

Respass, Charity

From: Ed Lilley <ecrfpres@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 11, 2023 9:36 AM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Fred Dorsey
Subject: Council Bill 31

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

Council Members

I am writing to voice my support of Council Bill 31 relating to the Howard County Flag.

Ed Lilley
410-303-2959

From: [Pearl Atkinson-Stewart](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: CB31-2023 County flag
Date: Tuesday, June 27, 2023 3:16:45 PM

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

Dear Councilmembers

I was not living in Howard County to have input into the making of the first County flag. However I know that during that time segregation and the Ku Klux Klan were active in the County. I can safely think that no African American input was considered at that time.

I have lived here for 50 years and much has changed the social, political, and cultural landscape of the County. The flag should depict this magnificent growth. Other jurisdictions have changed their County flag to update the true journey today.

If we are progressive, we need our flag to stand for inclusion, civility, and equality. The present flag does not reflect that.

I suggest this legislation be tabled for more public comments including mine. I am particularly disturbed with the wording "permanent" in the legislation. Definitely Not.

I am confident the creative minds in Howard County can produce a more updated rendition of who we now.

Pearl Atkinson-Stewart
Sent from my iPad

From: [Wayne Davis](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: Testimony Regarding CB 31-2023
Date: Wednesday, June 28, 2023 9:46:09 AM

[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 writing to object to Council Bill No. 31-2023 regarding “AN ACT designating September 19 as Howard County Flag Day; and generally relating to the Howard County Flag.”

CB 31-2023 is a solution looking for a problem. But what is the problem this intends to address? Is it that Frederick County recently adopted a new flag and some don't want to revisit the Howard County flag? This bill wants to enshrine a symbol of the past from an era of the past, months before the County Charter adopted on November 5th, 1968.

This flag was solicited not by the people of Howard County, but by the Central Maryland News, a weekly paper that according to the Washington Post (1-19-1984), was founded as a conservative paper in 1964 after “the first all-Republican county commission in 100 years” were elected. “The time seemed ripe for a handful of wealthy and politically active Republicans to pool \$50,000 and start a weekly newspaper.”

As we learn more about this contest in which the flag was selected, many questions remain as to the purpose. Purpose and intent is important, especially in gaining the context of historical events. Yes, I love our local history and the research and documentation that leads to new truths, and “unlearning” the inaccurate stories told, like the situation with the “Thomas Isaac Log Cabin” on Main Street in historic EC.

None of this commentary should take away from the dedication of Jean Hannon who designed our flag in 1968, one of 6 entries she made. Ms. Hannon was well-known in Howard County as a preservationist and had a major role in designating the historic district of downtown Ellicott City. The flag she designed in 1968 was understandable and appreciated in those days. She, and those who selected the flag, perhaps wanted to remember the agricultural nature of the county before James Rouse and Columbia converted it to industrial lands.

Howard County was born on both an agricultural AND industrial past, both of which are widely acknowledged and celebrated. If we want a flag to celebrate both, the symbols used could be updated. The sheaf of wheat on the flags acknowledges the past but looks more like a garment with a belt, and the bizarre green outline of Howard County with a golden triangle on top somehow imagines the industrial future. Did Howard County become “industrial” with the arrival of Columbia? I don't think so, but maybe industrial settings permeate everything we do.

Perhaps a shout-out to our academic and scientific institutions would be more appropriate than to industry. Maybe our commercial and service industries could be recognized as our future, rather than industry.

Keep in mind that in 1968, there was a nationalist conflict as we were engulfed in the Viet- Nam war and Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert Kennedy were assassinated all leading a very violent summer, including the infamous Democratic National Convention in August, all of which preceded the local presentation of the flag to the all-white and all-male judges of the contest. Is this a flag or turmoil and protest of the “old guard” and keeps us pinned to the past, or should we do a long pause on this question and re-evaluate this proposal? Does this flag really identify Howard Countians, or just those of the past including the 3 County Commissioners, 2 circuit court judges, the superintendent of schools, one state senator and two delegates. But where were the citizens, the women, and people of color in adopting this flag? Just wondering.

Wayne Davis

9731 Early Spring Way
Columbia, MD 21046

From: marlena@hocoltr.org
To: [Respass, Charity](#)
Subject: Fwd: Written testimony regarding CB31-2023
Date: Thursday, June 29, 2023 11:24:45 AM
Attachments: [PDF for CB31 testimony Death of a Newspaper Direction CMN.pdf](#)
[CB31 testimony.pdf.pdf](#)

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

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Fwd: Written testimony regarding CB31-2023
Date: 2023-06-28 17:09
From: marlena@hocoltr.org
To: Councilmail@howardcountymd.gov

Greetings

I am resending this testimony that I emailed last week. I phoned about this yesterday, wondering why it hasn't appeared with the proposed legislation, and haven't received a response. Please attach this testimony along with the rest. Thanks.

Marlena Jareaux
Executive Director

----- Original Message -----

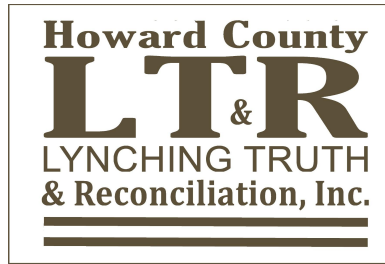
Subject: Written testimony regarding CB31-2023
Date: 2023-06-22 12:38
From: marlena@hocoltr.org
To: Councilmail@howardcountymd.gov

Dear Howard County Council members of the 5 districts,

Please see written testimony that will hopefully be attached to the ongoing discussion regarding CB31. I'm attaching testimony and a PDF that I couldn't find an easy way to append to the end of the lead document, though it is totally meant to be part of it as it is referenced within the lead document. Please see to it that it gets appended?

Thank you,

Marlena Jareaux
Executive Director



Howard County Lynching Truth & Reconciliation, Inc.

My name is Marlena Jareaux, and I'm the Executive Director of Howard County Lynching Truth & Reconciliation, Inc. We are one of the history nonprofits in the county, and it is my pleasure to have the opportunity to weigh in on CB31. Bear with me as I report some history.

Throughout our county's history, certain people who look like me (Black) didn't have the power to weigh-in on matters that affected them. Our county, formed by an act of the Maryland legislature in 1851, was done so by the request of the "constituents" who were able to get the ear of legislators about it and many things they wanted codified into law. I recently had reason to consult the constitutional debates that led to the creation of what was placed into the 1851 state constitution for voters, and their was a topic captioned as "Master and Slave" being discussed. The man who reported that "His desire was to insert a guarantee in the new Constitution upon slavery as it now existed in the State of Maryland, and, providing that it should not be changed by the Legislature." was asked by his colleague if the people he represented wanted it. His answer was that "He believed that there was no desire on the part of his constituents to interfere with the relation of master and slave as it now existed." This man represented Baltimore City, which at the time had the highest population of free Black and Mulatto people in the state and most if not all of the country. If "constituent" meant voters, then none of them were his constituents because the right to vote on matters leading to the creation of law was kept from anyone of color (regardless of land ownership and tax payment) until federal law forced the issue by the 15th amendment (our state specifically rejected it in 1870) and then the one enabling women to vote.

The 1968 Contest

It was reported in 1968 that a contest sponsored by a local newspaper called *Central Maryland News* (formed in 1963) had led to a new official flag for our county. A lot of things had been going on in the county that were resulting in rapid changes for everyone. Among them was the arrival of Columbia after years of fighting about it, and the resulting creation of New Town Zoning that was projected to bring 100k new people to the county. A small bit of relevant history:

*There was an intense fight in the mid 1960s involving the Planning Commission, the Howard County League of Women Voters and others to try to move the County Seat out of Ellicott City.

*Local desegregation of county schools had finally been achieved in the year 1965 after almost a decade of delay

*The three members of the local Board of County Commissioners (form of local government in existence since 1851) voted 2-1 to keep the county seat in EC, and then planned for the county government to move out of the circuit courthouse and into a new complex of government buildings to handle projected increase in citizen services due to projected population growth (reported in 1965 news).

*Two of the four new county government office buildings were built in 1967 (they were later renamed The Ligon Building and The Carroll Building in 1977 by then County Executive Edward Cochran after a committee's recommendation).

*In 1968, the local county commissioners were Charles E. Miller, Alva S. Baker, Jr and Harry T. Murphy. It got reported in a 1974 newspaper article (see attached) that Charles E. Miller owned shares in the *Central Maryland News*. I can't say for certain when they were purchased, and it was prior to the enactment of county financial disclosure laws. These are the people shown in the photo in the September 20, 1968 newspaper article entitled "Howard Gets Official County Flag: Winning Design Among 40 Entries Unfurled At Court House".

It isn't clear from the article which exact act made the flag our official flag. Was it at the conclusion of the judging which CB31 says was on June 6, 1968, or when the winning design was placed onto material and handed to the commissioners on Sept 19 and hoisted onto a flagpole and flown over the courthouse?

How the Flag Design Got to Commissioners

As for the process itself, which is important to examine for things done in the past with long-term effects today for the county, the article states that there were "...almost 40 entries" in the contest but that six entries had been submitted by the winner alone. This was the way that things were done back then, but I don't believe would be tolerated today for something with such significance. One entry per contestant is standard.

There's much that can be written about that local newspaper that sponsored the contest, but I'll let a newspaper article about its demise convey the message. Would that newspaper have been one entrusted to widely circulate news for county constituents that a new flag design was being solicited for the county? And I'm making the assumption that it was advertised, but don't really know. "Was it a government-sanctioned process?" is the question. "Was it a public process?" followed by "Involving which public?"

As for the contest judges, they were noted to have been:

*3 county commissioners, listed above

*the county reps in General Assembly (Sen. James Clark; Del. Hugh Burgess and Del. Edwin Warfield II)

*local school superintendent Yingling

*both county circuit court judges

Not one woman nor one minority contest judge.

CB31

The proposed legislation presently before this council seeks to enshrine into the county Code the mandatory obligation to have the County Executive issue an annual proclamation, put the flags up on all county buildings, and urge the people and businesses of the county to observe the date that the winning flag (of what appears to have been a private contest) was placed on a flagpole as one of the last vestiges of the outgoing form of government. The charter form of local government was adopted on November 5, 1968, which replaced the Board of County Commissioners with a County Executive and county council. The flag design contest etc were done in advance of the voters voting for charter government. That new government structure then passed legislation CB11 the next year in 1969, as noted in the county code. Was that the act that made the flag design the official Howard County flag?

Making mandatory obligations around September 19 part of the county code via CB31 compels us to only ever recognize that date and that specific flag that is associated with it. Is it an effort to make it harder to change the county flag like our neighbors in Frederick County just did to theirs this month? In my opinion, that's a little like what the man was doing in 1851 trying to make it that future legislators not be able to alter the way things have always been (in that case it was the relationship between Master and Slave). I'm all for history, but I'm also for balancing the recognition of history with change. When the current flag was designed, large parts of the county that now exist didn't. Exhibit A would be the entire village of River Hill, in which the attached will provide a visual story of what things were like back then. I'm sure very few would have been able to envision that the county would become what it is with downtown Columbia and Gateway development approaching. It's more than even Rouse envisioned.

To be clear, though I do have personal thoughts about the elements of the flag design, what I am objecting to is CB31 and what seems to be its goal to lock our county into taking annual special notice now and in the future of actions done by a select group of people in 1968 which will enshrine a specific flag design. My review of other Maryland jurisdictions shows NO ONE going to this extraordinary measure of codifying the date that their county flag first flew into their jurisdiction's code, and seeking to compel people annually take note of it. The date in 1851 that the county became a county isn't even treated that way here, nor the date the charter form of government was adopted. I'm all for history, but maybe we start with "Howard County Day" and "Charter Day" first before a flag? Our county's flag already flies at the George Howard building and is almost never taken down, and I'm sure that's not the only building. In addition, Flag Day on June 14 is a great time to do full on history about the country, state and county flags for those who desire.

Final bit of history to know: It wasn't until AFTER this stuff with the county flag design and our charter that the state of Maryland finally ratified the 15th amendment prohibiting states from denying or abridging a citizen's right to vote "on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude." That date was May 7, 1973.

Full disclosure: I'm co-chair of Public Facilities and Spaces Report Action & Evaluation Commission tasked by Executive Order to ascertain from the community what it thinks about names on public buildings etc. We intend to do so with a public engagement process to the best that our limited resources will allow, as soon as we receive documents from the Cochran time period that we requested a few months ago from the county. How the public was able to be (or not) involved in how our county is the way it is, is a topic of great interest to me personally and professionally. I have respect for the work and dedication of Jean Hannon though I never met her. She'd have certainly known how change and evolution goes hand-in-hand with history, as do I.

Marlena Jareaux
Executive Director

The history of the county flag is already provided on the county's website:
<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/county-symbols>

Preservation Maryland writeup on history of Maryland flag, which our flag has components of.
<https://www.preservationmaryland.org/history-maryland-flag/>

Secretary of State website: <https://sos.maryland.gov/pages/services/flag-history.aspx>



COLUMBIA

A Newsletter Published by Community Research & Development, Inc.

Winter, 1966

\$50 Million Financing Signed for Columbia



Three of the nation's major financial institutions are backing the development of Columbia with the largest sum ever advanced for the building of a new city.

Frazar B. Wilde, chairman of the board of Connecticut General Life Insurance Company; David Rockefeller, president of the Chase Manhattan Bank; and William C. Greenough, chairman and president of the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America, have announced that their companies are providing \$50 million in long-term mortgage notes to Community Research & Development, Inc., for the building of Columbia.

Connecticut General Life Insurance



RIVER HILL IN SECOND SEASON

River Hill Farm, the game preserve operated by Howard Research & Development Corporation, and located on Route 32 near Clarksville, has begun its second season stocked with 2750 pheasant, 1000 quail and 1300 ducks.

The 450-acre River Hill tract is open to the public from October 1 to March 31. It is easily reached from Baltimore and Washington by Route 29 to Route 32, then west on 32.

The hunting facilities accommodate up to 4 groups at a time, 3 hunters to a group. In accordance with a detailed plan produced by the Wildlife Management Institute, more than 200 feed and cover strips have been planted to provide 4 large hunting areas.

River Hill provides experienced guides and trained German shorthair pointers, English pointers, Brittany spaniels and Labrador retrievers. G. Laurence Moore, a member of Howard County's Agricultural Stabilization Committee, is preserve manager under John Shallcross, HRD's Director of Lands Management.

Present plans for Columbia include River Hill Farm's continuation as a shooting preserve, part of the city's recreation facilities.

For more information, a brochure and reservations, call John Shallcross at (301) 531-5133.



Top: Manager Larry Moore and assistant unload a shipment of ringnecks from Pennsylvania. Center: With his dog on the point, a River Hill hunter readies for a fast wing shot. Bottom: A pheasant rockets from cover as the hunter takes aim.

Property Tax Hike Predicted

By Ron Howell

The Howard county executive says the next fiscal year's budget will require a property tax increase, but will not contain any new positions funded with county dollars.

Edward L. Cochran, the executive, said yesterday he did not know now exactly what the tax increase would be, but he indicated an increase from the current rate of \$2.49 per \$100 assessed valuation is almost assured.

Mr. Cochran also said some positions in the classified service that have been vacant would be eliminated.

Any personnel increases in the county merit system would have to be supported with either federal or state funds, he has said.

Mr. Cochran also said the board of education, which receives substantial funding from the local government "ought to exer-

cise the same kind of restraint."

Mr. Cochran repeated the suggestion he made last week—that the school system should consider delaying the opening of at least one of two new high schools scheduled to open in the next school year.

He said deferring the opening of one high school could save almost \$500,000 in operating costs for a year.

The county executive's total budget request, including the recommended tax rate, is due to be presented to the County Council April 4.

Mr. Cochran also announced that each of four buildings in the new government complex in Ellicott City would be named in memory of former Maryland governors who resided in Howard county.

The county building which now houses the county executive's offices was named the John Lee Carroll building.

John Lee Carroll was the 37th governor

of Maryland and "a member of Howard county's first family," said a formal decree signed by the executive.

The Carroll Building previously was referred to simply as County Office Building One.

The annex which contains the health department offices was named the T. Watkins Ligon Building, after the 30th governor of the state. Governor Ligon's family home was located in the Dunloggin area, west of Ellicott City, the decree said.

Police headquarters was named the Edwin G. Warfield Building, in honor of the state's 45th governor and the "only native Howard county governor."

The building now referred to as County Office Building Two, which is not complete, will be called the George Howard Building. George Howard was Maryland's 22d governor and was the son of John Eager Howard, for whom the county was named.

Howard hesitant on how to sell Wavertree

The Sun (1837-); Feb 27, 1974; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Sun
pg. C7

Howard hesitant on how to sell Wavertree

Columbia Bureau of The Sun

The Howard county government wants to sell Wavertree, a 164-year-old historic home, as surplus property, but it is undecided whether to let the public bid on it or to accept an offer by a local newspaperman.

Omar J. Jones, the Howard county executive, said yesterday that "anybody who has a bonafide interest should have an opportunity to bid" on the federal-style home on a 5.4

acre parcel in the Glenelg area.

However, the executive has asked the county council "for guidance" on how to dispose of the landmark that was purchased in addition to 100 acres last year by the county Department of Parks and Recreation.

The county government decided to put Wavertree on the market, saying it could not justify spending the money to refurbish the building for county use.

Mr. Jones sent the council a

proposal by Robert E. Watson, editor and general manager of the Ellicott City-based *Central Maryland News*, who wants to rent the house for three years and then purchase it at a price that is "the average value of two appraisals."

The county executive says Wavertree and the 5.4 acres surrounding it contain an old graveyard and a swimming pool. He placed the value between \$60,000 and \$100,000.

The executive said that if the council approves Mr. Watson's

proposal "I would go along with it."

To date, 14 persons have written the local government letters, inquiring about Wavertree and asking if it will be put up for public sale.

According to Mr. Watson, an ardent supporter of historic preservation in the county, "it is in the public interest to dispose of Wavertree as quickly as possible to protect it from vandalism."

"I am the only one who has expressed a hard and fast offer. Under the law, Omar (Jones) could sell it outright to me. He is just afraid of criticism, so he has asked for council approval," he said.

Mr. Watson said he has signed agreements with three historic preservation groups regarding care for the building and grounds, pending any deal with the county government. He also said he will offer the county government the first option to buy back the property, if he decides to sell it.

The County Council reaction to Mr. Watson's offer is mixed so far. The legislative body is scheduled to vote on a resolution, regarding the leasing and sale of Wavertree at its March 4 session.

Ridgely Jones, the council chairman and a Democrat, said

he favored the sale of Wavertree to Mr. Watson because "he is someone who will take care of the property." However, Councilman Jones said he found the practice of "no public bidding on county property a little questionable, and should not be practiced in most cases."

Councilman William S. Hanna, a Democrat, said protective covenants should be placed on the property and it should be subject to public auction. Councilman Charles E. Miller, a Republican who owns stock in the *Central Maryland News*, said he was opposed to Mr. Watson's purchase offer, saying "I favor bids" on Wavertree. However, he said "I see no harm in leasing the property temporarily."

Councilman James M. Holway, a Republican, said the way the property is sold is "up to the executive." Councilman Edward L. Cochran was out of town and could not be reached for comment.

Wavertree, according to Mr. Watson, now "is in dire need of repairs, with a cedar shake roof that needs replacing immediately, joists which have long since rotted (the floors being supported by jacks), broken shutters and peeling paint."



By Vanessa Barnes Hillian—The Washington Post
Louise Hawkins holds the first issue of her paper, then called the Central Maryland News.

Death of a Newspaper

Direction, Demographics Hurt Howard News

By R. H. Melton
Washington Post Staff Writer

It was an underdog from the beginning, an unabashedly Republican newspaper launched in 1963 in a market that was thoroughly Democratic. The final irony came last month when the small, once-feisty tabloid in Ellicott City, Md., died so abruptly that those who published it never had a chance to write its obituary.

The Howard County News is bankrupt, with unusually large debts for so small a weekly newspaper. A footnote in the checkered annals of Maryland journalism, the News owed its demise as much to Howard's rapid demographic changes as to its unstable management, its last publisher said.

"It's a sad thing for Howard County, really," said Louise E. Hawkins, an Easton, Md., resident in her 50s who worked for nine years at the News, briefly as its first editor (when the paper was called The Central Maryland News) and later as its publisher. "It's always sad when a newspaper folds. It means one less voice to serve the people."

These are uncertain times for weekly newspapers in Maryland, particularly in the suburbs of Baltimore and Washington, some newspaper industry analysts say.

The American Newspaper Publishers Association reports that in 1973, Maryland readers sup-
See PUBLISHER, Page 9, Col. 1

Howard News Succumbs to Direction, Demographic Problems

PUBLISHER, From Page 1

ported 71 weekly and 13 daily newspapers. Today, the number of Maryland-based dailies has risen to 17, while the number of weeklies has dipped to 62, an ANPA spokesman said.

Another recent newspaper casualty was The South Carroll Herald, whose readership declined from 3,400 in 1979 to 2,400 last year.

Publisher Edward E. Beeler, whose company also printed The Howard County News, said that "one reason the Herald folded was that most newcomers to Carroll County, Howard's neighbor to the north, "have not developed strong roots" in the county.

The forces that make running a suburban weekly risky—reader loyalty to the major dailies in Baltimore and Washington, the public's reliance on television news, rising production costs and shrinking advertising revenue—also accounted for the death of The Howard County News, former News employes said. The paper had only slightly more than 4,400 mail subscribers when it folded.

But there are other reasons, changes

unique to Howard, that brought down what was once the county's newspaper of record, Hawkins and several county residents said.

"In its heyday, the News set the tone for the county. It was what you read to find out what was happening politically," said S. Zeke Orlinsky, publisher of two newspapers in Howard and five near Baltimore that have a combined circulation of about 115,000.

In the early 1960s, Howard was still a largely rural county and was so conservative that voters in 1962 elected the first all-Republican county commission in 100 years. The time seemed ripe for a handful of wealthy and politically active Republicans to pool \$50,000 and start a weekly newspaper.

The first issue of the News appeared on Nov. 7, 1963. It was pure Howard, featuring a front-page story on Columbia founder James W. Rouse, "a small-town boy from Easton" who had snatched up thousands of acres for his new town.

The front page also featured—under a photograph of the historic county courthouse in Ellicott City—a note by the News' founders, who promised to "fearlessly expose what is bad and promptly commend what is good through presentation of the truth."

On most issues, the founders added, the paper would invariably side with conservatives, whose viewpoint "is noticeably lacking" in newspapers serving central Maryland.

"The time was right for a paper with a conservative flavor, and we definitely had that," recalled Hawkins, a longtime Howard resident. "All we had to do was seize the opportunity."

The strongest local competition then was the moribund Times in Ellicott City. Also, it was evident that the ambitious sweep of Rouse's planned development would add thousands of residents—and potential News readers.

The News was at its best in those early years, some readers and former News employes said in recent interviews. There was an exposé on substandard housing in Ellicott City that prompted Howard officials to finance public housing with county funds, and the paper ran a piquant report on marijuana use by concert-goers at Merriweather Post Pavilion.

There was a story that tweaked competitor Orlinsky and local business leaders, about a coal stock deal that turned sour. The

Maryland-Delaware Press Association rewarded the News with several prizes for community service, news reporting, design and sports photography, Hawkins said.

But the tide turned in the early 1970s, when advertising slumped and readers found opinion creeping into news stories. Editors came and went in rapid succession—as did the opportunity for stable management, Hawkins said.

"We didn't have our act together; we didn't have stability," said Hawkins, who has worked for several newspapers, including the University of Maryland Diamondback in the 1940s. There was also an increasing number of "apartment dwellers in Columbia . . . and others who just wouldn't take any paper," Hawkins said.

Most hurtful was what Hawkins described as a "conscious boycott" by Columbia businessmen. "We suffered from a feeling of resentment," she said. "People just weren't going to advertise in a Republican paper." Once, in an editorial, the News urged its readers to boycott the giant Columbia Mall; the suggestion enraged several merchants, one Howard businessman said.

Orlinsky, whose Columbia Flier came to

dominate the new town and environs (its circulation now stands at 25,000), said his newspaper was also boycotted by advertisers because of his frequent attacks on Rouse's development plans.

"The Flier got over that . . . because we tried to represent the whole cross section of Columbia," Orlinsky said. He added: "The county left the News behind because the News chose to stay behind."

The News kept on printing, though, right up to its final issue—20 years and 23 days after its first. At the end, the tabloid still reflected Howard—its final front page included stories about upcoming Christmas celebrations, a major ammonia leak, a long-awaited biker-hiker bridge in Columbia and a massive rezoning effort to reclassify "every square foot" of Howard County.

Hawkins, who is now publishing an entertainment tabloid for Eastern Shore communities, seemed philosophic about the death of The Howard County News. "It was good for people in Howard to have competing papers," Hawkins said. "We got our viewpoint across and did have the opportunity to grow.

"But we could never get over the hump. We never seized the opportunity."

Respass, Charity

From: joel hurewitz <joelhurewitz@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 2, 2023 6:50 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: dhenn@comcast.net; pastewart4@gmail.com; Wayne Davis; marlena@hocoltr.org
Subject: CB31-2023 - Oppose Howard County Flag Day

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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

Dear Councilmembers,

I write to express my opposition to CB31 to establish September 19 as Howard County Flag Day.

Notably, the legislation, as enumerated in the Whereas preamble, seeks only to honor the history of the county flag from the events of 1968 without acknowledging all of the historic, racial, and religious symbolism of the Maryland flag from which it was principally derived.

The bill requires the annual proclamation to "take any other steps to celebrate Howard County's flag and history." Howard County Code Section 22.100 (c)(3). Be careful what you wish for; the history of the red and white bottony cross is not necessarily one many in Howard County, if they really knew the symbolism, would choose to celebrate.

To begin, it is ironic that while the county prides itself on its cultural and religious diversity, including prohibiting meetings on certain Jewish and Muslim holidays (See e.g. Howard County Code Section 6.305(b)), the flag is principally a bottony cross which historically symbolizes the Christian doctrine of the trinity.

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cross-Bottony-Heraldry.svg>

<https://historicjamestowne.org/collections/artifacts/latin-cross-bottony-crucifix/>

<https://study.com/academy/lesson/trefoil-in-architecture-definition-design.html#:~:text=A%20trefoil%20is%20a%20pattern%20of%20three%20interlocking%20circles%2C%20popularly,Son%2C%20and%20Holy%20Spirit>

Additionally, the red and white colors and the bottony cross have a history of secessionist and Confederate symbolism. While Pearl Atkinson-Stewart expressed opposition to the current flag design and wrote about diversity and inclusion, her testimony failed to discuss the symbolism in the flag.

Several online articles discuss the history of the State flag; Preservation Maryland says in part:

When the Civil War broke out and martial law was declared in Maryland, Confederate sympathizers and soldiers adopted the Crossland colors and bottony cross as a way to signify their home state while simultaneously distinguishing themselves from Unionist Marylanders, who used the Calvert colors.

ACCORDING TO THE MARYLAND STATE WEBSITE:

“Following Lincoln’s election in 1861, red and white “secession colors” appeared on everything from yarn stockings and cravats to children’s clothing. People displaying these red-and-white symbols of resistance to the Union and to Lincoln’s policies were vigorously prosecuted by Federal authorities.”

During Reconstruction, the state government sought a way to integrate Confederate soldiers into a state which had remained in the Union. The original designer and origin are unknown, but around the 1880s, the current design of the Maryland flag began appearing at events, including a parade celebrating the 150th anniversary of the founding of Baltimore. The four alternating quadrants came to symbolize unity and reconciliation in the post-war years.

https://www.preservationmaryland.org/history-maryland-flag/?fbclid=IwAR1seARnzmNugidUyDwtyVw7I3z_JkCNI1MJCW-TNRhs8fE1yX2t38F6L68

The full Maryland Secretary of State's "History of the Maryland Flag" is here:

<https://sos.maryland.gov/Pages/Services/Flag-History.aspx#:~:text=In%201945%2C%20a%20gold%20cross.a%20symbol%20of%20state%20sovereignty>.

Another discussion of the history of the State flag is "Raising a Controversy, Marylanders love their unique flag. But do they know its association with the Confederate cause?" Ron Cassie, March

2018, <https://www.baltimoremagazine.com/section/historypolitics/does-the-maryland-state-flag-have-ties-to-the-confederate-cause/>

Dawn Henninger's post on the Howard County Citizen Association's Listserv properly framed the symbolism of the red and white bottony cross of the county flag without the unification of the Calvert colors which are part of the State flag:

Thank you to Joel Hurewitz for providing the link to the history of the Maryland flag - I was unaware of it. When I read the entire history found at that link, it struck me that there is an arc to the meaning of the red-and-white Crossland arms over a period of time that included it being considered a symbol of unification of the citizens of Maryland after the divisions of the Civil War. So perhaps on the state flag, there is more to the meaning than it being only a symbol identified with the Confederacy.

That said, the Howard County flag contains only that part of the Maryland flag, so it misses the unification that is symbolized when combined with the yellow and black Calvert family colors. Not only is it the only part of the Maryland flag included on the county flag, it is an extremely prominent part of the county flag. As a matter of personal taste, I also don't find the current county flag attractive, meaningful or inspiring.

I'd add my vote to those who think it is time to imagine a new county flag. I certainly wouldn't be in favor of a flag day honoring the flag as it currently exists.

Dawn Henninger, HCCA Listserv, June 4, 2023.

Furthermore, with this history and symbolism, Amendment 1 is further problematic. It could have the unintended result of dragging the school system into a debate over the flag; Carroll and Anne Arundel have had their own flag controversies.

<https://www.concernedparentsofccmd.com/2023/06/29/citizen-commentary-one-year-after-carroll-passes-school-flag-policy-anne-arundel-looks-to-do-the-same/> HCPSS has currently has enough divisive issues, including the new busing policy, and does not need another unnecessary one.

Finally, as Marlena Jareaux opined in her Council testimony, why is the county to celebrate the history of the flag but not the dates that the county was formed or when the Charter was adopted?

For these reasons, I urge a **NO** vote on CB31-2023.

Sincerely,

Joel Hurewitz
Columbia, MD