

Good Evening Council Members,

My name is Ryan Powers from Glenwood. I'm speaking today as an individual asking for CR214-2025 to be tabled.

It is often hard to speak on a person's qualifications when there is no resume to view. However, anyone who watches Council and other committee's public hearings would know Ms. Duvall is a committed housing advocate, and serves as the Director of the Columbia Housing Center.

I believe Ms. Duvall is certainly qualified but would ask that she consult the Howard County Ethics commission before approval because of her job as director of the Columbia Housing Center. According to its website, The Howard County Housing Commission collaborates with the Columbia Housing Center in their Voucher to Keys program. Furthermore, with the creation of Howard Connect, a non-profit arm of the Howard County Housing Commission with less public oversight, I think this is essential since part of their Howard Connect's mission is "providing supportive services referrals for families and seniors to local nonprofits and government agencies" Even though both the Housing Commission and the Columbia Housing Center are nonprofits, there is a financial conflict of interest if Ms. Duvall is making decisions that involve both.

I don't want to single out one person and I'm not against this appointment. The public doesn't get any information about appointees, and I think all appointees on boards and commissions should fill out a conflict of interest form that is made available to the public. I believe potential board members should consult the Ethics Commission when there is any conflict of interest.

Again, I am simply asking the Council to table this appointment until Ms. Duvall consults the Ethics Commission for an advisory opinion on her possible dual roles.

Thank you,

Ryan Powers