

County Executive Holds FY2012 Budget Hearing - March 16

If you would like to comment or testify regarding the FY2012 Budget, please provide the information requested on the home page of Howard County Government (www.howardcountymd.gov). Be sure to check the box if you plan on testifying in person at the next County Executive Budget Hearing, Wednesday, March 16, 2011 at 7:30 pm in the Banneker Room of the George Howard Building located at 3430 Courthouse Drive, Ellicott City, MD. If your registration is successful you will receive a confirmation number. You may also submit written testimony on this form. Please contact the Howard County Office of Budget should you have questions or problems at 410-313-2077.

CB 5 – Office of Transportation

The County Council has approved CB 5 with the ACS requested amendments to include a planning function in the Office of Transportation.

County supports Lorraine Sheehan Dime A Drink Bill

Please take a moment and send County Executive Ulman an email thanking him for supporting the Lorraine Sheehan Dime A Drink Bill. The County's statement Howard County's Health Officer Director Peter Beilenson before the Maryland House of Delegates Ways and Means Committee on March 3, 2011 follows:

In support of HB 121 / SB 168: The Lorraine Sheehan Health and Community Services Act of 2011

Madam Chair, Members of the Committee, I am pleased to join the chorus of public health advocates from around the state in support of the Lorraine Sheehan "Dime a Drink" bill before your Committee today. The scientific evidence is quite clear – raising the alcohol tax will save lives, prevent violence, and help reduce alcohol-related medical costs for the state. When it comes to public health, raising the alcohol tax, by itself, is a "no-brainer."

By dedicating any revenue raised to expanding health care services, mental health services, substance abuse treatment, tobacco prevention and cessation, and developmental disability support services, you will greatly amplify the public health impact of this bill and help Maryland families weather some of the greatest health challenges of this age.

For these reasons, Howard County Executive Ken Ulman and I both support HB 121/SB 168 and urge the Committee to give it a favorable report.