

Responses from Dannielle Glaros

Dannielle Glaros is running for the Democratic endorsement for Prince George's county council district 3.

Question: Prince George's County is the most dangerous in Maryland for pedestrians and cyclists. Why do you think this is? Is there a role for you in changing this?

Response: Prince George's County has struggled and continues to struggle with pedestrian and cycling safety for a host of reasons. First, the County has many state roads and in fact most of the pedestrian incidents are along these roads. They are poorly lit, with few safe crossings. Bus stops are not aligned with crosswalks. In essence, they were built to move cars and they have never been appropriately retrofitted. SHA has been slow to come to the table although there are some positive results beginning to happen in part because of the County's focus on this issue. In addition, the county two years ago hired a bicycle and pedestrian coordinator which is housed in DPWT. In my experience in District 3, we have seen success in addressing pedestrian safety by creating local work groups with a variety of partners (civic groups, institutions, state, county, nearby businesses) around specific sites whether on Route 1 or on 410 in Riverdale. The later took 4+ years, but SHA is finally installing a light and enhanced crosswalk at a very dangerous area where lives have been lost. We are now working with the state and county on improved access to the MARC station at Lanham Severn Road. In terms of changing the trajectory, it will continue to need prioritization, funding, and frankly some streamlining to deliver key improvements quicker. The County has updated its regulations which govern new projects and has complete street guidelines now as well as requirements to complete sidewalk/bike gaps offsite. These should be looked at to see if further enhancements are needed.

Question: Currently, The Bus is the only bus network in the region that provides no weekend or evening service, although Prince George's County has a high concentration of workers in the service industry who don't work 9-5 jobs. Would you support extending The Bus service hours to better match what is provided by other jurisdictions?

Response: Yes, I am advocating for this currently with in the Transit Vision Plan update.

Question: Do you support Governor Hogan's proposal to widen I-495 and/or the B-W Parkway? Why or why not?

Response: No, I do not support the widening of I-495 or BW Parkway. In general, I believe we continue to focus too much on moving cars and less on developing an integrated public transportation system. In addition, widening BW Parkway will directly impact the neighborhoods I represent and will only encourage people to drive more versus using alternative transportation strategies.

Question: What is your top economic development priority, and what strategies do you plan to use to achieve it?

Response: My top priority has been and continues to be driving economic growth at our metro stations as well as our new Purple Line stops. More than 1/3rd of stations in Prince George's are now under construction or in the pipeline for development. New Carrollton and College Park Metro in District 3 are moving forward. Neither has been easy and much work is ahead to create walkable, mixed use places at our transit nodes. With the Purple Line, I am focused on achieving the "Opportunity for All" compact and I am working with developers, agencies, and the National Center for Smart Growth to achieve mixed-income, walkable communities along the corridor. Achieving growth at these areas involves partnerships, focusing of incentives, and prioritization.

Question: The county is currently developing a Comprehensive Housing Strategy. What are your goals and priorities for that? How would you combat the problems of evictions and foreclosures?

Response: I am a strong advocate of developing a Comprehensive Housing Strategy. I am particularly interested in its focus on senior housing, affordable housing as well as enhancing housing options at metro stations. The county is limited in addressing evictions and foreclosures of single-family homes except through state legislation.

Over the years, some programs have been established and a task force was created. Prince George's continues to face a number of foreclosures, which also affects neighborhood quality of life as the homes are vacant. There are no simple answers to this continued challenge. It is likely time to revisit with a focus on targeting neighborhoods and zip codes with large number of foreclosures and to understand better how to ensure stability. It will need multiple partners to address--legislation is likely not enough.

Question: A development review process known as "call-up" was previously struck down by the state Supreme Court, but a similar process, known as "election," is proposed in the current draft of the county's zoning rewrite. Do you support including or removing "election" in the final zoning code?

Response: As a sitting Council Member, I rarely elect to review a case. I expect developers to work with the community in advance and address issues prior to the Planning Board process or during the planning board process. It already takes too long to see development come out of the ground in key corridors and metro stations, so I prefer to not add to the development review process in terms of length and cost. In case you're curious and if I remember correctly, I have only called up one case in three+ years and that is because planning misinterpreted legislation/plan associated with a case.

I support including the option to elect to review for a host of reasons including the following: 1) decisions by District Council need to align with what is in the record and cannot be arbitrary or capricious; 2) Planning Board Members including the Chair are appointed by the County Executive with no application or public advertisement; 3) District Council acts as a check and balance on the Planning Department where currently the Planning Director lacks planning experience. If the State enabled the County to operate similar to Montgomery County with Planning appointments (appointed by Council and advertised to ensure best quality board members) and if planning experience was a mandatory qualification for being Planning Director, I may consider this question differently.

Question: Do you support allowing accessory dwelling units (ADUs), sometimes known as

"granny flats," in single-family home zones? Why or why not?

Response: I support adding ADUs in the County. It would expand the opportunities for affordable and senior housing. However, the County is not yet poised to appropriately permit, manage, and enforce ADUs. Illegal construction activity is a challenge as well as the illegal retrofitting of sheds for dwellings.