

Testimony Before The Howard County Council
Service on the Human Rights Commission
September 16, 2019 7:00pm

Good Evening County Council Members,

Thank you for hearing me this evening. I would like to thank the Honorable Dr. Calvin Ball, Our County Executive, for submitting my name to you to be considered for appointment to the Human Rights Commission.

My name is Lynda Earle. I would like to serve on the Howard County Human Rights Commission. One thing that I have recognized throughout my life's journey is my proclivity to uplift others. Personally and professionally, I have been called upon to preserve due process and fairness. Additionally, as human beings, we have a responsibility to ameliorate; if not eradicate discrimination and hateful behavior. It feels natural for me to seek membership on a committee with similar goals.

I am grateful for the people who live, work and visit Howard County because their positive energy makes this a great place to be. There are still places in this country and throughout the world where once you arrive there it feels different. The difference may be scenic or maybe it's the warmth and friendliness of the people; it may feel like a tightly knit family oriented community or maybe the place is seasoned with diversity and everyone appears to get along. These are the places that become our gems. These are the places that we secretly hope no one finds out about because they are special and we love being there so much.

I would like to serve on the Human Rights Commission to help ensure that Howard County remains one of those gems. One of those places where regardless of Race, Color, National Origin, Religious Belief, Gender, Sexual Orientation, Housing Status, Disability or Age; you feel and you are welcome, you feel and you are safe, you feel and you are included. A place where we recognize that in order to feel those things ourselves we must make sure that the next person feels welcome, safe and included.

We may not be able to change the hearts and minds of everyone; but together we can create an environment where discrimination and hateful behavior just doesn't fit. It doesn't fit because such behavior does not promote the good health and well being of anyone; including those who would choose to engage in such behavior. Howard County is about promoting the good health and well being of everyone.

I would like to serve on the Human Rights Commission because I strongly believe that Howard County is uniquely situated to serve as an example, not just to our Howard County communities; but to our world community, of what it looks like to live together in Peace and Prosperity for all.