

Howard County Chamber of Commerce Member Code of Conduct

The Howard County Chamber of Commerce is committed to fostering a welcoming, professional, and collaborative business community where all members can connect, grow, and succeed. Membership is a privilege that carries the responsibility of conducting business with integrity and respect while supporting the Chamber's mission to strengthen the Howard County business community.

By joining the Howard County Chamber of Commerce and participating in Chamber programs, events, committees, volunteer opportunities, and online communities, members agree to uphold the following standards of conduct.

Professionalism & Integrity

Members are expected to:

- Conduct business honestly, ethically, and in accordance with all federal, state, and local laws.
- Represent their business and the Chamber with professionalism and integrity.
- Treat fellow members, Chamber staff, volunteers, speakers, sponsors, elected officials, guests, and community partners with courtesy and respect.
- Foster a spirit of collaboration, inclusion, and mutual support within the business community.
- Avoid deceptive, fraudulent, or unethical business practices.
- Communicate honestly and refrain from making false or misleading statements about the Chamber, its members, or its programs.

Respectful Environment

The Howard County Chamber is committed to providing a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment for everyone. Members shall not engage in harassment, intimidation, discrimination, bullying, threatening behavior, or inappropriate conduct during Chamber events, meetings, online interactions, or any activity associated with the Chamber.

This includes conduct based on race, color, religion, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, marital status, or any other protected characteristic under applicable law. Members are expected to treat all individuals with dignity, professionalism, and respect.

Chamber Representation

Members may not:

- Represent themselves as speaking on behalf of the Howard County Chamber of Commerce unless expressly authorized to do so.
- Use the Chamber's name, logo, or branding in any manner that suggests the Chamber endorses a business, product, service, event, political position, or individual without prior written permission.

- Misrepresent their relationship with the Chamber.

Members using the Chamber's "Proud Member" logo must comply with the Howard County Chamber of Commerce Logo Use Policy.

Confidentiality

Members serving on the Board of Directors, committees, or advisory groups may receive confidential or sensitive information. Such information must remain confidential unless authorized by the Chamber.

Fair Business Practices

The Chamber encourages healthy competition and the free exchange of ideas. Members agree to:

- Respect the intellectual property and proprietary information of others.
- Conduct networking and business development activities honestly and professionally.
- Avoid disrupting or using Chamber events primarily for aggressive sales tactics.
- Respect differing viewpoints and engage in constructive dialogue.

Compliance

Members are expected to remain in good standing with the Chamber, including maintaining current membership dues and complying with Chamber policies and procedures. Failure to follow this Code of Conduct or other Chamber policies may result in action deemed appropriate by the Howard County Chamber of Commerce, including:

- A verbal or written warning
- Removal from a Chamber event, committee, or volunteer role
- Suspension of Chamber privileges
- Revocation or non-renewal of Chamber membership

The Chamber reserves the right to determine, in its sole discretion, whether conduct is inconsistent with its mission, values, or policies.

Questions or Concerns

Questions regarding this Code of Conduct or concerns about member behavior may be directed to:

Howard County Chamber of Commerce
10211 Wincopin Circle, Suite 202
Columbia, MD 21044

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(410) 730-4111