

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2026 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. 11

Resolution No. 147 -2026

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

SHORT TITLE: Appointment – Jack Morris Powell– SMART Data Center Task Force

TITLE: A RESOLUTION appointing Jack Morris Powell to the SMART (Strategic Moratorium for Assessing Responsible Technology) Data Center Task Force as an appointee for the County Executive.

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

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

WHEREAS, on June 1st, 2026, the Howard County Council approved Council Bill 31-2026, which established a temporary prohibition of issuance of certain approvals of development plans on data processing centers, and called for the creation of the SMART (Strategic Moratorium for Assessing Responsible Technology) Data Center Task Force (the “Task Force”); and

WHEREAS, the members of the Task Force are tasked with developing a definition of “Data Center” for the Zoning Regulations; recommending best practices for data center siting and location, setbacks and screening, water consumption and impact, power and energy infrastructure, noise and acoustic mitigation, impact fees or excise tax application, decommissioning plans, removing the data center tax credit; and assessing the impact of data centers on the Howard County Climate Forward: Climate Action and Resiliency Plan; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Council Bill 31-2026, each Councilmember shall nominate one member to the Task Force and the County Executive shall nominate no more than six members with all members appointed by individual Council Resolution; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive has the utmost confidence in the abilities and the character of:

Jack Morris Powell
Columbia, Maryland

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland this _____ day of _____, 2026 that Jack Morris Powell be appointed as a member of the SMART Data Center Task Force of Howard County, Maryland, to serve from the date this Resolution is adopted until August 3, 2027, or until a successor is appointed.