



# 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 Edmonsdson  
Emily Anders – SRI  
Kevin Reilly -SRI

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

Gary Kuc

(410) 313-2001                    fax: (410) 313-3297  
<http://cc.howardcountymd.gov>