

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Noble, Amanda <ANoble@AtlantaGa.Gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 16, 2023 2:37 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail; Auditor  
**Cc:** ALGA President; Maung, Thandee (Comptroller)  
**Subject:** Audit Independence Concern Related to Bill No. 11-2023

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]



## Association of Local Government Auditors

March 16, 2023

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

Dear Honorable Members of the Howard County Council,

We are writing to express concern about Bill No. 11-2023, introduced March 6, 2023, which, if enacted, will limit the ability of the Howard County Auditor's Office to perform certain audits independently. We are aware of the February 14th Howard County Auditor's report that precipitated this proposed Bill, and in no way condone some of the language used in that report. Although it appears that the intent of the Bill is to increase coordination between the Howard County Auditor's Office and the County Council and require the Howard County Auditor's Office to be more accountable, certain proposed amendments in the Bill create undue influence threats for the Howard County Auditor's Office. According to the [Government Auditing Standards](#) issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, examples of circumstances that create undue influence threats for an auditor or audit organization include the following:

- External interference or influence that could improperly limit or modify the scope of an engagement or threaten to do so.
- External interference with the selection or application of engagement procedures or in the selection of transactions to be examined.
- Unreasonable restrictions on the time allowed to complete an engagement or issue the report. External interference over assignment, appointment, compensation, and promotion.
- Authority to overrule or to inappropriately influence the auditors' judgment as to the appropriate content of the report.
- Threat of replacing the auditor or the audit organization based on a disagreement with the contents of an audit report, the auditors' conclusions, or the application of an accounting principle or other criteria.

An independent government audit function, operating under applicable government auditing standards such as the *Government Auditing Standards*, plays a key role in effective governance, public accountability, and transparency. To be independent, the audit function should be outside of the reporting line of areas subject to audit, should have operational autonomy to determine appropriate audit scope and procedures, and should be obligated to report audit results without fear of reprisal.

Elected officials can hold audit organizations accountable without jeopardizing their independence by requiring the organization to undergo [peer review](#) in accordance with professional standards and by establishing and tracking [performance measures](#). The Association of Local Government Auditors (ALGA) has published additional best practices for local government auditing on our website ([www.algaonline.org](http://www.algaonline.org)), including [Auditor Independence](#). If you would like any additional information, please reach out to our committee member in Baltimore, Thandee Maung, at [Thandee.Maung@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:Thandee.Maung@baltimorecity.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Amanda Noble', is positioned above the typed name.

Amanda Noble  
Atlanta City Auditor  
Chair, ALGA Advocacy Committee

Cc: Justin Anderson, ALGA President

To: Members of the County Council  
From: Edward Shulder, CPA

My name is Edward Shulder, and I am submitting this testimony in **opposition** to CB 11-2023. (Note: I worked as a government auditor for 39 years, including eight with the office of county auditor.)

### **General Comments**

This legislation would insert the Council into every function of the County auditor. As a result, the independence of the audit function is severely compromised. The legislation would allow the Council to 1) direct the audits / investigations to be conducted, 2) how the audits / investigations will be performed and 3) how findings will be reported. Those legislation also shows that bill drafters do not clearly understand the difference between an audit and an investigation. Investigations are the result of an allegation submitted by a member of the public. Investigations are confidential by nature and the results may or may not be communicated to the appropriate authorities depending on the conclusions reached. Audits are a detailed analysis of the operations of a government entity. Audits follow a very specific set of standards as to performance of the audit. This bill may very well eliminate the auditor's compliance with those standards due to a lack of independence in the audit process.

As noted above, much of my concern centers around independence and the role of the Auditor. While budgeted as part of the Council, the auditor has historically been able to remain functionally independent of the Council. The Institute of Internal Auditors defines independence as "...freedom from conditions that threatened the ability of the auditor to carry out audit responsibilities in an unbiased manner". Inserting five elected officials into the audit processes and reported results could be seen as being impacted by political behaviors and desired results.

Government Auditing Standards (known as GAGAS issued by the Government Accountability Office) require that auditors consider a number of possible conditions that may impact independence and evaluate these conditions. More specifically, standards require that auditors and audit organizations must be independent from the audited entity and identify other factors that may impact impartiality. One of these factors is the existence of circumstances that create undue influence threats for the auditor or audit organization. It includes as examples external interference or influence that could limit or modify the scope of an engagement or threaten to do so. External interference with the selection or application of engagement procedures or selection of transactions to be examined is another example. CB11-2023 appears to do exactly this. Therefore, the County auditor could likely no longer issue a report that complies with government audit standards.

## **Comments to the Specific Bill Requirements**

While many audit organizations submit an annual plan to their oversight agency for comment and approval, this legislation goes several steps further. For example, discussing the scope of an audit would be premature and possibly inappropriate. The audit process defines the scope as part of the planning process. Allowing the council input into setting the scope could be seen as politicizing the audit process.

As noted above, investigations are based on allegations submitted directly to the County Auditor. Disclosing this information to the council prior to completion of investigation could be seen as eliminating the very confidentiality of the investigation. Auditors do not disclose investigations or the results until conclusions have been reached. The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) states as a best practice take governments should establish policies and procedures to encourage and facilitate the reporting of fraud waste and abuse. GFOA recommends mechanisms such as the hotline to be used for this purpose. The County Auditor established such a mechanism and routinely follows up on allegations submitted. These investigations of the allegations are confidential in nature. The results of the review of allegations may be reported in several ways including a formal report that is public, referral to appropriate law enforcement or government prosecution agencies, meeting with appropriate executive agency personnel or closed with no reporting due to a lack of evidence or information to adequately investigate the allegation. Many government audit organizations use an independent fraud hotline to receive allegations of fraud, waste or abuse.

The bill requires the auditor to disclose list of witnesses to be interviewed and list of documents to be requested as part of the audit or investigation. Even if it were appropriate to disclose this to the to the Council (which it is not), such a process would unduly impact impartiality and timeliness of the audit process. Also, note that the Office's current practices require this information to be discussed with the auditee.

The bill requires the auditors disclose the audit standards covering the review or audit. Performance audits conducted by the County Auditor are conducted in accordance with the standards promulgated by the GAO, known as the Yellow Book. Each audit report issued by the Auditor states this. To ensure the Office complies with these Standards, the County Auditor's office participates in a peer review process administered by the Association of Local Government auditors (ALGA). The most recent peer review report is available on the Auditor's website and was provided to the Council. Investigations are not necessarily conducted in accordance with standards because they are evaluating a specific allegation.

Finally, the bill requires the auditor to meet with the County Council to discuss preliminary audit drafts and findings. Again, this can be seen as politicizing an audit process which is supposed to be independent. Allowing council members to dictate the contents of an audit report is inappropriate and does not serve the public.

## **Other Comments**

The bill and events preceding the investigation report are the result of a single investigation. In his ten-year tenure, the current County Auditor has performed a number of investigations and performance audits none of which have generated such discussion within and outside the County government. Although two council members requested that the current county auditor should be terminated, I fail to see the rationale for this. There is no evidence that the county auditor habitually shows bias in the performance of his duties. In his 10 years of service to the County, he has taken numerous steps to improve the operation of the audit office and provide service to the Council. This includes requiring a fiscal analysis of legislation detailed budget review, and processes/procedures to bring the office into compliance with audit standards.

One Council member stated that we have law enforcement agencies to conduct investigations including surveillance. The “surveillance” noted was only a step done to determine the accuracy of the allegations provided. Further it is unlikely the Department of Police would devote its scarce resources to investigate allegations received by the Auditor.

In my opinion, CB11-2023 is a kneejerk reaction to a single issue and should be voted “Against” by the Council.

March 15, 2023

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

Dear Honorable Members of the County Council:

I am a resident of District 2 and have worked for the Office of Audits for the State of Maryland for the past 7 years. I am writing to express my concern and opposition to Council Bill 11-2023 that was introduced on March 6, 2023, by Council Members Opel Jones and Christiana Rigby. If passed, this bill will compromise the County Auditor's independence and exert undue influence on the County Auditor's Office.

Specifically, the Bill requires the County Auditor to work with the County Administrator to convene meetings with the County Council to seek "input from the Council." Based on Government Auditing Standards promulgated by the Comptroller Generally of the United States which the County Auditor's Office adheres to, this threatens the County Auditor's independence as the County Council can influence the auditor's judgment with the selection of audits to perform, the processes being reviewed, and the transactions being tested.

In addition, the Bill will unnecessarily extend the amount of time for the Office to execute its duties and responsibilities by having to continually meet with the County Council. This is not an effective use of County taxpayer dollars. If the County Council is seeking accountability, this can be achieved without compromising independence by ensuring the County Auditor's Office be peer reviewed every three years in accordance with Standards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laura Etheridge". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Laura Etheridge  
6120 Edward Hill Rd.  
Ellicott City, MD 21043  
410-696-2539

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Baker, Kevin  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 15, 2023 3:56 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: Probe into Actions of County Auditor and CB11-2023

For Related Documents under CB11-2023.

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**From:** Angie Boyter <[angie.boyter@gmail.com](mailto:angie.boyter@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 15, 2023 3:43 PM  
**To:** Walsh, Elizabeth <[ewalsh@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:ewalsh@howardcountymd.gov)>; Rigby, Christiana <[crigby@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:crigby@howardcountymd.gov)>; Jones, Opel <[ojones@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:ojones@howardcountymd.gov)>; Yungmann, David <[dyungmann@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:dyungmann@howardcountymd.gov)>; Jung, Deb <[djung@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:djung@howardcountymd.gov)>; Ball, Calvin <[cball@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:cball@howardcountymd.gov)>  
**Subject:** Probe into Actions of County Auditor and CB11-2023

Dear Council Members and County Executive Ball,

I am very disturbed by the criticism of the actions of the Howard County auditor in responding to a complaint about the county library for hosting a private event for a local sorority and am even more disturbed by the introduction of CB 11-2023. I am a Certified Public Accountant and have conducted audits of a number of organizations. In order for the integrity of an audit report to have credibility with the recipients of the report, it is extremely important that the auditor have full independence to conduct the audit and be able to get cooperation from the entity being audited. This is especially true when the audit results from a complaint. As a taxpayer I want all complaints followed up so that I can feel confident that public money is being properly spent, even though the auditor might conclude that the complaint was baseless. I have read all three versions of the auditor's report and note that he did not reach a conclusion about the acceptability of the event in question; instead he concluded he had to terminate the audit because of lack of cooperation from the library personnel. I saw nothing inappropriate in the actions of the county auditor or his staff. There is no basis for terminating anyone on the auditor's staff. They were doing the job they are supposed to do appropriately and to the best of their ability. If any entity deserves criticism, it is the library for failure to cooperate with the auditor. If the event that was the subject of the complaint was, indeed, appropriate, cooperating with the auditor should produce a report that exonerates the library. It is especially offensive to me that the auditor was accused of using "racially insensitive language" in the report. The accusation aroused significant concern among many local leaders from several ethnic communities. I have read the report, and the only mention of race in the report was not in any way racially insensitive:  
An event was scheduled at the HCLS Central Branch on Friday, October 7, 2022, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The event was hosted by a Chapter of an international service organization founded on the campus of Howard University in Washington, D.C. in 1908 (Sorority Chapter). The organization is the oldest Greek-letter organization established by African American college-educated women. The event was held to honor its anniversary, the theme of which was *A Legacy of Sisterhood and Service*.  
To preserve the public's trust in the integrity of county audit operations, the county should cease any initiative to terminate anyone in the audit department. If anything, they should be praised for trying to do their job right.  
I am equally disturbed by the introduction of CB11-2023, which will significantly hamper the independence that an auditor needs in order to conduct a truly IMPARTIAL audit by requiring them to clear many details of their actions with the county council. With all due respect to the county council it is completely inappropriate for them to oversee the auditor's operations. I urge the council to vote AGAINST CB11-2023 so that the auditor will have the freedom to conduct truly impartial audits of county operations in the future and the public will have confidence that the county's operations are being conducted properly.

Angie Boyter

3914 MacAlpine Road  
Ellicott City MD 21042



# The People's Voice, LLC

3600 Saint Johns Lane, Suite D, Ellicott City, MD 21042

March 19, 2023

Testimony on CB11 – Oppose

Concerns recently arose regarding procedures and a report from the auditor's office. Any solutions warranted should not include removing independency from the auditor's office. It is imperative that the auditor's office be allowed to conduct independent investigations and not be very micromanaged. It could have bad repercussions to have too much control over process decisions that should be made by independent experts hired to do this job. Correcting problems with performance and bad decisions should not include removal of the ability to have independent audit oversight of the County.

Any specific issues of concern over time with any agency and department should not include this degree of overhaul and micromanagement of a County office that relies on expertise and independent review. Deal with specific problems as you see fit, and do not dismantle the needed benefits of the office in general.

Thank you.

Lisa Markovitz

President, The People's Voice

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Wanda Childs <wmwchild@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2023 8:02 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Testimony Relative to CB11-2023

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Hello Council members,

My name is Wanda Childs. I am a member of the Iota Lambda Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. located in Howard County, MD.

I am providing my testimony in support of CB11-2023, and to express my view that the Howard County Auditor has not demonstrated the temperament, judgment or integrity to remain in a position of trust. Based on the Auditor's highly damaging and reckless actions revealed surrounding his audit report dated 2/14/23, the citizens of Howard County have lost trust and confidence in the Howard County Auditor.

I have read the report of the Auditor of 2/14/23 and was dismayed by the unprofessional behavior of the Auditor and the utter lack of objectivity and impartiality of his report. The Auditor's behavior and report demonstrate an extreme lack of judgment, competence and sensitivity.

- The Howard County Auditor sanctioned a rogue and unapproved surveillance of a renown civic organization without doing any due diligence to determine if the facts and basis for the tip were accurate.
- The tip stating that the Library's president was holding a personal event for her college sorority sisters was inaccurate. The Library's president is not in any sorority, and the event was a celebration of the sorority's equity exhibit at the library. Even a cursory check of this foundational information would have informed the Auditor to proceed with some skepticism.
- When it comes to an anonymous complaint there must be a high threshold that must be passed before the auditor engages. Clearly he did not consider the image and reputation of this beloved local organization worth pausing to consider all possible consequences.
- Moreover, the afterhours surveillance of the organization was not authorized by the County Council and violated the County Charter. The Auditor sought Board approval only after conducting his surveillance. Even in seeking this retroactive approval of his investigation, the Auditor did not inform the Council that his "cloak and dagger" operation was already well underway.
- Indeed, the only misuse of county funds and resources seems to be by the auditor deploying a surveillance of an event that he already knew the who, what when, and where of the event. There was no constructive and useful purpose for the surveillance operation.

Our demands are for the County Council to show accountability for the actions of their auditor:

- Support Bill CB11-2023
- Terminate the Howard County Auditor;
- Issue a formal apology to Mrs. Tonya Aikins, President of HCLS; and
- Issue a formal apology to Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Iota Lambda Omega chapter

Thank you,  
Wanda Childs

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Vivian Moore Lawyer <vmlawyerster@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2023 8:01 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** CB 11-2023

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council Members,

I support CB 11-2023. It provides a process for determining audits and Council involvement. As a Howard County resident, I believe such structure is necessary.

Vivian Moore Lawyer  
11510 Homewood Rd, Ellicott City, MD 21042

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Vivian Moore Lawyer

March 20, 2023  
Council person Opel Jones

Hello Council person Opel Jones,

My name is Jacquelyn Miles Humes, I am a member of the TM Democratic Club and The Continental Society, Inc, South East Howard County/Laurel chapter in Howard County, MD.

I am writing to support of **CB11-2023**, and to express my view that the Howard County Auditor has not demonstrated the temperament, judgment or integrity to remain in a position of trust. Based on the Auditor's highly damaging and prejudicial actions revealed surrounding his audit report dated 2/14/23, the citizens of Howard County have lost trust and confidence in the Howard County Auditor.

I have read the report of the Auditor of 2/14/23 and was dismayed by the unprofessional behavior of the Auditor and the utter lack of objectivity and impartiality of his report. The Auditor's behavior and report demonstrate an extreme lack of judgment, competence, reliability and impartiality.

- The Howard County Auditor sanctioned a rogue and unapproved surveillance of a renown civic organization without doing any due diligence to determine if the facts and basis for the tip were accurate.
- The tip stating that the Library's president was holding a personal event for her college sorority sisters was inaccurate. The event referenced in the complaint was a *celebration of the sorority's equity exhibit* at the library. Even a cursory check of this foundational information would have informed the Auditor to proceed with some skepticism.
- When it comes to an anonymous complaint, is this a normal practice of any county official when lodging such a serious complaint? Clearly he did not consider the image and reputation of this beloved local organization worth pausing to consider all possible consequences.
- Moreover, the after-hours surveillance of the organization was not authorized by the County Council and violated the County Charter. The Auditor sought Board approval only after conducting his surveillance. Even in seeking this retroactive approval of his investigation, the Auditor did not inform the Council that his "cloak and dagger" operation was already well underway.
- Indeed, the only misuse of county funds and resources seems to be by the auditor deploying a surveillance of an event that he already knew the who, what when, and where of. There was no constructive and useful purpose for the surveillance operation.

Our demands are for the County Council to show accountability for the actions of their auditor in the following manner.

- Support Bill CB11-2023;
- Terminate the Howard County Auditor;
- Issue a formal apology to Mrs. Tonya Aikins, President of HCLS; and
- Issue a formal apology to Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Iota Lambda Omega chapter

Thank you,

Jacquelyn Miles Humes  
Resident, District 2, Howard County, MD

Auditor inquiry into use of Howard County library branch for sorority event sows divisions  
by Tim Swift February 17, 2023) Baltimore Fishbowl

Swift February 23, 2023

When a tipster asked Howard County officials to investigate an invitation-only sorority event at the library system's Central Branch last fall, the county auditor sprung into action. The auditor's staff staked out the evening function and later sought to interview library officials about their role. But library staff, including President and CEO Tonya Aikens, would not fully participate in the inquiry and steered auditor questions to its lawyer. It says that as a state agency it is not subject to oversight by the county auditor, and library staff have denied any wrongdoing. This week, Howard County auditor Craig N. Glendenning report saying that the office could not complete its inquiry into whether public funds were misused in holding the event because of that lack of cooperation. But the report contained descriptions about Black women and their clothing entering the library for an Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority reception that some found insensitive. And it exacerbated tensions between some council members about whether the inquiry was necessary, and whether the sorority and the library president were inappropriately singled out or targeted. Howard County Councilmember Opel Jones said the actions taken by Glendenning and his staff were overly aggressive and "appalling." "I've read the report twice, and I do not understand why they would have gone to such lengths," Jones said. "There's no cost to the library ... So, where's the misuse of funds? "But Council member David Youngman, the lone Republican on the County Council, said the report was troubling and Glendenning should have been allowed complete his investigation. "How could you not be disturbed by the lack of transparency and cooperation from what could be a fairly simple investigation?" Youngman said. "The auditor has the right to investigate this. "Three days after the report's release, the Howard County Library Board of Trustees said on Friday that it would conduct its own investigation into the event. "The Howard County Library Board of Trustees and President and CEO take their responsibility to taxpayers and funders seriously," the library system said in a statement. "The library system is governed by their Board of Trustees, and it is their responsibility to perform their statutory duties. We look forward to providing a response when the investigation is complete. "In Howard County, the auditor is hired by and reports to the County Council, and operates to "serve as a 'watch dog' over the affairs of the Executive Branch, ensuring public funds are spent in accordance with budgets adopted by the County Council and other provisions of the County Charter and County Code," according to the office's web site. The office maintains a system for anonymous reporting of "waste, fraud and abuse." Glendenning said his office received an anonymous tip in early October 2022 that the Central Library branch was hosting a private event for a chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) Sorority. The event was scheduled a day before the chapter's 50th Anniversary party at Martin's West in Baltimore. When questioned, the library told Glendenning that it frequently hosts events free of charge and the sorority would pay for setup, security and other expenses. The library reiterated this week to Baltimore Fishbowl that the system does not charge outside groups for use of library space. The library maintained that the sorority function was a public event followed by a reception. However, Glendenning's staff found promotional materials online that said the event was "by invitation only."

*A copy of an invitation to an event at the Howard County Library System Central Branch contained in an auditor's report has been deleted from the Sorority's website*

The auditor found that the Central Library did host the event on Oct. 7, closing at 2 p.m., four hours early in preparation. The office's report said it sought answers to whether staff were paid even though the library closed early, and who secured the library at the end of the event. Auditor's staff also staked out the event, and offered descriptions of what they found in the report. The report contained multiple references to "African-American women in white dresses" who attended. Jones found the references inappropriate and racially insensitive. "I'm the only African American member of the County Council. And I've been dealing with issues like this," Jones said.

AKA is a traditionally Black sorority but membership is open to all college women. It is tradition of sorority members to wear white for certain occasions. Aikens, who is Black, has been the library system's president and CEO since 2018 after leading the library system in Riverside, Calif. The county library system has earned a "five-star" designation, ranking it among the country's top public libraries. The original complaint alleged that Aikens is a member of AKA; the library system on Friday said Aikens is not a member of any sorority.

Jones questioned the tactics employed by the auditor's office during its review. Jones said Glendenning and his staff interviewed library employees at the central branch in January, setting up what amounted to an "interrogation room." Jones also said he also found it odd that Glendenning asked him – and each member of the Council – to sign a letter endorsing the investigation without providing any background information about the probe. When Glendenning asked for more interviews with the library's staff, including Aikens, after the event, the library's lawyers said the audit department had no jurisdiction over the library system. Glendenning declined to comment further this week, saying the report speaks for itself. "After reading the report, I'm trying to find out where the misuse of funds is," Jones said. "I belong to an organization ... Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated. I happened to be the former president of the local chapter. And we've had meetings at the library free of charge. My response: *Yes, and the meetings were probably held after the library closed hours or in a meeting room where the library was still operational.*

*Interesting: Councilman Opel Jones' wife is a member of AKA (the sorority that held the library event)*

*One of the Black Community leader's wife is a member of AKA and so is the Chair of the Library's sister.*

*Conflict of interest here. Is Jones appalled because his wife's sorority was involved?*

*How can the event be public when it was by invitation only and HAD to be vaccinated to attend?*


*WHY won't the auditor's questions be answered? If The library didn't do anything wrong, the questions should be answered. We, the taxpayers of Howard County want to know the answers.*

*Any anonymous report must be investigated. Isn't there a state requirement for certain professionals to report anonymously suspected child abuse to Dept of social service?*

*If it the propose of the auditor to find out taxpayer money is being wasted than what's the difference of the auditor investigating this? If the library did close 4 hours early than scheduled library closing time then it should be investigated.*

*It's obvious enough evidence of favoritism that the library staff and Jones are trying to protect. It's not going to work because WE know and the dirt may not come out in the wash but it will in the rinse.*

*It's not Jim Crow. This is privileged status. Was the AKA sorority organization given privileged status because of its AKA library board Chair connection?*

  
*Nancy Carr et al. March 8, 2022*

*Also, we DO NOT agree with the Howard Council new proposed bill that only protects itself against the auditor and not the Taxpayer. WE need an Independent Inspector like Baltimore City and Baltimore County has.*



March 16, 2023

Howard County Council  
3430 Courthouse Drive  
Ellicott City, Md. 21043

HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL

2023 MAR 20 P 2:58

*I don't like your bill CB11-2023 about the auditor. It sounds like the Council wants to monitor the auditor what he says and does and then release to the public after THEY audit the audit. It's just investigating that the people (mainly the taxpayer's) money is being well spent. How hard is that?*

*It's only when it involved black organizations that Blacks get emotional. So, what if the report (before it was edited) said black women wearing white dresses for ritual. The Sorority identifies itself as Black and do wear white dresses for their rituals. Maybe it shouldn't have been in the report but it just showed justification of the audit to prove that the library wasn't following protocol and rules, then they should have answered the questions instead of calling the race card and the Community (small group of protestors) and a councilman calling for the Auditor to be fired is a little over the top especially when their wives are members of the sorority.*

*It's interesting how the media left that part AKA connection part out. Now they (my white neighbors) do know why emotions are high. It's like Will Smith slapping Chris Rock at last year's Oscars. Yes, people are aware of this but many of my white neighbors said they don't have time to be bothered as they are worried about the crime in this County and the education of their children. But yes, my neighbors agree with me that the auditor should NOT be fired and yes many didn't know the connections between Jones and Walker's wives and library connection also. A sibling. They said they will follow this closely and decide what to do after the vote. . How many letters do of support they need? With a population of about 230,000 registered voters in Howard County, I would like 51% but the Council will not get that many letters for support HAHA*

*I told them the bill would likely pass since the memo only ask for those who support the bill and the Council loves its Blacks so they will do anything for the Black folk since the County were so horrible at one point. Can we just forgive and move on? This equity crap is destroying the County. I asked my white neighbors and I emphasize white because there is a difference between whites and blacks on how we see things. And there is a difference on Black see things. For instance, I believe in ALL lives matter and I get shamed by my black friends even though I say Black lives matter TOO but ALL LIVES MATTER.*

*Hope the Council gets this auditor issue out the way and everyone moves on. The Council has more severe issues to worry about like the CRIME that is escalating in Howard County and the Schools are horrible. So many now are home teaching and private schools. And this will*

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** no-reply@howardcountymd.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2023 1:55 PM  
**To:** ning.li@hccs-md.org  
**Subject:** Council - Written testimony for CB11-2023

**First Name:** Richard  
**Last Name:** Li  
**Email:** [ning.li@hccs-md.org](mailto:ning.li@hccs-md.org)  
**Street Address:** 5034 Crape Myrtle Cort  
**City:** Ellicott City  
**Subject:** Written testimony for CB11-2023

**Message:**

I am writing to express discomfort at the language used within the report from the county auditor office. We are unsettled by the use of racially-identifying information in the report, which we feel to be both unnecessary and inappropriate. Official reports from the County should be free of divisive language in adherence with the values of equity and diversity. The investigation is unrelated to matters of race and we believe the incorporation of racial language is unbecoming of a government agency of Howard County. We call for the revision of the report, and for an issued apology from the county auditor office.

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Patrice West <patricewest2014@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2023 1:52 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Apology Warranted!!

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

My name is Patrice West. I live at 9842 Deer Run, Laurel, MD 20723.

I am a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and the African American Community Roundtable. I am here in support of CB11-2023, and to express my view that the Howard County Auditor has not demonstrated the temperament, judgment or integrity to remain in a position of trust. Based on the Auditor's highly damaging and reckless actions revealed surrounding his audit report dated 2/14/23, the citizens of Howard County have lost trust and confidence in the Howard County Auditor.

The Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. The Act also prohibits discrimination in public accommodations and federally funded programs. It opened the doors of America to the great diverse human melting pot we have today. The entire community is frustrated and disappointed that you, our elected County Council Members have failed to take any demonstrable action to demonstrate accountability for the Auditor's actions.

- 
- 
- Do you stand behind the Auditor's Report?
- 
- 
- 
- 
- When did the Council learn the audit/investigation being requested was already underway?
- 
- 
- 
- Are you okay with the covert surveillance of county residents and organizations that are not subject to county audits or the target of a county audit?
- 
- 
- 
- Do you support funding the use of county employees to conduct covert surveillance before authorization is requested or approved?
- 
- 
- 
- Do you feel this Auditor acted in accordance with best practices and ethical standards?
- 
- 
- 
- Do you recognize your responsibility to uphold and maintain the

- confidence of all segments of the community, even those you may have little personal engagement with?
- 
- 
- 
- Do you stand by his posting personally identifying attributes of private County residents attending an event at a public facility?
- 
- 
- 
- Can you explain the importance of reporting that this organization wears white dresses for rituals and special events?
- 

You took an oath to serve the residents of Howard County. This community has no confidence in the unbiased impartiality of this Auditor and demands he be removed for this taxpayer funded position immediately, and that you vote to approve CB11-2023. Furthermore, this Council owes a public apology to Mrs. Tonya Aikens, President of HCLS and to Mrs. Sharon Merriweather, President of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Iota Lambda Omega chapter.

Thank you,  
Sincerely,  
Patrice West

Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Holli Hunter <hollihunter1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2023 1:30 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** In support of CB11-2023

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

**Hello Council Members,**

**My name is Holli Hunter, and I live at 5920 Cedar Fern Ct, Columbia, MD 21044.**

**I am writing in support of CB11-2023, and to express my view that the Howard County Auditor has not demonstrated the temperament, judgment or integrity to remain in a position of trust. Based on the Auditor's highly damaging and reckless actions revealed surrounding his audit report dated 2/14/23, the citizens of Howard County have lost trust and confidence in the Howard County Auditor.**

**I have read the report of the Auditor of 2/14/23 and was dismayed by the unprofessional behavior of the Auditor and the utter lack of objectivity and impartiality of his report. The Auditor's behavior and report demonstrate an extreme lack of judgment, competence and sensitivity.**

- 
- 
- **The Howard County Auditor sanctioned a rogue**
- **and unapproved surveillance of a renown civic organization without doing any due diligence to determine if the facts and basis for the tip were accurate.**
- 
- 
- 
- **The tip stating that the Library's president**
- **was holding a personal event for her college sorority sisters was inaccurate. The Library's president is not in any sorority, and the event was a celebration of the sorority's equity exhibit at the library. Even a cursory check of this foundational information**
- **would have informed the Auditor to proceed with some skepticism.**
- 
- 
- 
- **When it comes to an anonymous complaint there**
- **must be a high threshold that must be passed before the auditor engages. Clearly he did not consider the image and reputation of this beloved local organization worth pausing to consider all possible consequences.**
-

- 
- 
- **Moreover, the afterhours surveillance of the**
- **organization was not authorized by the County Council and violated the County Charter. The Auditor sought Board approval only after conducting his surveillance. Even in seeking this retroactive approval of his investigation, the Auditor did not inform the**
- **Council that his “cloak and dagger” operation was already well underway.**
- 
- 
- 
- **Indeed, the only misuse of county funds and**
- **resources seems to be by the auditor deploying a surveillance of an event that he already knew the who, what when, and where of the event. There was no constructive and useful purpose for the surveillance operation.**
- 

**Our demands are for the County Council to show accountability for the actions of their auditor:**

- 
- 
- **Support Bill**
- **CB11-2023;**
- 
- 
- 
- **Terminate the Howard County Auditor;**
- 
- 
- 
- **Issue a formal apology to Mrs. Tonya Aikins,**
- **President of HCLS; and**
- 
- 
- 
- **Issue a formal apology to Alpha Kappa Alpha**
- **Sorority, Inc., Iota Lambda Omega chapter**
- 

**Thank you,**

**Holli Hunter**

March 4, 2023

Howard County Council  
Attention: Walsh, Jung and Youngman  
3430 Courthouse Drive  
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL

2023 MAR 20 P 2:55

This email is being circulated in the Community:

*The Howard County Council met on Wednesday to discuss the matter regarding the Howard County Auditor. They apparently have decided to take no action to address the matter. Please read below for next steps to demand equity and fairness. Sorors, we need EVERYONE to come out on Monday, March 6 at 6:30 pm to show support and solidarity on this matter.*

*From Pastor Larry Walker:*

*We calling all concerned citizens to join us for a protest rally and press conference on Monday, March 6 at the George Howard Building located at 3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City before the County Council meeting. We will begin at 6:30 pm. More to come.*

*The way these people are acting one would think that the Sorority did NOT have their event*

*The Lambda Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority Inc did have their private vaccinated event and the library was closed 4 hours earlier. That's a FACT*

-----  
I HOPE that the County Council will not be bullied by these people. There is much going on like  
Pastor Larry Walker's wife is Alpha Kappa Alpha... Councilman Jones' wife is Alpha Kappa Alpha  
The Chair of the Library Board is either Alpha Kappa Alpha or her sibling

Councilman Jones has a conflict of interest and should recluse himself

How many other AKAs are associated with the library?

The Council has more to do like the teens hanging out at the Columbia mall harassing patrons than to discuss something that has already passed.

  
Nancy Carr

March 17, 2023

Howard County Council  
3430 Courthouse Drive  
Ellicott City Maryland 21043

Re: AGAINST County Bill 11-2023

We hope you will accept written testimony because we do not have a computer.

We have lived in Howard County for almost 50 years and never have had such pandemonium as this. Our Columbia Mall is overrun by gangs and harassing its customers especially on the weekend and nothing is done.

Now this issue with the Auditor which WE DO NOT agree that the Council should have any oversight over the auditor. This is not the County Council's money. It is the taxpayer's money and WE want an independent Inspector and we want the auditor to be free to do as he sees fit and not have to worry about special groups who are upset because they don't like the report.

Thank you,

*Ted Velma*

Ted and Velma Thompkin

2023 MAR 20 P 2:56  
THOMPKIN, TED & VELMA



March 17, 2023

Howard County Council  
3430 Courthouse Drive  
Ellicott City Maryland 21043

Re: AGAINST County Bill 11-2023

We hope you will accept written testimony because we do not have a computer.

We have lived in Howard County for almost 50 years and never have had such pandemonium as this. Our Columbia Mall is overrun by gangs and harassing its customers especially on the weekend and nothing is done.

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Thank you,

*Ted Velma*

Ted and Velma Thompkin

HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL  
MARCH 20 2023 2:56 PM

March 15, 2023

To; Howard County Council *Wendi*  
From: Mr. & Mrs. Wendi Morris and Dr. and Mrs. Jinn Paul Wroughton  
Re: Against CB11 2023

We do not support this bill. We believe this piece of legislation will ONLY limit the Auditor's role in accountability to the taxpayers and only appease a certain council member who only propose this legislation because his wife is a member of the sorority that had a favor done by closing the library during normal business hours ( allowed by the Library Board Chair whose sister is a member of the Sorority) so the sorority could hold a private vaccinated event. Even one of the community leaders involved in the protest movement wife is a member of the sorority and friends the Divine 9 who were out protesting. The County member and the County Executive and the Governor and members of the General Assembly in Chair Positions are part of the Divine 9. Passing this legislation will only limit to those council members who will see the report and will NOT allow transparency to the people the Council represents.

This is not Jim Crow. This is using power and now the Council wants to cover it up by controlling what the auditor does,  
We as Blacks are even tired of Blacks using the race card whenever the narrative doesn't go their way.

We, the taxpayers would like questions that auditor asked and that the library staff refused to answer. The public would not know any of this if the Council gets their way with this legislation, they will control everything. We need an independent inspector and we were told only the Council can recommend that AND we know the Council wants complete autonomy so the County members would never allow that.

Our only recourse is to move out of Howard County and as we taxpayers move out , Howard County will lose its tax base and end up like Baltimore City.

The Council is only reacting because a few BLACKS are upset because THEY were called out.

And the only testimony is received for those who support the bill. Those who are against bill have no say and right now the mainstream media is against writing anything negative about this. There are MANY who DO NOT support this bill and we are all races and creed.

Crime in Howard County is at an all-time high and nothing is being reported in the papers. Incidents in the schools are being reported by the media that it happens outside the schools. Columbia Mall attacks and car breakings are not reported.  
This is what will happen if this legislation is approved. We, the public would get hear the candy-coated audit report.

**Howard County Government  
3430 Courthouse Drive  
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043**



March 20, 2023

OPEN LETTER

Via Email: [Councilmail@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:Councilmail@howardcountymd.gov)

**County Council Members  
Howard County, MD**

Re: CB11

Greetings Councilmembers Walsh, Jones, Rigby, Jung & Yungmann,

This letter serves as a submission on behalf of the Indian American community (IAC) in Howard County regarding Tonya Aiken's closure of the Central Branch of the Howard County Library System on October 7th, 2022, to facilitate a private party for the AKA sorority.

We urge the county council to REJECT CB11 which would rob the County Auditor of its independent review. The auditor should not be penalized, and his hands effectively tied (by the passage of CB11) for simply doing his job and for holding an opinion/contrary to the allies and friends of the Howard County administration. This is akin to the County Executive taking control of the Citizen's Election Funds for his personal benefit and that of his political allies and must be rejected on principle. CB11 is akin to putting shackles on the police and not the thief.

Howard County residents paid for this event while they were not invited. We are appalled by the gross misuse and abuse of the Howard County Library System; we are thus, compelled to speak up about our experience with the Howard County Library System. HCLS leadership has been discriminatory in how it makes library facilities and its resources available to community members - the preferential treatment it affords some, while it has deprived ICA of equal access to library facilities. This is morally and ethically reprehensible, especially since ICA was refused access to library premises time and again by HCLS leadership, for events such as monthly **MENTAL HEALTH** gatherings, and **HEALTH FAIR(S)** to bring healthcare access to members of our community, who are denied desperately needed healthcare and other. And whereas the HCLS touts racial equity as a primary objective, it was silent on our requests and concerns. We asked for space to hold **RACIAL EQUITY** events for the Indian Community. Again, we were deprived of access.

The Indian Cultural Association of Howard County is a 501c3 nonprofit organization and is one of the largest cultural organizations in the DMV region. We have served the community since our inception. Since the beginning of the pandemic, we have distributed nearly 3 million pounds of food to the needy - our work to alleviate hunger in Howard County continues; the County remains silent to our requests. Our requests are not only repeatedly denied, but our access to county facilities is also actively denied. The IAC in Howard County faces systemic discrimination. We have held health fairs, distributed free vaccines, held senior socials and cultural events for the benefit of the community. Our events are open to all and have been free of cost to the public.

10020 Baltimore National Pike #6997, Ellicott City, MD 21042

[contact@icahoward.org](mailto:contact@icahoward.org) - Ph. (410) 567-6599 - [www.icahoward.org](http://www.icahoward.org)

**County Council Members**  
**Howard County, MD**  
Page 2/2

Considering Howard County residents pay about \$28 million every year (90% of HCLS budget), it is imperative that we establish unfettered oversight over HCLS.

No matter which charity it is, the closure of the entire library is excessive and inappropriate. The HCLS should have a set standard and the library's procedures implemented uniformly for all community members/groups. This is not being done currently. The Indian American community is the largest immigrant minority community in Howard County, and we demand equal access.

Rules cannot be enforced for one and not others. Our observation is that the HCLS practices race-based exclusion, which includes giving certain individuals and or favored groups access with preferred privileges. I can attest that uniform standards are not being followed by the library. This sort of favoritism must end, and the library system and its leadership placed under strict scrutiny and independent review; an auditor must certainly NOT be silenced.

VOTE NO TO CB11, yes to ethical governance, and an independent auditor. No auditor should be robbed of his or her independence as proposed under CB11. An arms-length audit must be allowed without interference from politicians.

Let me put this in perspective by asking a question - when can ICA hold a private party in honor of its volunteers at the library? It would be nice to have the whole library to ourselves so we can have peace and quiet while we party. God knows our volunteers certainly deserve it.

We request you initiate an independent audit to investigate discriminatory practices by the HCLS and the discrimination faced by the Indian American community at the hands of the HCLS.

Regards,

***Sanjay Srivastava***  
**Sanjay Srivastava, President**  
**Indian Cultural Association**

cc. Office of the Governor - State of Maryland  
cc. HCLS Board of Trustees  
cc. Howard County Executive

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Kathy Ball <wrightbey@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2023 3:20 PM  
**To:** CouncilBoard@howardcountymd.gov  
**Subject:** Support of CB11-2023

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Council members,

My name is Kathy Ball. I am a resident of Clarksville.

I am writing you in support of CB11-2023, and to express my view that the Howard County Auditor has not demonstrated the temperament, judgment or integrity to remain in a position of trust. Based on the Auditor's highly damaging and reckless actions revealed surrounding his audit report dated 2/14/23, the citizens of Howard County have lost trust and confidence in the Howard County Auditor.

I am frustrated and disappointed that you, our elected County Council Members have failed to take any demonstrable action to demonstrate accountability for the Auditor's actions:

Please explain how the Auditor including these quoted statements from the Auditor's report do not demonstrate a lack of judgment, reckless behavior, and a lack of integrity?

- Several vehicles in the parking lot displayed the AKA license plate and/or license plate holder.
- African American women wearing white dresses were entering the building. White dresses are the customary attire that AKA sorority sisters wear for ritual ceremonies and formal events.
- The second floor was brightly lit, and flashes of light could be seen from the exterior. These flashes of light were deduced to be camera lights from photographs being taken.
- The HCLS President and CEO, Ms. Tonya Aikens, was in attendance and wearing a white dress.
- The majority of attendees at the event were African American women wearing white dresses.
- Floral arrangements were displayed on tables and a few women were carrying floral bouquets.

The Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. The Act also prohibits discrimination in public accommodations and federally funded programs. It opened the doors of America to the great diverse human melting pot we have today. The behavior exhibited in this report seeks to take us back 60 years. We will not go back!

I demand this Council show accountability for the actions of the County Auditor:

- Support Bill CB11-2023;
- Terminate the Howard County Auditor;
- Issue a formal apology to Mrs. Tonya Aikens, President of HCLS; and
- Issue a formal apology to Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Iota Lambda Omega chapter.

Thank you,

Kathy Ball

I am a Certified Public Accountant and have conducted audits of a number of organizations. I am opposed to the provisions of CB11.

The purpose of an audit is to conduct an independent review of the entity being audited to determine that the entity's work is accurate, appropriate, and ethical. The word "independent" is crucial, which is the main reason audits are so often done by someone outside the organization. Internal auditors must be given this same independence, so that the recipients of the audit report will feel confident that it is an honest assessment based on a review conducted according to professional standards.

CB11-2023 will significantly hamper the independence that an auditor needs in order to conduct a truly IMPARTIAL audit by requiring them to clear many details of their actions and their plans with the county council. With all due respect to the county council, it is completely inappropriate for them to oversee the auditor's operations. First of all, the council are not auditors and are not qualified to judge whether the auditor's approach is appropriate. There are well-established professional standards for conducting audits and significant professional knowledge required to design and conduct an audit (Having taken the CPA exam, I can attest to that.). Second, such a review could be time-consuming for both the auditor and the council, and I believe that both have busy enough schedules without adding to their workload. If the council has time on their hands, I would be happy to discuss some local problems that I think need attention.

Finally, and most importantly, though, providing that the council review and approve the auditor's plans for an audit before the audit begins would raise significant doubt in the minds of citizens that the auditor was able to work without interference, especially when the audit was undertaken in response to a controversy or complaint. The Government Accounting Office publishes a professional standards book that includes examples of the kind of actions that would constitute undue influence, and being required to present detailed plans for the audit or report on action in progress would certainly fall in that category. I know I would not have felt comfortable conducting an audit subject to the types of review detailed in CB11.

I urge the council to vote AGAINST CB11-2023 so that the auditor will have the freedom to conduct truly impartial audits of county operations in the future and the public will have confidence that the county auditor's operations are being conducted independently and without influence from any other entity, inside or outside of the county government.

Angela M Boyter

3914 MacAlpine Road

Ellicott City MD 21042

angie@boyter.net

410 465-1444 home for voice calls

443 478-0327 cell for texts

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Angela M Boyter

3914 MacAlpine Road

Ellicott City MD 21042

angie@boyter.net

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443 478-0327 cell for texts



## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Karin Emery <keemery1965@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2023 5:03 PM  
**To:** CouncilPIO  
**Cc:** Jones, Opel; Ball, Calvin; CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov; Jung, Deb; Rigby, Christiana; Yungmann, David  
**Subject:** Opposed to CB-11

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Good afternoon,

I'm writing to you today in opposition to Council Bill CB-11. At a time when trust in government and in elected representatives is at an all-time low, this bill proposes to further erode that trust by reducing financial oversight in the Howard County Government.

County Council members don't have the right to take away independent fiscal oversight from the taxpayers of Howard County, and the Howard County Government.

This bill requires that the County Council meet behind closed doors to approve investigations. As if that weren't bad enough, especially alarming is the following language regarding establishing "certain processes for certain audits by the Howard County Auditor's Office." Is the County Council suggesting it get to pick and choose which audits occur?

Do we really believe that closed door sessions where elected representatives pick and choose which investigations they'll allow the auditor to pursue provide the needed transparency in government? No, this bill does just the opposite, it turns the ideas of independence and transparency on their head and politicizes every investigation going forward. The Government Accountability Office in their Yellow Book Guidelines refers to this as a threat – when political entities exert influence on an auditor. (Chapter 3: on Ethics, Independence, and Professional Judgement).

“Auditors should evaluate the following broad categories of threats to independence when applying the generally accepted government auditing standards (GAGAS) conceptual framework:  
[Item e.] Undue influence threat: The threat that influences or pressures from sources external to the audit organization will affect an auditor's ability to make objective judgments.”

Furthermore, what auditor with any integrity at all would want this job? If this bill passes how many of the staff will quit their jobs? How many of the staff who can't afford to quit their jobs will be ethically compromised? The end result of this bill passing makes the Auditor completely beholden to the County Council and they then become ineffective at best, and corrupt at worst.

We need to make the Auditor more independent, not less. It is your mandate to improve, increase and better the independent oversight of all facets of this government.

I strongly urge you to vote against CB-11.

Karin Emery  
District 2  
Columbia, Maryland

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Harrod, Michelle R  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2023 4:58 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** FW: Support of CB11-2023

Thank you,

*Michelle R. Harrod*

Howard County Government  
Administrator to the County Council

410-313-3111 (office)

443-398-6013 (cell)

[mrharrod@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:mrharrod@howardcountymd.gov)

---

**From:** Kathy Ball <wrightbey@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2023 3:20 PM  
**To:** CouncilBoard@howardcountymd.gov  
**Subject:** Support of CB11-2023

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Council members,

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I am writing you in support of CB11-2023, and to express my view that the Howard County Auditor has not demonstrated the temperament, judgment or integrity to remain in a position of trust. Based on the Auditor's highly damaging and reckless actions revealed surrounding his audit report dated 2/14/23, the citizens of Howard County have lost trust and confidence in the Howard County Auditor.

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- Terminate the Howard County Auditor;
- Issue a formal apology to Mrs. Tonya Aikens, President of HCLS; and

- Issue a formal apology to Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Iota Lambda Omega chapter.

Thank you,

Kathy Ball

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Patricia Thomas <palthomas@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2023 4:17 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** CB11-2023

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Good evening members of the Howard County Council,

We are writing in support of CB11-2023. After what has transpired around overstepping of boundaries, this Bill will provide the necessary processes for certain audits by the Howard County Auditor's Office. We feel that the amending of the Howard County Code was the right step to take. If this situation had'nt occurred, we wouldn't have known that a specific action needed to be taken.

We are asking all members of the Council to show your support for this Bill by voting YES.

We can't continue to uphold antiquated policy or no policy at all.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Patricia C. Thomas & Leon R. Thomas  
8755 Endless Ocean Way  
Columbia, MD 21045  
District 2

Allison D. Thomas  
5834 Wyndham Circle #203  
Columbia, MD 21044  
District 4

**Sayers, Margery**

---

**From:** Lisa Tavelli Feinberg <cootiecat@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2023 5:10 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** NO CB-11

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

No to CB-11  
Lisa Feinberg  
25 year resident Howard County  
[\(410\)499-6262](tel:(410)499-6262)  
Cootiecat@aol.com

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Jay Gerarden <gerardenjay@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2023 5:45 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** No to CB-11

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Howard County Council Members,

No to CB-11

As a former Congressional Investigator with the U.S. House of Representatives, House Appropriations Committee, Surveys and Investigations (HAC S&I) professional staff, I have personally conducted audits of federal programs used by Members of Congress to justify making important changes in funding, operations, policy, and administration of these programs and I have deep concerns regarding your proposed CB-11. It has many provisions that would not be tolerated at the federal level and would lead to less than useful audits. I respectfully urge that CB-11 be withdrawn from consideration or you vote against it.

Respectfully,

Jay Gerarden  
Howard County Resident  
M: (443) 813-0287  
E: [gerardenjay@gmail.com](mailto:gerardenjay@gmail.com)

Hello Council members,

My name is Mae A. Beale; I am a continental Societies Inc. Southeastern Howard County Chapter member in Howard County and serve as First Vice President.

I am here in support of CB11-2023 and to express my view that the Howard County Auditor has not demonstrated the temperament, judgment, or integrity to remain in a position of trust. Based on Auditor's highly damaging and reckless actions revealed surrounding his audit report dated 2/14/23, the citizens of Howard County have lost trust and confidence in the Howard County Auditor.

I have read the report of the Auditor of 2/14/23 and was dismayed by the unprofessional behavior of the Auditor and the utter lack of objectivity and impartiality of his report. The Auditor's behavior and information demonstrate an extreme lack of judgment, competence, and sensitivity.

- The Howard County Auditor sanctioned rogue and unapproved surveillance of a renowned civic organization without doing due diligence to determine if the facts and basis for the tip were accurate.
- The tip stating that the Library's president was holding a personal event for her college sorority sisters was inaccurate. The Library's president is not in any sorority, and the event was a celebration of the sorority's equity exhibit at the Library. Even a cursory check of this foundational information would have informed the Auditor to proceed with some skepticism.
- When it comes to an anonymous complaint, there must be a high threshold that must be passed before the Auditor engages. He did not consider the image and reputation of this beloved local organization worth considering all possible consequences.
- Moreover, the after-hours surveillance of the organization was not authorized by the County Council and violated the County Charter. The Auditor sought Board approval only after conducting his surveillance. Even in seeking this

retroactive approval of his investigation, the Auditor did not inform the Council that his “cloak and dagger” operation was already underway.

- Indeed, the only misuse of county funds and resources seems to be by the Auditor deployed surveillance of an event that he already knew the who, what, when, and where of the event. There was no constructive and valuable purpose for the surveillance operation.

Our demands are for the County Council to show accountability for the actions of their auditor:

- Support Bill CB11-2023;
- Terminate the Howard County Auditor;
- Issue a formal apology to Mrs. Tonya Aikins, President of HCLS; and
- Issue a formal apology to Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Iota Lambda Omega chapter

Thank you,

Mae Beale, First Vice President

Continental Societies Southeastern Howard Laurel Chapter



## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Harrod, Michelle R  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2023 6:53 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** FW: CB11-2023

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**From:** CJ Stone Ridgely <cjstoneridgely@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2023 6:48 PM  
**To:** CouncilBoard@howardcountymd.gov  
**Subject:** CB11-2023

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council County Members,

My name is CJ Stone Ridgely. I live in the Mount Hebron School District and I am a member of the African American Community Roundtable.

I am here in support of CB11-2023, and to express my view that the Howard County Auditor has not demonstrated the temperament, judgment or integrity to remain in a position of power or trust. Based on the Auditor's inflammatory comments surrounding his audit report dated 2/14/23, I have lost trust and confidence in the Howard County Auditor to perform his assigned duties competently.

I read and printed the report of the Auditor dated 2/14/23. The reason I printed the report was because I was shocked thinking it was a joke, and I wanted to make sure what I was reading was real. I originally thought it was someone posing as a high ranking county official. Much to my horror, I later discovered it was not a joke, but a clear display of racism, uncourteous descriptions, lack of professionalism and unfounded accusations in the Auditor's report. The Auditor's behavior and report demonstrated extreme bias, lack of judgment, incompetence and insensitivity.

- The Howard County Auditor sanctioned a rogue and unapproved surveillance of a renown civic organization without doing any due diligence to determine if the facts and basis for the tip were accurate.
- The tip stating that the Library's president was holding a personal event for her college sorority sisters was inaccurate. The Library's president is not in any sorority, and the event was a celebration of the sorority's equity exhibit at the library. Even a cursory check of this foundational information would have informed the Auditor to proceed with some skepticism.
- When it comes to an anonymous complaint there must be a high threshold that must be passed before the auditor engages. Clearly he did not consider the image and reputation of this beloved local organization worth pausing to consider all possible consequences.
- Moreover, the afterhours surveillance of the organization was not authorized by the County Council and violated the County Charter. The Auditor sought Board approval only after conducting his surveillance. Even in seeking this retroactive approval of his investigation, the Auditor did not inform the Council that his operation was already well underway.
- The misuse of county funds and resources seems to be by the auditor deploying a surveillance of an event that he already knew the who, what, when and where of the event. There was no constructive and useful purpose for the surveillance operation.

Our demands are for the County Council to show accountability for the actions of their auditor:

- Support Bill CB11-2023;
- Terminate the Howard County Auditor;

- Issue a formal apology to Mrs. Tonya Aikins, President of HCLS; and
- Issue a formal apology to Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Iota Lambda Omega chapter

Thank you,

CJ Stone Ridgely 9868 Diversified Lane Ellicott City, MD 21042  
District 5

***Be Great!!!***

***~CJ Stone Ridgely***

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** CJ Stone Ridgely <cjstoneridgely@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2023 6:48 PM  
**To:** CouncilBoard@howardcountymd.gov  
**Subject:** CB11-2023

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council County Members,

My name is CJ Stone Ridgely. I live in the Mount Hebron School District and I am a member of the African American Community Roundtable.

I am here in support of CB11-2023, and to express my view that the Howard County Auditor has not demonstrated the temperament, judgment or integrity to remain in a position of power or trust. Based on the Auditor's inflammatory comments surrounding his audit report dated 2/14/23, I have lost trust and confidence in the Howard County Auditor to perform his assigned duties competently.

I read and printed the report of the Auditor dated 2/14/23. The reason I printed the report was because I was shocked thinking it was a joke, and I wanted to make sure what I was reading was real. I originally thought it was someone posing as a high ranking county official. Much to my horror, I later discovered it was not a joke, but a clear display of racism, uncourteous descriptions, lack of professionalism and unfounded accusations in the Auditor's report. The Auditor's behavior and report demonstrated extreme bias, lack of judgment, incompetence and insensitivity.

- The Howard County Auditor sanctioned a rogue and unapproved surveillance of a renown civic organization without doing any due diligence to determine if the facts and basis for the tip were accurate.
- The tip stating that the Library's president was holding a personal event for her college sorority sisters was inaccurate. The Library's president is not in any sorority, and the event was a celebration of the sorority's equity exhibit at the library. Even a cursory check of this foundational information would have informed the Auditor to proceed with some skepticism.
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- The misuse of county funds and resources seems to be by the auditor deploying a surveillance of an event that he already knew the who, what, when and where of the event. There was no constructive and useful purpose for the surveillance operation.

Our demands are for the County Council to show accountability for the actions of their auditor:

- Support Bill CB11-2023;
- Terminate the Howard County Auditor;
- Issue a formal apology to Mrs. Tonya Aikins, President of HCLS; and
- Issue a formal apology to Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Iota Lambda Omega chapter

Thank you,

CJ Stone Ridgely 9868 Diversified Lane Ellicott City, MD 21042

District 5

***Be Great!!!***

***~CJ Stone Ridgely***

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Denise Knox Riley <denyvet@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2023 7:08 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** CB11-2023

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

My name is Denise Knox Riley and I live at 5004 Rushlight Path, Columbia, MD 21044.

I am here in support of CB11-2023, and to express my view that the Howard County Auditor has not demonstrated the temperament, judgment or integrity to remain in a position of trust. Based on the Auditor's highly damaging and reckless actions revealed surrounding his audit report dated 2/14/23, the citizens of Howard County have lost trust and confidence in the Howard County Auditor.

The Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. The Act also prohibits discrimination in public accommodations and federally funded programs. It opened the doors of America to the great diverse human melting pot we have today. The entire community is frustrated and disappointed that you, our elected County Council Members have failed to take any demonstrable action to demonstrate accountability for the Auditor's actions.

- 
- Do you stand behind the Auditor's Report?
- 
- 
- When did the Council learn the audit/investigation being requested was already underway?
- 
- 
- Are you okay with the covert surveillance of county residents and organizations that are not subject to county audits or the target of a county audit?
- 
- 
- Do you support funding the use of county employees to conduct covert surveillance before authorization is requested or approved?
- 
- 
- Do you feel this Auditor acted in accordance with best practices and ethical standards?
- 
- 
- Do you recognize your responsibility to uphold and maintain the confidence of all segments of the community, even those you may have little personal engagement with?
- 
- 
- Do you stand by his posting personally identifying attributes of private County residents attending an event at a public facility?
- 
-

- Can you explain the importance of reporting that this organization wears white dresses for rituals and special events?
- 

You took an oath to serve the residents of Howard County. This community has no confidence in the unbiased impartiality of this Auditor and demands he be removed for this taxpayer funded position immediately, and that you vote to approve CB11-2023. Furthermore, this Council owes a public apology to Mrs. Tonya Aikens, President of HCLS and to Mrs. Sharon Merriweather, President of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Iota Lambda Omega chapter.

Thank you,

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

Howard County Council  
Re:CB11-2023  
March 20, 2023

Dear Council Members,

I am outraged by the chilling revelation that the County Auditor deployed public resources to conduct unauthorized, covert surveillance of members and guests of the Iota Lambda Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, at an exhibit and reception it sponsored to commemorate 50 years of service to the Howard County community.

I am a proud member of the sorority, the daughter of one of the chapter's founders, and was likely one of the "African American women in white dresses" observed with suspicion as we went about our daily lives enjoying the use and benefits of one of Howard County's public spaces.

All citizens should be concerned by the Auditor's use of County resources to surveil private citizens and his failure to seek the Council's prior authorization as required by law. As a lawyer and former government official, I am troubled by the Auditor's questionable decision making and tactics documented in the offensive "investigative" report that has since been removed from the website. I will not outline every misstep here, but endorse the analysis laid out in the letter submitted to you by Margaret Ann Nolan in an email dated February 26, 2023. However, there is one particularly troubling aspect of the investigation which I will highlight.

The anonymous complaint triggering the investigation was sparse and contained false allegations ("a personal gathering for her [Ms. Aikens] college sorority sisters") and bald assertions ("The complainant felt that there were "no other benefits to the County other than Ms. Aikens' personal benefit.") that were promptly dispelled in Ms. Aikens' detailed response to the Auditor's inquiry.

Accepting that the Auditor felt the allegations were such that he could not dismiss the matter out of hand, he should have desisted after basic due diligence conclusively demonstrated there was no "there there". The fact that the event was part of a new initiative to partner with the community to produce "events related to local equity history...that align with HCLS' equity statement," should have given the Auditor pause to question whether the complaint was motivated by racial animus or disapproval of the Library's engagement on equity, given the publicized attacks on libraries around the country who dare carry such content.

Instead the Auditor bought into the complainant's fantasy of Black Women conspiring to defraud the county, as reflected in his report which is replete with irrelevant references to race and statements reflecting bias, cultural ignorance and arrogance. ("If the AKA Sorority... was already holding an event at Martin's West on Saturday, October 8, 2022,

in honor of their 50th Anniversary, why was there a need for a separate event on Friday, October 7, 2022 at the Central Branch facility?”)

I understand and respect the important role an auditor plays in identifying fraud, waste and abuse. But the community has a right to expect in performing their duties, the auditor will act with respect for the law and always in good faith. In this case, there was a catastrophic failure of judgment and an abuse of authority. Trust was broken. The Council should act decisively to restore confidence that going forward the considerable authority entrusted to a county auditor will be wielded responsibly, wisely and without bias. This means the Council as an institution, and each member in their own right, must hold themselves and the Auditor's office accountable for the harm caused by this ill-conceived and poorly executed operation.

Thank you for the opportunity to be heard.

Donna Hill Staton



Hello Council members,

My name is Sharon Merriweather and I live at Hickory Ridge (Sleepy Horse Lane Columbia Maryland. I am a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Iota Lambda Omega chapter.

I am here in support of CB11-2023. The Howard County Auditor, Mr. Craig Glendenning, is **appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the County Council**. Mr. Glendenning does not have the temperament, judgment or integrity to serve as the Howard County Auditor. Based on the Auditor's highly damaging and reckless actions revealed surrounding his audit report dated 2/14/23, I, along with the citizens of Howard County have lost trust and confidence in your Auditor.

I have read the report of the Auditor of 2/14/23 and was dismayed by the unprofessional behavior of the Auditor and the utter lack of objectivity and impartiality of his report. The Auditor's behavior and report demonstrate an extreme lack of judgment, competence and sensitivity.

The County Council, as a whole, has been eerily silent during this whole debacle. My question to you today is do you support and condone the behavior of the Howard County Auditor.

- Do you condone the rogue and unapproved surveillance of a 3rd party civic organization without doing any due diligence to determine if the facts and basis for the tip were accurate? Do you believe this cloak and dagger investigation was a good use of County resources?
- Do you support your Auditor's actions of noting that vehicles in the parking lot displayed the AKA license plate and/or license plate holder, that the attendees were African American women wearing white dresses? The insinuation that there was some sort of private ritual taking place?
- Do you condone your Auditor using his position of trust to **dox** 3rd parties by publishing their organization association, race, gender, the name and email address of the president in association with a fraud, waste and abuse complaint? There was no reason to release that information other than to harass and embarrass the sorority. This has never been done before in previous audits
- Indeed, the only misuse of county funds and resources seems to be by the auditor deploying a surveillance of an event that he already knew the who, what when, and where of the event. There was no constructive and useful purpose for the surveillance operation.

If the Howard County Council does not support this unprofessional and reckless behavior, they should

- Support Bill CB11-2023;
- Terminate the Howard County Auditor;
- Issue a formal apology to Mrs. Tonya Aikins, President of HCLS; and
- Issue a formal apology to Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Iota Lambda Omega chapter

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** avis815@comcast.net  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2023 8:26 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Regarding - Public Hearing - Auditors Report

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Avis Austin. I am a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Iota Lambda Omega chapter in Howard County. I am writing this e-mail to express my support of CB11-2023. I would also like to say that the Auditor acted in an extremely damaging and reckless manner in pursuing his audit report dated 02/14/2023. I am also in support of the following actions from the County Council:

- Support Bill CB11-2023
- Terminate the Howard County Auditor
- Issue a formal apology to Mrs. Tonya Aikens, President of HCLS; and
- Issue a formal apology to Alpha Kappa Alpha Alpha Sorority, Inc., Iota Lambda Omega

I look forward to your acknowledging that this was an ill-conceived audit investigation and take the appropriate steps to remedy the situation.

Thank you,

Avis Austin  
9427 Paragon Court  
Owings Mills, MD 21117

**I virtually presented the following testimony at the Legislative Public Hearing on March 20, 2023 in support of CB 11-2023. Tracey Teston, 6554 Beechwood Drive, Columbia, MD 21046**

Hi everybody and hello to the County Council Board Members. My name is Tracey Teston. I reside in Howard County's District 3, Columbia, Maryland.

I am here at this evening's Legislative Public Hearing to testify in support of Council Bill 11-2023.

The reason I am supporting this bill and what got me to testify in person for the first time in my life, was the February 14th letter from the Office of the County Auditor to the County Council and County Executive Ball. This letter discussed the investigation and report by the Howard County Office of the Auditor in response to a single complaint of alleged abuse of county funds for a local civic organization's event held at a Howard County library.

Many parts of this investigation and report concerned me but because I only have 3 minutes so I will focus on the Initial Procedures Performed section.

I believe the types and sheer volume of actions that occurred seemingly unchecked to determine the validity of the complaint reeked of systemic oppression. For example:

- The mention of the race and gender of the event participants,
- The description of the participants' clothes, and
- The fact that the furniture arrangement and the presence of floral bouquets could be used to justify an audit.

But what really got me here was how the safety of the event's participants was put at risk not only by the Auditor's Office's focus on their race and gender but also because of the Auditor's Office's "visit" to observe the event. I see this visit as a form of intimidation.

And we all know that race and gender play a part in the outcome of interactions between citizens and government officials. I will say her name: Breonna Taylor.

In closing, I hope this legislation will be one of many to ensure that the Howard County government rids itself of systemic oppression and opportunities for abuses of power.

I believe we can do better.

....Thank You.

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Liz Nudo <elizabeth\_nudo@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 21, 2023 8:44 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** CB-11 (Opposition)

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Hello,

I am writing to express my opposition to CB-11. After listening to over an hour of testimony last night of those in favor of the bill, I felt a strong need to express my opposition to this bill (although I had previously expressed my tempered opposition before, to individual council members). I am extremely concerned about what is driving this legislation, which is a single incident and a series of moving goals posts out of an office comprised of over 10 individuals.

Through these testimonies, we heard a series of buzzwords and emotional grievances followed by calls for the head auditor to be terminated, most of which have very little to do with the gravity of what the legislation itself would perform if enacted, which is, that it removes the independence of the office of the county auditor. Essentially this legislation would cut the legs of independence out from under the office entirely. I am not here to chastise or defend any single report. I am not here to point to other reports as examples of what should or should not be done. The county council gave the authorization to investigate, which is why I would assume Mr. Glendenning has his job, otherwise, the county would have to be ready to open up its checkbook for one of their highest profile wrongful termination suits in its history along with what I would assume would be a hefty defamation suit due to what was disclosed by the honorable president of the local Alpha Kappa Alpha chapter, which is that the investigation and report were not conducted or written by Mr. Glendenning but by a member of his team, something that was not publicly known until testimony began. Should the process of report review prior to publication be examined, yes, but that does not require legislation like this to be enacted.

Howard County is a very special place, if it wasn't, we wouldn't be here and people would not flock to be a part of this community. That said, it is my opinion that at this juncture, the county has outgrown its britches and is at this point in need of a completely independent Office of Inspector General. Other counties, the most recent being Prince George's County, have created this role, and due to the shenanigans surrounding this report, I do not see how Howard County can any longer function with simply Auditor's office. Confidence has been wildly rattled by the report itself, the accusations of the council of the head auditor and his office, and this bill.

I appreciate your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,  
Liz Nudo

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Baker, Kevin  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 21, 2023 12:16 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: vote no on CB11

For Related Documents under CB11-2023.

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**From:** DIANE BUTLER <[politicodiane@msn.com](mailto:politicodiane@msn.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2023 11:30 AM  
**To:** Walsh, Elizabeth <[ewalsh@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:ewalsh@howardcountymd.gov)>  
**Subject:** vote no on CB11

Hi Liz,

The audit process is there for a reason. Why would anyone want to deny this process. Please vote no on CB 11.

Diane Butler

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Baker, Kevin  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 21, 2023 12:16 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: Against CB11

For Related Documents under CB11-2023 (if not already sent).

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**From:** Tudy Adler <[tadler25@comcast.net](mailto:tadler25@comcast.net)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2023 12:04 PM  
**To:** Walsh, Elizabeth <[ewalsh@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:ewalsh@howardcountymd.gov)>; Jones, Opel <[ojones@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:ojones@howardcountymd.gov)>; Rigby, Christiana <[crigby@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:crigby@howardcountymd.gov)>; Jung, Deb <[djung@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:djung@howardcountymd.gov)>; Yungmann, David <[dyungmann@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:dyungmann@howardcountymd.gov)>  
**Subject:** Against CB11

Dear Chair Rigby and Council Members,

I am writing to lend my voice in opposition of CB11.

The current audit system is working. The County auditor must continue to do their work without involving the interest or opinions of the County Council. They should not be linked together. Independent review of the system is the primary work of the County Auditor. To pass this bill will remove a critical aspect of checks and balances required to keep your government accountable to the citizens.

Tudy Adler  
11940 Hall Shop Road  
Clarksville  
301-704-6707



Lisa L. Steptoe, CMR  
9724 Centennial Meadows Lane  
Ellicott City, MD 21042

443-324-1031

Council Members,

My name is Lisa Steptoe and I currently reside in Dorsey Search and my family has been a resident of Howard County since 1976.

I am a proud graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point Class of 1987 and it is there that I learned and embraced the mission of becoming a leader of character and integrity committed to the values of Duty, Honor, Country:

Those three hollowed words built my basic character.

I believe in choosing the hard right instead of the easier wrong.

I am here to support CB11-2023 and to express that the Howard County Auditor does not demonstrate the requisite leadership, integrity, judgement or character to remain in a position of trust. The Auditors highly damaging, reckless and bigoted actions revealed in his audit





Howard County Council Testimony  
March 20, 2023

Trent Williams  
8312 Governor Grayson Way  
Ellicott City, MD 21043

My name is Trent Williams and I have been a resident of Ellicott City for over 20 years. Less than 1 year ago, I stood before this council for your support in my appointment to the Howard County Consumer Protection Advisory Board by County Executive Calvin Ball.

Today, I am here in support of CB11-2023, and to express my view that the Howard County Auditor has demonstrated a lack of temperament, poor judgment, and A lack of integrity to remain in his position as Auditor; a position of trust. Based on the Auditor's highly damaging, and reckless actions surrounding his audit report dated February 14, 2023, the citizens of Howard County have lost trust and confidence in the Howard County Auditor. The divisiveness we are seeing in our community as a result of this Auditor's actions go far beyond what any mandated sensitivity training can yield. As a resident of this county, I demand the County Auditor's immediate removal from his position.

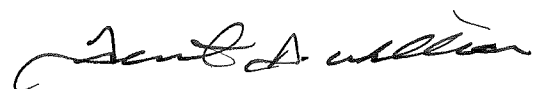
Personally, I am frustrated and disappointed that you, our elected County Council Members, have failed to take any measurable action to hold the Auditor accountable to his actions. Actions have consequences!! The Auditor investigated the alleged "misuse of county funds and facility during the October 7, 2022 event, prior to requesting approval from this County Council. Then proceeded to request approval from this County Council 6 weeks or longer after having already started his rogue investigation. And in dialogue with several of you, you were not fully aware of what the Auditor was asking for approval to investigate. You should be outraged that you have been drawn into this rogue investigation by the Auditor and that your integrity is being drawn into question by approving the audit. ACTIONS HAVE CONSEQUENCES!!

You will hear testimony of several quoted statements in the Auditor's report that demonstrate his lack of judgment, reckless behavior, and a lack of integrity. We will not stand for this type of behavior, and neither should you.

I demand this Council show accountability for the actions of the County Auditor:

1. Support Bill CB11-2023;
2. Immediately terminate the Howard County Auditor;
3. Issue a formal apology to Mrs. Tonya Aikens, President of Howard County Library System; and
4. Issue a formal apology to Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Iota Lambda Omega chapter.

Thank you in advance for demanding accountability and taking action against what has caused division within our beloved Howard County Community.





**HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL  
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION  
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION**

I, Laura Salganik, have been duly authorized by  
*(name of individual)*

Jewish Community Relations Council of Jewish Federation of Howard County to deliver testimony to the  
*(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)*

County Council regarding CB11-2023 to express the organization's  
*(bill or resolution number)*

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.  
*(Please circle one.)*

Printed Name: Laura H. Saganik

Signature: Laura Salganik

Digitally signed by Laura Salganik  
Date: 2023.03.20 09:26:05 -04'00'

Date: March 20, 2023

Organization: Jewish Community Relations Council of Jewish Federation of Howard County

Organization Address: 10630 Little Patuxent Pkwy Suite 400

10630 Little Patuxent Pkwy Suite 400

Number of Members: 1500

Name of Chair/President: Rabbi Gordon Fuller

*This form can be submitted electronically via email to [councilmail@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:councilmail@howardcountymd.gov) no later than 2 hours prior to the start of the Public Hearing.*



Chair Rigby, Vice Chair Jung, Members of the Howard County Council:

Good evening. My name is Laura Salganik, and I am co-chair with Betsy Singer Marcus, of the Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Howard County. The JCRC, guided by our Jewish values, seeks to promote the common good and to build mutual understanding between our local Jewish community of about 25,000 residents and the broader civic, ethnic, and religious communities here in the county.

I am here tonight to express the JCRC's support of CB11. But first, I'd like to speak about the circumstances that have brought us to this point.

The JCRC believes that the actions taken by County Auditor are an embarrassment to his office and to County government. We believe the audit was not conducted with transparency about the complaint, nor with the sensitivity and civility we have come to expect in Howard County. The library system is one of the jewels of our community, and it is disgraceful to see its reputation, and the good names of its employees and leaders, recklessly and needlessly attacked by other County employees.

Furthermore, in the wake of the County Auditor's actions coming to light, we are very disappointed in how many of our neighbors, and many of our community's leaders, have dismissed or minimized the racial aspects of this incident. The Iota Lambda Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha has been recognized for its volunteer service to the community beyond all expectations. Its members who were targeted are Black women. The President and CEO of the Howard County Library System who was also targeted is a Black woman. The racial and misogynist undertones of a report that cites "African American women wearing white dresses" are clear to us and we find them appalling.

The JCRC believes that we all need to acknowledge the harm that this incident has done not only to those directly involved, but to Howard County's entire Black community and to the ties of civility that we cherish so much.

As Jews, we have all too often been told by others that clearly harmful antisemitic actions and words are not, in fact, antisemitic, that we should just calm down and stop overreacting. It is galling to see the racial harm that this audit inflicted on our Black friends and neighbors similarly dismissed or minimized. We stand in solidarity with them. Howard County needs to do better, and be better, than this.

Now, back to CB11.

We fully support CB11. We believe the reforms laid out in the bill clarify the obligations of the County Auditor to be transparent with the Council regarding the rationale, scope, and methods of audits that fall under the provisions of the bill, and would have prevented the situation we are in today. We recognize that independence of auditors is important. However, we believe that the processes and conditions established in CB11 are consistent with the multiple government auditing standards in the GAO "Yellow Book". The JCRC urges the County Council to pass the bill.

If we may suggest one amendment that might strengthen the bill, it would be to include language that prohibits the County Auditor from publishing any preliminary audit findings without the County Council's approval, and that codifies the process which the Auditor must follow in order to publish any preliminary findings or draft reports.

We also believe that because of the harm caused to an entire community, behind-the-scenes actions to apologize or set things straight are not enough. We urge the Council to take immediate steps which we believe must include:

- The removal, or at the very least public reprimanding, of the County Auditor;
- The issuing of a formal and public apology on behalf of the County Council to both the members of Iota Lambda Omega chapter of AKA and to the Howard County Library System, its employees, its Board of Trustees, and its president, Ms. Tonya Aikens.

We thank you for your efforts to rectify this harm and for the opportunity to support CB11.

Betsy Singer Marcus and Laura Salganik, co-chairs, Jewish Community Relations Council



HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL  
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION  
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

I, Lizz Hammon, have been duly authorized by  
*(name of individual)*

Anti-Racist Education Alliance, Incorporated to deliver testimony to the  
*(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)*

County Council regarding CB 11-23 to express the organization's  
*(bill or resolution number)*

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.  
*(Please circle one.)*

Printed Name: Lizz Hammon

Signature: C. Elizabeth Hammon

Date: March 20, 2023

Organization: Anti-Racist Education Alliance, Inc.

Organization Address: 5169 Orchard Green Columbia, MD 21045

Number of Members: 25

Name of Chair/President: Matthew Vaughn-Smith

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Written copy of oral testimony delivered to Howard County Council on March 20, 2023.

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Chair Rigby, Vice Chair Jung, Members of the Howard County Council:

Good evening, my name is Lizz Hammon and I'm speaking tonight on behalf of the Anti-Racist Education Alliance, Incorporated. Also known as AREA. Our mission is to dismantle the racist systems & structures within education and the greater community, & to build structures that promote equity of access for Black, Brown, & Indigenous Students. AREA strongly supports council bill 11, which aims to reform the county auditor role.

The October 2022 audit involving the Howard County Library System, its CEO and the Howard County Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority was an unprecedented demonstration of County Auditor overreach and abuse of office. The auditor's report that was subsequently written and released to the public just added monumental insult to injury. Not only do we support this bill, we also demand termination of County Auditor Craig Glendenning. His conduct before, during and after this unacceptable incident has proven that Mr. Glendenning is very comfortable with the following kinds of conduct: targeting black women without a single credible reason; targeting community service organizations with unimpeachable reputations; targeting highly regarded and accomplished female executives; engaging in rogue, unsanctioned activity; surreptitiously staking out events that are open to the public; seeking to cover-up the unsanctioned nature of his activities; manipulating county council members; and withholding information from the public about how much money he wasted in his attempt to defame and discredit a large number of black women in this county.

What happened was a disgraceful case of racial profiling. Mr. Glendenning didn't even fact check the anonymous complaint that sparked this entire scandal. Had he bothered to do even a cursory check, he would have discovered that Ms. Aikens is not a member of any sorority. Why would anyone think she was? Because Alpha Kappa Alpha is a Black Sorority and Ms. Aikens is a successful black woman. Mr. Glendenning's conduct sends a clear message: a library event celebrating the contributions of a black civic organization must be a shady abuse of power by the library system's Black CEO. And lest you think this was a minor oversight or innocent mistake, I remind you that Mr. Glendenning perpetuated this false narrative in his public report and dealings with county officials.

The level of detail used in the auditor's unprecedented report is astounding. He could not have done a better job incriminating himself if he tried. To date, he has taken no responsibility for the harm he has caused nor has he acknowledged his conduct's baselessness. **He's got to go.** He has lost all credibility in the black community and he doesn't appear to be even slightly concerned about it. Mr. Glendenning's unwillingness to engage in any damage control on his own behalf shows us all just how important the black community of Howard County is to him.

CB 11 will go a long way in making sure that something this egregious never happens again, but it won't begin to undo the damage that has been done. County council members who are unwilling to recall Mr. Glendenning from his post as County Auditor, are county council members who do not stand in solidarity with black people in Howard County. Continuing to employ Mr. Glendenning is the definition of systemic racism. Thank you.

Lizz Hammon  
Columbia, MD

# Sayers, Margery

**From:** Larry Walker <albrance@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2023 6:14 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Cc:** Ron Martin  
**Subject:** L Walker Affidavit of Authorization

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Ms. Sayers,  
Below is the affidavit for me to speak representing Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. Zeta Alpha Sigma Chapter tonight.

**HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION**  
**TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION**

I, Lawrence Walker (name of individual), have been duly authorized by Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. Zeta Alpha Sigma Chapter (name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force) to deliver testimony to the County Council regarding CB11-2023 (bill or resolution number) to express the organization's support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation. (Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Lawrence Walker, Sr.  
Signature: [Handwritten Signature]  
Date: March 21, 2023  
Organization: Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. Zeta Alpha Sigma Chapter  
Organization Address: P.O. Box 6928  
Columbia, MD 21045  
Number of Members: 50  
Name of Chair/President: Ron Martin

This form can be submitted electronically via email to [redacted] no later than 2 hours prior to the start of the Public Hearing

Sent from Larry Walker's iPhone



**HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL  
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION  
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION**

I, Jessica I. Nichols, have been duly authorized by  
*(name of individual)*

Columbia Democratic Club to deliver testimony to the  
*(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)*

County Council regarding CB-11 to express the organization's  
*(bill or resolution number)*

support for / ~~opposition to~~ / ~~request to amend~~ this legislation.  
*(Please circle one.)*

Printed Name: Jessica Nichols

Signature: *Jessica I. Nichols*

Date: 3/20/2023

Organization: Columbia Democratic Club

Organization Address: Clarksville, MD 21029

Clarksville, MD 21029

Number of Members: 230

Name of Chair/President: Jessica I. Nichols

***This form can be submitted electronically via email to  
[councilmail@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:councilmail@howardcountymd.gov) no later than 2 hours prior to the start of the  
Public Hearing.***



Good Evening Council Chair Rigby and County Council Members. You all know me well but for the record, my name is Jessica Nichols and I am a Howard County Taxpayer and homeowner. I am here in my capacity as President of the Columbia Democratic Club. At our March meeting, the Columbia Democratic Club took the following positions. We voted to support CB-11, our Library system's inclusion initiatives, Dr. Tonya Aikens and to recall the county auditor, Craig Glendenning.

As you know, the library system, under the direction of Dr. Aikens has excited our county with their work on their inclusion initiatives. And as a result, in October of 2022, Dr. Aikens was the target of a clumsy attempt to racially profile her. Around the country, we have seen black people who have tried to do the work of anti-racism targeted in many ways. In this case, Dr. Aikens was targeted by someone using the anonymous reporting system of the County Auditor's office.

What should've been an easy investigation that should have taken maybe 1 hour for anyone with the internet and a phone, spiraled into the same type of racial profiling that my great-grandparents, grandparents and parents experienced when they were my age.

The charges were simple to debunk. One, she was accused of holding a private party for two, her sorority. Now, I am no investigator or auditor, but it seems that it would be relatively easy to ascertain if this was true without trampling the civil rights of every black person in the county. The answers were simple...No Dr. Aikens was not holding a private party...it was open to anyone to get a ticket on the library website. And no, Dr. Aikens wasn't even a member of the black sorority in question. Just a phone call and looking at the website was all the investigation that this needed. But that's not what happened.

Mr. Glendenning stalked and doxxed these black women using language that was so racially charged that it was shocking in 2023. And he did so while misleading this body about what he did. I ask this body, how can you continue to support someone who did such a thing to the black residents of this county? How can you trust the auditor going forward when they so clearly need the rails that CB-11 gives them?

The simple truth is that this is not a democratic or republican issue. This is a human rights issue. Every person on this county council should be unashamed to send the message that in Howard County, we may disagree on policies but we all agree that everyone has a right to live in this county without a side order of racism and/or racial profiling. It is quite frankly insulting that we have to have this conversation in 2023.

To add insult to injury, every taxpayer is being forced to be complicit in the racial profiling of black residents. By using our taxpayer funds to pay for this "investigation", we are all an unwilling party to the racial profiling that was committed by the auditor. The Columbia Democratic Club sent me here to tell you that we will not go gently into the night of tacitly supporting racism. We are calling for you to approve CB-11 to put in place a more explicit system for interactions between the County Auditor and the County Council. But we are calling

for you to recall the County Auditor. He must be recalled immediately to restore the trust between the county council and your constituents.

By refusing to recall the Auditor, you have sent a dangerous signal to every single racist that Howard County will allow her citizens to be racially profiled. When you were all sworn in, you took an oath to protect and defend the Constitution. The Constitution has a clause in the 5th and 14th Amendments that say that all citizens are afforded Equal Protection under the law. I am here to remind you that this applies to all residents of Howard County...regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation, or political beliefs. I am reminding you of the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He said, "the time is always right to do right." No matter what your former positions were, you can change them and send a powerful message to those who would dare to threaten our county that racism and hatred have no home here in Howard County. Thank you.



HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL  
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION  
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

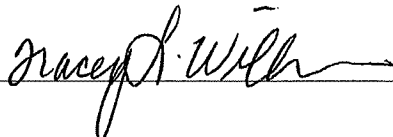
I, Tracey L. Williams, have been duly authorized by  
*(name of individual)*

African American Community Roundtable of Howard County to deliver testimony to the  
*(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)*

County Council regarding CB11 2023 to express the organization's  
*(bill or resolution number)*

support for / ~~opposition to~~ / ~~request to amend~~ this legislation.  
*(Please circle one.)*

Printed Name: Tracey L. Williams

Signature: 

Date: 03/20/2023

Organization: African American Community Roundtable of Howard County

Organization Address: P.O. Box 958, Columbia, MD 21045

P.O. Box 958, Columbia, MD 21045

Number of Members: 6,000 +

Name of Chair/President: Dr. Tracey L. Williams

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African American Community Roundtable of Howard County  
P.O. Box 958  
Columbia, Maryland 21044

March 20, 2023

Howard County Council Members  
3430 Court House Drive  
George Howard Building  
Ellicott City, Maryland 21044

Dear Council Members:

My name is Dr. Tracey L. Williams and I am here to speak to you as a resident of Ellicott City and in my capacity as president of the African American Community Roundtable of Howard County. The African American Community Roundtable is an active coalition of social, civic, professional, religious, and cultural groups committed to enhancing the overall quality of life for African Americans throughout Howard County. It is our focus to raise awareness around Education, Health, Economic Development, Public Safety, and Social Justice related to African Americans.

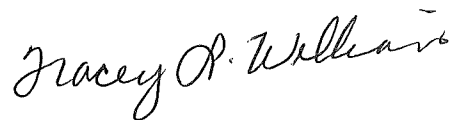
I am here in support of CB11-2023, and to express disappointment in the County Council members who supported the Howard County Auditor's unsanctioned investigation and his egregious audit report. The Auditor's report dated on February 14, 2023, was different from any other report posted on the Howard County Council website. The report focused on surveillance being conducted on October 7, 2022, in the parking lot of the Central branch of the library instead of the auditor's standard practice of auditing financial records. The report placed emphasis on the race and attire of those in attendance and made assumptions about the purpose of the gathering. The report also called into question the integrity of the President of the Howard County Library System and the sorority hosting the event.

The citizens of Howard County have lost confidence and trust in the Howard County Auditor based on his lack of judgement and the bias revealed in this report. We can no longer trust Craig Glendenning, to conduct unbiased investigations. I have a few questions that I would like to present to the Council regarding Mr. Glendenning's report:

- Do you stand behind the Auditor's Report?
- When did the Council learn the audit/investigation being requested was already underway?
- Are you okay with the covert surveillance of county residents and organizations that are not subject to county audits or the target of a county audit?
- Do you support funding the use of county employees to conduct covert surveillance before authorization is requested or approved?
- Do you feel this Auditor acted in accordance with best practices and ethical standards?
- Do you recognize your responsibility to uphold and maintain the confidence of all segments of the community, even those you may have little personal engagement with?
- Do you stand by his posting personally identifying attributes of private County residents attending an event at a public facility?
- Can you explain the importance of reporting that this organization wears white dresses for rituals and special events?

As County Council members, you took an oath to serve the residents of Howard County. We are disappointed that you, our elected officials have failed to take accountability for the Auditor's actions. This community has no confidence in the unbiased impartiality of this Auditor and demands he be removed for this taxpayer funded position immediately, and that you vote to approve CB11-2023. In addition, this Council owes a public apology to Mrs. Tonya Aikens, President of HCLS and to Mrs. Sharon Merriweather, President of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Iota Lambda Omega chapter.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tracey L. Williams". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Tracey L. Williams, LCSW-C, PPW

TO: Howard County Maryland Council

Good Evening Council Members,

My name is John Taylor. I live in the Oakland Mills area in Council District 2 (9450 Pursuit Court). I am here in support of CB11-2023.

My almost 85 years of living with many years of criminal and other Investigative experiences would not allow me to not address what appears to be an apparent purposeful attempt by the County's Auditor office to conduct a fishing expedition of a planned and scheduled event at the Central Library with hopes of catching misdeeds performed by the Library's President and CEO, a Black woman, allegedly hosting a group of Black women at the library.

I need not cite elements of the Auditor's report - such as surveillance of the parking lot for vehicle plate and frame markings, race, attire and social organization of women attendees, the event room set-up and ongoing activities. You are already aware of these purposeful efforts to negatively categorize this group of women as you approved the activities of the Auditor's office and approved the report.

My questions are:

- WHAT DID THIS SURVILLANCE HAVE TO DO WITH MONEY UTILIZATION BY THE LIBRARY'S CEO, MS. AIKENS?
- WHEN DID YOU HEAR OF THIS INTENT TO AUDIT THE LIBRARY'S ALLEGED MISUSE OF FUNDS?
- WHEN DID YOU APPROVE THE REQUEST FOR AUDIT?
- WHEN DID YOU APPROVE THE AUDITOR'S REPORT?

I submit, had the Library CEO and the group of women attending the preplanned and scheduled function at the library been of a different racial group this sham attempted audit would not have occurred. This act flows with the many "Jim Crow" tactics that helped drive development and passage of the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964. No attempt to go back to racist tactics of the era will be accepted or tolerated.

I have read the report and believe the Auditor demonstrated lack of judgement, competency, and sensitivity with disregard to objectivity and impartiality of his report. Too, it is my opinion that you, members of the Council, who approved the investigation and report failed the President and CEO of the Library System, Ms. Tonya Aikens, the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Iota Lambda Omega Chapter, and the CITIZENS of Howard County.

Therefore, I state and support the following:

- I fully support Howard County Council passage of Bill CB11-2023
- Howard County Council termination of the Howard County Auditor
- Howard County Council issue a formal apology to Ms. Tonya Aikens, President and CEO, Howard County Library System
- Howard County Council issue a formal apology to Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Iota Lambda Omega Chapter
- Howard County Council publish a statement of its nondiscriminatory policy to the citizenry of Howard County

Respectfully Submitted March 20, 2023



John H. Taylor

(443) 520-0914

pajpahpat@verizon.net