



HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND SERVICES

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Howard County Council
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Re: CB60-2020

Dear Council Members:

Thank you for considering CB60-2020.

CB60 seeks to update several outdated provisions relating to the Office on Aging and Independence and the Commission on Aging. Specifically, the amendments fall in two broad categories. The first set seek to update the terminology used to refer to the older adult community, the Office on Aging, and the Department of Community Resources and Services. The second seeks to bring into alignment the duties of the Commission on Aging and Independence with other like Boards and Commissions.

The amendments seeking to update the terminology are based upon research, best practices and established standards in the field of Aging. The use of terms like “aged” and “elderly” reflect an outdated approach and view of the expanding and evolving field of Human Aging. The amendments will allow us to use more inclusive terms such as “older adults” and reduce any perceived barriers by referring to those who reside in Howard County as “residents” as opposed to “citizens”.

The second set of amendments reflected in CB60-2020 seek to update the language describing the activities and duties of the Commission to accurately reflect its’ role and function. The current language is decades old and reflects the original creation of the Commission which preceded the creation of the Office on Aging. While the Commission may have been originally established as the singular body on behalf of older adults in the county based on the needs at the time, the language was not modified once the Office on Aging was created. Nor was it modified over the years as the capacity of the Office [and Department] grew over time, and as it established itself as the Area Agency on Aging on behalf of the Maryland Department of Aging. Instead, the commission’s role simply evolved into functioning more like other county commissions. Specially, into a role that included providing advice and making recommendations to the Office Administrator, Director, and County Executive. The propose amendments seek to update and clarify the language and to accurately reflect those roles.

The amendments do not change the current practices or activities of the commission, nor to they affect the current working relationship and partnership with the Office or Department. We do not anticipate any budget implications resulting from the passage of CB60-2020.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline R. Scott, J.D., M.L.
Director

Department of Community Resources and Services

*The Department of Community Resources and Services provides vital human services through its offices of
ADA Coordination, Aging and Independence, Children and Families, Community Partnerships, Consumer Protection,
Human Trafficking Prevention, Local Children’s Board, and Veterans and Military Families.*