

Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 7pm – Council Public Hearing (VIRTUAL). Nominees are *REQUIRED* to participate and testify (up to 3 minutes) on why they would like to serve.

Nominee Statement: Dr. Cherron L. Blakely

Good day to the chair and members of the Howard County Commission for Veterans and Military families. I am Cherron Blakely, a resident of Howard County for 9 years, a U.S. Army Veteran, and career federal employee.

I was born and raised in Baltimore, Maryland before enlisting in the U.S. Army in 1992. I served for several years, as an enlisted soldier, stationed in Seoul, Korea and Fort Hood, Texas. I attended college on a U.S. Army ROTC scholarship through the Green-to-Gold program and later returned to active duty as a commissioned officer. I served as a Medical Service Corps Officer for seven years while stationed at Fort Hood, Texas, and the Walter Reed Army Medical Center before leaving active duty in 2006. After military service, I continued to serve Veterans by working at various VA Medical Centers and the VA Central Office in Washington, DC. I currently work as an Associate Director in the Center for Devices and Radiological Health at the Food & Drug Administration (FDA). My lifelong public service is the reason that I appear before you today to ask to serve the Veterans and Military Families of Howard County.

In that spirit, I thank you for the opportunity to testify before the Commission.

My past experience of active duty service and later both an employee and patient of the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) has afforded me an expanded network of military service members and Veterans in Maryland and around the globe. I would like to serve the Veterans and Military Families of Howard County through disseminating key information, participating in events that impact our Veterans and Military Families, represent, and communicate on the behalf of our Howard County contingent to the extent that I can aide in helping to meet their needs.

I humbly ask the Commission to accept my nomination to serve our County's Veterans and Military Families.

To close, I would like to reiterate my lifelong service to the Public and our Federal Government and my willingness to leverage my experience and expanded network to assist with meeting the needs and provide information to our residents. Thank you for your time, attention, and consideration.