

**County Council of Howard County, Maryland**

2015 Legislative Session

Legislative day # 8

**RESOLUTION NO. 110 - 2015**

Introduced by: Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Christopher Oxenham to the Housing Commission.

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Introduced and read first time on July 6, 2015.

By order

Jessica Feldmark  
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council

Read for a second time and a public hearing held on July 20, 2015.

By order

Jessica Feldmark  
Jessica Feldmark, 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This Resolution was read the third time and was Adopted , Adopted with amendments , Failed , Withdrawn  by the County Council on July 31, 2015.

Certified by

Jessica Feldmark  
Jessica Feldmark, 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.





# Howard County

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## Internal Memorandum

**Subject:** Council Resolutions No. 109-2015 and 110-2015

**To:** Mary Kay Sigaty,  
County Council Chair

**From:** Lonnie R. Robbins,  
Chief Administrative Officer

**Date:** July 30, 2015

The Administration requests that Council Resolution No. 109-2015 be withdrawn at the Council's next legislative session.

Also, with regard to CR 110-2015, the appointee, Christopher Oxenham, will be replacing Michael Riemer. Mr. Oxenham will not be replacing Regina Mitchell as previously indicated.

If you have any questions about this matter, please feel free to contact Jennifer Sager, the Legislative Coordinator, at extension 2164. Thank you.

cc: Jessica Feldmark  
Gary W. Kuc  
Eileen Weber

FILE

**CR110-2015**

Paul G. Skalny [paulskalny@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, July 20, 2015 1:20 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear Council Members:

I am writing to you in support of the appointment of Chris Oxenham to the Housing Commission.

I have known Chris for many years and have had the pleasure of watching him grow as an individual and a professional. Chris is passionate about whatever he does and applies his intellect to find a well reasoned and thoughtful solution. He has strong convictions and is not shy about expressing his perspectives, even in the face of adversity or an unpopular position...something we need more of today in our community.

Chris has been an active member of our community and, even at a relatively young age, has been instrumental in positively impacting the community. While his politics may not be shared by all, having smart motivated people working towards the betterment of Howard County is in our collective best interest. That, I believe, is precisely what Chris will do if afforded the chance to serve on the Housing Commission.

I urge you to put politics and the personal attacks by some aside, and consider Chris' appointment based on his intellect, experience, and passion for Howard County.

I appreciate your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul G. Skalny  
pskalny@darslaw.com

Sent from my iPad

Testimony for CR110-2015

Carol Loveless

8519 Timberland Circle

Ellicott City, MD 21043

I have known Chris Oxenham and his family for many years. While Chris was always mature beyond his years, I have, with delight, watched him grow into a kind, caring, passionate young man. Even though Chris is only 30, he has been involved in the community for many years. He is a loving son, husband and father. He is a competent and intelligent young man who has made his mark in the professional arena. Many Howard County residents trust Chris with their business needs, including myself as a small business owner. I think his compassion, work ethic, common sense, education, intuition and intelligence make him an excellent candidate to serve the needs of those seeking affordable housing in Howard County.

Approving such a qualified young and devoted candidate for this position would send a much needed positive message to the community.

I support Chris Oxenham for the appointment to the Howard County Housing Commission and urge you to do the same.

Respectfully submitted,



Carol Loveless

Good evening, I am Chris Oxenham residing at 15261 Bucks Run Dr. in Woodbine, 21797. I am speaking tonight in regards to my potential appointment to the housing commission.

I am a lifelong Howard County resident with the exception of 4 years where I attended the University of Maryland and received a finance degree from the Smith School of Business. When I returned to Howard County I started my own financial advisory firm as an entrepreneur. I have been in business here in the County now for 8 years and our firm has over 85 million in assets under management and I serve as the CEO. Along the way I have received further professional designations including my series 7, series 66, and CHFC and am also licensed in the life and health marketplace. Currently, my business is located in Glenelg.

Through my business experience I have gained extensive knowledge in both the equity and fixed income marketplace. For the housing commission my extensive knowledge and work in municipal bonds will be of great value to the commission. Especially given the difficult period we are entering in the municipal bond marketplace. As we will see in the coming months we are about to enter a period of increasing interest rates making bond issuance tricky and bond values volatile. This is especially concerning to muni bonds not backed by the full faith and credit of the government like the bonds the housing commission will issue for funding. To have an expert in the fixed income markets would be where I could add value to the commission.

In addition I have great interest in the renew Howard program. In working with several of my clients who invest in property in this county we have often discussed the real estate conundrum in Howard County. A lot of prime real estate was built from 1990 – 2010 which in addition to the great school system here has led to a skyrocketing real estate value and a very high entry point to live and rent in this county. There are substantial amounts of properties in aging communities that need work. As counties across the country have just focused on building we have seen older communities get left in the dust. To me revitalizing these communities is of utmost importance and if you can do it in a way to incorporate affordable housing into the fold you can really create a value added element to the county. We need to make sure lower income residents have access to decent housing and if we can revitalize old neighborhoods at the same time we can really grow and give our lower income residents a good lift. It is my understanding of the Renew Howard program that things were not in motion to be sustainable. The county was in 16 million of debt and 2 million from this program was moved because there were no applications for the fund. This makes sense. We need to have a sustainable long term plan to fund this program. I feel I have the professional background and expertise to help do just that and make this program thrive. You need people at the table who can come up with long term sound funding strategy.

I stand here tonight willing to serve and make this a better county. Thank you to the councilpeople who I spoke with over the last few days. I really appreciate the open dialogue from you and I look forward to serving this county with integrity and all I have.

**Chris Oxenham appointment for Housing Commission**

Bates, Gail Senator [Gail.Bates@senate.state.md.us]

**Sent:** Monday, July 20, 2015 1:59 PM

**To:** CouncilMail

Please vote for CR 110-2015 appointing Chris Oxenham to the Howard County Housing Commission. Chris is well qualified for service on this commission, through both his professional career and his lifelong residence in Howard County. Chris is level headed and understands both the need for and opportunities to promote affordable housing in Howard County. Chris works well with people and would bring a unique perspective to this position.

Senator Gail Bates

## **CR110-2015 Appointment to HoCo Housing Commission**

barbara.nye@comcast.net

**Sent:** Monday, July 20, 2015 7:48 AM

**To:** CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Council:

I recently learned that Chris Oxenham is up for an appointment to the Howard County Housing Commission.

My husband and I moved to Howard County in 2006, and met Chris in 2010 as our circle of friends expanded. He strikes me as a perfect fit for this commission. He absolutely loves Howard County and I believe, has lived in Howard County all his life. Chris has a professional background in finance, so well understands the complexities of affordable housing and its importance to the diversity of Howard County. He has been involved in the community since before I knew him; we have attended multiple charitable events with Chris.

One of the things I appreciate about Chris is his integrity. I have no doubt that he would treat his fellow commission members as well as County Council board members with the utmost respect and professionalism. I completely support his nomination. He would be a great asset to the Housing Commission.

Barbara Nye, Elkridge



**CB110**

DavidYungmann@hcmove.net

Sent: Sunday, July 19, 2015 11:04 PM

To: CouncilMail

I'm writing to express my support of CB110-2015, the resolution confirming the appointment of Christopher Oxenham to the Housing Commission, as I am on vacation and can't attend the meeting tonight in person.

I have known Chris his entire life. He has tremendous family values and integrity. He has built a successful financial advisory business at a young age by proving himself to be an intelligent man with sound judgement. Chris is straightforward and is well liked by the people with whom he serves in various other organizations. Like me, he is passionate about his convictions, but is able to consider the opinions of others and work with a team. He works as hard as anyone I know at being a successful business owner, community advocate, husband and father.

The Commission currently has members with a broad range of experience, including at least two members which had no housing or community services background prior to joining the Commission. The member Chris is to replace also had no relevant experience when he was unanimously confirmed by four of you. However, the Commission lacks a voice from the business community despite that group being a primary stakeholder through development, management and funding of the priorities that result from this Commission's work.

The residents of Western Howard County also lack representation on the Commission. As with so many other areas of our local government, conversations are dominated by people from the more populated Eastern communities. Chris is a resident of Woodbine and understands the thoughts, values and interests of our rural community.

We find ourselves at a crossroads with several housing issues, especially Downtown affordable housing given the requirements we worked into the Master Plan has not generated results. I believe the best solutions will come from a Commission with a many different perspectives that will challenge each other, and that this confirmation will result in an even more inclusive and diverse Commission. I am confident you will find Chris to be a likeable and effective person if you're willing to get to know him.

As always, thank you for your hard work and consideration of my thoughts.

David Yungman  
The Yungmann Group at RE/MAX Advantage Realty  
(410) 207-7777  
[www.HowardCountyMove.com](http://www.HowardCountyMove.com)

**CR110-2015**

Robert Gillette [gilletterm@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Sunday, July 19, 2015 3:55 PM**To:** CouncilMail

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to express my support for Mr. Christopher Oxenham's nomination to the Howard County Housing Commission. Chris is a life-long Howard County resident and has been an active member of his community for as long as I have known him. He has a genuine sense of pride in our county and his desire to serve on the Housing Commission is a further reflection of his devotion to our county. As a certified financial planner he brings relevant knowledge and experience to the Housing Commission. The Housing Commission and Howard County as a whole can only benefit from his service.

I strongly urge the Council to confirm Mr. Oxenham's nomination.

Regards,

Robert M. Gillette  
Woodbine, MD

## Howard Cnty: Bill # CR110-2015 Appointment of Chris Oxenham to Housing Commission

Bourg, Steve [SBourg@CBIZ.com]

**Sent:** Monday, July 20, 2015 11:56 AM

**To:** CouncilMail

**Importance:** High

(emailed to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov -- 11:55am July 20, 2015)

Dear Council Members:

I have a particular interest in politics, and am very impressed that my (relatively) young professional friend Chris Oxenham takes *even more* interest in the affairs of our local govt issues in Howard County.

I know he's been appointed by Allen Kittleman to sit on the Housing Commission.

Chris is a lifelong Howard County resident except for his years attending U Md / College Park.

He has a background in Finance and understands the economics of businesses and is learning about its relationship to government financial issues.

He has a long history of involvement in the Community – *I have attended several meetings at the Howard County Govt offices with him.*

He understands the importance of affordable housing and its importance in Howard County.

And finally, I can assure you he has the utmost integrity and would treat the members with respect, as he does all professionals -- and in fact all people he comes in contact with. I have spent a lot of time with him over the last 8 - 10 years.

***Please support his nomination.*** You'd be hard-pressed to find a more intelligent and caring person for this important position in our community.

Regards,

**Steve Bourg, EA, MSPA**

**VP, Sr. Retirement Plan Consultant**

CBIZ Benefits & Insurance Services, Inc.

9755 Patuxent Woods Drive, Suite 200

Columbia, MD 21046

p: 443.259.3226 f: 885.288.0215

e: sbourg@cbiz.com

www.cbiz.com | NYSE: CBZ