

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2015 Legislative Session

Legislative day # 7

RESOLUTION NO. 89 - 2015

Introduced by: Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Ivan R. Betancourt to the Human Rights Commission.

Introduced and read first time on June 1, 2015.

By order

Jessica Feldmark
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council

Read for a second time and a public hearing held on June 15, 2015.

By order

Jessica Feldmark
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council

Tabled July 6, 2015
This Resolution was read the third time and was Adopted ☒, Adopted with amendments __, Failed __, Withdrawn __ by the County Council on September 8 2015.

Certified by

Jessica Feldmark
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing language; TEXT IN SMALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing language. ~~Strike out~~ indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment.

1 **WHEREAS**, Section 404 of the Howard County Charter and Section 6.300 of the Howard
2 County Code provide for the County Executive to appoint and for the County Council to confirm
3 nominees to Howard County Boards and Commissions created by law; and

4 **WHEREAS**, Sections 6.326 and 12.202 of the Howard County Code provide for a Human
5 Rights Commission in Howard County; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the County Executive has proposed the appointment of Ivan R. Betancourt as a
7 member of the Human Rights Commission; and

8 **WHEREAS**, the County Council ratifies the County Executive's special trust and confidence
9 in the abilities of the nominee.

10 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the County Council of Howard County,
11 Maryland this 8th day of September, 2015 that the following person is appointed as a
12 member of the Human Rights Commission to serve from the passage of this Resolution to March 1,
13 2020 or until a successor is appointed and confirmed:

14 Ivan R. Betancourt

15 Mt. Airy, MD

Nominations battle reveals county tension

Council members table Kittleman's appointments of Garber, Betancourt

BY AMANDA YEAGER
ayeager@tribune.com

The Howard County Council voted to approve dozens of appointments and some high-profile bills Monday night, in its last legislative session before the council's summer recess.

But perhaps even more significant were the votes they didn't take.

In an apparent rebuke to County Executive Allan Kittleman, a majority of the council voted to delay making decisions on two nominations, one of which has generated controversy over the past month.

Council members tabled the appointments of Susan Garber, a community activist who had been nominated for the Planning Board; and Ivan Betancourt, a volunteer firefighter who was nominated for the Human Rights Commission.

Once tabled, approval for an appointment can be delayed indefinitely.

The nomination process has become the focal point for political tensions between Kittleman, a Republican, and the Democrat-dominated council.

Late last week, the county executive

made an unusual public appeal to supporters on his campaign website, kittleman.com, when he launched a petition calling on the council to take an up or down vote on Garber's appointment, rather than tabling it.

"Susan will be a terrific addition to the planning board," the petition, posted to the site on Friday, says. "She is as well qualified - or more qualified - than other Planning Board appointees. She has the support of many in the community."

Meanwhile, the council's Democrats have been trying to expand the checklist of information the county executive provides when presenting his nominations.

Last month, council members - though Republican Councilman Greg Fox said he was not consulted - sent a letter to the administration requesting that Kittleman provide a list of qualifications for each person he nominates for a board or commission. They also asked for Kittleman to specify whether his appointee would replace a current or former board member, and to give a rationale for why that person was being replaced.

"Our boards and commission members put a lot of time into serving the community," Councilwoman Jen Terrasa, a Democrat, said Monday night. "It's part of our duty to find out what's going on with those. I'm not comfortable just replacing them" without more informa-

'It seems that the council is starting to use Washington-style politics here in Howard County'

Allan Kittleman
Howard County Executive

tion.

"I would say it's a good thing to be transparent and open," Councilman Calvin Ball, also a Democrat, said. "If the administration feels the appointees they're nominating would be better, can't we just have that conversation?"

Kittleman has pointed out that no other Howard County executive has been asked to justify his or her appointments as thoroughly.

"It seems that the council is starting to use Washington-style politics here in Howard County," he said Monday, before the vote.

Fox also accused his Democratic colleagues of playing politics.

"The biggest questions are, are people qualified for the role?" he said. "Whether they want to stay or not, this is the prerogative of the county executive... who they're replacing is irrelevant."

Garber, the president of the Savage

Community Association and a citizen activist who has spoken up on multiple land-use and zoning matters, was nominated for the Planning Board in April. If confirmed, she would replace current member Josh Tzucker, whose term expired at the end of May.

Her appointment has generated controversy in the community based on some of the positions she's taken on development, such as opposing efficiency apartments for the homeless on Guilford Road - she says she would rather see housing for the homeless spread throughout the community - and for a letter she wrote last summer, in which she accused the local teachers union of being "greedy" and "manipulative" during the contract negotiation process.

Betancourt's nomination has not received the same level of attention, but Ball said Monday he had heard the volunteer firefighter would be replacing current Human Rights Commission Chairwoman Genevieve Walker-Lightfoot.

The Human Rights Commission was the subject of tense battles between the council and Kittleman's administration earlier this year, after commission members pushed back against a recommendation from the county executive's transition team to look at shifting most of their adjudicatory role to an independent hearing examiner.



FILE PHOTO

Councilman Calvin Ball was lauded for his nutrition bill by Horizon Foundation's CEO.

Nutritional standards approved

Councilman's bill focuses on eliminating junk food in 'youth-oriented' areas

BY AMANDA YEAGER
ayeager@tribune.com

The council also voted Monday to approve a bill proposed by Councilman Calvin Ball that would create a set of nutritional standards for vending machines on county property.

The bill revives some of the health guidelines created by former County Executive Ken Ulman's 2012 executive order, which caused a stir last summer among vendors who chafed at government restrictions on the food and drinks they could serve at county-sponsored events. Kittleman repealed the order as his first act in office.

Ball's bill offers more exemptions and focuses on eliminating junk food in "youth-oriented" areas. The final bill passed Monday night, by a 4-1 vote - Fox opposed the legislation - was stripped of some of its more controversial requirements, such as regulations on concessions stands and a requirement to provide water free of charge at all county events.

That wasn't enough for a soft drink industry representative, who said the bill would actually "limit healthy choices" by making it harder to sell some comparatively lower calorie options, such as Vitamin water and Honest Tea, in the county's vending machines.

"The council has now made themselves the arbiter of picking and choosing what they feel is a healthy beverage and what is not," she said.

Fox concurred. "There continues to be significant problems with this bill and I think a lot of them will be more apparent

over the coming days," he said.

Public health advocates and several community groups celebrated the legislation's passage.

"Howard County Government has long been a leader in promoting public health, and this legislation continues in that proud tradition," Nicolette Highsmith Vernick, the president and CEO of public health nonprofit Horizon Foundation, which worked with Ball on the legislation, said in a statement. "Residents, visitors and employees will now have a full range of healthy food and drink choices available on Howard County Government property, and that is a win for us all."

Also Monday night, the council decided to table a ban on vaping indoors proposed by Councilman Jon Weinstein. Weinstein, a Democrat, said he wanted more time to work out definitions in the bill in collaboration with Fox.

Ivan R. Betancourt

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Objective:

Seasoned Professional seeking opportunity to contribute my vast knowledge and experience in multiple accounting principles in a dynamic organization with the opportunity for growth and advancement.

Professional Profile:

- ❖ More than ten years of management experience
- ❖ Well-rounded, results driven accounting professional with multiple years of experience,
- ❖ Team player, quick learner, detail oriented and is comfortable with demanding deadlines and fast-paced environments
- ❖ Full range of accounting skills; AR/AP/PR/GL through month end financials
- ❖ Excellent interpersonal and organizational skills
- ❖ Proficient in multiple programs including; Word, Excel, WordPerfect, QuattroPro, PowerPoint, Accounting software such as DacEasy, Peachtree, Quick Books, and other office programs. 10-key proficient.
- ❖ Able to manage people, inventory, and operate heavy equipment and machinery
- ❖ Bilingual (English-Spanish)
- ❖ Very trustworthy, dependable, and safety-conscious

Professional experience:

Accounting Department Supervisor Carday Associates, Inc., Columbia, MD June 2012 – present,

- ❖ Manage staff of fourteen including hiring, terminating, disciplinary actions and evaluations of all department employees
- ❖ Oversee all accounting activities which included but was not limited to: AR/AP/PR/GL, Reconciliation of bank and investment statements
- ❖ Process payroll for the staff
- ❖ Delegate new tasks and duties to staff
- ❖ Communicate with staff verbally and in writing
- ❖ Assure that staff questions on policies and procedures are resolved to ensure their compliance with federal, state and client regulations and assure proper segregation of duties in accordance to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles(GAAP)
- ❖ Review the staff's reports for accuracy and reviewed any outgoing correspondence
- ❖ Complete month-end balancing of receivables against the GL entries for all clients
- ❖ Communicate with outside professionals and vendors with regard to audits and yearly reports

- ❖ Complete and timely filed Federal and State tax returns including 940's, 941's, 944's, 945's, 1099's and 1096's, W-2's and W-3's
- ❖ Direct involvement in developing financial report for all clients
- ❖ Other duties in order to complete the task needed and produce a quality final product

Accounting Clerk Carday Associates, Columbia, Maryland March 2009- June 2012

- ❖ Maintained and post cashbook for all transactions
- ❖ Maintained multi client journals
- ❖ Prepared financial statements to be reviewed by Executives
- ❖ Ascertained discrepancies and initiate corrective actions
- ❖ Direct interaction with executives and clients
- ❖ Processed electronic federal and multiple states tax payments

Metal Fabricator Ross Metal Products Inc., Westminster, Maryland Sept. 1995 –Jan. 2009

- ❖ Fabricate sheet metal parts from blue prints or CAD drawings for a variety of industries such as: machinery, computers, medical equipment, sound systems, and others.
- ❖ Operate heavy machinery and equipment

First Assistant Manager The Pep Boys Inc., Langley Park, Maryland May 1994 - Sept.1995

- ❖ Managed inventory control, payroll, and other bookkeeping duties for US\$4.5 million annual revenue retail store.
- ❖ Supervised and managed 40-person sales and service staff.
- ❖ Managed all aspects of customer service issues such as questions, recommendations, claims, and complaints.

Community Service:

Commissioner, Governors Commission on Hispanic Affairs Oct. 2003 –2007

- ❖ Served in the advisory body to the Governor, the Maryland General Assembly, and agencies within the Executive Department on matters relating to the Hispanic population of Maryland
- ❖ Worked with the Hispanic population of Maryland, community leaders, private groups, and agencies of the Federal, State and local governments for the purpose of serving and representing, in the coordination of programs and services on matters that affects the health, safety and welfare of the Maryland Hispanic community.
- ❖ Reviewed, evaluate and made recommendations on any proposed Federal, State, of local legislation, regulation, policies, or programs that affect the health, safety and welfare of the Maryland Hispanic community.

Volunteer Firefighter/EMT-B Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue
Columbia, Maryland

1995 - Present

Certification Received several certifications such as:

- ❖ Certified to hold rank of Lieutenant
- ❖ Emergency Medical Technician-B
- ❖ Managing a Volunteer Department as a Business
- ❖ Pro Board Firefighter I & II
- ❖ Pro Board Fire Officer I
- ❖ Pro Board Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operation Tech

Education:

Associates degree on Accounting

2009-2011 University of Phoenix Columbia, Maryland

1996 Maryland High School Diploma Howard Community College Adult Education, Columbia, Maryland

1982-1985 High School Paint Branch High School, Burtonsville, Maryland

Awards and Recognition:

Letters of recognition:

- ❖ Outstanding Customer Service
Mr. Mitchell G. Lebovitz, Chairman of the Board and CEO, The Pep Boys Corporation.
- ❖ Commitment to Community Outreach in Fire Prevention
Mr. James E Heller Director of Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue

Citations:

- ❖ Recognition of Service to The State of Maryland
Governor Bob Ehrlich of the State of Maryland, January 2007
- ❖ Recognition of Community Activism
The State of Maryland General Assembly, January 2006

References:

Available upon request.