



Howard County Council

George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043-4392

COUNCILMEMBERS

Opel Jones, Chair
District 2

Christiana Rigby, Vice Chair
District 3

Liz Walsh
District 1

Deb Jung
District 4

David Yungmann
District 5

Minutes – Approved

Legislative Work Session
Tuesday, January 27, 2026
Virtual Meeting

Video Streamed on <https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/watch-us>
10:30 a.m.

Councilmembers present: Opel Jones, Deb Jung, Christiana Rigby, Liz Walsh, David Yungmann

Staff present: Theo Wimberly, Administrative Manager; Gary Kuc, County Solicitor; Amanda Mihill, Assistant County Solicitor; Isaiah Anderson, Executive Assistant I; Jim Almon, Legislative Analyst; Charity Respass Administrative Assistant; and Rozanna Hightower, Administrative Assistant.

Chair Jones opened the meeting at 10:34 a.m.

Agenda

CB3-2026 (ZRA 218) - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive
Short Title: ZRA 218 - Accessory Dwelling Units- Allowed by right in certain zoning districts, under certain conditions

Lynda Eisenberg, Mary Kendall, Julia Sauer of the Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning (DPZ) appeared before the Council to review the Administration's amendments to the bill regarding prohibiting accessory dwelling units on properties improved with two-family dwelling units, removing two-family dwelling units as a principal permitted use and retaining it as a conditional use, maximum lot coverage requirements, and technical edits to the legislation. Councilmembers asked about the effect of the proposed amendments and discussed issues related to maximum lot area, off-street parking, State requirements for Accessory Dwelling Units, short-term rentals, and county enforcement of the proposed provisions of the bill.

CR19-2026 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive
Short Title: Adopting comprehensive revision – Landscape Manual

Lynda Eisenberg and Chad Edmondson of DPZ, Emily Anders and Kevin Reilly of Sight Resources Inc., ("SRI") the consultant for the proposed Landscape Manual appeared before the Council to discuss the revisions to the current manual and took questions from Councilmembers. Councilmembers asked questions regarding the types of plants and plantings required under the proposed manual including biomass and pollinator plants.

Ms. Eisenberg discussed the process of developing the proposed manual including summaries of the groups and public meetings held on the proposed manual. Ms. Eisenberg also discussed how the proposed manual is the result of following the County's Climate Act Plan and working in collaboration with Office of Community Sustainability. Ms. Anders of SRI walked the Councilmembers through illustrations showing the differences in planting requirements between the current landscape manual and the proposed landscape manual. Some Councilmembers expressed concerns about the sufficiency of the proposed planting requirements and performance guarantees regarding landscape plans.

CB7-2026 - Introduced by Opel Jones - Co-sponsor(s) Christiana Rigby, David Yungmann
Short Title: Howard County Boards and Commissions - Interference – Prohibition

The sponsors discussed the bill. Councilmembers then discussed the bill and its applicability and requested clarity from Gary Kuc the County Solicitor on certain legal aspects of the bill.

Chair Jones closed the meeting at 12:34

Participants:

CB3-2026 (ZRA 218)

Lynda Eisenberg
Julia Sauer
Mary Kendall
Justin Tyler

CR19-2026 – Adopting comprehensive revision – Landscape Manual

Lynda Eisenberg
Chad Edmondsdson
Emily Anders – SRI
Kevin Reilly -SRI

CB7-2026 – Howard County Boards and Commissions – Interference – Prohibition

Gary Kuc

