

## RON BERK, Appointment to Commission on Aging

Good evening, Mr. Chairperson, and members of the Council. It's an honor to be considered to serve on the Commission on Aging. I want to thank Reg Avery, especially, for his encouragement, support, and efforts on my behalf to recommend me.

I have lived in Columbia for 46 years, raised a family, lost family members, and retired 16 years ago as a professor at Johns Hopkins University. During that time, I have been aging a lot with 2 daughters and 4 granddaughters. I lost my wife, my mother and father, and a grandbaby as a stillbirth. As a caregiver for my mother at Winter Growth assisted living, I have learned a lot about living and dying options for seniors. I just completed training to serve as a volunteer for Gilchrist Hospice Care.

As a retiree, I often wake up thinking about God's purpose for my life. I have concluded that why I do what I do is more important than what I do. My why in relation to the commission is to pass on what I have learned that might benefit other Boomers and those seniors who have chosen to live out their lives in Howard County.

Based on these experiences, I look forward to contributing to the actions of the commission in any way that I can. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.