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# Howard County

## Internal Memorandum

**To:** Lonnie Robbins, Chief Administrative Officer

**From:** David Lee, Director of Constituent Services and Community Partnerships 

**Re:** CB35-2016 and CB36-2016

**Date:** June 2, 2016

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The Administration has filed legislation creating two new Howard County commissions – the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission (CB35) and the Commission for Transitioning Students with Disabilities (CB36). The County Executive is taking this action because he values the mission and role of both Commissions, and firmly believes that their work should continue on a permanent basis.

Originally created by Council Resolution in 1985, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission has been re-authorized each year by Executive Order.

The Transition Council for Youth with Disabilities was created by Executive Order in 2013 and re-authorized by Executive Order in 2014.

According to the Howard County Code, boards and commissions established by Executive Order are meant to be temporary, typically do not exceed 18 months in term, and cease to exist at the expiration of the Executive Order.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission encourages and coordinates appropriate ceremonies and activities of service throughout Howard County in observance of the holiday honoring the birthday of civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr. Each year, the Commission recognizes outstanding essays written by middle- and high-school students reflecting on the impact of Dr. King. The Commission also organizes service opportunities and encourages participation in a Day of Service on the holiday observing Dr. King's birthday.

The Commission for Transitioning Students with Disabilities will establish an effective, efficient, and comprehensive delivery of services that will help meet the needs of Howard County students with disabilities as they transition from high school to post-secondary education and employment. The Commission will examine current practices and make recommendations to improve outcomes for students with disabilities. The Commission will also help foster greater collaboration between business, academic, non-profit and public sectors to engage in successful initiatives like Project SEARCH, an internship program designed to immerse students with disabilities in a work environment and provide important job skills.