



Subject: Testimony and Fiscal Impact Statement for:
Resolution No. __ - 2026
Adopting – Delegated authority for the Director of Housing and Community Development

To: Brandee Ganz
Chief Administrative Officer

From: Kelly Cimino *K. Cimino*
Director
Department of Housing and Community Development

Date: June 18, 2026

Resolution No. __-2026 is a request for the governing body to authorize delegated authority to the Director of Housing and Community Development to sign as the certifying officer for environmental review records in HUD HEROS (HUD Environmental Review Online System).

BACKGROUND

HUD implemented the HUD Environmental Review Online System (HEROS) to automate the environmental review process and end the paper-based process. An environmental review is the process of reviewing a project and its potential environmental impacts to determine whether it meets federal, state, and local environmental standards. The environmental review process is required for all HUD-assisted projects to ensure that the proposed project does not negatively impact the surrounding environment and that the property site itself will not have an adverse environmental or health effect on end users.

Currently, the Director of Housing and Community Development has access to HEROS to evaluate environmental reviews, but the Director does not have the authority to complete a review or issue a record as the certifying officer.

This resolution will grant delegated authority from the chief executive officer of the responsible entity, i.e. the County Executive, to the Director of Housing and Community Development, to sign as the certifying officer on HUD environmental review records in HEROS. As defined in the County Charter, this resolution must be approved by the County's governing body. This authority would remain in effect unless it is formally rescinded.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this resolution for the Department of Housing and Community Development or the County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Cc: Calvin Ball, Howard County Executive
Felix Facchine, Chief of Staff
Jennifer Sager, Legislative Coordinator
Gary W. Kuc, County Solicitor
Holly Sun, Budget Administrator