

County Councilman David Marks Fifth District Newsletter

Contact our Office:
Historic Courthouse
400 Washington Avenue
Towson, MD 21204
(410) 887-3384
council5@baltimorecountymd.gov



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MESSAGE FROM COUNCILMAN MARKS: **A CHALLENGING MONTH FOR BALTIMORE COUNTY**

June was a tumultuous, difficult month for Baltimore County—first, the death of County Executive Kevin Kamenetz, and then the murder of Police Officer Amy Sorrells Caprio in Perry Hall.

The death of County Executive Kevin Kamenetz.

The late County Executive dedicated nearly 24 years of his life to public service, and I extend my deepest sympathies to his family.

In the days after his death, I supported a public input process as the County Council considered his interim replacement. I favored a caretaker who was not a candidate for the office in the November elections—the overwhelming consensus shared by constituents who contacted me. The county charter required that the successor be a Democrat—an official of the same political party as Mr. Kamenetz. For that reason, I supported a consensus choice who can work with both Republicans and Democrats on the Council—Don Mohler, a retired educator with broad experience in county government.



The murder of Baltimore County Police Officer Amy Sorrells Caprio. On behalf of so many in the Perry Hall community, I want to thank our law enforcement officials for their swift response on May 21st, and our educators who sheltered more than 2,000 students at our local schools. I also want to thank our community for its outpouring of love and support.

Our prayers are with Officer Caprio's family. We stand united in our grief and our hope to bring those who committed this crime to justice.

COUNCIL APPROVES BILL TO IMPROVE OVERSIGHT OF SETTLEMENTS

The County Council has passed Bill 31-18, legislation sponsored by Councilman Marks that would increase public scrutiny of settlements negotiated by the County Executive. Bill 31-18 requires the County Attorney to file an annual report on these settlements, and allows the Council to vote on settlements that require a major expenditure of taxpayer money. Previously, secret settlements—such as [the one negotiated on affordable housing](#)—were completed with very little public input.

COUNTY COUNCIL PASSES FISCAL YEAR 2019 BUDGET

The Fiscal Year 2019 budget includes funding for several initiatives in central and northeastern Baltimore County. The budget:

- [Completes construction of Honeygo Elementary School in Perry Hall](#), advances two new schools in northeastern Baltimore County, and includes design money for a new Towson High School;
- Finishes infrastructure projects that are critically-important as the county deals with an aging pipes and water main leaks;
- [Funds drainage improvements in Stoneleigh](#); and
- Advances two new parks in the Towson area—Radebaugh Neighborhood Park and Patriot Plaza.

Councilman Marks joined with his Republican colleagues to support \$21 million in cuts to the proposed Fiscal Year 2019 budget. The cuts would have scaled back the school system's laptop computer program, which has ballooned in cost, and the county's affordable housing program.

RIBBON-CUTTING SET FOR DUMBARTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

In 2012, Councilman Marks was contacted by a group of parents concerned about the deteriorating condition of Dumbarton Middle School. [Working with these volunteers, Councilman Marks pushed for funding which was included by County Executive Kamenetz in his Fiscal Year 2014 budget.](#)

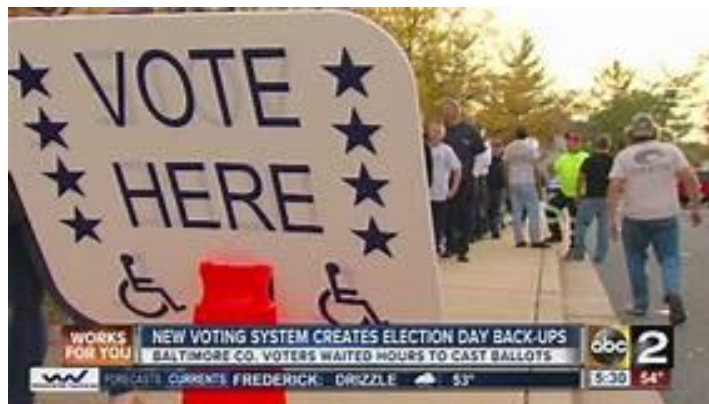
The \$29 million project involved air conditioning of the school and major renovations throughout Dumbarton Middle School—without any destruction of the stately trees that surround the campus. A ribbon-cutting ceremony is set for June 6th at 10 a.m.

Councilman Marks would likely to particularly thank Cheri Pegues, Amy Kline, Aimee Freeman, and the other parents who rallied for this funding.

ADDITIONAL SCANNING MACHINES IN PLACE FOR PRIMARY ELECTION

Early voting for the primary election occurs from June 14th through 21st at two locations in the Fifth District: the Towson University Administration Building and Honeygo Regional Park. The traditional primary election is on June 26th.

Baltimore County has allocated funding to install additional scanning machines at nine precincts in the Fifth District. [The scanning machines are among 47 that will be deployed to the busiest precincts](#), hopefully reducing wait times. The following precincts will receive an additional scanner: Rodgers Forge Elementary School; Towson Presbyterian Church; Cromwell Valley Elementary School; Kingsville Elementary School; Seven Oaks Elementary School; Perry Hall Elementary School; Perry Hall High School; and Fullerton Fire Station.



NEARLY 80 TREES SET FOR PLANTING IN GREATER TOWSON

Councilman Marks has worked with the Green Towson Alliance to have almost 80 trees planted throughout Greater Towson. The Maryland State Highway Administration will plant the trees in publicly-owned areas at five locations, primarily Charles Street and Perring Parkway. The state will plant the trees this fall.