

Anderson, Isaiah

From: joel hurewitz <joelhurewitz@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2026 9:02 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CB5-2026 Boards and Commissions – Appointee Biographical Information– Posting on County Government Website

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Dear Councilmembers,

Assuming that CB5-2026 is lawful under the Public Information Act, amendments are needed.

To include confirmations that are not necessarily Howard County Boards and Commissions including the Library Board, Board of Health, Property Tax Assessment Appeals Board, and the [State Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board](#), and vacancies on the Board of Education and appointments to the Board of Appeals, which is a vote of appointment not a confirmation of appointment from the County Executive --

Strike beginning with EACH in Line 10, through COUNCIL in Line 11 and substitute

1. ALL RESOLUTIONS OF CONFIRMATION BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL MADE PURSUANT TO SECTION 209(C), 404, 703, OR 915 OF THE HOWARD COUNTY CHARTER,
2. APPOINTMENTS TO THE BOARD OF APPEALS,
3. APPOINTMENT OF THE HEARING EXAMINER,
4. APPOINTMENT OF THE ZONING BOARD HEARING EXAMINER,
5. APPOINTMENT OF THE ZONING COUNSEL,
6. APPOINTMENTS TO FILL ANY VACANCIES IN THE OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE OR THE COUNTY COUNCIL,
7. APPOINTMENTS TO FILL A VACANCY ON THE HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION,
8. APPOINTMENTS MADE PURSUANT TO SECTION 216 OF THE CHARTER, AND

Anderson, Isaiah

From: joel hurewitz <joelhurewitz@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 20, 2026 10:32 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Kuc, Gary; Mihill, Amanda
Subject: CB5-2026 Resumes Should Be Posted But Public Information Act May Not Permit County Waiver

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Dear Councilmembers,

Like many members of the public, for several years I have been concerned that the resumes of nominees for boards and commissions stopped being posted in Related Documents. What education or experience do the individuals meet regarding the position to which they are being confirmed especially when the Code has specified qualifications?

In recent months, the County Solicitor explained that the resumes were no longer being posted after someone complained about their information being on the Council's website. The Solicitor stated that this was based on letter opinions from the Attorney General. The Maryland Public Information Act Manual (19th ed., Dec. 2024) states on page 3-14

The personnel record exception is not limited to paid officials and employees; biographical information submitted by individuals seeking to serve on agency advisory committees is also protected. See Letters from Assistant Attorney General Kathryn M. Rowe to Senator Brian E. Frosh and Delegate Jennie M. Forehand (Oct. 6, 2000).

If this 2000 letter opinion was the one that the Solicitor was referencing, why did it take over two decades for the resumes to stop being posted online?

While I have supported waivers, and even agreed to one when I submitted an application, if the opinion of the City of Baltimore, City Solicitor is correct, then the county lacks any legal authority to require a waiver and that disclosing the information is a criminal act:

An employee who consents to disclosure of his or her personnel record likely lawsuit seeking the civil damages that are available under PIA Section 4-401 can waive the criminal prosecution to which a person would be subject for *See, e.g., Lopez-Sanchez v. State*, 388 Md. 214, 226 (2005), superseded by *Holie v. State*², 404 Md. 591, 605 (2008), (“A criminal act is an sovereign, a wrong injurious not only to the victim but to the public at large.”). Public Disclosure of Personal Information, John L. Shea, City of Baltimore, City Solicitor, Oct. 21, 2021, p. 3.

<https://mayor.baltimorecity.gov/sites/default/files/2021-10-21%20Opinion%20on%20Public%20Disclosure%20of%20Personnel%20Information.pdf>

What if the county wanted to require waivers for applications of regular employees? Would anyone consider that to be proper? Under Baltimore City's opinion, the county can no more have a waiver for boards and commissions than they could for any regular employee. Part of the problem is that the Public Information Act has one mandatory exception for regular employees and volunteers to boards and commissions. Perhaps, asking for an amendment to the State law is the more appropriate remedy.

Alternatively, in July I drafted legislation to put the necessary information in the body of the resolutions. I believe that even if resumes were posted, it would not have identified the license disqualifications in 2024 regarding a nominee to the Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board or the dual service of the member of the Ethics Commission. I believe that my legislation would most likely have caught these issues. I have been looking for a Council sponsor to discuss this further.

Joel Hurewitz

9. ANY OTHER APPOINTMENT BY THE COUNCIL OR CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT SPECIFIED BY STATE LAW.

SEC. 22.1400. - BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS APPOINTMENTS.

10 (A) SCOPE OF SECTION. THIS SECTION APPLIES TO EACH APPOINTMENT TO A HOWARD COUNTY

11 BOARD AND COMMISSION REQUIRING CONFIRMATION BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL

Strike beginning with APPOINTMENTS In Line 14, through COUNCIL in Line 15 and substitute PERSONS SUBJECT TO THIS SECTION

13 (B) PUBLICATION AND POSTING OF RESUMES OR OTHER BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION. THE RESUME

14 OR OTHER BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION OF ALL APPOINTMENTS TO A HOWARD COUNTY

15 BOARD OR COMMISSION REQUIRING CONFIRMATION BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL

Strike in Line 19 TO A HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OR COMMISSION and substitute UNDER THIS SECTION

19 (C) WAIVER. AS A CONDITION OF APPOINTMENT TO A HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OR COMMISSION,

In Line 23 strike SUBTITLE and substitute SECTION

23 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SUBTITLE.

Add to Section 6.300 that applications shall include a waiver of SECTION 4-311(A) OF THE GENERAL PROVISIONS ARTICLE.

Thank you for considering these amendments.

Sincerely,

Joel Hurewitz



Howard County Citizens Association

Since 1961...

The Voice Of The People of Howard County

· Date: 20 January 2026
Subject: HCCA Testimony for CB5-2026

I am Stu Kohn from Scaggsville testifying on behalf of the Howard County Citizens Association, HCCA as its President.

You might not know that HCCA at times stands for the Howard County Compliments Association although some think the acronym stands for the Howard County Complainers Association.

This proposed Bill deserves to be complimented. We want to commend and thank Council-member David Yungmann for introducing both CB5 and CB6. Mr. Yungmann, you not only listened to us, which is very much appreciated, but you took the necessary action we are sure your colleagues will pass unanimously. Our Board Member, Ryan Powers, will be testifying on Mr. Yungmann's proposed CB6 which also requires a compliment! It's nice to realize at times our voices really does matter.

Having resumes of nominees available as we have testified in the past will provide valuable information to reference for public testimony. Any nominee before you should want their resumes posted on the County website telling the audience of their qualifications and accomplishments. They should be proud!

Please note the current section on the website under "Boards and Commissioners" states, "To complete the Apply to Serve application, you must include your redacted resume and cover letter. Personal information collected throughout the application form is used for internal verification purposes only. However, the redacted resume and letter of interest may be made public through the County Council process". Based on this we are perplexed as to why resumes have been discontinued for the past three years, but we are extremely pleased that with the approval of CB5 resumes of all nominees will be posted for the public's review.

The HCCA is extremely thankful the posting of resumes will once again resume with the Council's positive votes. Again, thank you Council-member Yungmann for your worthwhile contribution and effort. It is appreciated.

Stu Kohn
HCCA President