County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2026 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. **11**

Resolution No. 149-2026

Introduced by: Liz Walsh

SHORT TITLE: Appointment – Meg Boyd – SMART Data Center Task Force

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

Introduced and read first time Sept 8, 2026.

By order Michelle Harrod
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

Read for a second time at a public hearing on Sept 22, 2026. and Oct 19, 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 30, 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

9/22/2026 Did not appear 10/5/2026 Tabled MRH

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

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

Meg Boyd
Elkridge, Maryland

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland this 30 day of October, 2026 that Meg Boyd be appointed as a member of the SMART Data Center Task Force of Howard County, Maryland representing the First Councilmanic District, to serve from the date this Resolution is adopted until August 3, 2027, or until a successor is appointed.

Meg Boyd
[redacted]
Elkridge, Maryland [redacted]
[redacted]

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Howard County Conservancy

Executive Director 2006-present

- Organizational Management
  - Executive Director for environmental education center and land trust with two campuses and 35 regular and contractual employees.
  - Staff lead to 20-member Board of Trustees.
  - Oversee diverse program areas including conservation easements, grounds and historic building management, school field trips and community events, facility rentals and stand-alone MSDE licensed preschool.
  - Fiscal officer responsible for agency's $2 million annual operating budget and $8.2 million in assets.
  - Manage $3.3 million endowment, including overseeing investment policies, regular meetings with investment advisors and endowment distributions.
  - Oversee organization's accreditations under the Nonprofit Standards for Excellence program, Maryland State Department of Education and Maryland Department of Health.

- Strategic Visioning
  - Lead strategic and master planning processes for organization and 232-acre campus.
  - Develop new and unique conservation programs, raising $10 million in grant funds resulting in more than 2,000 acres protected.
  - Founded national certification program for young climate leaders currently operating in 14 states.
  - Created and received ongoing funding for unique "teacher on-site" model delivering environmental education to 18,000 students annually.
  - Successfully shifted organizations focus during COVID to open county's first nature preschool.
  - Lead Justice, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion initiative with Board and staff to integrate JDEI into all program areas and internal operations.

- Marketing and Public Relations
  - Public face of organization with community and media contacts including regular television, radio and print interviews.
  - Lead partnerships with government and community organizations including NOAA, the MD Department of Natural Resources, Howard County Government and national and regional foundations.
  - Work directly with media on major initiatives including live broadcasts and print campaigns.
  - Participate in community affairs and advocacy efforts to further mission and increase organizational exposure.

- Fundraising and Grants Management
  - Oversaw three successful capital campaigns totaling $6 million for historic preservation and new construction.
  - Created annual fundraising event that grew to county's largest fundraiser, with sell out 500+ attendance in its 16th successful year.

- Secured and managed $600,000 in federal grants for systemic environmental education programming.
- Manage major donor relationships and moves management through data driven CRM tools.

American Heart Association 1995-2005

Director, State Health Alliances, Maryland Council

- Staff leader charged with forging partnerships with organizations that supported American Heart Association national objectives.
- Directed statewide initiative to improve stroke outcomes.
- Lead partner with state agencies to promote and implement changes to emergency response for stroke.

Mary Boergers for Governor 1993-1995

Field Director

- Oversaw events and volunteers statewide for gubernatorial campaign.

University of Maryland at College Park 1992-1993

Teaching Assistant

- Planned, instructed and graded coursework for two sections of undergraduate course.

AWARDS, HONORS AND CERTIFICATIONS:

- Maryland Environmental Trust, Aileen Hughes Award for Outstanding Leadership, 2025
- National Association of Counties, Innovation in Conservation Programming, 2024
- Howard Magazine, Local Women Making a Difference, 2017
- Leadership Howard County, Leadership Premier, Class of 2016
- Maryland Master Naturalist, 2010 – present

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

Howard County Public Garden Workgroup (appt by County Executive), 2024
Howard County General Plan Advisory Committee (appt by County Council), 2020-2023
Howard County Women's Commission, Vice-Chair (appt by County Council), 2018-2021
Howard County Bee City Committee, Chair, 2019-2021
MD Association of Nonprofit Organizations, Board Member and Executive Committee 2006-12
Watershed Improvement Network, Steering Committee, 2014 - 2017
Rockburn Elementary School PTA, Board of Directors, 2010- 2012
Environmental Fund for Maryland, Board Member, 2006 – 2010
Vice-President, Rockburn Land Trust, 2000-2006

SELECT MEDIA APPEARANCES:

- WJZ-TV (CBS), Howard County Invests $1M in childcare, 4/10/25
- WYPR Radio (NPR), On the Record with Sheilah Kast, Innovative Youth Climate Programming, 11/11/23
- Maryland Public Television, Outdoors Maryland, Episode 3302/Cicadas Return, 11/16/21
- WBFF-TV (Fox) Morning Show, Take a Pass on Plastics, December 10, 2018
- WMAR-TV (ABC), Midday Maryland, Green Options for your Holiday Parties, 12/18/18
- WYPR (NPR) Radio, Watershed Report Card and Environmental Education, 10/28/18

EDUCATION:

M.A., Public Communication, The American University, 1995

B.A., Sociology, University of Maryland at College Park, 1993

Harrod, Michelle

From: Anderson, Isaiah
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2026 1:30 PM
To: Harrod, Michelle
Cc: Respass, Charity
Subject: Fw: 9/22 - Reminder: Legislative Public Hearing

FYI; just heard from Liz's appointee to the SMART task force. She is unable to testify tonight (CR149-2026)

Isaiah Anderson
Executive Assistant to the Council Administrator
Howard County Council
3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043
ianderson@howardcountymd.gov
410-313-0832 (office)

From: Meg Boyd <meg.boyd@howardnature.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2026 1:02 PM
To: Anderson, Isaiah <ianderson@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Re: 9/22 - Reminder: Legislative Public Hearing

WARNING!!!
This email originated from someone outside of Howard County
DO NOT CLICK LINKS OR OPEN ATTACHMENTS
unless you recognize the sender and know for sure that the content is safe

Hi Isaiah, I am unable to attend tonight. Apologies. Is there any information you need from me in advance?
Thank you,
Meg

On Tue, Sep 22, 2026 at 11:08 AM Anderson, Isaiah <ianderson@howardcountymd.gov> wrote:

Good Morning Meg,

I wanted to touch base following my previous email regarding tonight's Public Hearing.

Will you be able to attend to provide testimony on your appointment to the SMART Data Center Task Force (CR149-2026)?

I can get you signed up on my end, but I wanted to confirm if you will be attending in person or virtually.

Happy to discuss if you have any questions; I can be reached at (410) 313-0832.

Thank you!