

I am delighted to recommend Sherman Howell for the Heritage Housing Legacy Award.

For decades, Sherman has been an unabashed community influence, advocate, activist, civil rights leader and change maker. From the Cotton field of Cordova, Tennessee, to Selma, Alabama, to Governor Wes Moore's Transition Committee on Housing, Sherman has been a tireless worker for ordinary people, particularly in the area of affordable housing.

As a member of Governor Wes Moore Transition Committee of housing, Sherman has forthrightly and astutely advanced recommendations on ways by which affordable housing, both ownership and rental can be achieved. I have assiduously followed his work on the Committee. He has, as well, discussed the need for more affordable housing with the Governor directly.

Sherman's advocacy for affordable housing in Howard County is legendary, from his testimony before the County Council and other forums to his service on County Executive Transition Committee, to General Growth Properties, Mixed Income Housing Advisory Committee, the Howard County Sustainability Board, the Senior Tax Credit Task Force, the General Plan Task Force, Board of Directors of Columbia Housing Corporation, Howard County Task Force on Affordable Housing and Member of Oakland Mills Village Board and the Columbia Combined Board. There are many other committees and boards on which Sherman has served as a committed and dedicated resident of Howard County, including Political Action Chair of the African-American Coalition of Howard County.

In his spare time, if there is any, Sherman is a Free Lance Writer, with articles appearing in the Baltimore Sun, the Maryland Reporter, and others. He has accepted interviews, many on affordable housing with the Washington Post, the Baltimore Sun, Howard County Times, the Columbia Flier, ABC, NBC and CBS TV, the Dallas Morning News and the Little Patuxent Review. Many of Sherman opinions on affordable Housing has appeared on Facebook

Sherman's words and voice have been present on every bill on affordable housing that has been on the County Council's agenda. He has advocated for the Housing Trust Fund in the County Executive FY 23 budget.

Sherman has BS and MS from American University. He is a graduate of LeMoyne-Owen College in Memphis, Tennessee. Sherman is a great person, willing to listen, open to new ideas and works well with others and he is dependable.

Finally, Sherman is a proud veteran of the U.S. Army, having served in Vietnam.

It is with great pleasure that I recommend Sherman for the Legacy Award.

Sincerely,


C. Vernon Gray, PH.D

Former of Howard County Council

1982-2002

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Grace A. Morris
Executive Director
Heritage Housing Partners Corp

Ms. Morris,

I am nominating Mr. Sherman Howell for the Housing Legacy Award. Mr. Howell , as one of the founding families of Columbia, has been a pillar in this community. Mr. Howell was born in the south at a time where segregation was used to divide people and impact the quality of living of African American citizens. Mr. Howell's experiences have advocated and led the charge for equity in housing initiatives for decades. He has a wonderful reputation for being an advocated for children families in his current acts of civic responsibility, Mr. Howell collaborates with the members of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, African American Coalition of Howard County, African American Community Roundtable, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Howard County Council and the Howard County Public School System.

Mr. Howell is most deserving of this recognition.

Sincerely yours

Bruce E. Nelson

Bruce E. Nelson
Chair, Public Affairs
Immediate Past President
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Heritage Housing Legacy Award.
Letter in Support of Sherman Howell

It has been my honor to know Sherman for over four decades. One throughline this entire period has been Sherman's forceful advocacy for others – be it civil rights, human rights, or the right to dignity.

Our “affordable housing” goes back all those decades when I entered the housing field as the executive director of the Columbia Interfaith Housing Corporation (CIHC). It is now coincidence that Sherman later became a director of CIHC and its successor organization. It seems as if whenever affordable housing is the issue, Sherman is present.

We served together on a number of affordable housing groups including the Housing Transition Advisory Committees of two County Executives, the General Growth Properties Mixed Income Housing Advisory Committee, and the Full Spectrum Housing Committee.

We shared experiences, though not concurrently, from many community wide groups including Leadership Howard County, The Columbia Foundation, and Columbia Association Village Boards. These experiences expanded our communication channels. It has never been unusual for Sherman to call to discuss a current affordable housing issue. We would share information and perspectives. I would always learn something and have to think about something from a different angle.

Sherman was and is always willing to speak truth to power. Sherman is never one to backdown from a confrontation. His advocacy was and is heartfelt and powerful. At a time when a group might be willing to compromise for a half a loaf, Sherman would push for the full loaf.

Columbia and Howard County are better places for Sherman's advocacy in the affordable housing. Sherman remains a true believer and activist to keep alive James Rouse's vision of Columbia as a community for all people.

Roy L. Appletree

March 2023



NAACP

Maryland
STATE CONFERENCE

March 7, 2023

Heritage Housing Partnership Corporation
9770 Patuxent Woods Drive
Columbia, MD 21046

RE: Mr. Sherman Howell - Legacy Award Nominee

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to support the nomination of Mr. Sherman Howell for the Heritage Housing Partners Legacy Awards.

As you know, Mr. Howell comes highly qualified for the several categories on your eligibility criteria for the Heritage Award. He has years of residency in the community, years of service for housing advocacy and is still committed to doing the work after all these years. This is remarkable because the reality of affordable housing in Howard County is still a cause of concern.

It seems that Mr. Howell was inspired from the beginning of his life to be a part of the social change over the last 60 years. As a young man he dedicated himself to the civil rights movement but also served in the US Military totaling 72 years of work and dedication to our country and not just Howard County.

Additionally, he has been involved with every organization that he believed in including the NAACP and made a mark in each one of them. The memberships are many but they include Oakland Mills Village Board, Howard County Planning Committee, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, the Columbia Rotary Club and others. These commitments all demonstrate to me that he has always been dedicated to the uplift of the community.

NAACP

Maryland State Conference

8775 Cloudleap Court, Columbia, MD 21045 Suite 200

www.naacpmaryland.org

He is also an avid writer about issues of the day and serves as a founding convenor of the African American Coalition of Howard County. He was also a part of the many who walked across the Edmund Pettus Bridge on the Selma to Montgomery March. He and African Americans like him represent "the Greatest of the Greatest Generation."

While these are all important to note the most significant legacy that he has is his continued fight for social justice and more than that his marriage of many years.

For all these reasons on behalf of the NAACP Howard County Branch and the Maryland State Conference I am pleased to offer a letter of support to Mr. Sherman Howell for his many or years of service to the Howard County Community, the state of Maryland and the United States.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Willie Flowers".

Willie Flowers
President