County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2026 Legislative Session Legislative day # 12

RESOLUTION NO. 185 - 2026

Introduced by: Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Reappointment – Gift Gunaraj Jayakar – Commission on Disabilities

Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the reappointment of Gift Gunaraj Jayakar to the Commission on Disabilities.

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This Resolution was read the third time and was Adopted ✓, Adopted with amendments ___, Failed ___, Withdrawn ___ by the County Council on Oct 30, 2026.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 6.318 and 12.401 of the Howard County Code provide for a Commission on Disabilities in Howard County; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive has proposed the reappointment of Gift Gunaraj Jayakar as a member of the Commission on Disabilities; 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 reappointed as a member of the Commission on Disabilities to serve from the passage of this Resolution to October 30, 2029 or until a successor is appointed and confirmed:

Gift Gunaraj Jayakar
Ellicott City, Maryland

GIFT GUNARAJ JAYAKAR

EDUCATION:

University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) — Princess Anne, Maryland
Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership — Anticipated Graduation Date: May 2024

Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine (GCSOM) — Scranton, Pennsylvania
Master of Biomedical Sciences — Graduation Date: May 2015

University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) — Baltimore, Maryland
Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences — Graduation Date: May 2014
Minors: *Emergency Health Services & Sociology*

EDUCATIONAL CERTIFICATIONS:

- Advanced Professional Teaching Certificate in:
  - Biology (7 - 12)
  - Chemistry (7 - 12)
  - Work-based Learning (7 - 12), and
  - Generic Special Education Infant-3/1-8/6-Adult

OTHER CERTIFICATIONS:

Emergency Medical Technician; Nursing Assistant; Medication Technician; First Aid, CPR & AED; Introduction to Basic Research in 2008 & 2009; Group Crisis Intervention, Critical Incident Stress Management: Individual Crisis Intervention and Peer Support; USA Cricket Umpires' Association, English Cricket Board Association for Cricket Officials, & West Indies Cricket Umpires' Association umpire

AWARDS & NOMINATIONS:

- Certificate of Appreciation for Book-Study Presentation, Department of Special Education, PGCPS, 2019
- Certificate of Appreciation, College & Career Readiness and Innovative Programs Department, PGCPS (2016, 2017 & 2018)
- Excellence in Leadership award, GCSOM, 2014-2015
- Service to Class award, GCSOM, 2014-2015
- Intern of the Month, June 2014 by the Saravana Multi-Specialty Hospital, Madurai, Tamil Nadu, India
- Employee of the Month, Arc of Howard County, December 2013
- France & Merrick Scholar, UMBC, 2011-2012
- Alumni Association Scholar, UMBC, 2011-2012
- Student of the Month, UMBC National Residence Hall Honorary, April 2010
- Black and Gold Emerging Leader of the Year Award, 2009-2010

TEACHING/EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Department of Special Education — *Secondary Transition*
Prince George's County Public Schools — Hillcrest Heights, MD
Program Specialist — July 2022 - Present

Assisting in the development, implementation and monitoring of an effective instructional program for secondary students with disabilities in areas of career academics, career exploration and planning, independent living, self-advocacy and community involvement. Acting as a resource to students, family's teachers and specialists in understanding secondary transition planning and services through the Individualized Education Program (IEP) process for successful post-secondary outcomes. Training and assisting special education staff in designing and implementing an effective secondary transition plan; writing measurable post-school goals and objectives as part of the IEP. Providing transition focused technical assistance and professional development in collaboration with special education staff, community agency personnel and other relevant transition stakeholders. Assisting in the identification and implementation of processes, procedures, and best practices in secondary transition aligned to research and evidence based practices, and the Maryland Common Core State Standards. Assisting in the monitoring of state and/or district transition audit activities and reviews including but not limited to indicators 13 & 14. Assisting in the development and implementation of career fairs, transition fairs, district transition meetings, and family workshops. Assisting in the development, implementation and monitoring of Secondary Transition State Grant Activities

Fairmont Heights High School
Prince George's County Public Schools — Capitol Heights, MD
Transition Work-Study Coordinator — August 2015 – June 2022

Coordinating the exit procedures for graduating SPED seniors from the school. Auditing transition portions of the Individual Education Plans, that are written by case managers of the entire school, to ensure compliance. Training new case managers and providing refreshers to experienced case managers on writing effective and compliant transition plans. Collaborating with the special education coordinator to train all the case managers of the school on updates that are received on the transition parts. Conduct exit conferences to all the senior students with IEPs, to guide students with special needs with an effective transition from school to college or careers. Creating partnerships with local community business partners to obtain jobs for students enrolled in the work-study portion of the College Career Research & Development course. Teaching Biology, BioGeoChemical systems, Environmental Sciences, and College Career Research & Development courses for general and special education sections. Proctoring HSA and PARCC examinations. Grading Academic Validation Program and Quarter Learning Modules for the State of Maryland.

Department of Special Education
Prince George's County Public Schools — Capitol Heights, MD
Doctoral Program Intern — January 2020 - November 2020

Interned under the Support Programs & Services, Compliance & Due Process, and Non-Public Office of the Department of Special Education. Served on the Reopening Transportation Committee for Non-Public School programs. Observed budget operations of the Support Programs and participated in the Child Find contract proposal evaluation process. Created a pre-jump start program for new Transition Work-Study Coordinators for the 2020-2021 school year. Executed in framing an agenda for the Jum-Start Program, organized for all the Transition Coordinators from the county. Updated version-16 of the Indicator-13 process document, which will serve as a guide to the auditors for the 2020-2021 school year. Served as an special education administrator, as part of the Secondary Transition team, to monitor the smooth-functioning of the CTE Summer camp from the application process to the camp itself. Organized professional development

sessions to special educators to help them perform better at the CTE camp. Observed teachers' instruction and provided feedback on what worked best and ideas to improve. By possessing county-wide access to the Individualized Education Plan of the entire PGCPS, conducted audits on Indicator-13, Goals and Transition portions of Bowie High School, Crossland High School, Largo High School and James Duckworth Regional school IEPs.

Department of Special Education & Career Technical Education
Prince George's County Public Schools — Upper Marlboro, MD
Presenter — October 2015 - Present

Presented at the 2019 Transition book-study, hosted by the Department of Special Education, on Inclusion in General Education, Strategies for Embedding Transition into Academic Content, and Transition Assessment. Presented on all the Google Suite for Education, including google classroom, mail, drive, documents, sheets, slides, forms, and calendar to transition coordinators, at various coordinator meetings. Presented about Virtual Job Shadow program at meetings conducted by the Department of Career and Technical Education.

CTE Career Explorers Summer Camp
Prince George's County Public Schools — Upper Marlboro, MD
Health & Biosciences Educator — Summer 2018, 2019 & 2020

Participated in a training offered by EduSerc. Facilitated health science career exploration of the students. Monitored student activities planned by the CTE department. Conducted training to camp participators and monitored special education accommodations for students with special needs. Helped students prepare a capstone project to present to the entire group of students.

PUBLICATION:

"Transcriptional regulation of murine IL-33 by TLR and non-TLR agonists"
Second author published in the *Journal of Immunology* 2012 Jul 1;189(1):50-60

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE:

Department of Education
University of Maryland Eastern Shore — Princess Anne, MD
Doctoral Researcher — January 2020 - Present

Working on "Effectiveness of structured teaching programmes on knowledge regarding health consequences of soda drink consumption among high school students". The research will look into different teaching methods and its effectiveness among different high school classmen.

Department of Family, Community & Rural Health
The Commonwealth Medical College — Scranton, PA
Graduate Researcher — August 2014 – May 2015

Worked on "Association of Soft drink consumption and Hypertension". The research looked at the energy drink consumption and hypertension among young adults. Processed the data collected by the National Health And Nutrition Examination Survey to conduct the study. Presented the research poster at the TCMC Research Symposium

Department of Microbiology and Immunology
University of Maryland, School of Medicine — Baltimore, MD
Research Assistant — May 2009 - August 2010

Worked on "Intracellular Signaling mediated by Toll-Like Receptors (TLRs) in Murine Macrophages".

Department of Microbiology and Immunology
University of Maryland, School of Medicine — Baltimore, MD
Research Assistant — September 2007 - August 2008

Worked on the "Role of IRF-3 in Transcriptional Regulation of Mouse IL-33 by TLR and Non-TLR Agonists". The research abstract was presented by my mentor, Dr. Swamy Polumuri at the 10th Biennial Meeting of the **International Endotoxin and Innate Immunity Society** held at the Edinburgh University, Scotland, United Kingdom in August 2008.

Other Work Experience:

The Arc of Central Chesapeake Region — Annapolis, MD
Job Coach — January 2014 -April 2019

Tutored and trained individual HL in Algebra, Science and language skills. Assisted in job search and training him on job skills. Facilitated HL to function and run his errands independently. Helped Harris in developing people and sanitary skills.

The Arc of Howard County — Columbia, MD
Certified Nursing Assistant — June 2013 - June 2014

Administered prescribed medications to the individuals at the home center. Maintained records of medications, physical activities, and related medical needs. Reported to the RN about the health conditions of the clients and took care of the clients' personal and professional needs. Organized the home center with groceries and medications. Provided rides to the individuals for their doctor appointments and hospital visits.

Arbutus Volunteer Fire Department — Baltimore, MD
On-call Emergency Medical Technician — May 2010 - August 2013

Attended calls from the county dispatcher and drove the ambulance to the scene. Treated patients at the scene for their immediate emergencies. Transported patients and handed them over to the nearest emergency medical facilities.

Shock Trauma Center, University of Maryland Medical Center — Baltimore, MD
Clinical Volunteer — May 2009 - August 2010

Witnessed numerous critical surgeries performed at the center. Stocked the surgery wards with necessary equipment. Took care of infection control throughout the units. Made beds for the operating room. Helped radiology technicians with mobile X-rays.

Emergency Room, Saint Agnes Hospital — Baltimore, MD
Clinical Volunteer — January 2009 - May 2010

Took hourly vital signs and documented the readings. Helped the nursing technician in TRIAGE. Met the needs of the admitted patients. Cleaned the ward and made beds. Kept the hallway clear of wheelchairs.

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE:

- Chair of Relay for Life Advertising Committee, UMBC (2009, 2010 & 2011)
- Vice President of the Major Inspiration, UMBC (2009 & 2010)
- Student Representative of the Classroom Committee, UMBC (2010-2011)
- Student Representative of the Academic Conduct Committee, UMBC (2010, 2011 & 2012)
- Staff of the Department of Service, Volunteerism & Awareness, SGA, UMBC (2009-2010)
- Treasurer of the Cricket Club, UMBC (2012-2013)
- President of the Cricket Club, UMBC (2010-2011, 2011-2012 & 2013-2014)
- Treasurer of the Interdisciplinary Studies Council of Majors, UMBC (2010-2011)
- President of the Interdisciplinary Studies Council of Majors, UMBC (2011-2012)
- Assistant Speaker of the Student Government Association Senate, UMBC (2010-2011)
- Speaker of the Student Government Association Senate, UMBC (2011-2012)
- Student Representative of the Food Service Committee, TCMC (2014-2015)
- President of the Graduate Student Council, TCMC (2014-2015)
- Student Ambassador, Masters in Biomedical Sciences Program, TCMC (2015-2016)
- Coordinator, Work-Based Learning Program, Fairmont Heights High School (2015 – Present)
- Sponsor, Student Government Association, Fairmont Heights High School (2015 – 2020)
- Sponsor, The Buzz, School Newspaper, Fairmont Heights High School (2015 – 2016)
- Sponsor, Student Government Association, Fairmont Heights High School (2015 – 2020)
- Coach, Varsity Tennis, Fairmont Heights High School (2016 – 2020)
- Sponsor, Chess Club, Fairmont Heights High School (2015 – 2020)
- Textbook Adoption Committee, Department of Career and Technical Education (2020-2021)
- Member, Faculty Advisory Committee, Fairmont Heights High School (2021 - 2022)

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:

- Member of Pre-Medical Society, UMBC (2008-2014)
- Member of Tennis Club, Cricket Club & Chess Club, UMBC (2008-2014)
- Member of Sigma Alpha Lambda National Leadership and Honors society, UMBC (2010-2014)
- Member of Christian Medical and Dental Association, TCMC (2014-2015)

SKILLS:

- Google applications of Classroom, Sheets, Docs, Slides, Gmail and Drive
- Microsoft Office, SMART Board, Blackboard, Adobe products, Computer languages C++, Java with BlueJ Environment & BASIC, MS DOS, Audio & Video editing and Audio Monitoring
- Taking vital signs & SAMPLE history, Western blotting, PCR, Transformation, Transfection, Designing primers, Mutations and analyzing the sequenced DNA
- Fluent in languages English, Tamil, Malayalam and Hindi