County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2026 Legislative Session Legislative Day No. 11

Resolution No. 146-2026

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

SHORT TITLE: Appointment – David Norfolk, Jr.– SMART Data Center Task Force

TITLE: A RESOLUTION appointing David Norfolk, Jr., 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 Sep 8, 2026.

By order Michelle Harrod
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

Read for a second time at a public hearing on Sep 22+23, 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This Resolution was read the third time and was Adopted ✓, Adopted with amendments ___, Failed ___, Withdrawn ___, by the County Council on Oct 5, 2026.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

LEG2725

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:

David Norfolk, Jr.
Columbia, Maryland

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland this 5 day of October, 2026 that David Norfolk, Jr. 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.

COPT DEFENSE PROPERTIES

CDP LISTED NYSE



DAVID NORFOLK, JR.

VICE PRESIDENT, CONSTRUCTION + DEVELOPMENT
GOVERNMENT + DATA PORTFOLIO

[redacted]

David Norfolk, Jr. is a seasoned real estate construction and development executive at COPT Defense Properties (COPT Defense) with more than two decades of experience delivering highly complex, mission-critical facilities for government, defense, intelligence, and technology customers. Dave leads the planning, development, and execution of strategic projects that support some of the nation's most demanding security and operational requirements.

Known for his collaborative leadership style and commitment to execution excellence, Dave's focus on creating high-performance environments that help government and defense-focused customers achieve their operational objectives, and his longstanding experience as a leading developer of secure data center and mission-critical real estate solutions makes him uniquely qualified for the Howard County Data Center Task Force.

Mission Critical Construction + Development Experience

- Directs large-scale construction and development programs for facilities supporting federal agencies, the intelligence community, and government technology contractors.
- Proven track record of delivering over 10 million square feet of mission-critical facilities, including over 2 million square feet of Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility (SCIF) compliant space, comprised of secure, resilient environments designed to meet stringent physical security, power redundancy, infrastructure, jurisdictional, and data protection requirements.
- Instrumental in advancing projects that enable critical technology infrastructure operations while meeting aggressive schedules, physical security standards, acoustic/radio frequency (RF) shielding requirements, and complex regulatory demands.

Data Center Expertise

- Recognized leader in the data center sector and valuable contributor in the growth of COPT Defense's 6 million square feet of data center facilities that support national security missions and next-generation digital operations in Virginia, Maryland, and Texas.
- Over 15 years of experience specific to developing nationally secure, highly resilient data center shell infrastructure designed to withstand physical threats, ensure power redundancy, and maintain mission critical deadlines for hyperscale, government, and cloud-computing users.
- Expertise that spans the full project lifecycle of data center development, including site selection, entitlement, design management, construction execution, resource management, community mitigation, security integration, and operational readiness.

Education + Professional Certifications

- Bachelor of Science | Finance | Salisbury University
- Top Secret/Sensitive Compartmented Information (TS/SCI) Clearance
- Certified Data Centre Design Professional (CDCDP)
- Data Center Professional
- Project Management Professional (PMP)