Howard County Council

George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043-4392

COUNCILMEMBERS

Opel Jones, Chair
District 2

Christiana Rigby, Vice Chair
District 3

Liz Walsh
District 1

Deb Jung
District 4

David Yungmann
District 5

Minutes - Approved

Legislative Public Hearing
Hybrid Meeting (Virtual and In-Person Meeting)
Video Streamed on cc.howardcountymd.gov/watch-us
Broadcast on channels 44(Verizon) and 1071 (Comcast)
Monday, October 19, 2026
7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Chair Opel Jones, Vice Chair Christiana Rigby, Council Members Jung, Walsh, and Yungmann

Staff Present: Michelle Harrod, Council Administrator; Gary Kuc, County Solicitor, Amanda Mihill, Assistant County Solicitor; Jennifer Sager, Legislative Coordinator; Isaiah Anderson, Executive Assistant I; James Almon, Senior Administrative Analyst; Rozonna Hightower, Administrative Assistant; and Courtney Speights, Administrative Aide were also present.

I. Call to Order at 7:02 p.m.

II. Roll Call.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

VI. Public Hearing

A. Appointments

1. **CR131-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Mary O. Barton to the Interfaith Advisory Commission.

   a. Mary Barton called to speak

2. **CR149-2026** - LW - A RESOLUTION appointing Meg Boyd to the SMART (Strategic Moratorium for Assessing Responsible Technology) Data Center Task Force as the appointee for the First Councilmanic District.

   a. Meg Boyd called to speak

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3. **CR163-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Danyell Diggs to the Multimodal Transportation Board

   a. Danyell Diggs called to speak

4. **CR164-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Reverend C. Paige Getty to the Interfaith Advisory Commission

   a. Reverend C. Paige Getty called to speak

5. **CR165-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Divine David Jimeto Alachebe to the Opioid Restitution Fund Commission

   a. Divine David Alachebe called to speak

6. **CR166-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Elizabeth W. Ndungu to the Commission on Disabilities

   a. Elizabeth Ndungu called to speak

7. **CR167-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Jamie L. Ferguson, Ph.D., to the Cemetery Preservation Advisory Board

   a. Jaime Ferguson called to speak

8. **CR168-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Deacon Allen R. Greene to the Cemetery Preservation Advisory Board

   a. Allen Greene called to speak

9. **CR169-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Kathryn Adkins Walker Robinson to the Cemetery Preservation Advisory Board

   a. Kathryn Adkins Walker Robinson called to speak

10. **CR170-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Saphronia "Sophie" Lang-Bradford to the Howard County Commission for Veterans and Military Families

    a. Sophie Lang-Bradford called to speak

11. **CR171-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Rita Kristine Bernardo to the Multimodal Transportation Board

    a. Rita Kristine Bernardo called to speak

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12. **CR172-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Kari Andresen to the Multimodal Transportation Board

    a. Kari Andresen called to speak

13. **CR173-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Rachael MacMurray to the Adult-Use Cannabis Advisory Panel

    a. Rachael MacMurray called to speak

14. **CR174-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Saraniya Tharmarajah, PhD, to the Adult-Use Cannabis Advisory Panel

    a. Dr. Saraniya Tharmarajah called to speak

15. **CR175-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Quinton Askew to the Adult-Use Cannabis Advisory Panel

    a. Quinton Askew called to speak

16. **CR176-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Francesca Valencia to the LGBTQIA+ Commission

    a. Francesca Valencia called to speak

17. **CR177-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Marina Lambrinou, Ph.D, to the LGBTQIA+ Commission

    a. Dr. Marina Lambrinou called to speak

18. **CR178-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Gemma Holgate to the LGBTQIA+ Commission

    a. Gemma Holgate called to speak

19. **CR179-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Jeminetu Usman to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission

    a. Jemila Usman called to speak

20. [REQUEST FOR WITHDRAW] **CR180-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Margaret Melikian to the Historic Preservation Commission

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21. **CR181-2026** - A RESOLUTION appointing Jonathan ("Jon") Shin to the SMART (Strategic Moratorium for Assessing Responsible Technology) Data Center Task Force as an appointee for the County Executive

    a. Jonathan Shin called to speak

22. **CR182-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Sandra M. Price to the Human Rights Commission

    a. Sandra Price called to speak

23. **CR1195-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Chris Anderson to the SMART (Strategic Moratorium for Assessing Responsible Technology) Data Center Task Force as the appointee for the Third Councilmanic District

    a. Chris Anderson called to speak

B. Reappointments

1. **CR183-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the reappointment of Michelle Rhodes-Brown, CFA, to the Pension Oversight Commission

2. **CR184-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the reappointment of Regina V. Lee to the Commission on Disabilities

3. **CR185-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the reappointment of Gift Gunaraj Jayakar to the Commission on Disabilities

4. **CR186-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the reappointment of Bryan Weinstein to the Commission on Disabilities

5. **CR187-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the reappointment of Ben S. Barlow to the Historic Preservation Commission

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C. Financial

1. **CB60-2026** - AN ACT approving and providing for a multi-year Installment Purchase Agreement by Howard County, Maryland to acquire development rights in approximately 62.98 acres of agricultural land located at 2698 Jennings Chapel Road, Woodbine, Howard County, Maryland, from Eugene A. Freeze, as trustee of the Eugene A. Freeze Revocable Trust, or any other owner thereof for a maximum purchase price of $2,363,100 or, if less in acreage, not more than $37,520 per acre or portion thereof, rounded to the next highest $100, plus interest on the deferred portion of such purchase price; providing that the County's obligation to pay such purchase price and interest on the deferred portion of such purchase price shall be a full faith and credit general obligation of the County; providing for the levying of taxes for such payments; authorizing the County Executive to modify such Agreement; and providing for and determining various matters in connection therewith

   a. James Zoller, Administrator - Office of Agriculture, called to speak

2. **CR188-2026** - A RESOLUTION providing a maximum adoption rate for the adoption of dogs and cats from Howard County Animal Control

   a. Sheri Fox, Administrator - Howard County Animal Control, called to speak
   b. Fran Lopresti, Chair - Animal Matters Hearing Board, called to speak

3. **CR189-2026** - A RESOLUTION endorsing the provision of financing by the State Department of Commerce for an economic development project in Howard County and certifying that the project is consistent with the County's goals for economic development

   a. Jennifer Jones, CEO - Economic Development Authority, called to speak

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D. General

1. **CB61-2026** - AN ACT, in accordance with Federal Emergency Management Agency and Maryland Emergency Management Agency requirements, updating certain floodplain provisions of the County Code; defining certain terms; setting forth the purpose, authority and findings for County floodplain requirements; clarifying the agencies who review requests for alternative compliance; providing for certain submissions and certain inspections; prohibiting certain development and certain activities in certain Special Flood Hazard Areas, including FEMA Special Flood Hazard Areas and Community Special Flood Hazard Areas; setting the basis for the establishment of Special Flood Hazard Areas; setting forth the duties and responsibilities of the Floodplain Administrator and County Departments and Agencies; providing for certain permits, applications and permit review; imposing certain subdivision and development requirements on Floodplain areas; setting forth standards and conditions and an application process for alternative compliance; updating and defining terms; allowing for certain enforcement; and generally relating to floodplain regulations in Howard County

   a. Yosef Kebede, Director-Department of Public Works, called to speak

2. **CB62-2026** - AN ACT amending the Pay Plan for Howard County to provide a certain specialty pay to Police Captains; and generally relating to the Pay Plan for Howard County

   a. Ann Koshy, Deputy Administrator - Office of Human Resources, called to speak
   b. Alonni Murchison, did not speak

3. **CB63-2026** - AN ACT amending County Code to add the position of Police Colonel to the list of positions appointed by the Chief of Police; and generally relating to establishing the new executive exempt position of Colonel

4. **CB64-2026** - AN ACT amending the Pay Plan and Classification Plan for Howard County to add a classification description for the position of Police Colonel and to establish a pay grade for the position of Police Colonel; and generally relating to the position of Police Colonel

   a. Ann Koshy, Deputy Administrator - Office of Human Resources, called to speak

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5. **CR193-2026** - A RESOLUTION pursuant to Section 4.201 of the Howard County Code declaring that portions of parcels of land owned by Howard County totaling approximately 0.477 acres located along Route 1 are no longer needed by the County for public purposes; authorizing the County Executive to convey the Property to the State of Maryland, Department of Transportation, State Highway Administration as a part of the US 1 (Washington Boulevard) Pedestrian Safety Action Plan; waiving the advertising and bidding requirements of Section 4.201 of the Howard County Code; and providing that the County Executive is not bound to convey the property if the County Executive finds that the County may have a use for the property

   a. Emily Iacchei, Chief of Bureau of Real Estate Management/Department of General Services, called to speak

6. **CR194-2026** - A RESOLUTION pursuant to Title 5, Subtitle 3 of the Education Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, approving the Howard County Board of Education's budget request for Fiscal Year 2028 State Capital Projects or projects requesting FY2028 State funding for the purpose of submission to the Interagency Commission on School Construction

   a. Dan Lubeley, Executive Director of Capital Planning and Construction for Howard County Public School System, called to speak
   b. Brent Lovelace, PTA Council of Howard County, called to speak

7. **CB66-2026** - DY - AN ACT amending Title 16 of the Howard County Code by revising the procedures of the Zoning Board for deciding whether petitions may be first heard by the Hearing Examiner for the Zoning Board; revising the advertising requirements for Zoning Board administrative meetings; requiring certain applicants to file certain affidavits or disclosures; revising the timeframe to file an exception to the Hearing Examiner's report; clarifying the role of the Zoning Counsel; and generally related to the Zoning Board

   a. David Yungmann, Council Member comment on CB66-2026
   b. Stu Kohn, President - Howard County Citizens Association, called to speak
   c. Shamieka Preston, called to speak
   c. Joel Hurewitz, called to speak

8. **CB67-2026** - OJ - AN ACT amending the Property Tax Credit for Seniors in order to, beginning in Tax Year 2027, increase the cap on the amount of the property tax credit after the homestead credit is applied; and generally relating to the property tax credit for seniors

   a. Opel Jones, County Council Chair comment on CB67-2026
   b. Alan Schneider, Howard County Citizens Association, called to speak

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9. **CB68-2026** - DJ/CR - AN ACT amending the Howard County Ethics Code clarifying the confidentiality of certain complaints submitted to the Ethics Commission; clarifying the procedures if information relating to certain complaints are publicly disclosed; making technical corrections; and generally relating to the Howard County Public Ethics Law

    a. Deb Jung, Council Member comment on CB68-2026
    b. Matthew Gallagher, Chair - Howard County Ethics Commission, called to speak
    c. Stu Kohn, President - Howard County Citizens Association called to speak
    d. James Bell, called to speak
    e. Ryan Powers called to speak

10. **CB69-2026** - DJ - AN ACT designating the Inspector General as a custodian of Howard County Government public records; revising the duties of the Inspector General; and generally relating to the Office of Inspector General

    a. Deb Jung Council Member comment on CB69-2026
    b. Stu Kohn, President - Howard County Citizens Association, called to speak
    c. Kelly Madigan, Howard County Office of the Inspector General, called to speak
    d. Janelle Sterner, did not speak
    e. David Salem, Chair - Inspector General Advisory Board, called to speak
    f. Katy Sedney, called to speak
    g. Mitchell Stahm, called to speak
    h. Allan Kittleman, called to speak
    i. Kia Green, called to speak
    j. Kathleen Uy, called to speak
    k. Andrea Levinson, called to speak
    l. Daniel Waters, called to speak
    m. Cindy Lafolette called to speak
    n. Nater Kane, called to speak
    o. Angela Bruce, called to speak
    p. Robert Bruce, called to speak
    q. Ryan Powers, called to speak
    r. Shamieka Preston, called to speak
    s. Ryan O'Conner called to speak
    t. Alan Schneider called to speak
    u. Haley Hendrick, called to speak

V. Adjourned at 10:35 p.m.

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