

From: [Leonardo McClarty](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: RE: Capital Budget Written Testimony
Date: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 3:45:19 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[FY 24 Budget Comments.docx](#)

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

Council members,

Please see the attached letter. I missed the “attach” button and inadvertently hit “send.”

Thanks

Leonardo McClarty, CCE
President/CEO
lmccarty@howardchamber.com



Mission: To accelerate business growth through connections, advocacy, and professional development.
Vision: To lead the way for a vibrant community where business thrives.

From: Leonardo McClarty <lmccarty@howardchamber.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 3:42 PM
To: councilmail@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: Capital Budget Written Testimony

Council members:

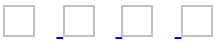
Attached is commentary from the Howard County Chamber regarding the Capital budget.

Thanks

Leonardo McClarty, CCE
President/CEO
lmccarty@howardchamber.com



Howard County Chamber
410-730-4111 x107
6240 Old Dobbin Lane, Suite 110
Columbia, MD 21045
www.howardchamber.com



Mission: To accelerate business growth through connections, advocacy, and professional development.
Vision: To lead the way for a vibrant community where business thrives.

[Click here to join the Chamber](#)

April 18, 2023

The Honorable Christiana Rigby
Howard County Council
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

RE: FY'2024 Capital Budget

Dear Council Chair Rigby:

The Howard County Chamber (Chamber) is a community organization with a business focus dedicated to seeing a thriving economy in Howard County. It is in the fulfillment of our mission to accelerate business growth that I come to you at this time. Each spring, the Council and administration embark upon the task of developing a capital and operating budget that meets the many competing needs and desires of numerous interests in the county. Undoubtedly, this year will be no different.

As you and your colleagues evaluate various assessments and studies, the Chamber asks that you develop priorities that spur economic growth and community development. We know that when business prospers, the community benefits. There are two immediate areas of interest to the Chamber, and both pertain to education and workforce development.

Howard County is fortunate to be the home of two award winning educational institutions in our library system and community college. Just recently, the Howard County Library System unveiled a new, state of the art library in Downtown Columbia that when completed, will transform the way we gather in public spaces and hold community forums. Our quality-of-life components are one of the many reasons people choose to move to Howard County. With the announcement of the new Central Branch library, the county can truly develop a world class edifice dedicated to reading and literacy and that will attract authors from around the country.

Besides its impact on learning, the library will further add to the continued reinvigoration of the Downtown area and the implementation of the Downtown Columbia plan. Not to mention, it will further allow Howard Hughes to move forward with plans for the construction of a full spectrum of housing dedicated to all incomes and professions. Housing affordability is one of the county's major challenges.

With its potential impact substantial, the Chamber would like to formally state our support for the Central Branch project and request this initiative move forward in the FY '24 capital budget which includes accepting of \$10M in state grant funds of which no local match is required.

Equally as important is the creation of jobs and skilled trades training. Current labor shortages coupled with the continued retirement of baby boomers will lead to many jobs being unfulfilled which threatens our economic vitality. Howard Community College (HCC) has always provided an affordable vehicle towards obtaining a college degree. In addition to supporting those on the pathway to a college education is the work performed to support those in their continuing education efforts and skills development. Thus, it is important that capital funding be allocated for HCC's workforce center as they develop programming in skilled trades and advance their apprenticeship offerings. Jobs in the skilled trades pay livable wages and lead to upward mobility. For those who desire to enter the workforce after high school, this provides a viable career path.

The Chamber recognizes that with each passing year, the competition for limited resources becomes fiercer. As a result, dollars must be spent in a manner that yields tangible and visible results and that can be measured against impactful outcomes. If previous years are any indication, operating and capital investment in both the library and the community college will reap tangible benefits and impact all county residents and businesses.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leonardo McClarty". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Leonardo McClarty, CCE
President, Howard County Chamber

From: [Willie Flowers](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: TESTIMONY FOR CAPITAL BUDGET HEARING
Date: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 1:36:18 PM
Attachments: [NAACP_HCC_Testimony_2023_Willie_Flowers.docx.pdf](#)

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

Hello,

Please find my testimony attached for tonight's meeting. I can not attend but I am submitting written testimony in support of Howard County Community College's expansion for the Workforce Center.

Please confirm receipt.

Thank you.

Willie Flowers



NAACP

Howard County Branch

#7020

HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL

CHAIR, CHRISTIANA RIGSBY

CAPITAL BUDGET

APRIL 18, 2023

WILLIE FLOWERS; PRESIDENT

NAACP HOWARD COUNTY BRANCH

Madame Chair and members of the Howard County Council I am submitting a written report because I am unable to attend today's hearing because of a prior commitment.

My name is Willie Flowers and I am the president of the NAACP Howard County Branch. We are a unit of over 800 members with programs that include our Freedom School Summer learning program, the George Washington Carver/Growing Food Together CSA, we do advocacy for education on mental health, our Branch is active with support for organized labor and building bridges between the many cultural or ethnic communities in Howard County. More importantly, we are the oldest and longest serving civil rights organization in America.

I am writing today to show support for the Howard County Community College and its many programs led by Dr. Daria Willis.

Since being at HCC Dr. Willis has been an important force in support of young people of all ages but more importantly for young people who desire to attend HCC. Through the college's dual enrollment programs and its many access points to the community, HCC has built on its prior tradition of service and education.

At this time in history with the concern of college debt Dr. Willis has briefed our Branch on the program that includes JumpStart which is a local dual enrollment program but also efforts to extend JumpStart to more students in Howard County. In addition, HCC has always worked with the community to advance the Silas Craft Collegians which is a program that supports students in need of scholarships while they are at HCC.

Finally, news of HCC's steps to build a new workforce center is just as important. It will provide workforce development opportunities for HCC students and other Howard County residents who desire to enter the workforce and become productive members of society. Additionally, the program will connect students to the many outlets of employment and service relevant to technology and will help to sustain our economy to make Howard County an even better place to live and strive.

On behalf of the NAACP Howard County I want to express support for HCC's appeal for additional funding for their very important capital project. The construction of the new workforce center will be key to building a future for students and residents of the State of Maryland.

Respectfully,

Willie Flowers; President

NAACP Howard County

Carranza, Amankaya

From: Heather Rustici <hrustici@jbc.bz>
Sent: Friday, April 21, 2023 2:51 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support for HCC Workforce Development and Skilled Trades Center

[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 writing to express my support for Howard Community College and its plans for a workforce development and skilled trades center. As an employer working in and around Howard County, I know how critical this building is to my business and other local businesses like mine.

Over the last few years, it has become increasingly difficult to find employees to fill the vacancies within our organization. We have an aging field staff and finding individuals who have pursued that career are becoming more and more rare. We are consistently looking for assistant project managers and project managers as we continue to grow. Howard Community College needs the space to grow their programs and to train students in Howard County that will support the growth and development of companies in and around the county.

As a business leader, my success is dependent on securing quality talent in and around Howard County, but I cannot do this alone. Howard Community College is offering an important solution that Howard County must support to ensure my business and many others not only survive but thrive.

Please support Howard Community College and its workforce development and skilled trades center. This building will be an economic driver for Howard County.

Sincerely,
Heather Rustici

Heather Rustici
Senior Vice President
Jeffrey Brown Contracting, LLC
400 E. Joppa Road, Suite 400 | Towson, MD 21286
O: 410.339.5733 | **M:** 443.632.6737
hrustici@jbc.bz | www.jbc.bz



Carranza, Amankaya

From: Scott Macdonald <scottmacdonaldswm2@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 23, 2023 8:00 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Letter of support: Howard Community College
Attachments: Howard Community College letter of endorsement 2023.pdf

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

See Letter of Support attached

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If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair. - Shirley Chisholm

Scott Macdonald
6 Bentley Station Court
Parkton, Maryland 21120
Scottmacdonaldswm2@gmail.com

Dear Councilmembers,

I am writing to express my support for Howard Community College and its plans for a workforce development and skilled trades center. As a Manufacturing Consultant in the greater Baltimore area, I know how critical this is building businesses.

Over the last few years, it has become increasingly difficult to find employees to fill the vacancies at businesses in and around the county. Retirements and lack of candidates to be trained by their existing employers has created critical shortages for manufacturers and services providers like HVAC installers and Industrial Electricians. Howard Community College needs the space to grow their programs and to train students right here in Howard County.

As a Maryland business leader and consultant to the industry, I see an immediate requirement in local training. The Community College is offering an important and real solution that Howard County must support to ensure my business and many others thrive in Howard County. Without this critical investment, economic activity and taxable activities could greatly diminish.

Please support Howard Community College and its workforce development and skilled trades center. This building can be a huge economic driver for Howard County.

Sincerely,

Scott Macdonald

Your Manufacturing Guru at Executive Products
Former CEO at Maryland Thermoform Corporation

Carranza, Amankaya

From: Adam Joss <AdamJoss@verticalconnection.com>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 2:00 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Writing In Support Of HCC Trade Center

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

Councilmembers-

I'm writing in support of the HCC Trade Center. The trades offer wonderful job and career opportunities. For too long, our country has emphasized 4-year degrees at the expense of trade schools. Now, industries are short skilled workers and most employers in the trades are desperately looking for workers. Trades people can make very nice livings and go on to build their own businesses.

The lack of tradespeople causes inflation, construction delays and other harm to our economy. Traditional 4-year universities are NOT for everyone. We need to respect, encourage and support people who pursue a career in the trades. They need access to good trade schools that will help them launch their career. That is why I'm writing in support of the HCC Trade Center.

Respectfully,
Adam Joss



Adam Joss

The Vertical Connection Carpet One

p: (410) 730-7423 x103

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e: AdamJoss@VerticalConnection.com

a: 8895 McGaw Rd | Columbia, MD 21045

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REVIEWS

Carranza, Amankaya

From: Stephanie Anderson <sanderson@haccmd.org>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 11:10 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support for a trade center at Howard Community College

[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 writing to express my support for Howard Community College and its plans for a workforce development and skilled trades center. As the college's first apprentice partner, I know how critical this building is. The number one issue the members of our organization face is not having enough people to do the needed job or that they have no ability to properly train their staff. We help provide the businesses in Howard County with students in our program that they can hire for their company. We then train and license the students in the HVAC trade.

We partner with the Community College to provide a 4 year HVAC apprentice program. The college did not have any space availability on campus for our students to have the required lab space. As a result the students enrolled in the program are forced to drive to our hands on facility on Liberty Road in Randallstown Maryland for this training. The residents of Howard County would be better served if they could just drive to campus in Howard County for this training.

Please support Howard Community College and its workforce development and skilled trades center. This building will be an economic driver for Howard County.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Anderson



Office Phone: (410)431-8889

sanderson@haccmd.org

P.O. Box 730, Severna Park, MD 21146

CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE www.haccmd.org Take a minute to sign into your account and check out the member features.

"LIKE" us on Facebook



Carranza, Amankaya

From: Ben Nichols <bnichols@harkinsbuilders.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 11:56 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: HCC Skilled Trades Center

[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 writing to express my support for Howard Community College and its plans for a workforce development and skilled trades center. As a local employer in Howard County, I know how critical this building is to my business and other local businesses like ours.

Over the last few years, it has become increasingly difficult for our Company and our construction trade partners to find qualified employees to fill skilled trades positions. With more Federal money coming down the line through the infrastructure bill and CHIPS Act and a major need for more affordable housing which will all translate into more construction projects, there is no time than the present to invest in ways that the County can grow its skilled trade workforce. HCC's proposal to build a skilled trades center is a step in the right direction to help Howard County develop its skilled trades workforce in order to support future construction efforts and provide well-paying jobs to its residents.

As business leaders, our success is dependent on securing quality talent in and around Howard County, but we cannot do this alone. Howard Community College is offering an important solution that Howard County must support to ensure our business and many others not only survive but thrive in Howard County.

Please support Howard Community College and its workforce development and skilled trades center. This building will be an economic driver for Howard County.

Sincerely,
Ben



BUILDING
EXCEPTIONAL

Commercial
Government
Multifamily

Ben Nichols
President

Harkins Builders, Inc
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bnichols@harkinsbuilders.com

Direct: 410-480-4013
Mobile: 443-690-0950
Office: 410-750-2600
Web: www.harkinsbuilders.com

Carranza, Amankaya

From: Homan, Elizabeth <ehoman@howardcc.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2023 10:55 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Capital Budget Testimony in Support of HCC from Lloyd Plumbing's Tom Albert
Attachments: TomAlbert_HoCo Budgetary Testimony_April 2023.docx; TomAlbert_HoCo Budgetary Testimony_April 2023.pdf

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

Dear Howard County Council,

Tom Albert, vice president of corporate operations at Lloyd Plumbing, testified on April 18 for the Howard Community College capital budget request. He did not have copies of his testimony to provide to the Councilmembers at the hearing. Attached, please find the Word document and PDF of his testimony for your records.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need further details.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth S. Homan
Executive Director, Public Relations and Marketing
Howard Community College
Ehoman@howardcc.edu
443-518-4073 (office)
443-537-8227 (cell)



Lloyd Plumbing Testimony HCC Workforce Development & Skilled Trades Center Testimony

Tom Albert; Vice President of Operations

April 18, 2023

Good evening, I am Tom Albert, a resident of Howard County in Ellicott City. I am currently the Vice President of Operations at Lloyd Plumbing Corporation, a Columbia-based commercial plumbing company that has been in operation for 24 years and supports 30 full-time employees. Our operational area includes portions of Maryland, Virginia, and Washington DC. Tonight, I am here in support of Howard Community College's capital budget request for a Workforce Development and Skilled Trades Center.

Like many in the tradecraft industry, Lloyd Plumbing is experiencing significant challenges in finding people to fill positions. For years we have tried online resume services such as Indeed, radio advertising, and more without good results. As a result, there is currently a deficit of skilled trades employees here and across the nation. It is now headed to a crisis with many employees approaching retirement age. For every 5 tradecraft people retiring now, there are only 2 replacements filling the roles, leaving businesses like ours without the employees we need to keep up with customer demand.

For the past year we established partnerships with the Howard County Public School Systems' Office of Career and Technical Education, and Howard Community College to explore what was possible. Apprenticeship programs are what we are now pursuing, and we are committed.

But even more is needed for the residents of Howard County. . . .

There needs to be a physical training facility dedicated to producing high quality tradecraft graduates to increase the number of tradecraft professionals in Howard County. There is no better place for this facility than Howard Community College. A skilled trades center would give the growing apprenticeship programs the prestige they warrant, provide the residents of Howard County the opportunity to enter a career path within their own county and graduate without incurring college debt, and serve as a beacon to residents who are searching for a new or different career but do not know which direction to go.

The Workforce Development and Skilled Trades Center is essential to the vitality of Howard County businesses that employ local residents, strive to hire Howard County residents, and contribute back to Howard County. We want to help Howard County's economy thrive, and a facility at Howard Community College dedicated to the tradecraft will help us all achieve that goal. Thank you for your time and attention.

Carranza, Amankaya

From: lindaleslie@verizon.net
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2023 9:49 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support Funding for HCC

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

Good evening,

I am reaching out tonight after listening to Monday's testimony before the council regarding the HCC operating budget. I was not aware of the details of the proposed budget, but I found the requests for a pay raise for HCC employees to be very moving. My younger child has been a student at HCC for three years and has shared with me on multiple occasions the fact that his professors are not adequately compensated for the work they do. It's clear to him as a student that they are teaching because of their love of teaching and not because they can make a decent living at it. In fact, as he thinks about his own career path, he has eliminated teaching at the college level based on what he has seen at HCC. How sad is that?

I will add that HCC has been a great experience for my child. He graduated from HCPSS in 2020 in the midst of the pandemic and after a somewhat rocky academic career. Now, after three years and with some great support from his underpaid HCC professors, he will be graduating and transferring to a four-year honors college. Many of his friends at school are benefitting from the innovative and supportive programs offered by the college, and could do even more with the visionary programming the college would like to implement in the future. We are so lucky to have this fantastic institution here in Howard County.

Thank you for your continued support of HCC.

Linda Leslie
District 4

From: [Muzlera-Mooney, Nanette](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#); [Rigby, Christiana](#); [Jones, Opel](#); [Yungmann, David](#); [Walsh, Elizabeth](#); [Jung, Deb](#); [Harris, Michael](#); [Royalty, Wendy](#); [Gelwicks, Colette](#); cwilliams@howardcountymd.org; cskainy@howardcountymd.org
Subject: Howard Community College's FY 24 Updated Proposed Operating Budget Posted
Date: Thursday, April 27, 2023 3:09:27 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

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

Dear County Council Members & Assistants

Howard Community College's Updated Proposed FY24 Operating Budget has been posted to <https://www.howardcc.edu/about-us/hcc-at-a-glance/plans-reports/>.

If you have any questions, you can reach Lynn Coleman, Vice President of Administration and Finance, at coleman@howardcc.edu or 443-518-4749.

-

Nanette E. Muzlera-Mooney

Executive Assistant to the Vice President of Administration & Finance
Howard Community College
McCuan Hall - MH-215
10901 Little Patuxent Parkway
Columbia, MD 21044

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