

Monday, March 20, 2023

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

Good evening, Howard County Council Members,

My name is Linda Gordon Gilmore, and I am a concerned member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®, Iota Lambda Omega Chapter of Howard County, MD.

I am here in support of CB11-2023, and to express my view that the Howard County Auditor has not demonstrated the temperament, judgment, nor integrity to remain in a position of trust. Based on the Auditor's highly damaging and reckless actions revealed within his audit report dated 2/14/23, trust and confidence in the Auditor has been lost.

After reading the Auditor's report of 2/14/23, I 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 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, the Auditor 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.

Therefore, I demand that the Howard County Council show accountability for the actions of the Howard County Auditor. Specifically,

- support Bill CB11-2023;
- terminate the Howard County Auditor;
- issue a formal apology to Mrs. Tonya Aikins, President of Howard County Library System; and
- issue a formal apology to Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Iota Lambda Omega chapter.

I look forward to learning of your response. Thank you for your time and attention.

Linda Gordon Gilmore

Linda Gordon Gilmore
Concerned Organization Member
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®
Iota Lambda Omega Chapter
Howard County, Maryland

Testimony from
Peggy Anthony, Resident, Ellicott City, Howard County, Maryland

Re: CB11-2023 AN ACT amending the Howard County Code to establish certain processes for certain audits by the Howard County Auditor's Office; and generally relating to the Howard County's Auditor's Office

First of All, The Allegation:

The premise for conducting the audit/examination/review was without verification or validation. This should have been one of the first if not the first bit of action taken by the auditor. While the auditor confirmed that an event took place, the auditor has not reported that he verified the allegation with respect to "personal benefit". Had the auditor taken the initial step to make this verification, the audit could have and should have been terminated. Considering this falsehood, I believe the HCLS President and counsel were correct to limit the auditor's continued access to the HCLS President and staff. This is akin to driving in full compliance with traffic rules but nonetheless being stopped by a traffic officer on the basis of faulty pretext. Unfortunately, things can get out of hand in those circumstances, and, in my opinion did based upon the "tone" of this audit report.

The report states "... the County Council ordered our Office to officially examine/investigate the allegation..." The auditor states initial procedures were performed "to determine the validity of the allegation" and lists these procedures in the report. At no point in this writeup does the auditor indicate that a most crucially important and pertinent question was ever asked: "Is the HCLS President a member of the organization in question? In the report, personal benefit component of the allegation is included in quotation marks twice in two separate parts of the auditor's description of the allegation, leading one to believe this was the accuser's own words. Since this is what the auditor brought to the Council, this should have been verified during his initial procedures investigation. This could have been done by asking HCLS or the President of the sorority chapter, whose email address is located in the auditor's report Exhibit I.

Lack of Professional Behavior and Reporting:

It is my view the unnecessary, reckless, insensitive and at-length inclusion of the other organization in this report is unwarranted and lacking in professionalism. Based upon the careful reading of the invitation in Exhibit I, it is clear this was not a private event, Was there an invitation, Yes. However, the invitation is not limited to members only. One only needs to read the "request for RSVP" which is not unusual considering the provision of food, beverages, and information about attire. Anyone could have RSVP'd for the Friday partnership event.

**County Auditor Missed His Own Opportunity to Fulfill
Responsibility of County Charter Section 213**

It is my view, there was nothing that prohibited the County Auditor from carrying out Section 213 of the County Charter, which specifically states, "the Council...may at any time order the examination or audit of the accounts of any department, office or agency receiving funds from

the County government. Because the Council is a multi-member public body, a majority of the Council members must order you to conduct an audit or examination in accordance with Section 213” [The preceding quote was taken from the County Auditor’s report.] This is reiterated in a summary second bullet point underneath the above report quote, “Section 213 authorizes an audit or examination of “the accounts” of the Library. Based upon these two points of criteria noted in the report and the ensuing report language, it appears that nothing prevented that from occurring Section 213 states nothing about “interviewing people”. Section 213 expressly mentions “audit or examination of the accounts” which can be achieved simply by having access to the accounts and the records. At no point in the report, does the County Auditor state being denied access to, review or examination of the HCLS accounts and records. The County Auditor complains and states on page 6, second paragraph, “On January 15, 2023, our office emailed the Board Chair regarding our visit and how we were denied access *to interview* employees despite the order we received from the County Council.”

It concerns me that the County Auditor terminated the audit on the bases stated on page six “INVESTIGATION TERMINATED”. The audit should have been terminated or scope adjusted due to a major false premise in the allegation from the beginning since the HCLS President and CEO was not and is not a member of the sorority and there was no personal gain as the allegation claimed. To terminate on the basis of not being able to “interview people” when the Charter rule and Solicitor’s opinion mentions audit and examination of the accounts is not well-founded.

Additional Actions to Consider:

I recommend some action be taken to hold the County Auditor accountable for this outrageous investigation and reporting writeup.

I, also, recommend the County identify and establish a basic training curriculum for all county auditors to complete over a period of time but no longer than three years after hire.

Submitted By: Peggy Anthony, Resident, Howard County, Maryland

APPENDIX

County Auditor's Purported Un-answered Questions Misplaced

As for Mr. Glendening's claims to un-answered questions

Bullet One: See page one, first paragraph of this testimony.

Bullet Two: The event was open to the public. Only an RSVP was requested. See Auditor Report, Exhibit 1.

Bullet Three: This is not a question for the HCLS.

Bullets Four and Five: This could have been appropriate for a newly more broadly scoped audit which could have been a next audit for the County Auditor but not for this particular allegation-based examination.

Bullet Six: These were likely overhead and indirect costs. However, it appears Ms. Aikens responded to this question on page 3. Further audit could have been made by the Auditor's review of applicable criteria and making an audit or examination of the accounts. It does not appear the auditors asked for criteria or account records.

Bullet Seven and Eight: It appears these questions were responded to on page 3. Otherwise, examine the account if deemed necessary.

Bullet Nine: I am pleased the Sheriff's Office representative was there. That's what our tax dollars pay for.

Bullet Ten: Ms. Aikens has responded to this question already on page three, also.

In my opinion this allegation audit should have been closed out and a new audit/examination/investigation could have been opened on the question of the "proper use of library facilities". By doing this Mr. Glendening's office could have eliminated the personal nature of this audit and attempted shadowing of a highly regarded 115 year-old service-oriented organization which has produced leaders and aided masses for a better life and future through service, scholarship, personal development, and training. A new audit could have included other organizations who have partnered with the HCLS for events. The use of one organization for this purpose is not a particularly wise examination of county ordinance or policy. Usually, this would include more than one organization to denote a pattern or trend to determine a weakness or misuse. Mr. Glendening used one chapter of an organization to criticize a multi-million dollar county operation. That was the real waste of tax-payers' dollars.

Good evening, Council members,

My name is Lisa Spear Ethridge, and I live in Columbia MD. (address is 6300 Canyon Head LN Columbia, MD 21045).

I have read the original report of the Auditor dated February 14th 2023, as well as the redacted version now presented to the community via the Howard County government link.

I am here in support of CB11-2023, and to express my view that the Howard County Auditor has demonstrated extremely poor judgment and lack of integrity to remain in a position of trust.

I attended the event in question at the library on October 7th 2022, and I absolutely do not appreciate being surveilled by a rogue operation sanctioned by the County auditor based on an unvetted tip, and such operation was retroactively sanctioned by this Council without your full knowledge that the surveillance had already occurred or was underway.

Striking to me is that the auditor did no due diligence to determine whether any of the false statements that he originally published as fact were accurate. Since he did not have the wherewithal required by his profession to vet the information that he reported as fact in the original report, then it is fair to say that the citizens of Howard County have lost trust and confidence in the Howard County Auditor.

In fact, the Auditor sanctioned an unlawful and unjustified surveillance of an exceptional organization in our community. An organization that was celebrating 50 years of stellar community service with the betterment being for all citizens of Howard County. This is opposite to the unauthorized afterhours surveillance of the organization and violation of the County Charter. There was no constructive and useful purpose for the surveillance operation.

Unauthorized surveillance is a community issue, and one that has already torn our community apart since the Auditor's originally published report. Neighbors are at severe odds with one another, in person, on social media, here in this hall, because of the false narrative initiated by the Auditor's reckless original report. He cannot now put that Genie back in the bottle and it is apparent that his supporters want to believe those lies in order to justify their reframed narrative of the issue at hand to be some type of possible overreach auditor autonomy instead of the issue at hand was this auditor's severe overreach of the boundaries of his profession and prevailing law. In fact, this Auditor's actual actions show woeful disregard for the law and rules already in place, so it proves that this bill is absolutely needed to counteract future bad actions and overreach of the county auditor.

Please stay focused on the correct facts and the issue at hand. This Auditor not only violated basic auditor protocol, but he also violated the local county's ruling of law, he lied to this Council, and his careless inclusion of private citizen's information caused the painful doxing of innocent community citizens, their families, and leaders of the community and it violated constitutional law.

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. I implore this esteemed Council to not allow the County Auditor to

get away with violating the Civil Rights Act or our local Howard county laws. Every Howard County citizen should be offended by the Howard County Auditor's reckless, imprudent, and destructive behavior.

In summary,

- This community has no confidence in the unbiased impartiality of this Auditor and requests that he be terminated from his tax funded position immediately, and that you vote to approve CB11-2023.
- Please issue a formal apology to Mrs. Tonya Aikens, President of HCLS; and
- to Mrs. Sharon Merriweather, President of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Iota Lambda Omega chapter, and its members,
- Please issue an apology to the many concerned and upstanding citizens of Howard County who are now forced to be the bearers of the truth against the sloppy false narrative put out by the county auditor.
- Lastly, if possible, please consider figuring out a way for those apologies to be made public in the local media, including social media, the place where the doxing of an exceptional organization and it's President appeared.

I thank you for your time.

L Spear Ethridge

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L Spear Ethridge". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with some loops and flourishes.

Testimony in favor of Bill CB11-2023

AN ACT amending the Howard County Code to establish certain processes for certain audits by the Howard County Auditor's Office; and generally relating to the Howard County Auditor's Office.

I am a 50-year resident of Howard County. I came to this county when I was 10. My parents moved our family here after hearing their physician colleagues talk about Mr. Rouse and the dream he had for diversity and equality. I grew up in the Harper's Choice community, attending Swansfield Elementary, Harper's Choice Middle and the original Wilde Lake High School. I am proud of my public-school background and how it provided the foundation for my career in healthcare.

Because of my wonderful experience here in Howard County, my husband and I decided to raise our 2 sons in the 4th district. They, too, attended very good public schools: Fulton Elementary, Lime Kiln Middle and Reservoir High School – some of the most diverse in the county. They have both gone on to attend exceptional universities for which they were very well prepared. Perhaps most importantly, the county created a firm social foundation for them that included friends of all ethnicities.

Howard County is promoted as a diverse and inclusive county where all are valued and welcomed without respect to race, creed, culture or religion. This is evident through initiatives such as the Interfaith Center where all religions worship under one roof, as well as the various fairs and events featured at the schools, and the library presentations which celebrate different cultures. An

example of the latter is found in the email blast I receive from the Howard County library: this week the library is celebrating Ramadan - complete with suggested books and discussions enhancing public knowledge.

Howard County has been a leader in forward thinking when it comes to diversity, equity, and inclusion. We have made a great deal of progress! We must never move backward. The recent events involving our county auditor are alarming, especially given the increased intolerance seen nationally in recent years. These recent events move the county backward. They undermine Mr. Rouse's dream, and are a threat to all racial, ethnic, religious and other groups in our county.

In medicine, we adhere to clinical guidelines and data-driven protocols to ensure proper healthcare outcomes. In the county, we must also follow proper processes to ensure that all are treated fairly. We elect our county officials to represent us in these efforts. We place our faith and our trust in you to monitor this kind of events, and to correct them when necessary. Correction is necessary here.

Bill CB11-2023 must be passed to prevent events such as the recent auditor activity involving our library and library leader from ever occurring again. Bill CB11-2023 must be passed to remind all of their role in the county, and to protect against bias and abuse.

I urge you to pass this bill - for the Howard County residents of today and those of the future. Thank you for allowing me to speak, and for doing what is right.

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

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Ellicott City MD 21042

angie@boyter.net

410 465-1444 home for voice calls

443 478-0327 cell for texts

March 27, 2023

Nancy Schweiss
6201 Woodleigh Drive
Columbia, MD 21044

Chair Rigby and members of the County Council:

My name is Nancy Schweiss. I am a member of the Howard County Jewish Community Relations Council. Tonight, I am providing some comments of my own to augment the testimony given by Laura Salganik last week on behalf of the JCRC.

A Jewish folk tale tackles the topic of irresponsible speech. In the tale, a woman gossips about a neighbor. After a few days, everyone in town has heard the story. The woman later learns that the story she spread wasn't true and seeks out a wise rabbi for advice on making amends. The rabbi tells her to return with a feather pillow and when she does, he tells her to pull out the feathers which then float away in the wind. Now, the rabbi tells the woman to gather up all the feathers. The woman protests "I can't possibly find them all." The rabbi replies "Yes, and that is what happens when you gossip or tell a story about someone else. Once you talk about someone, the words fly from one person's mouth to another, just like these feathers flew in the wind."¹

Such is the predicament that we now find ourselves in following the ill-considered County Auditor's report. How do we put the feathers back in the pillowcase? This report has left me feeling shaken. It feels to me that the Library President was treated differently because she is an African American woman. Permeating this report is a presumption of guilt. The report cites as an unanswered question:

"If the event was above board, why ... when we requested an in-person interview ... to discuss allegations ... did [we] not receive a response from [the Library President herself], but from the Board's Attorney?"

Reading this, my reaction is "Why *wouldn't* the library President make use of the library's counsel in this situation?" And what does this report reflect about the mindset of some of our leaders?

Once a report like this has been read, it cannot be unread. It has done real harm to the ties and trust that so many of us have worked hard to build in our community. And that harm cannot be rectified simply by removing the report from the County Government's website.

In a county where we are not strangers to hate crimes, we require unequivocal messaging of inclusion from our leaders. Impressionable individuals need clear messages of what is and is not acceptable in our County. I support Council Bill 11. I also call on the County Council and County Executive to issue a unanimous proclamation rededicating ourselves to a Howard County that values and respects all of its citizens and treats them equally.

Thank you.

¹ <https://www.jewishlearningmatters.com/AC1-A-Sack-Full-Of-Feathers-Storytelling-371.aspx>

Hello Council Members,

My name is Rhonda Pierce-Brooks and I am a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. The fact that I was compelled to be here tonight, in 2023 about this issue is disappointing.

But, here I am, in support of CB11, and to express my view that the damage to the integrity of the office of Howard County Auditor, under Craig Glendenning's leadership, is irreversible and he needs to be terminated. The passage of this bill alone is not enough if Glendenning remains in office. His actions demonstrate an inability to maintain neutrality and high ethical standards which cannot be legislated with CB11.

Understanding that this Auditor went rogue before bringing fabricated finding to you, this Council took no action to stop him when you became aware. Correction, 3 members of this Council took no action.

Let me first applaud the 2 members who did take a stand against the unsanctioned behavior of this employee, Council Chair Christina Rigby and Council member Dr. Opel Jones. It's unfortunate that you did not have the support of your fellow Council members who chose to look the other way.

To Council member David Yungmann, regardless of party affiliation, there was a day when principled elected officials would do what was right because it was right. It's not too late for you to demonstrate the strength of character to stand on the right side of this issue.

To Council member Liz Walsh, it is unacceptable for you to say you did not know what you were agreeing to. As an attorney, you must work in the details. It is unfortunate that the details of this situation eluded you. Now is the time to correct your mistake by voting for CB11 and for the termination of Craig Glendenning.

To Council member Deb Jung, for you to be mute on this issue is unacceptable. By saying nothing you are agreeing with the action taken by your rogue employee. And, if that is not the case, you are demonstrating a weakness of character unbecoming an elected community leader. As an attorney, past member of the Human Rights Commission, current member of both the NAACP and the Women's Democratic Alliance, you have a responsibility to take a stand unless your membership is only a perfunctory action to give the pretense of allegiance. But, if that is not the case you must now vote for CB11 and for the termination of Craig Glendenning.

For Council members, Yungmann, Walsh, and Jung, this is Howard County and specifically, this is Columbia, a planned community of diversity and inclusion. You were elected to ensure that the rights and dignity of all citizens are upheld, and to date, in this instance, you have not done that. Your constituents need you to hold your rogue employee accountable.

I am asking you to do what is right and join your colleagues, Rigby and Jones on this issue. (1) Vote to approve CB11, (2) Terminate Craig Glendenning because good legislation in the hands of a proven biased, manipulative, and untrustworthy Auditor will continue to be tainted. Thank you

Good Evening Council Members

My name is Sandra Brown and I reside at 11875 Blue February Way Columbia, MD 21044. I am here in support of CB11-2023 and to express my feelings about the HCLS audit report of 2/14/23.

The auditor's report showed a lack of sensitivity, integrity and professionalism. Statements about the license plates, attire and race of the attendees should not have been included. Why did the auditor think it was even necessary to conduct parking lot surveillance of the event in the first place? Did he stop to think about the collateral damage to the organization because it was associated with fraud and the waste of county facilities? Why did he think it was okay to put the private information of the organization and its leader out publicly? This is especially reckless considering the climate in which we live today. And certainly, it was totally inappropriate for the auditor to question why, since the sorority had an event planned the following evening at Martin's West, there was a need to even have one at the library.

As if the report itself wasn't bad enough, it's even more troubling to me that some council members have not taken strong action on this matter. Why not? It especially bothers me that my own District 4 representative was one of the two who did not respond to my February 23 email to the entire council about this issue. This is a community concern, and everyone should be offended by it. Every organization that receives funding from the county should be concerned about being subject to an alleged accusation and audit. I don't understand how any council member can withhold support of CB11-2023. Neither do I comprehend the continued employment of the auditor when he has caused so much mistrust, hurt and anger among Howard County citizens. I join my voice with others who have the following demands.

1. Support Bill CB11-2023
2. Terminate the Howard County Auditor
3. Issue a formal apology to Ms. Tonya Aiken, President of HCLS
4. Issue a formal apology to Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Iota Lambda Omega Chapter and its president

Thank you.

Testimony in Support of CB-11 2023

Good evening, my name is Linda Lamppert Leslie, and I am a resident of Council District 4. I'm speaking on my own behalf this evening in support of CB-11 2023.

Over the past six weeks, like many of my fellow Howard Countians, I have been appalled to learn about the investigation of the library conducted by the Howard County auditor. As the details have come out, time and again I've asked myself, what the heck was the auditor's office thinking?

I think the breaking point for me was when word came out that the auditor lied to a council member about whether other council members had already signed off on the investigation. In what world is that acceptable?

There has been a lot of discussion about the need for the auditor's office to be independent. I am not going to weigh in on the GAO yellow book or other accounting fine points.

What I will say is that I expect this county council, in its capacity of employer of the auditor, to ensure that this auditor is not betraying the public trust in the operations of his office.

What we have now is a system that lacks checks and balances.

Looking at the requirements of CB 11, I can see how they would have made all the difference in how the library investigation was handled.

What happened in this library audit was appalling. I hope you believe that too, and if you do, I encourage you to vote for this legislation.

More importantly, though, I want to touch on the bigger picture involved in this situation. I have read condemnations and apologies from some council members regarding the content of the auditor report. Yes, the auditor said the quiet part out loud, and it is good that folks are recognizing that.

What I have failed to see is a recognition by all the members of the council and by the auditor's office of the racist and misogynistic lens that influenced this entire chain of events. I have failed to see an apology to the library president, the library staff, and the general population of the county that this entire ugly story evolved as it did. Not just the writing of the report, but the whole thing.

There is no doubt in my mind, and in the mind of many, many county residents, that this entire situation would have evolved differently had a different organization and a different library president been involved. From the beginning, this was an instance of profiling that we all should be deeply troubled by.

I would challenge each of you, and everyone listening, to ask yourselves whether the lens you are viewing this situation through might be impacting your interpretation of the circumstances.

Let's all hold ourselves to a higher standard. Let's go beyond lip service and some DEI training.

Let's really listen to the people impacted by this situation and by other systemic racist and misogynistic infrastructure in this county, and let's do something about it.

Thank you.
—Linda



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

I, Dr. Myra J. Smith, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Iota Lambda Omega Chapter to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

CB 11-2023

County Council regarding AN ACT amending the Howard County Code to establish certain processes for certain audits by the Howard County Auditor
(bill or resolution number) to express the organization's

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

Printed Name: Dr. Myra J. Smith

Signature: _____

Date: March 19, 2023

Organization: Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Iota Lambda Omega Chapter

Organization Address: Post Office Box 99 Columbia, MD 21045

Post Office Box 99 Columbia, MD 21045

Number of Members: 350+

Name of Chair/President: Mrs. Sharon Stanley Merriweather

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 2 hours prior to the start of the Public Hearing.

Good evening council members and my representative for District 5, David Yungmann,

My name is Dr. Myra J. Smith, a proud member of the illustrious sisterhood of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Iota Lambda Omega Chapter and thirty-year resident of Howard County. The purpose of my correspondence and testimony is to articulate strong support of CB11-2023, and my perception that the Howard County auditor did not demonstrate professionalism, judgment, competency, sensitivity or the integrity to remain in this position of trust. The auditor's highly detrimental and reckless actions revealed from his unsubstantiated audit report dated February 14, 2023, has diminished my confidence, trust and faith in him, as a citizen of Howard County.

I read the report of the auditor dated, February 14, 2023 and was appalled by his unprofessional behavior, the utter lack of objectivity, and impartiality of his report.

- The Howard County auditor sanctioned a rogue and unapproved surveillance of a renowned civic organization without 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 a member of a sorority, and most notably 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 prior to the auditor engagement in such inappropriate actions. Clearly, he did not consider the image nor the community service of AKA-ILO to the Howard County community for more than 51 years. Moreover, the reputation of this beloved local organization was worth pausing to consider all possible consequences.
- Furthermore, the afterhours surveillance of the organization was not authorized by the County Council and violated the charter of Howard County. The auditor sought Board approval only after conducting his surveillance. Additionally, 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 of whom deployed 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. It is imperative that the County Council:

- support Bill CB11-2023,
- terminate the Howard County Auditor,
- issue a formal written, public apology to Mrs. Tonya Aikins, president, Howard County Library System and,
- issue a formal written public apology to Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Iota Lambda Omega Chapter.

Thank you,

Myra J. Smith

March 28, 2023

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

HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL

2023 APR -3 A 8:05

AGAINST CB-11

We support the Indian Cultural Association and ask for an audit to investigate the discriminate practices by the Howard County Library System and also ask that Council member Oscar Jones sustained from voting on CB-11 because his wife is a member of AKA, the sorority whose members and friends testified on behalf of the bill and called from apology from the Auditor which he did over 3 weeks ago. The scripted testimony read by members of the Sorority and their Divine 9 and woke friends showed the viewers of the Council meeting held on March 27 that this bill will do exactly what those who testified against the bill will do. Not be transparent and fair.

To hear Council members Jones and Rigby, the sponsor of the bill attack those who testified against the bill but not correct misleading information *for* those who testified for the bill prove that this bill is nothing but a way for the Council to control and censor the Auditor.

Why didn't Council member Jones say his wife is AKA?

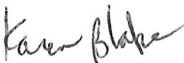
Why did Council member Rigby say the Library was open to the public the day in question because the library was shut down before the library officially closed and those who attended were invited and had to be vaccinated. The Library did not have a vaccinated policy. The AKA Sorority took the invitation down on their Facebook page but we still have a copy which we can provide if the County members need to refresh their memory. So much for transparency of the AKA Sorority.

For those Blacks who testified that the Black Community is outrage is NOT true.

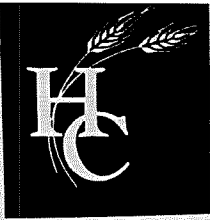
There are many members of the Black Community including the writers of this letter who are AGAINST this bill and DO NOT support the termination the Auditor who followed the rules (He has been Auditor for the County for over 10 years) He knows the rules. That's why the County Council (Jones and Rigby) wants to change the rules to their advantage. We hope the other Council members will vote against their (Jones and Rigby) bill.

It's Council members Jones and Rigby who are trying to appease a group of PRIVILEGED women who used their PRIVILEGED status. The Library's Board Chair's sister is AKA. We know some people can be loud but PLEASE don't listen to their roar. Stand up for what is right. Other groups can be louder.

Sincerely,



Karen Blake, LaThisa Hill and Anne Wikbuson
Howard County Residents and Tax Payers



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

I, Kiana Fok, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

Progressive Democrats of Howard County 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: Kiana Fok

Signature: Kiana Fok

Date: 3/19/2023

Organization: Progressive Democrats of Howard County

Organization Address: 3720 Valerie Carol Ct

Ellicott City, MD 21042

Number of Members: 45

Name of Chair/President: Hiruy Hadgu

*This form can be submitted electronically via email to
councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 2 hours prior to the start of the*



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

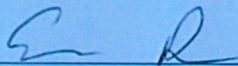
I, Erica Roberts, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

Celebration Church - Columbia to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding CB 11 2023 to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

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

Printed Name: Erica Roberts

Signature: 

Date: 3-20-23

Organization: Celebration Church - Columbia

Organization Address: 7101 Riverwood Drive, Columbia, MD 21046

Number of Members: 500+

Name of Chair/President: Pastor Larry Walker

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 2 hours prior to the start of the Public Hearing.



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

I, Joel Frankel, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of H 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: Joel Frankel

Signature: Joel Frankel

Date: March 20, 2023

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

Organization Address: Columbia, MD 21044

Columbia, MD 21044

Number of Members: 1500

Name of Chair/President: Rabbi Gordon Fuller

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 2 hours prior to the start of the Public Hearing.



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

I, Nikki Highsmith Vernick, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

Horizon Foundation 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: Nikki Highsmith Vernick

Signature: *Nikki Highsmith Vernick*

Date: 3/20/2023

Organization: Horizon Foundation

Organization Address: 10221 Wincopin Circle, Suite 200, Columbia, MD 21044

10221 Wincopin Circle, Suite 200, Columbia, MD 21044

Number of Members: 28

Name of Chair/President: Nikki Highsmith Vernick - CEO ; Lisa Pearson - Board Chair

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 2 hours prior to the start of the Public Hearing.



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

I, Hiruy Hadgu, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

Howard County Citizens Association 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: Hiruy Hadgu

Signature: Hiruy Hadgu

Date: 03/20/2023

Organization: Howard County Citizens Association

Organization Address: P.O.Box 89, Ellicott City, MD 21041

P.O.Box 89, Ellicott City, MD 21041

Number of Members: 500

Name of Chair/President: Stu Kohn

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 2 hours prior to the start of the Public Hearing.

Sayers, Margery

From: Nancy Shih <shih4500-nancy@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 3:32 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Kindly Reminder-Clapping hands during public hearing should not be allowed

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

Dear Council Chair Lady Rigby,

Last night during the session of CB-11, the audience constantly clapped their hands after each testimony.

As far as I know, this should not be allowed during Howard County public hearing and should be stopped by the Chair at the spot.

Several years ago, the audience were not allowed to applaud after testifiers speech on CB9-2017 and were stopped by then Chair immediately.

It's only a kindly reminder. Your attention on this matter is appreciated.

Nancy Shih
Ellicott City

Sayers, Margery

From: Cortny Dailey <co_dailey@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 26, 2023 8:14 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: HoCo Council Letter Regarding Auditor

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

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

March 25, 2023

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to demand this County Council show accountability for the actions of the County Auditor and express my clear unwavering support for the following actions:

Pass CB11-2023 without amendment.

I demand that the Howard County Council terminate Howard County Auditor Mr. Craig Glendenning immediately, and Issue a letter of public apology to HCLS President and CEO Mrs. Tonya Aikens Issue letters of public apology to the AKA Iota Lambda Omega Chapter, and their President Mrs. Sharon Merriweather.

To date your very limited response to the demands of the aggrieved community have caused us to question your oath of service to the entire community. On this issue remedial window dressing such as insincere apologies and DEI training will only serve to embed our lack of confidence in your leadership. The immediate termination of Mr. Glendenning will be met with reassurance that you desire to serve the entire community.

Sincerely,

Cortny Dailey

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: billsalganik@gmail.com
Sent: Sunday, March 26, 2023 8:10 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CB 11 - two new (more or less) points

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

To the county council:

I am Bill Salganik, a resident of Clemens' Crossing in the Fourth District. Thank you for thinking about the role of the county auditor and for listening patiently to so much public comment. Here are two points I don't think were made (or made very much) at last Monday's hearing:

First, setting aside, briefly, perceptions of racism and sexism – although they cannot be set aside for long – the auditor's report on the library was extremely disturbing for several other reasons:

1. Going immediately into an adversarial stance and adopting stealth tactics, the auditor failed to discover the basic facts of the case. There may be a need for the auditor to be adversarial in some cases, but simple collaboration would have been more effective in this case. As so many Howard County bumper stickers say, he should first choose civility.
2. When a legal dispute arose over the auditor's legal authority to investigate the library, the auditor effectively gave up, seemingly making no real attempt to resolve the dispute or to find other ways to prove or disprove the allegations.
3. When the library board offered to collaborate, the auditor rejected the outstretched hand.
4. Finding himself unable to substantiate any of the allegations, the auditor published the allegations he had failed to substantiate, tarnishing the reputations of the library and its officials and of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Iota Lambda Omega chapter. Of course, a published audit will tarnish reputations when there is proof of wrongdoing, but there is no excuse for publishing unproven allegations. (And in this case, the allegations could easily have been disproven.)

Any one of these four raises serious questions about whether the auditor should continue in office and whether the council has sufficient procedures in place to exercise its duty, as set forth in the charter, to supervise the auditor.

Second, the issue, raised by two witnesses at the hearing, of the auditor's independence is a red herring. The auditor is not independent now; and defeating CB-11-2023 will not make or keep him independent. By charter, the auditor is hired by the council, can be directed to conduct special audits by the council or executive, and can be fired by the council for any reason. Someone sincerely interested in complete independence for the auditor should propose a charter amendment setting out a different way of hiring, reviewing and, if necessary, firing the auditor. What CB-11-2023 does is spell out clear procedures for the council to exercise the oversight power which the charter already grants. And this whole controversy demonstrates amply that the current process (or lack of process) is unsatisfactory.

Sayers, Margery

From: Aol Mail <jhbphdky@aol.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 25, 2023 2:17 PM
To: CouncilBoard@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: Support for Council Bill 11-2023

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

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

March 25, 2023

Dear Council Members,

My name is Dr. Joyce Hamilton Berry, I am a resident at 6357 Windharp Way, Columbia, Maryland 21045.

I am writing to demand this County Council show accountability for the actions of the County Auditor and express my clear unwavering support for the following actions:

1. Pass CB11=2023 without amendment.
2. I demand that the Howard County Council terminate Howard County Auditor Mr. Craig Glendenning immediately, and
3. Issue a letter of public apology to the Howard County Library System President and CEO, Mrs. Tonya Aikens
4. Issue letters of public apology to Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Iota Lambda Omega Chapter, and their President, Mrs. Sharon Meriweather.

To date your very limited response to the demands of the aggrieved community have caused us to question your oath of service to the entire community. On this issue, remedial window dressing such as insecure apologies and DEI training will only serve to embed our lack of confidence in your leadership. The immediate termination of Mr. Glendenning will be met with reassurance that you desire to the entire community.

Sincerely,

Dr. Joyce Hamilton Berry
(202)257-0577

TO WHOM THIS MAY CONCERN:

I had to respond to the article on the other side of this letter and had to write because I don't have a computer with email. Yes, in this day and age there are still some of us who like who don't have emails. The Auditor issued an apology on his website on March 6 so I was surprised people still continued with their testimony and demanded for apology and Auditor to be terminated and not focus on the bill in question. As a black woman, I am disgusted with the Black Community who are upset because members of the AKA were called out. They were acting like they were audited. The women were innocent, or were they?

First of all, if these women who identify themselves as Black chose a public place to hold an event then the public has a right to know who is using their tax paying facility especially if the facility in this case the public library closes 4 hours early than the usual closing time for this sorority to hold a private event. It was private for members only and vaccinated, the invitation has been removed from the Sorority's Facebook page but you can still get it off the internet. Nothing truly goes away. The statement from the Library and Sorority that this was open to public was a LIE

Let's take race out of this and look at the issues. Was this sorority given privileged status by having the library close 4 hours prior to officially closing time denying taxpayers use of their public library and was library staff paid or required to take leave during the early closure of the library?

Why didn't the County Council indicate that the auditor had issued a statement of regret on his website 2 weeks prior to the hearing yesterday. Why were those testifying allowed to go over time when others testifying on other bills had to remain in their time slot? It wasn't race it was privileged status. Why did Councilman Jones whose wife is a member of the sorority asked the President of the Sorority questions to allow her to continue her rant. She read her entire response to his question. Looks staged to me.

This is why the bill shouldn't pass because the Council will be selective on who the Auditor can audit. We call for an independent Inspector like Baltimore City and Baltimore County.

Why won't the true story be revealed? We have family and friends who are members of AKA so we won't go into the details behind the story but if the auditor is fired or this bill is passed, we will have to petition the State to look into this matter. Selective outrage and we, also part of the Black Community are tired of Blacks using race as an excuse for bad judgement. The Board Chair's sister is AKA and closed library as a favor. Marie Thohams

(See other side for response)

Residents look to oust Howard County auditor over Black sorority event investigation
CBS Baltimore by Amy Kwata Updated 3/21/23

BALTIMORE -- Organization leaders and community members in Howard County are calling for the termination of the county auditor after an investigation into the county's library system prompted questions over the office's authority in the investigation and its use of descriptions of race.

Dozens of people signed up to give their testimony Monday night in support of a bill that would reform the duties of the county auditor.

It all stems from an Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority event the library hosted last October.

According to Howard County auditor Craig Glendenning, his office was looking into allegations that the President and CEO of the library hosted the gathering using taxpayer money.

But the library board, community leaders and members say Glendenning overstepped his powers, calling his report inaccurate and racially motivated.

In the original audit, investigators wrote that quote " African American women wearing white dresses were entering the building..."

Glendenning said he could not properly investigate after the board of trustees chair intervened.

Sorority member Donna Hill Staton was at the October event and is one of many calling for a new auditor.

I'm outraged by the chilling revelation that the county auditor deployed public resources to conduct surveillance," she said. "Not only surveillance but unauthorized covert guests of Iota Lambda Beta chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha. All citizens should be concerned about 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."

Testimony will continue next week.

March 21, 2023

We are members of the other Black Community and we DO NEED answers if members of Sorority continue to press the issues then we taxpayers, we have a right to know the answers to these questions below... The Council bill 11-2023 will not allow these questions to be seen by the public where is the transparency to that?

UNANSWERED QUESTIONS:

Had our examination/investigation been permitted to continue without obstruction or interference, some of the questions we would have posed to validate information we obtained, substantiate or unsubstantiated the allegations, and ensure taxpayer dollars were spent appropriately include:

If the event was above board, why did Ms. Aikens directly respond to questions we asked about the October 7th event, yet when we requested an in-person interview with her to discuss allegations regarding the misuse of the Library's facilities, we did not receive a response from her, but from the Board's Attorney?

It would appear that the Library did so something wrong... The board chair's sister being AKA. Councilmember Jones' wife AKA, Community leader Walker's wife AKA

These privileged people who can NOW instill fear in the white Community calling them racist?

Why was the event not available for the public to attend during normal operating hours and instead was an invitation only event held after hours and limited to the Sorority, Incorporated ILO Chapter? (*The Sorority members who attend the event had to vaccinated*)

- Since April 2018 when Ms. Aikens became the President and CEO, what other events or gatherings has AKA Sorority, Incorporated ILO Chapter, or any other AKA Chapter, held at HCLS facilities?
- What other partnership events or gatherings has HCLS held after normal operating hours? Which of these events or gatherings caused early branch closures?
- What HCLS staff (Executive Exempt and Non-Executive Exempt) spent time on any part of the event such as attending meetings, making phone calls, setting up the area for the event (e.g., moving furniture, computers, and other equipment, etc.), cleaning up after the event (e.g., removing trash, reconfiguring the layout back to its normal set up, etc.) and ensuring the facility was secured once the event concluded? What was the total cost for this?

When the Central Branch facility closed at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, October 7, 2022, where did the staff go that was working at the branch that day? What type of leave was granted for staff that day?

Who was responsible for securing the Central Branch facility once the event concluded? What additional costs were associated with this activity?

Why was a Howard County Sheriff's Office pickup truck parked in front of the Central Branch facility? Was this the hired security that Ms. Aikens stated the Chapter paid for?

When a tipster asked Howard County officials to investigate an invitation-only sorority event in which members had to be vaccinated at the library system's Central Branch last fall, the county auditor has an obligation to investigate. The Bill will eliminate that thus no transparency.

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. If the Library didn't do anything wrong, this would have been over. *These are Black women who identify themselves as Black women. What's wrong with that. We are Black Women. These ladies have always been over the top. These women used their privileged position to have the library shut down early. This is not racism. This using the term to a select group of black women. They used public space and the public has the right to know who the group.*

Howard County Councilmember Opel Jones said the actions taken by Glendenning and his staff were overly aggressive and "appalling." Jones' wife is AKA, he is not objective.

"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?" 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."

Mr. Councilman, the misused of funds occurred when the library shut down prior to closing of normal regular hours for a private event for your wife's sorority. Taxpayers could not use the main library. Why couldn't the Sorority wait until after the library closed and set up? Why close the library early? Where did staff go? What type of leave was used? That's where the misused of funds may have occurred but the Auditor was not allowed to complete its investigation. If this bill is passed this is the type of restriction the Auditor will have and the taxpayers will not know. This is not transparency but secrecy

But Council member David Yungmann said the report was troubling and Glendenning should have been allowed complete his investigation. WE AGREE

"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." WE AGREE

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." If this Bill is passed who is the watchdog over the Council? 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. *It appears the Auditor was right and members of AKA Sorority, their friends who testify on their behalf failed to see that. They made this race incident. One would think the way they were testifying that they were denied access to the library when it's the public who were denied access. This is gaslighting especially since the Auditor has since issued a statement of regret on March 6. Why is this still an issue and why aren't we focus on the actual BILL 11-2023 instead of Sorority's emotional rants. Committee for Auditor Justice Leann, Chair*

Leann

TO WHOM THIS MAY CONCERN:

I had to respond to the article on the other side of this letter and had to write because I don't have a computer with email. Yes, in this day and age there are still some of us who like who don't have emails. The Auditor issued an apology on his website on March 6 so I was surprised people still continued with their testimony and demanded for apology and Auditor to be terminated and not focus on the bill in question. As a black woman, I am disgusted with the Black Community who are upset because members of the AKA were called out. They were acting like they were audited. The women were innocent, or were they?

First of all, if these women who identify themselves as Black chose a public place to hold an event then the public has a right to know who is using their tax paying facility especially if the facility in this case the public library closes 4 hours early than the usual closing time for this sorority to hold a private event. It was private for members only and vaccinated, the invitation has been removed from the Sorority's Facebook page but you can still get it off the internet. Nothing truly goes away. The statement from the Library and Sorority that this was open to public was a LIE

Let's take race out of this and look at the issues. Was this sorority given privileged status by having the library close 4 hours prior to officially closing time denying taxpayers use of their public library and was library staff paid or required to take leave during the early closure of the library?

Why didn't the County Council indicate that the auditor had issued a statement of regret on his website 2 weeks prior to the hearing yesterday. Why were those testifying allowed to go over time when others testifying on other bills had to remain in their time slot? It wasn't race it was privileged status. Why did Councilman Jones whose wife is a member of the sorority asked the President of the Sorority questions to allow her to continue her rant. She read her entire response to his question. Looks staged to me.

This is why the bill shouldn't pass because the Council will be selective on who the Auditor can audit. We call for an independent Inspector like Baltimore City and Baltimore County.

Why won't the true story be revealed? We have family and friends who are members of AKA so we won't go into the details behind the story but if the auditor is fired or this bill is passed, We will have to petition the State to look into this matter. Selective outage and we, also part of the Black Community are tired of Blacks using race as an excuse for bad judgement. The Board Chair's sister is AKA and closed library as a favor. Marie Thohams

Marie

2023 MAR 10 PM 3:50
COUNTY COUNCIL

Please help us Blacks think they can intimidate
where is Majorie Taylor Green
when we need her COE

(See other side for response)

Residents look to oust Howard County auditor over Black sorority event investigation
CBS Baltimore by Amy Kwata Updated 3/21/23

This is Wrong

BALTIMORE -- Organization leaders and community members in Howard County are calling for the termination of the county auditor after an investigation into the county's library system prompted questions over the office's authority in the investigation and its use of descriptions of race.

*stand firm
WE are
with
you!!*

Dozens of people signed up to give their testimony Monday night in support of a bill that would reform the duties of the county auditor.

*Thanks
MT*

It all stems from an Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority event the library hosted last October.

According to Howard County auditor Craig Glendenning, his office was looking into allegations that the President and CEO of the library hosted the gathering using taxpayer money.

But the library board, community leaders and members say Glendenning overstepped his powers, calling his report inaccurate and racially motivated.

In the original audit, investigators wrote that quote " African American women wearing white dresses were entering the building..."

Glendenning said he could not properly investigate after the board of trustees chair intervened.

Sorority member Donna Hill Staton was at the October event and is one of many calling for a new auditor.

I'm outraged by the chilling revelation that the county auditor deployed public resources to conduct surveillance," she said. "Not only surveillance but unauthorized covert guests of Iota Lambda Beta chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha. All citizens should be concerned about 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."

Testimony will continue next week.

Sayers, Margery

From: Mike Khandjian <surferrev@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2023 12:50 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Katherine Khandjian
Subject: CB11-2023

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

To the Howard County Council Members,

Thank you for hearing us on Monday, March 20, 2023, regarding CB11-2023, as it relates to Shipley's Grant, and the potential for the Historic Shipley's Farm to be used as a Wedding Venue. You all were both attentive and kind. While I don't translate this to mean that you will vote our way, and will be sorely disappointed should you do so, still I greatly appreciate it.

I wanted to offer a few thoughts in retrospect, and in response to what we heard from the Owner and those who represented his position:

First, as I've reflected on the testimony of the Owner (someone I don't know personally), it troubles me that the expense of fixing up and maintaining the property would be used as a reason to be approved for this particular purpose - While I don't doubt that it is expensive to maintain, I can think of other ways to do so. When he purchased the property, he knew the risks, and chose to run a business out of the property. So, I just wonder about this. And, frankly I wonder how a property was purchased for (I believe it was mentioned the other night) \$400,000 - over 7-Acres! Our home cost more than this. I more than wonder about this. How is this so?

Regardless, whatever value this might add to the Owner's property, it will subtract from ours. A beautiful Howard County Park would enhance both our properties and your reputations. But a wedding venue won't do either.

And, while it is true that we have a 'center' at present, it was designed into the Community. Even the dear woman who testified to living near it, knew what she was getting when she purchased the property. This center was purposely designed to be at the end of the development with the idea of impacting the least amount of homes. CB11-2023 threatens this entirely.

Second, I was troubled by the testimony of the individual from the Historical Preservation Society - For the life of me, I can't imagine someone fighting for such a venue in order to maintain such a property. Her response to a Neighbor who noted the \$10,000 premium we paid to live across it, was insulting, and in my opinion, outside of the scope of her purpose for testifying - It smacked of a bias that someone in her position should not have expressed.

Finally, I can't overstate the level of fear that the prospect of your approving this strikes to every Young Family in our neighborhood, as well as to every Single-Parent Family, and every Pet Owner. Tents don't appear on properties. They are erected - loudly - the day before, or at the very least, hours before, and hours, or the day after. IE, to say something to the effect of, 'This will only be in use from 5PM to 11PM (for instance), is simply untrue. For those affected, that is, for the Neighbors, it is 'in use' from the time tents are set up, including the pounding of massive pegs into the ground, long before, and beyond the start of the wedding, past the vows, and until the last truck comes and takes the tents down, along with the load-up. It simply doesn't wash. People will be affected. Come see SG on a beautiful spring morning or afternoon, and you will find people running, dogs being walked, babies being pushed, and children playing. All this is threatened on the most beautiful tract of the community! This is wrong.

This is the first time we have ever done this - We feel this strongly.

Thank You for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Mike Khandjian
6040 Logans Way, Shipley's Grant
410-533-0669

--

www.unfinished1.wordpress.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Sunmy Brown <s_brown0304@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2023 4:32 AM
To: Rigby, Christiana; CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov; Yungmann, David; CouncilPIO; Jung, Deb; Jones, Opel
Subject: CB-11 Bill: Testimony 3/20/23

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

Good Morning County Council,

I wanted to take this time to thank Council Woman Rigby and Councilman Jones for sharing their sentiments about drafting Bill CB-11. Although I wasn't able to attend the Public Hearing this past Monday, I was able to watch the public testimony regarding CB-11 and the remarks made by those who drafted Council Bill 11. I know that public testimony will continue due to overwhelming demand surrounding the Auditor's actions on October 7, 2023 at the Howard County Library.

Before watching this public testimony, I was really under the impression that this bill was nothing but a Bill to go after an Auditor who was just doing his job. I did not read the report nor have I had a chance to look over it prior to the email I sent to the Howard County Council on Monday, March 20th. I was literally just looking at the legislation as it was written by Councilwoman Rigby and Councilman Jones.

What I heard from public testimony was a lot of hurt, anger, pain by the President of the Sorority and lifelong resident (Ms. Merriweather) who testified on behalf of the sorority that gathered at the Howard County Library on October 7th. It is quite unfortunate that the events that unfolded on October 7th was perceived as targeting Black Americans who were holding a gathering for a joyous occasion. It brings me great sadness knowing that this Auditor used wording in his report that has propelled so much anger and division within our Community and among Howard County constituents.

I ask, when the Auditor's job is to promptly report to the County Council of any investigation he or she is pursuing, what does that mean Councilman Jones? Is the auditor supposed to call each member of the County Council? I ask because I am unfamiliar of the procedures of how the Auditor's office is supposed to contact the Councilmembers when pursuing an investigation. Has any member of the County Council actually taken the time, in particular Councilman Jones and Councilwoman Rigby to ask why this type of language was used in his final report?

Councilman Jones, I heard in your remarks that you had emailed the Auditor, but I would like to see those email correspondences between you and the auditor. I too, really should take a look over the Auditor's final report as well. But as this legislation is written, I still stand **AGAINST putting CB11-2023 into Law.**

The reason why I stand by my stance is because I wonder if the Auditor has attended any sensitivity trainings in the past or there was some sort of remediation done to help him frame his words better, etc. Has this been done? Did any one share with him how hurtful his words may have been in his report? What has he done in the past that would demand his firing? What other incident aside from this report has he shown his incompetence and his duty to the job?

In the end, I believe the auditor was most likely doing his job and may have been insensitive in writing his report. Again, I was not there at the event on October 7th with the sorority who was hosting their event at the Howard County Library. But it is evident that the members of this sorority felt intimidated.

I have to disagree with Councilwoman Rigby, in the remarks she made that Howard County is need of an Inspector General. Howard County Maryland is in need of an Inspector General more than ever. In these past four-eight years, I have seen some of the most egregious politicking that makes me want to crawl out of my skin.

Councilwoman Rigby and Councilman Jones, we need an Inspector General in Howard County Maryland, not CB11-2023.

Thank you for taking the time to read my concerns.

Respectfully,
Sunny Brown
Ellicott City, Maryland

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

March 25, 2023

Dear Council Members,

My name is Rogers L. Lewis I reside at 6645 Corina Court, Columbia 21044. I am a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Kappa Phi Lambda Chapter

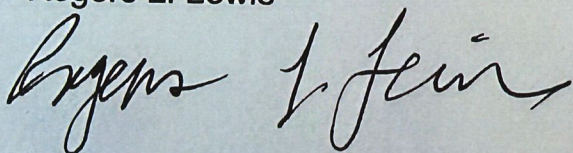
I am writing to demand this County Council show accountability for the actions of the County Auditor and express my clear unwavering support for the following actions:

1. Pass CB11-2023 without amendment.
2. I demand that the Howard County Council terminate Howard County Auditor Mr. Craig Glendenning immediately, and
3. Issue a letter of public apology to HCLS President and CEO Mrs. Tonya Aikens
4. Issue letters of public apology to the AKA Iota Lambda Omega Chapter, and their President Mrs. Sharon Merriweather.

To date your very limited response to the demands of the aggrieved community have caused us to question your oath of service to the entire community. On this issue remedial window dressing such as insincere apologies and DEI training will only serve to embed our lack of confidence in your leadership. The immediate termination of Mr. Glendenning will be met with reassurance that you desire to serve the entire community.

Sincerely,

Rogers L. Lewis

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rogers L. Lewis", written in a cursive style.

Monday March 27, 2023

Dear Councilpersons,

Once upon a time (back when “The Big Four” was still “The Big Eight”), I was as an auditor at a big firm.

In this first job after of college, I learned three things:

1. NO ONE “likes” to be audited;
2. At best, auditors are considered to be a “necessary evil”;
3. Auditors must be competent and must be—and remain—independent.

Our role as financial auditors required our teams to do three key things:

1. Audit “the numbers” presented—not for perfection, but to ensure they were “reasonable” and “fairly stated”;
2. Be ever alert for any evidence of fraud—of many possible kinds, including testing if anything that should be recorded or documented was “missing” from the records;
3. Audit compliance with the client’s OWN stated procedures and recommend improvements to internal controls and adoption of industry “best practices”, including disaster recovery plans.

I write to oppose CB11—which I read about in THE SUN. The Council SHOULD NOT become involved in “pre-approval” of what audits happen and when. THE AUDITOR MUST BE INDEPENDENT!

I have intentionally not read this bill or the audit report that triggered the current situation, nor any social media commentary. Nor have I reviewed my notes or the 2020 report of the Charter Review Commission on which I served, but if I recall correctly, in 2019 the County Executive proposed taking over control of the county auditor. I stand by my opinion and that of the 2020 Commission: it is appropriate for the auditor to report to the Council, not the Executive. Independence is critical.

EVERYONE who accepts a position with the Howard County government should know that their department may be audited from time to time. The audit function helps hold managers accountable for both actions and inactions.

Consider:

1. When I worked in healthcare operations, we were audited by the Joint Commission (JCAHO).
2. When I was a lifeguard, our pool was subject to surprise audits/inspections by the County Health Dept.
3. What is a weekly spelling test, if not an “audit” of skills mastered/not mastered that week?

Unanimous support for introduction of this late filed bill is understandable; it shows that all of you are listening to constituents. But this bill should not be adopted.

As we discussed during the Charter Review, whistleblowers from within county government must be protected; likewise concerned citizens who “see something and say something” must also be respected. The Council sits as the Zoning Board—another “necessary evil”. Structurally, the Council is NOT fully independent of many county departments and employees; in fact, you must be “plugged in” and knowledgeable. It is important that the Council not “pick and choose” who or what is subject to audit. Let the county auditors do their job. Protect the independence of that office. Periodic review of the audit function IS part of the Council’s job.

Perhaps policies and procedures of both the library system and the auditor deserve review. Perhaps all of county government needs to adopt a “manual of style” to clarify recommended language in reports, instead of legislation like CB11. The described “special event” suggests risk management questions to me. For instance: If there had been an accidental fire during the special event causing moderate damage, was there an insurance rider in place or would restoration cost be borne by county taxpayers? Our library system annually hosts “An Evening in the Stacks” fundraising event so clearly some “special events” are regularly approved. Were all county and state library guidelines followed? Are revisions to policies needed? If needed policies don’t exist, what is the best process to craft strong one?

Democracy depends on a well-functioning system of checks and balances. A strong independent auditor function acts to ensure taxpayer funds are used as intended, internal controls are effective, and taxpayer assets are preserved.

Respectfully,
Carolyn Stansky
Ellicott City (D1)

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

March 27, 2023

Dear Council Members,

My name is Roger Barnes. I have been heavily involved in the progress of our community for decades, serving in a number of non-paid volunteer positions due to my concern and interest in this continuing to be a diverse and fair community. I am a Howard County resident at 6636 Huntshire Drive, Elkridge, MD 21075. I am a member of multiple organizations including: Associate Minister of St John Baptist Church, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., and the African American Community Roundtable.

The damage done by the unfair targeting of our community by the County Auditor shakes the confidence of many in not just the auditor's actions but the silent endorsement of the Howard County Council by not holding the auditor accountable. I am writing to demand this County Council show accountability for the actions of the County Auditor and express my clear unwavering support for the following actions:

1. Pass CB11-2023 without amendment.
2. I demand that the Howard County Council terminate Howard County Auditor Mr. Craig Glendenning immediately, and
3. Issue a letter of public apology to HCLS President and CEO Mrs. Tonya Aikens
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To date your very limited response to the demands of the aggrieved community have caused us to question your oath of service to the entire community. On this issue remedial window dressing such as insincere apologies and DEI training will only serve to embed our lack of confidence in your leadership. The immediate termination of Mr. Glendenning will be met with reassurance that you desire to serve the entire community.

Sincerely,

Roger L. Barnes, CPA, MBA

March 27, 2023

Howard County Council Members
Howard County, MD

My name is Kim O'Bryant and I am a transplant from Detroit who came to Columbia back in 2008. Therefore, I do not have the history of a lot of others who have spoken before me. However, I choose to remain in Howard County due to the diverse population, schools, and history of this great community.

I submit this 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 February 14, 2023, 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 action to demonstrate accountability for the Auditor's actions: I remain frustrated on how the Auditor included quoted statements that clearly demonstrate a lack of judgment, reckless behavior, and a lack of integrity. The larger question to me is who is accountable and is this what is called "sweeping bad performance or behavior under the rug."

I echo the sentiments of all the speakers before me, therefore I will not repeat what has already been said. However, I would like to take a different approach in my statement. My current employment includes being an Investigator which cumulates in writing reports for my Agency. Investigation 101 is called fact-finding. When completing a fact-finding, it is my duty to remain impartial as I am gathering all the information to conclude with an unbiased report.

In reading this report, I found several issues:

1. Determine if a complaint is valid. That means interviewing ALL parties. In this case, a simple phone call to Mrs. Sharon Stanley Merriweather would have cleared this up rather quickly and would not have accumulated in the waste of Howard County taxpayer money which should be first and foremost on the minds of the Auditor AND the Howard County Council.
2. The report included several violations of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Unless the complaint stated said violations as a reason to investigate, this is a complete violation and should not be included in ANY fact-finding.
3. After the interviews, the facts are stated and recommendations given. Again, a simple phone call would have determined that there was no need to go further than number 1.

I could go on, but I think all hearing this gets the point. Now I will speak from a personal point of view as a citizen of Howard County. You cannot imagine the shock of knowing that attending an event (which I have done many times), found that I was under surveillance like a criminal (which BTW many in the African American community are hard-working, responsible individuals who work every day). My car has an AKA license plate and license holder. Therefore, anyone

who read that report may assume that I was part of something criminal and/or unwarranted. My safety remains in danger.

This is 2023 and a report discussing African American women wearing white dresses while entering a building is a violation of my civil rights. I will not address the reason that was given as the Auditor obviously does not have any information on what happens in a Sorority and further it has nothing to do with his responsibility while conducting his job as an Auditor.

As a reminder, 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. Let me be clear, we refuse to go back!

As a reminder to you. The Auditor reports to the Howard County Council. However, Council Members report to the citizens of Howard County.

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

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

Thank you,



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

I, Lisa M. Markovitz, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

The People's Voice to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding ECB11-2023 to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

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

Printed Name: Lisa Markovitz

Signature: _____

Date: 03/24/2023

Organization: The People's Voice

Organization Address: Ellicott City MD 21042

Ellicott City MD 21042

Number of Members: 4501

Name of Chair/President: Lisa M. Markovitz

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

The People's Voice, LLC

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

March 27, 2023

Testimony on CB11 – Suggest Amendment

Concerns recently arose regarding procedures and a report from the auditor's office. The report included inappropriate language, including racial references. It appears that there was an attempt to gather evidence as to whether a tip had merit to warrant requesting a special audit; however, the group attending the event should not have been any focus of investigation, nor reference, beyond noting discovery of whether or not it was a private function.

In attempting to address this specific situation, 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 operate outside the scope of defined best practices including sharing details of the anticipated, or work in progress of investigations. That could have had repercussions to have influence over process decisions that should be made by independent investigators 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.

The Council currently votes to allow a special audit, the ones requiring an investigation. This Bill should not alter the audit process of general audits. That part especially needs to be removed from the Bill. As for the special audits, which entail investigations, once the Council has authorized for one to be done, they should not be involved in the entire process along the way, as that makes the office not able to act independently.

There have been inappropriate actions with other offices and investigations that were handled, correctly without dismantling independent function. We cannot lose that with the Auditor's Office, when dealing with specific problems. Also, in other counties, attempts to put in more County involvement with independent oversight offices, has been met with criticism, even from a Baltimore County "Blue Ribbon Commission on Ethics and Accountability", which stated there should not be oversight nor an advisory board, so as to retain independence of County fiscal investigations.

CB11 could work to address the concerns that created it without having such unintended bad consequences of reducing transparency and government oversight, by not having it apply to regular audits, and instead of Council involvement with works in progress, retain the review and extra communication process addition regarding reports in the Bill. This would add a level of review to have more input and management of outcome without interfering with the process and independence of the process, against industry standards. It will always remain a part of problem solution to be able to reprimand or remove people as needed, by the vote of the same set of Council members that this Bill suggests control things further. Therefore, the best thing to do is to add the review to the process, instead of micromanaging the whole process, causing undue influence and involvement with County oversight by any County Council.

Thank you.

Lisa Markovitz

President, The People's Voice

March 27, 2023

Howard County Council Members
Howard County, MD

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4. Issue a formal public apology to Mrs. Sharon Stanley Merriweather and all members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Iota Lambda Omega chapter.

Thank you,

Sayers, Margery

From: joel hurewitz <joelhurewitz@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2023 1:26 PM
To: Harrod, Michelle R
Cc: Sayers, Margery; Wimberly, Theo
Subject: Re: CB11-2023 - Exempt from the Executive Veto?

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

However, as my testimony states, Rule 1.1015(c) states that duties of Auditor shall be established by resolution.

On Tue, Mar 7, 2023 at 3:52 PM Harrod, Michelle R <mrharrod@howardcountymd.gov> wrote:

Joel,

Although Section 212 and 213 indicates the Executive may not veto, there is nothing in Section 212 or 213 that states the bill should not be presented to the Executive for signature. He can still sign or not sign the bill.

Thank you,

Michelle R. Harrod

Howard County Government

Administrator to the County Council

410-313-3111 (office)

443-398-6013 (cell)

mrharrod@howardcountymd.gov

From: joel hurewitz <joelhurewitz@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 7, 2023 11:38 AM
To: Harrod, Michelle R <mrharrod@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: CB11-2023 - Exempt from the Executive Veto?

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

Michelle,

Procedural question on CB11. Pursuant to Charter Sections 212 and 213, will the bill not be submitted to the County Executive?

Joel Hurewitz

Sayers, Margery

From: Christopher J. Alleva <jens151@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2023 7:44 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CB 11 Chris Alleva Testimony March 27, 2023

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

Please find the exhibits to my testimony. The Organization Chart from the 2022 CAFR (note the reporting line from the Planning Board to the Auditor) and the Independent Advisor Disclosure that I suggested you should seek out for advice regarding the risks of enacting this legislation. Please note the Advisor's contract expired in August 2022.

In my testimony I suggested the actions surrounding this matter could lead to a review of the County's bond rating. In 2010 the City of Bell CA. ratings were cut due to irregularities with the City Manager, other City employees and elected officials.

[California City With \\$800,000 Manager Gets Rating Cut - Bloomberg](#)

This is the second time in two years that the leadership of the library system have been caught up in controversy. Perhaps they're just unlucky.

Sincerely,

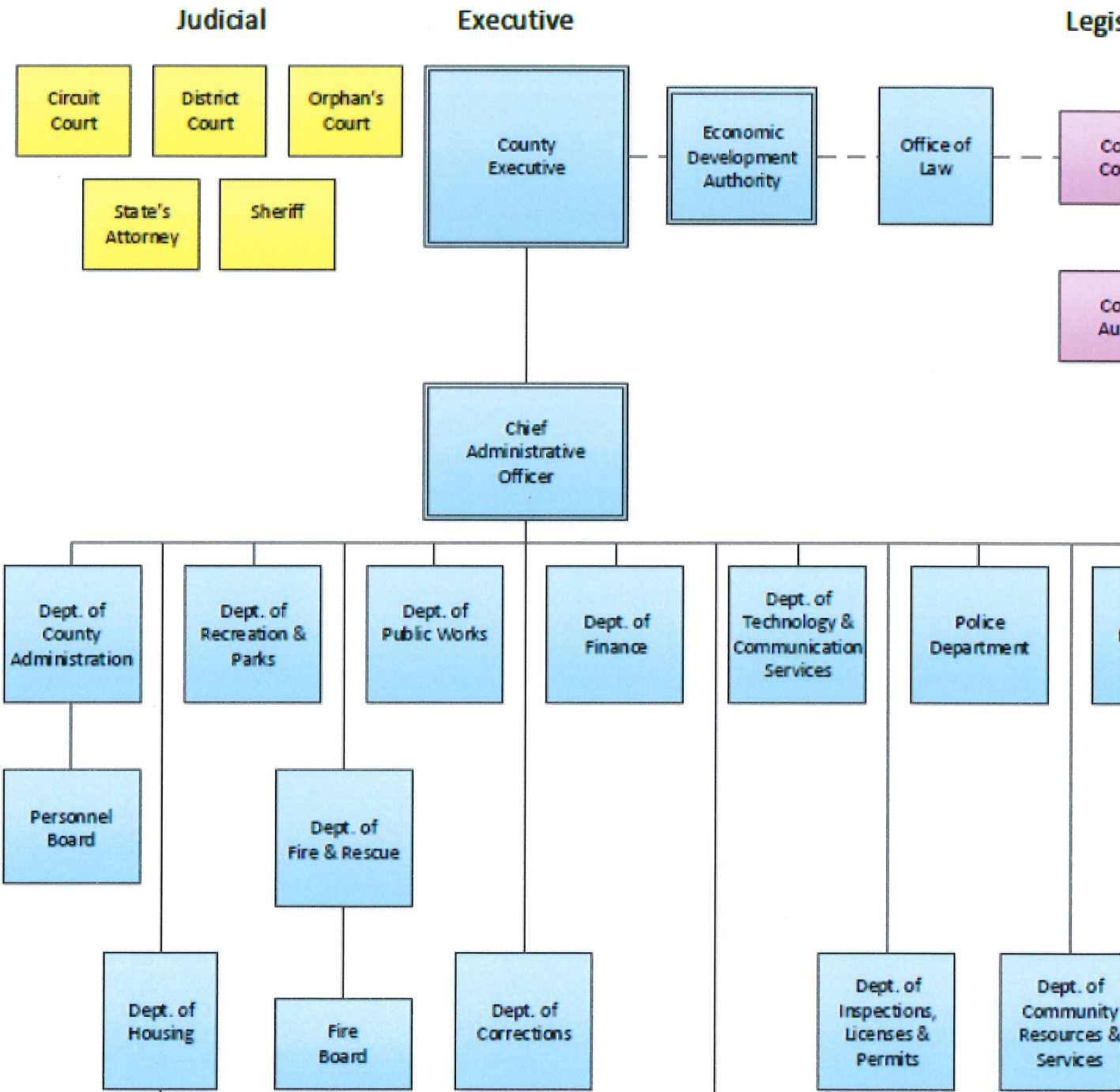
Chris Alleva

By publicly posting the following written disclosure, Howard County (the “market participants receive and use it for purposes of the independent advisor exemption to the Municipal Advisor Rule of the U.S. Securities Commission (Rule 15Ba1-1-1(d)(3)(vi)).

Effective July 1, 2014

The County has retained an independent registered municipal advisor represented by and will rely on its independent municipal advisor, Public Finance Management, Inc. (“PFM”), to provide advice on proposals from financial services issuers regarding the issuance of municipal securities and municipal financial derivatives generally. The independent municipal advisors of PFM are Katherine Clupper and Linda Ginty, who can be reached at (301) 271-1100. The County’s contract with PFM extends through August 31, 2022; accordingly, you may rely upon until such date or until its earlier withdrawal (notice of which is posted on this website). If a proposal received will be seriously considered by the County, you must share the proposal with its municipal advisor. The personnel of PFM who advise the County on such matters have represented to the County that they have not been associated with any firm engaging in the principal transactions of the County within the two years preceding the date of this certificate. The County does not make any representations as to the independence of the firms engaging in the principal transactions of the County. Please note that the absence of correspondence between an underwriter and municipal advisor does not constitute authority, no underwriter should speak directly with or send documents directly to the County’s municipal advisor unless specifically directed to do so by the County.

HOWARD COUNTY GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



Sayers, Margery

From: joel hurewitz <joelhurewitz@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2023 9:17 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CB11-2023 - Opposed - There Are Issues of Auditor Independence, Drafting, Implementation, Open Meetings Act, Charter, Prior Council Resolution, and Council Rules

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

Dear Councilmembers,

I am opposed to CB11 as drafted for the reasons expressed by many others regarding the independence of the Auditor and because of implementation issues under the Open Meetings Act and with Sections 204, 212, 213, and 214 of the Howard County Charter. A better approach would be to start over with the language from the Baltimore County Code, which Auditor Craig Glendenning has said that he will support except for one provision, and also incorporate the provisions from CR22-1985.

Recognize and Codify CR22-1985

In the press release from the bill sponsors it states "Currently the duties of the Auditor's Office are outlined in Sections [sic] 212 and 213 in the Howard County Charter." Additionally, on social media, the sponsors have claimed "that currently, the Council has limited oversight of the Auditor's Office." However, CR22-1985 does in fact provide some oversight to the Auditor. On the other hand, it seems that even though the Auditor has referenced it in some of his reports (See e.g. [Office of Transportation Training & Safety - December 2019](#)), everyone, including Mr. Glendenning, is effectively unaware of the existence of CR22-1985. (I happened to first notice the citation earlier this month).

Because legislation implementing Section 212 is exempt from executive veto, it appears that prior to CB8-2020, that previous Councils fulfilled this function by resolution rather than by bill; Council Rule 1.015(c) also states that the "County Auditor who shall have such duties . . . as the Council may, **by resolution**, establish." (emphasis added).

CB11 would appear to effectively amend the functions and duties enumerated in CR22 including:

1. To consult with and provide technical assistance to the County Council on financial matters
* * * *
7. To review governmental operations or programs to ascertain whether results are consistent with established objectives or goals and whether the operations or programs are being carried out as planned.
8. To review governmental systems to ascertain the extent of compliance with established policies, regulations and procedures.

If the goal is to improve the performance of the Auditor, it would seem prudent to acknowledge CR22-1985 and codify the functions and duties so that they are all found in one readily available place.

How Does Secrecy Increase Transparency?

Apparently, in the view of the sponsors as expressed at the work session, in the press release and on social media, transparency and accountability can only occur with input from elected political representatives. While it may not be the intent, such input can be viewed as interference; in other states and in Washington, DC we see how our democracy is being undermined when politicians seek to control the investigators. Furthermore, the expectation is that the meetings with the auditor will be

conducted as nonpublic administrative meetings. While it might serve to give more information to the members of the Council, it is hard to see how this will increase transparency in government to the public to regain the community's trust and respect.

The Existence of Section 213 Special Audits Should Not be Secret

The existence of Section 213 audits should not be secret. Recall the audit conducted under State law of HCPSS; everyone knew for months that it was in the works even before the Council passed CR108-2019. If a matter is of a criminal nature the investigation should be referred to the appropriate entity: HCPD, the State's Attorney, Attorney General, State Prosecutor, FBI or Department of Justice. In his advice to Auditor Glendenning, even County Solicitor Gary Kuc did not express concerns that even he was not told about issues at the Library. Secrecy does not make sense because, as the Auditor acknowledged at the March 27, 2023 work session, the subject of the audit is made aware of its scope.

Use Baltimore County as a Model

The County Council should use the provisions in the Baltimore County Code as a model; it requires in part that

- (4) The audited office, department, board, commission, institution, or agency shall respond in writing to the County Auditor within 30 days after receipt of the final draft specifying:
 - (i) Agreement with the audit findings and recommendations;
 - (ii) Reasons for disagreement with audit findings and recommendations;
 - (iii) Plans for implementing solutions to identified problems; and
 - (iv) A timetable to complete implementation of the solutions to identified problems.

- (5) The County Auditor shall include the full text of the auditee's response in the audit report and shall:
 - (i) Submit the report in writing to the County Council; and
 - (ii) Simultaneously provide copies of the report to the County Executive and the director or chairman of the audited office, department, board, commission, institution, or agency.

BaCo Code § 2-2-102. Powers and Duties. Including the response of the entity being audited in the report will address many of the concerns of the Library Investigation that gave rise to CB11. Additionally, this is the common practice for other reports of the Auditor including Section 213 exit audits which are not included in the scope of CB11.

How Will Implementing CB11 as a Practical Matter Comply with the Open Meetings Act?

As a practical matter what will be the outcome of the administrative meeting under the Open Meetings Act? Councilmember Jones on March 20 discussed the provisions found in Section 214 and recognized that the power in 214 rests with the Council. Moreover, while the bill includes as parameters "list of witnesses" and "administering of oaths" from Section 214, notably the bill does not apply to Section 214 "Investigations by the Council."

While the Council discussed a number of Open Meetings Act issues at the work session, in many respects it missed the mark. Will the Council be giving direction to the Auditor about the investigation and next steps to be performed? The Open Meetings Act Compliance Board (OMCB) has stated

As we have said before, "discussions about prospective policies and recommendations of future actions on subjects of public concern very seldom, if ever, qualify for the administrative function exclusion." 7 OMCB Opinions 250, 254 (2011).

We begin with the first part of the test: whether the discussion falls within any of the functions excluded from the definition of "administrative function." The excluded functions include the "advisory function" and the "quasi-legislative" function. SG § 10-502(b)(2)(i),(v). Public bodies perform advisory functions when they "stud[y] a matter of public concern or mak[e] recommendations on the matter, under a delegation of responsibility by . . . formal action by or for a public body that exercises an administrative, judicial legislative, quasi-judicial, or quasi-legislative function." SG § 10-502(c) (4). Public bodies perform the "quasi-legislative" function when they adopt rules and regulations, and when they engage in the "process or act of . . . approving, disapproving, or amending a budget" or of "approving, disapproving, or amending a contract." SG § 10- 502(j).

9 OMCB Opinions 1, 8 (2013). Additionally, the OMCB stated

The administrative exclusion has limits. Particularly, a public body that, through formal action, has been delegated the task of making recommendations on a matter to another public body, performs an advisory function, not an administrative function, when it studies the matter and considers its recommendations

10 OMCB 12, 16 (2016). "The purpose of the administrative function exclusion is to enable public bodies to perform routine, non-policy-oriented tasks efficiently." 12 OMCB 104, 107 (2018). The Auditor told the Council how rare it was to get Fraud, Waste, and Abuse complaints. Is the Council giving direction to the Auditor to conduct an investigation a "routine, non-policy-oriented task"?

The OMCB has also ruled:

Under the Act, a public body performs an administrative function when it administers an existing law, rule, or regulation, and is not otherwise performing any other function defined by the Act. § 3-101(b). We have explained the applicable principles as follows:

When a public body meets solely to perform an administrative function, the meeting is exempt from the Act under § 3-103(a). Very generally speaking, a public body performs an administrative function when it is merely applying pre-set regulations to particular circumstances, and it is not performing an administrative function when it is discussing the adoption of a new policy, whether its own or for recommendation to another body. § 3-101(b); see also, e.g., 10 OMCB Opinions 12, 15-16 (2016) (explaining the administrative function exclusion).

13 OMCB 47, 49 (2019) (quoting 10 OMCB Opinions 22, 26 (2016)).

Similarly, the Attorney General's *Open Meetings Act Manual* states that

1. The functions subject to the Act: advisory, legislative, quasi-legislative functions, and licensing, permitting, and land use deliberations

a. Advisory function (Index topic 1D)

Public bodies perform "advisory" functions when they "stud[y] . . . a matter of public concern" or "mak[e] recommendations on the matter" and are doing so under a "delegation of responsibility" by any of four authorities:

- "law"
- * * * *
- "formal action by or for a public body that exercises an administrative, judicial, legislative, quasi-judicial, or quasi legislative function."

Open Meetings Act Manual (October 2022) p. 1-19 to 1-20. Are the actions of the Council under Charter Section 213 or 214 legislative, and/or quasi-legislative functions subject to the Open Meetings Act?

Was Section 204 of the Howard County Charter Violated?

Section 204 of the County Charter requires "In all of its functions and deliberations, the Council shall act as a body." Special Audits under Section 213 are supposed to be initiated by the Council as a body. Subpoenaing witnesses, administering oaths and taking testimony under Section 214 are also responsibilities of the Council and not the Auditor. The Council discussed at the work session what happens when the Charter is violated and the long period of time that it took for Councilmembers to sign onto the Auditor's authorization letter. Apparently, Councilmember Rigby was the fourth signatory to the letter--days or weeks after the first three had signed. The Council and County Solicitor have ignored the issues regarding the applicability of Section

204, and I have seen from social media posts that I am not the only one with these concerns. Essentially the Council was acting as less than as a whole when the first three had signed. It was immaterial that Councilmember Rigby was the fourth. What would happen if two of the three councilmembers were not even informed about such a letter? Does this violate Section 204?

If Section 204 applies, then it appears that authorization of investigations under the Charter is a quasi-legislative function which is subject to the Open Meetings Act. Therefore, I request that the Council clarify the practical next steps of discussion of each of the parameters enumerated in Lines 8-18 and specifically which, if any, may be discussed and practically implemented in an administrative meeting without straying into a function covered by the Open Meetings Act. Additionally, has this bill truly received legal sufficiency?

Misstatements and Errors Regarding Drafting of CB11

Lines 4 to 6 on Page 2 inaccurately state that the bill is renaming "Title 5 'County Council' Subsection 4. 'Miscellaneous'" and then further states in Lines 8 to 11 that it is adding "Title 5 'County Council' Subsection 4 'County Auditor' Section 5.401 'Audits.'" Page 1, Lines 6 and 10 should be "Subtitle" not "Subsection." Additionally, the sponsors' press release inaccurately states that "This legislation would create a new County Auditor subtitle in the Howard County Code.." More accurately the sponsors' press release should have stated what is being added is a new "Section 5.401 'Audits.'"

Conclusion

In summary, the Council needs to have audit policies and procedures that comply with the Charter and Open Meetings Act. Start over with the language from CR22-1985 and Baltimore County Code. Also amend Council Rule 1.015(c) to allow Section 212 legislation to be passed by bill rather than by resolution.

Sincerely,

Joel Hurewitz
Columbia, MD

Sayers, Margery

From: Catina Evans <evans.catina@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2023 8:25 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: HoCo Council Letter Regarding Auditor

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

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

March 25, 2023

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to demand this County Council show accountability for the actions of the County Auditor and express my clear unwavering support for the following actions:

Pass CB11-2023 without amendment.

I demand that the Howard County Council terminate Howard County Auditor Mr. Craig Glendenning immediately, and Issue a letter of public apology to HCLS President and CEO Mrs. Tonya Aikens Issue letters of public apology to the AKA Iota Lambda Omega Chapter, and their President Mrs. Sharon Merriweather.

To date your very limited response to the demands of the aggrieved community have caused us to question your oath of service to the entire community. On this issue remedial window dressing such as insincere apologies and DEI training will only serve to embed our lack of confidence in your leadership. The immediate termination of Mr. Glendenning will be met with reassurance that you desire to serve the entire community.

Sincerely,
Catina Evans

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Carla Tevelow <perlpubl@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2023 5:29 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: against CB11

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

CB11 seeks to take independent fiscal oversight away from the Office of the Howard County Auditor by requiring Council input prior to the commencement of a special audit. We have industry confirmation of this as Amanda Noble, testified virtually from Atlanta GA as a representative of the Association of Local Government Auditors AGAINST CB11. Her organization's mission is to support independent auditing in local governments for the public good. She indicated that CB11 will limit the ability of the Auditor's office to conduct audits independently because it would require external interference which would influence the scope of any review. According to the experts, CB11 will damage the credibility and legitimacy of the government's own fiscal oversight process.

Some of the bigger questions, however, should be directed to the bill sponsors: What are you doing, and why was your reaction to make an issue much worse?

As elected officials, you don't have the right to try to destroy an individual working in the Howard County government-hired or appointed. Many can agree that the auditor's report was an issue. So, why didn't you try to fix the problem? Address the issue? Make things better? This would have included recommending further training in investigations or review reporting for special audits; publicly supporting an Inspector General who would come into the county with knowledge of best practices of investigations and reporting; or looking into best practices for special review auditing and following those guidelines to ensure better reporting in the future.

Instead, your response was to weaken, inappropriately control and delegitimize independent fiscal oversight for the county and abuse the power and reach of your office by publicly humiliating, and directing public ire towards the individual who currently holds the county auditor's position. It is far outside of the scope of your office to behave this way. There was a more positive path forward that *didn't* divide the community but you chose not to take it. Howard County wants to be a unified community, so let us be that.

In an effort to control the damage your response has added to the situation, I ask that the Council reject CB11 and instead work towards a unified, functioning local government for the good of the people by working more cohesively to bring about policy and processes that function within best practice guidelines of each department- including the auditor's.

I also ask that a new Office of Inspector General be created as Councilmember Walsh has brilliantly suggested. Howard County has over 330,000 people with a \$2 Billion annual operating budget. It's past time we have professional, independent governmental oversight to ensure transparent operations and accountability towards the taxpayers that fund this county.

Thank you,
Carla Tevelow
District 4

Sayers, Margery

From: Laura Salganik <lsalganik@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2023 3:50 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Jewish Community Relations Council March 20 2023 testimony
Attachments: JCRC Testimony to the County Council, In Support of CB11-2023-13.pdf

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

Below and attached is the testimony that I presented in person at the Council hearing on March 20, 2023. Laura Salganik



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



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.

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- 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

Sayers, Margery

From: Chris Krupiarz <cjkrup@outlook.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 12:53 AM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Glendenning, Craig
Subject: Library Policy for Closings
Attachments: SUPPLEMENT-4_approved_06152022.pdf

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

Council Members,

During testimony regarding CB11-2023 on Tuesday, there seemed to be some confusion during questioning by Councilwoman Rigby of a citizen giving his testimony as to whether the library was closed to the public. I would like to reiterate what I have previously sent that the library was closed to the public from 2 to 6 PM on October 7, 2022 and that it was the only time since April 2018 that the library was closed to prepare for an event hosted by a private organization. I also would like to add that the enclosed HCLS Board policy states that the library may be closed for holidays and for the following:

- C. HCLS will be closed to the public for the following activities:
1. Evening in the Stacks. Generally held the last Saturday in February, the branch where the event will be held may close the day of the event in order to prepare for the event.
 2. Professional Development Day. Generally scheduled in the spring, all branches will be closed for this day of continuing education for staff.

While the HCLS Board of Trustees report did recommend reviewing how employees are treated during a closure, it failed to mention anything about a violation of the closing policy itself, which is the critical issue here with regard to misuse of resources.

I have heard people say that four hours is nothing. Frankly, I don't care if it was 4 hours or 4 minutes. There are few county resources as important or as frequented by our citizens as our libraries. They are our cathedrals of knowledge. This misuse of a major public resource should not have happened and should never happen again.

Chris Krupiarz

Sayers, Margery

From: lindaleslie@verizon.net
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 9:45 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CB11 Testimony Update
Attachments: Testimony in Support of CB 11.pdf

[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 am attaching the testimony I provided Monday evening in support of CB11. I have since had an opportunity to listen to Monday's working session on the bill. While I was concerned about this matter previously, the inability of the auditor to answer direct questions from the council about the operations of his office now has me even more concerned about his ability to continue serving in the county's best interests. I urge the council to address this issue immediately with a performance improvement plan or termination.

Ms. Walsh, I want to thank you for your willingness to work with Ms. Rigby and Dr. Jones on this legislation. I do think it would have been helpful to explain to folks before testimony began that you had asked Mr. Glendenning to be present. It was very intimidating to have him sitting right in front of those testifying. I understand that was not your intent. Knowing he was doing so at your request as a learning experience would have been helpful to those of us speaking.

Mr. Yungmann, thank you for your thoughtful questions in the work session. I hope you have had a chance to listen to the testimony given on Monday evening.

Dr. Jones, I hope you had an opportunity to follow through with Mr. Glendenning to help him understand why this was an instance of racial profiling. I hope you have had an opportunity to follow up with him and hopefully others who might take advantage of your offer.

Also, just to be clear for everyone, let me go on the record and say, **I don't care who was in the parking lot. They should not have been there, nor should they have been directed to be there.** This was a failure by the Auditor Office leadership. Having listened carefully to the testimony of my fellow Howard County residents, I am pretty certain that the vast majority of those testifying agree with me.

Thank you.

Linda Lappert Leslie
District 4

Testimony in Support of CB-11 2023

Good evening, my name is Linda Lamppert Leslie, and I am a resident of Council District 4. I'm speaking on my own behalf this evening in support of CB-11 2023.

Over the past six weeks, like many of my fellow Howard Countians, I have been appalled to learn about the investigation of the library conducted by the Howard County auditor. As the details have come out, time and again I've asked myself, what the heck was the auditor's office thinking?

I think the breaking point for me was when word came out that the auditor lied to a council member about whether other council members had already signed off on the investigation. In what world is that acceptable?

There has been a lot of discussion about the need for the auditor's office to be independent. I am not going to weigh in on the GAO yellow book or other accounting fine points.

What I will say is that I expect this county council, in its capacity of employer of the auditor, to ensure that this auditor is not betraying the public trust in the operations of his office.

What we have now is a system that lacks checks and balances.

Looking at the requirements of CB 11, I can see how they would have made all the difference in how the library investigation was handled.

What happened in this library audit was appalling. I hope you believe that too, and if you do, I encourage you to vote for this legislation.

More importantly, though, I want to touch on the bigger picture involved in this situation. I have read condemnations and apologies from some council members regarding the content of the auditor report. Yes, the auditor said the quiet part out loud, and it is good that folks are recognizing that.

What I have failed to see is a recognition by all the members of the council and by the auditor's office of the racist and misogynistic lens that influenced this entire chain of events. I have failed to see an apology to the library president, the library staff, and the general population of the county that this entire ugly story evolved as it did. Not just the writing of the report, but the whole thing.

There is no doubt in my mind, and in the mind of many, many county residents, that this entire situation would have evolved differently had a different organization and a different library president been involved. From the beginning, this was an instance of profiling that we all should be deeply troubled by.

I would challenge each of you, and everyone listening, to ask yourselves whether the lens you are viewing this situation through might be impacting your interpretation of the circumstances.

Let's all hold ourselves to a higher standard. Let's go beyond lip service and some DEI training.

Let's really listen to the people impacted by this situation and by other systemic racist and misogynistic infrastructure in this county, and let's do something about it.

Sayers, Margery

From: Jacquelyn Miles Humes <jemasoc@outlook.com>
Sent: Friday, March 31, 2023 11:40 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support of CB11-2023
Importance: High

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

Howard County Council
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043
March 30, 2023

Dear Council Members,

My name is Jacquelyn E Miles Humes, residing at 6310 Early Glow Court, Columbia, MD 21045 I am a member of Thurgood Marshall Democratic Group, SEHL Continentals, Inc., and the NAACP of Howard County.

I am writing to demand this County Council show accountability for the actions of the County Auditor and express my clear unwavering support for the following actions:

1. Pass CB11-2023 without amendment.
2. I demand that the Howard County Council terminate Howard County Auditor Mr. Craig Glendenning immediately, and
3. Issue a letter of public apology to HCLS President and CEO Mrs. Tonya Aikens
4. Issue letters of public apology to the AKA Iota Lambda Omega Chapter, and their President Mrs. Sharon Merriweather.

To date your very limited response to the demands of the aggrieved community have caused us to question your oath of service to the entire community. On this issue remedial window dressing such as insincere apologies and DEI training will only serve to embed our lack of confidence in your leadership. The immediate termination of Mr. Glendenning will be met with reassurance that you desire to serve the entire community.

Sincerely,

Jacquelyn E. Miles Humes

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

March 25, 2023

Dear Council Members,

My name is Elana Bouldin and I am a resident at 3016 Autumn Branch Lane, Ellicott City, MD 21043.

I am writing to demand this County Council show accountability for the actions of the County Auditor and express my clear unwavering support for the following actions:

1. Pass CB11-2023 without amendment.
2. I demand that the Howard County Council terminate Howard County Auditor Mr. Craig Glendenning immediately, and
3. Issue a letter of public apology to HCLS President and CEO Mrs. Tonya Aikens
4. Issue letters of public apology to the AKA Iota Lambda Omega Chapter, and their President Mrs. Sharon Merriweather.

To date your very limited response to the demands of the aggrieved community have caused us to question your oath of service to the entire community. On this issue remedial window dressing such as insincere apologies and DEI training will only serve to embed our lack of confidence in your leadership. The immediate termination of Mr. Glendenning will be met with reassurance that you desire to serve the entire community.

Sincerely,

Elana Bouldin

Sayers, Margery

From: CouncilPIO
Sent: Sunday, April 2, 2023 8:07 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: VOTE AGAINST CB11-2023

Testimony

Thank you,

Michelle R. Harrod

Howard County Government
Administrator to the County Council

410-313-3111 (office)

443-398-6013 (cell)

mrharrod@howardcountymd.gov

From: Sunmy Brown <s_brown0304@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2023 12:35 PM
To: CouncilPIO <councilpio@howardcountymd.gov>; CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov; Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>; Rigby, Christiana <rigby@howardcountymd.gov>; Yungmann, David <dyungmann@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: VOTE AGAINST CB11-2023

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

3/20/23

Dear Howard County Council,

I am writing today AGAINST CB11-2023, which demands changing and amending the Howard County Code with regards to establishing "certain processes for certain audits by the Howard County Auditor's Office."

This language seems to pick and choose what types of audits will be handled through the Auditor's Office. You may think this wording is picayune in nature, but when you look at the actual bill you are proposing, this makes me concerned that the Howard County Council will pick and choose which audits will occur. Line 10 on the proposed legislation "Rationale of the audit" seems to be too wide in scope, meaning that the Howard County Council, depending who is voted in to office and beholden to special interests can have more authority in terms of pursuing an audit or not.

I do not approve of this language and I ask the County Council to vote AGAINST this bill as this will give too much authority to County Council members who are elected into office. We know all too well that the powers to be pick and choose who to go after based on political affiliation and it seems to me as a constituent that The Howard County Council and those elected into office work in tandem with special interests and specifically, certain Councilmembers are beholden to specific interest groups, which does nothing to help communities and constituents living in Howard County, Maryland

Vote against CB11-2023. This bill needs to be scrapped.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Sunny Brown
Ellicott City, Maryland

Sayers, Margery

From: CouncilPIO
Sent: Sunday, April 2, 2023 8:07 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Opposed to CB-11

Testimony

Thank you,

Michelle R. Harrod

Howard County Government
Administrator to the County Council

410-313-3111 (office)

443-398-6013 (cell)

mrharrod@howardcountymd.gov

From: Karin Emery <keemery1965@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2023 5:03 PM
To: CouncilPIO <councilpio@howardcountymd.gov>
Cc: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>; Ball, Calvin <cball@howardcountymd.gov>; CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov; Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>; Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>; Yungmann, David <dyungmann@howardcountymd.gov>
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: From: Barbara Miller <barbaramiller67@verizon.net>
Sent: Saturday, April 1, 2023 8:18 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support CB 11-2023
Attachments: Howard County Council.docx

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

Greetings Council Members

Please accept this correspondence as my request for you to support CB 11-2023. My family and I have been active residents of Howard County since 1974. At this juncture, we want to see justice to continue to prevail.

Thank you,
Barbara C Miller

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

March 25, 2023

Dear Council Members,

My name is Barbara C. Miller, I am a resident at 7033 Longview Road, Columbia, MD 21044.

I am writing to demand this County Council show accountability for the actions of the County Auditor and express my clear unwavering support for the following actions:

1. Pass CB11-2023 without amendment.
2. I demand that the Howard County Council terminate Howard County Auditor Mr. Craig Glendenning immediately, and
3. Issue a letter of public apology to HCLS President and CEO Mrs. Tonya Aikens
4. Issue letters of public apology to the AKA Iota Lambda Omega Chapter, and their President Mrs. Sharon Merriweather.

To date your very limited response to the demands of the aggrieved community have caused us to question your oath of service to the entire community. On this issue remedial window dressing such as insincere apologies and DEI training will only serve to embed our lack of confidence in your leadership. The immediate termination of Mr. Glendenning will be met with reassurance that you desire to serve the entire community.

Sincerely,
Barbara C. Miller

Sayers, Margery

From: Jo M. Glasco <jg500f@msn.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 1, 2023 5:11 AM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Jo M. Glasco; Tracey Williams
Subject: Council bill 11-2023

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

Sirs and Madam. I support the above bill. I demand the termination of the auditor immediately. Jo Glasco , Esquire. 4435385394

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