County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2026 Legislative Session

Legislative day # 12

RESOLUTION NO. 167 - 2026

Introduced by: Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Appointment – Jamie L. Ferguson, Ph.D. – Cemetery Preservation Advisory Board

Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Jamie L. Ferguson, Ph.D., to the Cemetery Preservation Advisory Board.

Introduced and read first time on Oct 5, 2026.

By order Michelle Harrod
Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

Read for a second time and a public hearing held on Oct 19, 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This Resolution was read the third time and was Adopted ✓, Adopted with amendments ___, Failed ___, Withdrawn ___ by the County Council on Oct 30, 2026.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 6.336 and 16.1302 of the Howard County Code provide for a Cemetery Preservation Advisory Board in Howard County; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive has proposed the appointment of Jamie L. Ferguson, Ph.D., as a member of the Cemetery Preservation Advisory Board; 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 30 day of October, 2026 that the following person is appointed as a member of the Cemetery Preservation Advisory Board to serve from the passage of this Resolution to October 30, 2029 or until a successor is appointed and confirmed:

Jamie L. Ferguson, Ph.D.
Ellicott City, Maryland

MS. JAMIE L. FERGUSON

EDUCATION

University of Delaware **Newark, Delaware**
Ph.D. in History of American Civilization; Major Field: African American Studies, Material Culture and Southern History; Minor Field: Medical History
Cumulative GPA 3.6/4.0 August 2025
Dissertation: "Asylum for Jim Crow: State Mental Hospitals for African-Americans in the Upper South Atlantic Region (Maryland, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia), 1865-1965"

James Madison University **Harrisonburg, Virginia**
M.A. in History; concentration in Public, Regional, and State History, Material Culture, and Museum Studies
Cumulative GPA 4.0/4.0 May 2001
Thesis: "The Color of Insanity: The Condition of African-American Lunatics in the Commonwealth of Virginia, 1845-1879"

Radford University **Radford, Virginia**
B.S. in History, with Honors; Minor in Anthropology
Cumulative GPA 3.6/4.0 Major GPA 4.0/4.0 May 1998
Thesis: "Moderation and Innovation: Dr. John M. Galt II of Eastern Lunatic Asylum, Williamsburg, Virginia"

HONORS

Perwinkle Award from the Coaliton to Protect Maryland Burial Sites (2025)
Montgomery County Executive Prize for Historic Preservation (2019)

ACTIVITIES

Colonial Thomas Dorsey Chapter (Ellicott City), Daughters of the American Revolution
Commissioner, Baltimore County Landmarks Preservation Commission

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Organization of American Historians

PUBLICATIONS

M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks (forthcoming, Images of America series)

"Baltimore County (MD) Historic Preservation Design Guidelines," 2024.

Sharp Flashes of Lightning Come From Dark Clouds: The Life of Josiah Henson (Silver Spring: M-NCPPC, 2018).

"Maryland's African-American Architectural Resources" (2003-2004). www.udel.edu/CHAD. Under MALHBS Projects, see sections specifically on Schools, Churches, and Recreation.

"Diagnostic Artifacts in Maryland" (2003). http://www.jefpat.org/diagnostic/index.htm.

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS

April 2008-Current: Senior History Coordinator and Museum Manager at Maryland-National Capital Parks and Planning Commission – Montgomery County. As historian in the Cultural Resources Stewardship section, responsibilities include providing research necessary to develop exhibit displays, interpretive docent manuals, site guides, and master plans connected to historic buildings and sites owned by the Montgomery County Department of Parks. Position also includes stewardship of 16 cemeteries located on parkland owned by M-NCPPC.

July 2004-April 2008: Lab Curator and Manager at Heite Consulting, Inc. Help identify and catalog prehistoric and historic artifacts from various archaeological sites in the Middle-Atlantic region (specifically Delaware and Maryland). Additional responsibilities include achieving state standards for archaeological collections, performing historical research on specific artifacts and sites, maintaining records and expenditures for the lab, and overseeing the lab staff.

July 2004-April 2005: Research Assistant at Delaware Historical Society. Designed traveling exhibit on the Underground Railroad in the First State, specifically for usage in elementary schools. Additional responsibilities included helping curatorial staff maintain in house exhibits and at the Read House (New Castle, DE), and also help process new accessions in the Archives.

August 2003-June 2005: Research Assistant at the Center for Historic Architecture and and Design. Responsible for architectural drawings and structure reports of buildings found in the mid-Atlantic region, primarily African-American schools and churches in Maryland (work produced into a website).

March 2003-June 2003: Museum Teacher at Historic St. Mary's City. Responsible for leading school tour programs in this outdoor living history setting.

October 2001-January 2003: Assistant Laboratory Project Curator at the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory. Identifying and cataloging artifacts from 31 of Maryland's most important archaeological collections for a National Endowment for the Humanities sponsored project. Work lead to the creation of a Website for Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum (see Public Archaeology) on diagnostic artifacts.

May 2001-December 2001: Historical Researcher at Montpelier. Conducting oral history interviews with descendants of the Gilmore family in relation to the Gilmore Cabin.

May 2001-September 2001: House (Summer) Interpreter at Monticello. Present daily tours of Thomas Jefferson's home during his "retirement years" and life on his slave plantation to the general public.

January 2001-May 2001: Adjunct Professor for the Department of History at James Madison University. Taught two sections of GHUM 120: "What is an American;"

a trial-run for the creation of an American Studies program.

May 2000-January 2001: Historical Researcher at Montpelier. Focused on documenting the historical and architectural significance of the Gilmore Cabin, a structure built in the 1870s, by a former slave under the Madison family, for a historic structures report for the Virginia Foundation of the Humanities and Public Policy.

May 2000-November 2000: Historical (Summer) Interpreter at Montpelier. Presented daily tours to visitors on topics such as architecture and African-American culture in relation to James Madison and his Virginia plantation home.

August 1999-February 2000: Historical Researcher at Frontier Culture Museum of Virginia. Focused on locating appropriate primary documents from the Shenandoah Valley to create a furnishing plan for the 1850 American Farm.

March 1998-November 1998: Historical (Seasonal) Interpreter at Virginia's Explore Park. Responsibilities included in public speaking and teaching, as well as researching life in the mid-1800s in western Virginia, and developing tours to meet VA SOL standards.

REFERENCES: available upon request