County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2026 Legislative Session Legislative Day No. **11**

Resolution No. 150 2026

Introduced by: Opel Jones

SHORT TITLE: Appointment – Aftab Ahmed – SMART Data Center Task Force

TITLE: A RESOLUTION appointing Aftab Ahmed to the SMART (Strategic Moratorium for Assessing Responsible Technology) Data Center Task Force as the appointee for the Second Councilmanic District.

Introduced and read first time Sep 8, 2026.

By order Michelle Harrod
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

Read for a second time at a public hearing on Sep 22, 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 Oct 5, 2026.

Certified By Michelle Harrod
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

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

Aftab Ahmed
Ellicott City, Maryland

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland this 5 day of October, 2026 that Aftab Ahmed be appointed as a member of the SMART Data Center Task Force of Howard County, Maryland, representing the Second Councilmanic District, to serve from the date this Resolution is adopted until August 3, 2027, or until a successor is appointed.

Aftab Ahmed

Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

[redacted]

Professional Summary

Results-driven finance and strategy professional with 10+ years of experience across FP&A, strategic planning, financial modeling, budgeting, profitability analysis, and executive reporting. Strong track record supporting public, private, and private equity-backed organizations through dashboard development, ERP transformation, and data-driven decision support. Advanced user of Excel, Power BI, NetSuite, and MS Dynamics, with a history of improving reporting speed, forecasting accuracy, operational efficiency, and margin performance.

Core Competencies

- Financial Modeling & Forecasting
- Budgeting & Long-Range Planning
- Strategic Finance & FP&A
- Profitability & Margin Analysis
- Variance, Scenario & KPI Analysis
- Capital Investment Evaluation
- Private Equity Reporting
- M&A and Post-Acquisition Integration
- Power BI Dashboard Development
- Advanced Excel, PivotTables, VBA
- NetSuite and MS Dynamics
- Data Validation and Migration
- Financial Process Automation
- Executive Reporting
- SOX and FERC Compliance

- Cross-Functional Business Partnership

Professional Experience

Think Consulting - T. Rowe Price

Fund Accounting / Finance Consultant | Feb 2026-Present

- Deliver accurate and timely close support for fund super sheets in a fast-paced investment environment.
- Investigate and reconcile transaction activity against estimated values, resolving exceptions and maintaining fund integrity.
- Lead process optimization initiatives for bank reconciliations, reducing manual touchpoints and improving workflow effectiveness.
- Created an automated NAV pricing calculator that improved pricing accuracy, standardized valuation procedures, and reduced processing time.

AEA Investors / Window Nation Inc.

Senior Strategy Analyst | Jul 2024-May 2025

- Spearheaded enterprise strategic planning processes that aligned corporate goals with market trends and contributed to a 15% increase in operational efficiency.
- Designed executive dashboards in Power BI and Excel to track KPIs, improving data visibility and accelerating decision-making by 30%.
- Conducted competitive and macroeconomic analysis that informed market entry strategy and improved forecasting accuracy by 20%.
- Partnered with leadership and cross-functional stakeholders to gain buy-in and execute high-impact growth and optimization initiatives.

Stride Inc.

Finance Manager | Apr 2022-Jul 2024

- Managed financial operations for six public charter schools, ensuring compliance with federal and municipal reporting requirements.

- Developed and implemented a five-year profitability roadmap that strengthened long-range budget forecasting.
- Built dynamic financial models to support daily operations and strategic planning across multi-site educational programs.
- Designed a product margin calculator that optimized pricing strategy and increased blended sales margins.

Tactic Consultancy

Management / Finance Consultant | Jan 2019-Mar 2022

- Designed a private equity-compliant financial model and five-year profitability plan to support investor presentations and long-term planning for Hudson Global Scholars.
- Led monthly executive financial reviews, translating forecasts and actuals into actionable insights for C-suite leadership at Exelon Utilities and Hudson Global Scholars.
- Partnered with sales and product teams to create margin analysis tools that improved bundled pricing and increased gross margins by more than 12%.
- Integrated MS Dynamics financial data into Power BI for Pearson Education, improving reporting speed and cross-functional visibility by 40%.
- Transitioned legacy Excel financial models into automated Power BI dashboards for Exelon Utilities, reducing manual reporting time by 40%.
- Ensured compliance with FERC accounting standards and project governance protocols, supporting audits and internal controls for nine utilities.
- Oversaw budgeting, forecasting, and financial operations during rapid growth, helping scale revenue by more than 35% while maintaining cost efficiency.

McCormick & Company

Finance Manager | Aug 2017-Dec 2018

- Automated month-end close processes, reducing reporting time by 30% through financial models and workflow improvements.
- Led detailed P&L variance analysis across commodities, plant operations, and product mix, identifying $1.2M in cost-saving opportunities.

- Partnered cross-functionally to streamline reporting and improve forecast accuracy by 25%.
- Built tools to monitor spend performance across production units, increasing budget compliance by 18%.

Becton Dickinson (BD)

Senior Financial Analyst | Jan 2014-Jul 2017

- Developed valuation models and licensing agreement analyses to support multi-million-dollar strategic initiatives and M&A activity.
- Led SOX internal audits and integrated two acquired entities into BD's corporate structure, ensuring compliance and continuity.
- Directed forecasting, budgeting, and performance tracking for the Women's Health product line.
- Managed post-acquisition financials, including earn-outs and payout structures, to optimize deal value and streamline integration.

Jos. A. Bank

Senior Financial Analyst | Aug 2012-Dec 2013

- Managed annual budgeting and forecasting for 25 departments in support of the company's five-year strategic plan.
- Developed real estate pro forma models and ROI analyses for new store leases, supporting expansion decisions across multiple markets.
- Performed monthly variance analysis at store and department levels to identify cost-saving opportunities and performance gaps.
- Prepared quarterly financial presentations for executive leadership and board meetings.

SafeNet (Gemalto)

Financial Analyst | Jul 2011-Jul 2012

- Managed the annual budgeting process for the marketing department, overseeing more than $5M in planned expenditures.
- Conducted monthly variance analysis and recommended corrective actions that improved budget accuracy by 15%.

- Developed recurring financial reports that helped leadership evaluate campaign ROI and reallocate resources effectively.
- Collaborated with cross-functional teams to streamline reporting workflows and reduce the monthly close cycle by 20%.

Stanley Black & Decker / Mercantile Bank & Trust

Credit Analyst | Aug 2006-Jun 2011

- Conducted credit risk assessments and underwrote commercial loans exceeding $80M across diverse industries.
- Developed forecasting models that improved cash flow projections by 25% and supported stronger credit decisions.
- Streamlined financial statement analysis and credit review processes, cutting approval turnaround time by 15% to 20%.
- Collaborated on risk mitigation strategies that contributed to a 10% year-over-year reduction in loan loss provisions.

Education

University of Chicago | Graduate Certificate, Data Engineering (Candidate) | Expected Oct 2025
Focus: database systems, SQL, data pipelines, dashboards, and analytics.

Harvard University | Graduate Certificate, International Relations / Security | Dec 2024

University of Maryland, Robert H. Smith School of Business | MBA, Finance and Entrepreneurship | Dec 2015
Independent study: 3D printing and future market impact.
Capstone project: Process mapping of open-heart surgery, University of Maryland School of Medicine.

University of Maryland Global Campus | Graduate Certificate, Accounting | Dec 2015
Coursework included fraud examination and IT audit.

University of Maryland, College Park | Bachelor of Arts, Economics | Dec 2005

Certifications

- Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA)