

CR 164-2022

From: Seema Agarwal-Harding, PhD.

To: The Commission on Aging of Howard County

Personal Testimony for the role of Commissioner on Aging

Date of Hearing 10.17.2022

Good evening. My name is Seema Agarwal-Harding. I am 64 years old and have a PhD in Education and International Development. Howard County has been my home for 30 years. My current address is 12031 Broad Meadow Lane, Clarksville, 21029. Our two children were brought up here, and went through public elementary, middle and high schools, graduating as high achievers and now pursuing careers in social service.

It is a pleasure and an honor to be here today. I am deeply grateful to the County Executive for his nomination and to the County Council for their consideration. I am aware that the Commission works to maintain and enhance the lives of older adults in the County, and I believe that my personal, academic and professional backgrounds makes me a highly suitable candidate for the role of Commissioner.

I have deep roots here and a passion to serve my community. My parents also (mother 93, father 98) have been residents here for the last four decades, and I have found ways to support them and others live safely, comfortably, independently, actively, and productively, through community-based activities, information, outreach and social gatherings.

I have remained an active member of my community through engagement in schools, non-profits, volunteerism, and numerous professional engagements, served on several working groups of the Age-Friendly Howard County Initiative, and graduated from Leadership Howard County (Class of '22).

Using an asset-based approach to enhancing opportunities and contributions of older adults, as Commissioner, I would hope to listen to what our older residents want and need, and help build a stronger and more active, inclusive and inter-generational community for all.

It would be an honor to serve on the Commission. Thank you for your consideration.

Seema Agarwal-Harding