

Good evening to the members of the County Council and the Commission. My name is Joshua Hirsh. I'd like to thank County Executive, Dr. Calvin Ball for giving my name to the council for consideration to serve on this commission.

I have lived in Howard County for 18 years, and despite facing many challenges, I have persevered and accomplished many goals. I graduated Howard Community College with a political science degree; with Phi Theta Kappa Honors. Recently, I was hired by The Linsky Law Group.

As someone with cerebral palsy, I always wanted to serve on this committee, as I have experienced many of the concerns and issues facing a disabled person. I have volunteered in local politics for the past 10 years, as it's been important to me to be an active member of my community.

I am also interested in issues that affect the disability community on a national level. This February will be the fourth year I will be attending the National Jewish Disability Advocacy Day in Washington D.C.; where issues that affect the disabled will be discussed with leaders in our country and afterwards, I will lobby our state representatives.

It would be honor for me to serve on this commission. Areas of particular interest are transportation, housing, and inclusivity in the community.

Thank you for your consideration.