

**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** Ben <benbarlow97@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 21, 2023 2:19 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Fwd: Thank You

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Chair Rigsby and Councilmembers,

Thank you for the opportunity to come before the council last night. I know it was a hectic evening.

I think all I would have to add is that I've been in Howard County now for 17 years, having grown up in the Shenandoah Valley. I've tried to consistently give a lot of my time in terms of service. I spent a year in Americorps, spent five years on the board of directors of the operational arm of the Church of the Brethren, including a couple as chair, and I often volunteer in Old Ellicott City. Along the way, I've trying to learn more about county operations, attending the Planit Howard Academy, and serving on the master plan advisory team.

History and the opportunity for people to feel connected to what has gone before have always been important to me - whether we are talking about family history, or community history.

I believe history, though, has to be incorporated into trying to create vibrant and thriving communities. I'm interested in celebrating our history and learning from it -and preserving it in a way that does not simply turn our communities into living history museums.

A statement from the historical preservationist speaking on the Shipley's Grant issue last night resonated with me - that 'the best way to preserve our historic resources is to ensure that properties and sites can be used' and can be resources for individuals and communities. Absent that, we risk having pristine preservation that no one experiences.

If appointed, I am committed to approaching service seriously and deliberately, incorporating my experiences on the various nonprofit boards and my professional life - working to achieve consensus and resolving disputes - while always following authorities that we have in place.

Thank you again for the opportunity to be considered.

Ben Barlow

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Rigby, Christiana" <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Date:** March 21, 2023 at 1:42:30 PM EDT  
**To:** benbarlow97@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Thank You

Dear Ben,

2020-09-21

I wanted to take a moment as the Chair of the Howard County Council and reach out to thank you for attending our Public Hearing testifying for your appointment. We appreciate you taking the time to testify and sharing your perspective. If you have any further resources or thoughts to share with the Council, please feel free to send them to [councilmail@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:councilmail@howardcountymd.gov).

Yours in service,

**Christiana Rigby**  
*Councilwoman, District 3*

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