

April 22, 2019

Howard County Office of County Executive  
3430 Courthouse Drive  
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043  
Attn: Howard County Council

Greetings,

First, I would like to recognize and thank the County Council and members of the Howard County Board of Directors of the Economic Development Authority for this opportunity to provide comments today regarding my nomination to the Board. My parents moved to this great county in 1972. Diversity was ever so common, and we often referred to it as the "Columbia Bubble" because of the ideal quality of life, that was unlike any other area in the country. I believe much of my success has been attributed to growing up in that so-called "Bubble" within Howard County.

However, Columbia and the county has changed over my forty years, with a significant increase in population, more schools, businesses, and additional village centers. This growth should be managed strategically to balance the required needs of transportation and public services to sustain a vibrant county. My experience as an executive, of a \$6.4 billion Energy company, leading economic development, along with several other organizations, will bring a perspective that balances demand with strategic growth.

I commend the Board on having a strategic plan that highlights the shift in economic development occurring today and the risks which are outlined in the strategic assessment process. This county has an advantage of being conveniently located between Baltimore and the District of Columbia, however as the strategic plan points out, 71% of current residents work outside the county. This data point is an example of the need to foster more anchors to attract startups or an ecosystem for incubators; especially today with more focus towards social responsibility and sustainability.

I am also very much interested in taking steps that would enable the success of minority and diverse businesses as part of our solution. Thus, embracing economic development for all in this great county. These are challenges that I am looking forward to working with the board and the community to address. I appreciate the opportunity to serve this wonderful county where I was raised.

Thank you,

Marcellous P. Frye Jr.