



# Howard County

## *Internal Memorandum*

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**Subject:** Administrative testimony on Council Resolution No. 108-2016

**To:** Lonnie R. Robbins  
Chief Administrative Officer

**From:** Ryan Miller,  
Director of the Office of Emergency Management

**Date:** September 6, 2016

I am in support of Council Resolution No. 108-2016, which would extend the Declaration of Emergency declared by Howard County Executive Allan Kittleman on July 30, 2016, through Executive Order 2016-05. The Declaration of Emergency was extended through September 7, 2016 by passage of Council Bill No. 57-2016. CR 108 would extend the Declaration of Emergency a second time through September 20, 2016.

As you know, the County Code provides certain emergency powers to the County Executive during a state of emergency, such as controlling vehicular and pedestrian traffic, closing off streets, designating zones where use and occupancy of buildings can be restricted, to name a few. By declaring an emergency and implementing the emergency powers, the County Executive has allowed response personnel to focus on dealing with the emergency by closing off the streets to all traffic. This allows response crews to have unrestricted access to take in necessary equipment and perform necessary tasks, such as inspecting buildings, and repairing essential public infrastructure such as water mains and gas lines.

The extension contemplated under CR 108 is important because public works projects including sidewalks, roadways, retaining walls and other critical infrastructure projects will

continue beyond September 7, 2016. These projects are being performed by a multitude of agencies and for the health, safety and welfare of the public, it is important that these projects are completed in a safe manner.

We are making every attempt to complete our work by September 16, 2016. However, we seek a few extra days to account for bad weather or other unforeseen issues arising as we aim for our goal of completion by September 16, 2016. For example, may encounter void spaces or significant obstructions as we make repairs. Extending the Declaration of Emergency until September 20, 2016 incorporates the Council's already-scheduled emergency legislative session on September 19, 2016 and would allow us time to account for the unknown as we engage in the complicated task of rebuilding.