member's experiences, community conversations, and professional expertise; and should be
2 included in the report;

3 35. conduct outreach to and seek feedback from people with disabilities and their families; and
4 46. submit its report and recommendations to the County Council and the County Executive by
5 October 1, 2018.

6
7 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the County Council of Howard County,
8 Maryland that all units of County government, the Howard County Public School System, and
9 Howard Community College are requested to cooperate fully with the Commission on Disability
10 Issues in its conduct of the studies called for in this Resolution.

11

Amendment 1 to Council Resolution No. 23 - 2018

BY: Calvin Ball
Jennifer Terrasa

Legislative Day No. 3
Date: March 5, 2018

Amendment No. 1

(This amendment proposes to add organizations that serve people with disabilities and their families to the list of organizations that the Commission on Disability Issues is to consult with as part of their study.)

1 On page 2, immediately following line 8, insert the following:
2 “AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the scope of this request be confined to the
3 capabilities and resources of the Commission on Disability Issues, as to not put an undue
4 burden on resources.”.

5
6 On page 2, in line 20, strike “and”.

7
8 On page 2, in line 21, after the semi-colon, insert “and”.

9
10 On page 2, immediately following line 21, insert the following:

11 “j. Organizations that serve people with disabilities and their families;”.

12
13 On page 2, immediately following line 21, insert the following:

14 “3. meet with other commissions to understand the needs of the disability community
15 from their points of view;

16 4. look within the Commission on Disability Issues own member’s disciplines to determine
17 where gaps might exist in the County’s current service delivery systems, schools, and
18 community as a whole. These observations are to be expressed through the lens of the
19 member’s experiences, community conversations, and professional expertise; and should
20 be included in the report;”.

21
22 Renumber the remainder of the section accordingly.

ADOPTED as amended 3/5/18
FAILED
SIGNATURE Jessica Feldman

Amendment 1 to Amendment 1 to Council Resolution No. 23 - 2018

BY: Calvin Ball
Jennifer Terrasa

Legislative Day No. ³
Date: 3/5/18

Amendment 1 to Amendment No. 1

(This amendment clarifies the scope of the request.)

- 1 On page 1, immediately before line 1, insert the following:
2 “On page 2, immediately following line 8, insert the following:
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4 capabilities and resources of the Commission on Disability Issues, as to not put an undue burden
5 on resources.””.
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17 Renumber the remainder of the section accordingly.”.
18

ADOPTED

3/5/18

FAILED

SIGNATURE

Jessica Edwards

Amendment 1 to Council Resolution No. 23 - 2018

BY: Calvin Ball
Jennifer Terrasa

Legislative Day No. 3
Date: 3/5/18

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4 and County Executive on best practices in the area of disabilities services, specifically in the
5 areas of Education, Peer Relationships, Employment, Transportation, and Housing, with
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 - 16 d. the Department of Community Resources and Services;
 - 17 e. the Department of Recreation and Parks;
 - 18 f. the Department of Housing and Community Development;
 - 19 g. the Howard County Housing Commission;
 - 20 h. the Office of Workforce Development; and
 - 21 i. the Office of Transportation;
- 22 3. conduct outreach to and seek feedback from people with disabilities and their families;

1 and

2 4. submit its report and recommendations to the County Council and the County Executive
3 by October 1, 2018.

4

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6 Maryland that all units of County government, the Howard County Public School System, and
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Amendment 1 to Amendment 1 to Council Resolution No. 23 - 2018

BY: Calvin Ball
Jennifer Terrasa

Legislative Day No. 3
Date: 3/5/18

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Jennifer Terrasa

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7

8

9

Sayers, Margery

From: xiaomin lin <xiaominlin@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 23, 2018 4:19 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CR 23

Dear Councilman/woman,

My name is Xiaomin Lin and I have a son who graduated from Cedar Lane School last year and has been in a DDA-funded day care program since last July. I am excited that you are taking up the issue of whether there is adequate services for disabled people in Howard County.

Our son was at Cedar Lane School since 5 years old. Special education is wonderful in Howard County, not to say no problem at all. But the services for adult or transition youth with severe disabilities are really at the opposite spectrum. There is almost no agency in Howard County whose program takes in people with severe disabilities, who can't work at all. Agencies who does are at full capacity. I think the county should provide certain incentives to the care agencies to get them to establish a site in Howard County. One of the studies you can do is a survey of Cedar Lane graduates, and you will find how high the percentage is of graduates who have to go to other counties for day programs.

Again, I am grateful you are taking up this issue. Please contact me if I can be of any help.

Best Regards,

Xiaomin Lin

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Feldmark, Jessica
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2018 3:10 PM
To: Ball, Calvin B; Calvin Ball (philosopherpoet2@yahoo.com); CouncilmanJon@gmail.com; Fox, Greg; Greg Fox (Greg.Fox@Constellation.com); Weinstein, Jon; Sigaty, Mary Kay; Terrasa, Jen
Cc: Sayers, Margery; Wimberly, Theo
Subject: FW: Testimony in Support of Resolution 23-2018
Attachments: Resolution23.HHPCorp.docx

Fyi, please see attached testimony on CR23-2018.

Thanks,
Jess

From: Grace Morris [mailto:gmorris@hhpcorp.org]
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2018 2:28 PM
To: Feldmark, Jessica <jfeldmark@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Testimony in Support of Resolution 23-2018

Hi Jessica

I hope you enjoyed the long weekend. Too bad we didn't get this weather!

Please find attached my testimony supporting Reoslution 23 as introduced by Ms. Terresa and Dr. Ball.

I am unable to attend the Council meeting this evening.

Please let me know if there are any questions.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Grace Morris

Grace A. Morris, Executive Director
Heritage Housing Partners, Corp.
9770 Patuxent Woods Drive
Mail stop 305
Columbia, MD 21046
[443-518-7687](tel:443-518-7687) (direct)
www.hhpcorp.org
Owner | Manager | Developer

"It is not the honor you take with you but the HERITAGE you leave behind" – Branch Rickey

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HHP Corp
Heritage Housing Partners

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF RESOLUTION NO. 23-2018

My name is Grace Morris. I live at 5980 Avalon Drive in Elkridge, MD.

I am the Executive Director of Heritage Housing Partners Corporation (HHP Corp). HHP Corp. owns and manages affordable housing in Howard County primarily for seniors and persons with disabilities.

HHP Corp works in partnership with organizations such as the Arc, Humanim and Adaptive Living and others in providing affordable housing and services to nearly 100 residents in Howard County who are disabled.

We strongly support Resolution 23 - 2018 and we thank Dr. Ball and Ms. Terrasa for introducing this legislation on behalf of persons with physical disabilities. This population will continue to grow as the County ages. So, it is extremely important for the County to consider how these many issues impact our residents with disabilities and their **ability** to work, live and enjoy Howard County.

The unmet need for affordable, **accessible**, housing for those with disabilities and the many challenges faced by this population in attempting to utilize the public transportation system, I believe, are already well known to this Council.

Providing an opportunity to focus attention and planning and hopefully resources on these issues is much needed and long overdue. HHP Corp stands ready to support the Commission with their efforts.

We respectfully request that you support Resolution 23. We thank you for your time.

OWNER | MANAGER | DEVELOPER
9770 Patuxent Woods Drive #305
Columbia, MD 21044
410.730.9554
www.hhpcorp.org



HOWARD COUNTY AUTISM SOCIETY

February 20, 2018

Good Evening.

My name is Roger Thibaudeau, and I am on the Board of Directors of the Howard County Autism Society. I am here today representing HCAS to speak to CR-23, Commission on Disability Issues - request to study and report.

Howard County has long prided itself on its accessibility for, and inclusiveness of, all residents. There are many examples of efforts by various sectors of the Howard County Government to demonstrate its commitment to the tenet of inclusiveness for those with disabilities. Recent notable examples include:

- The permanent establishment of the Transitioning Students with Disabilities Commission to bring stakeholders together to create a roadmap for improvements in the transition process.
- The development of the new Non-Profit Collaborative center, providing increased coordination across multiple organizations and allowing for improved services for those constituents with multiple and increasingly complex needs.
- The recent creation of an HCPSS Special Education Strategic Plan to address the regression in county special education services and community confidence witnessed over the past few years.
- And the constant, unwavering community support provided by the Therapeutic Recreation and Inclusion Services Team at Howard County Rec and Parks to give those with disabilities opportunities to participate in recreational activities.

As a support and advocacy organization, the Howard County Autism Society is working to improve the lives of, and opportunities for, those with intellectual and developmental disabilities throughout their lifespan. We feel that, while there is a lot to be proud of, there are areas where we as a county can do better to support the disability community. At the top of our list are:

- Staffing shortfalls, and adequate training opportunities for those staff members supporting students who receive special education services.
- The preparedness of our young adults and their families as they transition out of the school system and into the community.
- The considerable lack of meaningful employment opportunities available to those on the autism spectrum.
- A scarcity of person-centered programming for adults with disabilities who need day services.

Providing Support • Promoting Awareness • Advocating for Change

9770 Patuxent Woods Drive, Suite 308 • Columbia, MD 21046
410-290-3466 • www.howard-autism.org • info@howard-autism.org

Howard County Autism Society

- Insufficient viable transportation options that create additional barriers to the social and professional opportunities that may be available for those with disabilities.
- And the significant unmet demand for affordable housing in Howard County for adults with disabilities, which is why HCAS has invested in the creation of the Howard County Autism Task Force to move out on an intergenerational housing concept that would provide opportunities for families, seniors and those with disabilities to come together in a mutual support structure.

These issues aren't unique to Howard County. Many are prevalent throughout the country. But that should not stop us as a community from coming together to figure out what we can do to improve our services to those with disabilities in our county. And that is why HCAS supports Council Resolution #23.

We also believe that if true best practices are to be found through this process, we should reach beyond the county and state to understand success stories employed elsewhere and consider their possible implementation here. We believe the Commission on Disability Issues will need to be provided with the proper resources, and timeline, to study these complex issues so that its recommendations have the necessary research behind them. And, just as importantly, we strongly encourage the Commission to utilize the myriad of non-government support organizations, such as HCAS and our advocacy partners throughout the county, who are living these issues daily and can provide a wealth of information and ideas.

Howard County is a great place to live. The county invests a significant sum; in institutional support, human capital and financial resources; in the disability community, with many positive impacts. However, there are still opportunities to do better and improve inclusion of all residents in all aspects of our community.

We at HCAS would like to thank the members of the County Council and the County Executive for your history of strong support for the disability community. And we look forward to our continued work and partnership with you to improve the lives of those with intellectual and developmental disabilities living in Howard County.

Thank you for your time.



Roger E. Thibaudeau, Jr.
Immediate Past President, Board of Directors
Howard County Autism Society