

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2026 Legislative Session

Legislative day # 11

RESOLUTION NO. 136 - 2026

Introduced by: Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Appointment – Dr. Kalpana Panigrahi– Interfaith Advisory Commission

Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Dr. Kalpana Panigrahi 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This Resolution was read the third time and was Adopted ☒, Adopted with amendments___, Failed___, Withdrawn ___ by the County Council on Oct 5, 2026.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 Dr. Kalpana Panigrahi 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:

Dr. Kalpana Panigrahi
Columbia, Maryland

Kalpana Panigrahi, PhD (She/her/hers)

Personal Statement

I am a biochemist with special expertise in regulatory, toxicology, bench and clinical research. I have 30 years of experience in academia and industry with over eight years in public health laboratory operations, protocol and curriculum development, teaching, research and management. In the field of new drug development, I have done basic chemistry to *in vitro* and *in vivo* modeling, animal toxicology, handled various phases of clinical trials, developed manual of operations, data collection forms, handled submissions to Institutional Review Boards, did patient enrollment, AE/SAE recording, staff training, monitoring, and reporting.

I have been a principal investigator and co-investigator in multiple competitive projects funded by the NIH and foundations and have published in the most prestigious medical journals of the world including the Lancet, BMJ Glob Health, Pediatric Infectious Diseases and others.

My appointment at the School of Public Health at University of Nebraska Medical Center, then the pandemic, drew me to Asian Institute of Public Health (AIPH) University in India where my role soon changed from a collaborating faculty and lab director for a Gates-funded project to taking up lead roles in academic affairs and global engagement. While the domain of Public Health was much more important for developing countries like India, the field needed transformational change. There were only two universities of public health in the country (compared to 45 in the U.S.) and I had to work with senior and junior faculty not only from AIPH, but several other national universities to put together curricula for MPH, MS, and PhD programs and systems for evaluation meeting U.S. standards. My education at a leading national university in India, followed by rigorous training in a graduate program and fellowship at a major American academic medical center allowed me to blend best of both worlds and establish processes and procedures that will nurture next generation students to learn and contribute to the world around them in a meaningful manner. I am now working as a consultant, volunteering, and advising a few non-profit organizations lending my expertise and time helping develop holistic health and development programs in the U.S. and globally.

Education and Training

1992-94	Fellowship (Clinical Chemistry) University of Maryland Medical Center
1986-91	PhD in Biochemistry, University of Maryland College Park
1983-85	MS in Biochemistry, University of Delhi, New Delhi, India
1980-83	BS in Chemistry (Honors), University of Delhi, New Delhi, India

Employment

2024-	Consultant, Regulatory Review and Submissions, KKYM Global LLC, NJ.
2020-2024	Professor and Associate Dean, Academic Affairs, AIPH University, India.
2018-2020	Associate Professor, and Associate Dean, Global Engagement, AIPH University, Bhubaneswar, India.
2012-2017	Assistant Professor, College of Public Health, University of Nebraska, Omaha, NE.
2008-2012	Principal Scientist, Baltimore Research and Education Foundation (BREF).
2002-2008	Senior Scientist, VA Hospital Baltimore - Dept of Pathology, University of Maryland School of Medicine - Baltimore Research and Education Foundation (BREF).
1998-2001	Chief Scientist, Incubator program, Baltimore Development Corporation, Baltimore.