

# County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2026 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. 9

## Resolution No. 122 -2026

Introduced by: The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Adopting – Delegated authority for Director of Housing and Community Development

Title: A RESOLUTION granting delegated authority to the Director of Housing and Community Development to sign as the certifying officer for environmental review records in HEROS (HUD Environmental Review Online System) authorized under 24 CFR Parts 50 and 58.

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Introduced and read first time \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

By order \_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

Read for a second time at a public hearing on \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

By order \_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

This Resolution was read the third time and was Adopted \_\_, Adopted with amendments \_\_, Failed \_\_, Withdrawn \_\_, by the County Council on \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

Certified By \_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

As part of the County's governing body as defined in the County Charter, this Resolution is Approved by the County Executive on \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

By \_\_\_\_\_  
County Executive Calvin Ball

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing law; TEXT IN SMALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing law; ~~Strike-out~~ indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment

1           **WHEREAS**, the Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD") has  
2 determined that Howard County qualifies as an Urban County and is eligible to receive funds  
3 under the Community Development Block Grant ("CDBG") and Home Investment Partnership  
4 Program ("HOME"); and

5  
6           **WHEREAS**, the primary objective of HUD in awarding CDBG and HOME funds is to  
7 develop viable urban communities by providing funding and programs to ensure decent housing,  
8 suitable living environments, and expanded economic opportunities, principally for persons of  
9 low and moderate incomes; and

10  
11           **WHEREAS**, in order to keep Howard County eligible to receive Entitlement Grants, the  
12 County Council approved the FFY2025 – 2029 HUD Consolidated Plan by adopting Council  
13 Resolution No. 142-2025 on July 30, 2025; and

14  
15           **WHEREAS**, in order to obtain the yearly entitlement of CDBG and HOME funds, the  
16 County Council approved the HUD FFY2026 Annual Action Plan by adopting Council  
17 Resolution No. 105-2026 on July 6, 2026; and

18  
19           **WHEREAS**, HUD implemented the HUD Environmental Review Online System  
20 (HEROS) in Maryland in November 2018, to automate the environmental review process and  
21 end the paper-based process; and

22  
23           **WHEREAS**, an environmental review is the process of reviewing a project and its  
24 potential environmental impacts to determine whether it meets federal, state, and local  
25 environmental standards; and

26  
27           **WHEREAS**, an environmental review process is required for all HUD-assisted projects  
28 to ensure that the proposed project does not negatively impact the surrounding environment and  
29 that the property site itself will not have an adverse environmental or health effect on end users;  
30 and

1           **WHEREAS**, the Director of Housing and Community Development has access to  
2 HEROS to consider completed environmental reviews, and is responsible for reviewing the  
3 completed reviews and issuing reports but does not have the authority to complete reviews or  
4 issue reports; and

5  
6           **WHEREAS**, in order for the Director to have such authority, HUD requires a designation  
7 by the governing body identifying the chief executive officer of the responsible entity, or its formal  
8 designee, to be the certifying officer; and

9  
10           **WHEREAS**, the Director of Housing and Community Development is requesting  
11 delegated authority to be the formal designee of the County Executive as the certifying officer for  
12 HUD’s Environmental Review Online System, effective until rescinded to sign for the completion  
13 of HUD environmental reviews as authorized under 24 CFR Parts 50 and 58 in HEROS.

14  
15           **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the County Council of Howard County,  
16 Maryland this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026 that signing authority of the County’s  
17 certifying officer, the County Executive, is delegated to the Director of Housing and Community  
18 Development as the formal designee to sign HUD environmental reviews in HUD’s online  
19 system, HEROS.

20  
21           **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this authority shall remain in effect until  
22 formally rescinded by Resolution.