



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 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 want 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, painted

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."