

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.

Introduced and read first time July 6, 2026.

By order

Michelle Harrod
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

Read for a second time at a public hearing on July 20, 2026.

By order

Michelle Harrod
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

This Resolution was read the third time and was Adopted ☒, Adopted with amendments___, Failed___, Withdrawn___, by the County Council on July 29, 2026.

Certified By

Michelle Harrod
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 July 30, 2026.

By

Calvin Ball
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 29 day of July, 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.



HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
9755 PATUXENT WOODS DRIVE, SUITE 302 • Columbia, Maryland 21046 • 410-313-6318
Calvin Ball, County Executive • Kelly A. Cimino, Director

FAX 410-313-5960

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.

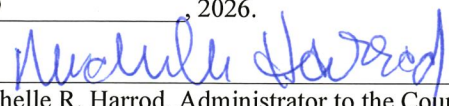
Thank you for your consideration.

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

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having been approved by the Executive and returned to the Council, stands enacted on

July 30, 2026.



Michelle R. Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having been passed by the yeas and nays of two-thirds of the members of the Council notwithstanding the objections of the Executive, stands enacted on _____, 2026.

Michelle R. Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having received neither the approval nor the disapproval of the Executive within ten days of its presentation, stands enacted on _____, 2026.

Michelle R. Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, not having been considered on final reading within the time required by Charter, stands failed for want of consideration on _____, 2026.

Michelle R. Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having been disapproved by the Executive and having failed on passage upon consideration by the Council stands failed on _____, 2026.

Michelle R. Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, the withdrawal of which received a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Council, is withdrawn from further consideration on _____, 2026.

Michelle R. Harrod, Administrator to the County Council