

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2026 Legislative Session

Legislative day # 11

RESOLUTION NO. 128 - 2026

Introduced by: Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Appointment – Mustafa Mahir Akpinar– Interfaith Advisory Commission

Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Mustafa Mahir Akpinar to the Interfaith Advisory Commission.

Introduced and read first time on Sep 8, 2026.

By order

Michelle Harrod
Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

Read for a second time and a public hearing held on Sep 22, 2026.

By order

Michelle Harrod
Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

This Resolution was read the third time and was Adopted ☒, Adopted with amendments___, Failed___, Withdrawn ___ by the County Council on Oct 5, 2026.

Certified by

Michelle Harrod
Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

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

WHEREAS, Section 404 of the Howard County Charter and Section 6.300 of the Howard County Code provide for the County Executive to appoint and for the County Council to confirm nominees to Howard County Boards and Commissions created by law; and

WHEREAS, Sections 6.352 and 12.222 of the Howard County Code provide for an Interfaith Advisory Commission in Howard County; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive has proposed the appointment of Mustafa Mahir Akpinar as a member of the Interfaith Advisory Commission; and

WHEREAS, the County Council ratifies the County Executive's special trust and confidence in the abilities of the nominee.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland this 5 day of October, 2026 that the following person is appointed as a member of the Interfaith Advisory Commission to serve from the passage of this Resolution to October 5, 2028 or until a successor is appointed and confirmed:

Mustafa Mahir Akpinar

Elkridge, Maryland

Mustafa Akpinar

Professional Summary

Community leader and youth mentor with experience leading interfaith dialogue, mentorship, and humanitarian initiatives across Howard County and university communities. Founder and advisor of multiple student-led organizations focused on cross-cultural engagement, civic participation, and global service. Skilled in program development, community outreach, and fostering collaboration between diverse cultural and faith communities through dialogue, volunteerism, and educational initiatives.

Education

Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA

Expected Graduation 05/2028

M.S. in Cybersecurity

University of Maryland Baltimore County, Baltimore County, Maryland

09/2022 - 05/2026

B.S. in Information Systems, Concentration in Cybersecurity

Experience

MARTI, Columbia, Maryland

01/2026 - Present

Director of Interfaith Dialogue

- Organized interfaith dinners connecting Muslim, Jewish, and Christian community members across Howard County
- Helped establish and advise a student-led interfaith dialogue club at UMD promoting cross-cultural engagement
- Coordinated interfaith volunteer initiatives at the Owen Brown Interfaith Center serving local community needs
- Facilitated discussions and collaborative programs promoting mutual respect and dialogue between diverse faith communities

MARTI, Columbia, Maryland

08/2024 - 12/2026

Director of High School Mentoring

- Directed mentorship and leadership programs for 30+ high school students across Howard County and surrounding communities.
- Founded and led LeadUp, a student-led nonprofit focused on youth leadership, service, and humanitarian initiatives.
- Organized interfaith programs uniting Muslim, Jewish, and Christian youth to promote dialogue and community engagement.
- Coordinated retreats, workshops, and service events reaching 50+ students and community members annually.

MARTI, Columbia, Maryland

08/2022 - 06/2024

Director of Middle School Mentoring

- Coordinated weekly events dedicated to empowering underprivileged and refugee youth through personalized guidance
- Managed 4 undergraduate volunteers to provide mentoring in personal development, including self-esteem & goal setting
- Budgeted and monitored over 10 retreat events for youth with over 220 students, from ages 10 to 14, attending each year

Community & Volunteer Engagement

Founder of Blossom Together, UMBC

- Founded UMBC chapter engaging 100+ students through humanitarian service, outreach, and community engagement..
- Organized 5+ campus events and fundraising initiatives raising \$2,000+ for global humanitarian relief efforts.
- Led volunteer and service initiatives supporting hundreds of individuals through food, clean water, and outreach programs.

Founder of LeadUp, MARTI

- Led a student-driven nonprofit engaging 50+ high school students in leadership, service, and interfaith engagement.
- Organized 5+ interfaith dialogue events uniting students from diverse cultural and religious backgrounds.
- Directed 10+ humanitarian projects with 15+ volunteers, contributing to \$60,000+ raised for global relief efforts.

Advisory Board Member of Bridging Paths, UMD

- Advise a student-led interfaith dialogue network connecting cultural and religious organizations across universities.
- Support interfaith dinners, dialogue events, and service initiatives promoting cross-cultural student engagement.
- Help develop programs fostering respectful discussion, collaboration, and relationships between diverse communities.

Skills

Community Engagement: Interfaith Dialogue | Youth Mentorship | Community Outreach | Public Speaking | Event Coordination

Leadership & Collaboration: Team Leadership | Volunteer Management | Program Development | Conflict Resolution | Cross-Cultural Communication

Administrative & Technical: Microsoft Office Suite | Google Workspace | Social Media Outreach | Project Coordination