



# Howard County Council

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

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 Public Hearing  
Hybrid Meeting (Virtual and In-Person Meeting)  
Video Streamed at [cc.howardcountymd.gov/watch-us](https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/watch-us)  
Broadcast on channels 44(Verizon) and 1071 (Comcast)  
Monday, May 18, 2026  
7:00 p.m.

**Members Present:** Chair Opel Jones, Vice Chair Christiana Rigby, Council Members Deb Jung, Liz Walsh and David Yungmann were present.

**Staff Present:** Michelle Harrod, Council Administrator; Gary Kuc, County Solicitor, Amanda Mihill, Assistant County Solicitor; Isaiah Anderson, Executive Assistant I; Jennifer Sager, Legislative Coordinator; James Almon, Senior Administrative Analyst; and Rozonna Hightower, Administrative Assistant were also present.

- I. Called to Order at 7:05 p.m.
- II. Roll Call
- III. Pledge of Allegiance led by Boy Scout Troop 540
- IV. Public Hearing
  - A. Students Called
    - 1. **CR68-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Ilerioluwa M. Adubi to the Recreation and Parks Board
      - a. Ilerioluwa M. Adubi, called to speak
    - 2. **CB31-2026** - CR - AN ACT temporarily prohibiting issuance of certain approvals of development plans for data processing centers; creating a task force to consider defining “Data Centers” in the Zoning Regulations, study the potential impacts of data centers on the public health, safety, and welfare, and to report and make recommendations on best practices for data center development, including but not limited to siting and location, setbacks and screening, water and energy consumption, noise mitigation, and removal of the data center tax credit; and generally relating to data center development in Howard County
      - a. Rishit Guttam called to speak

- b. Sidaarth Karegowdra called to speak
- c. Dhruv Dobariya called to speak

3. **CR60-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Jenna M. Campbell to the Commission for Women

- a. Jenna Campbell called to speak

4. **CR64-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Allison Corinne Nichols to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission

- a. Allison Nichols called to speak

5. **CR65-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Anjali Thaker to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission

- a. Anjali Thaker called to speak

**B. Appointments**

1. **CR52-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Joseph C. Hudzik to the Adult Public Guardianship Review Board

- a. Joseph Hudzik called to speak

2. **CR53-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Ning Li to the Asian American and Pacific Islander Commission

- a. Ning Li called to speak

3. **CR54-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Keith Louie to the Asian American and Pacific Islander Commission

- a. Keith Louie called to speak

4. **CR55-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Seema Agarwal-Harding to the Asian American and Pacific Islander Commission

- a. Semma Harding called to speak

5. **CR56-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of J. Jason Zhao to the Asian American and Pacific Islander Commission

*DID NOT APPEAR*

6. **CR57-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Swati Sharma to the Asian American and Pacific Islander Commission

a. Swati Sharma called to speak

7. **CR58-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Rebecca Paulson Fields to the Commission for Women

a. Rebecca Fields called to speak

8. **CR59-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Bronzwyn Palmer to the Commission for Women

a. Bronzwyn Palmer called to speak

9. **CR61-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Angel M. Robinson to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission

a. Angel Robinson called to speak

10. **CR62-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Khalida S. Burton to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission

a. Khalida Burton called to speak

11. **CR6-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of James R. Bartlett to the Historic Preservation Commission

a. James Bartlett called to speak

12. **CR66-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Sandy Pagan to the La Alianza Latina Commission

a. Sanday Pagan called to speak

13. **CR63-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Raeleena C Collington to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission

a. Dr. Raeleena Collington called to speak

14. **CR67-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Erika Tustin to the La Alianza Latina Commission

a. Erika Tustin called to speak

### C. Reappointments

1. **CR69-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the reappointment of May-Fong Tsay to the Asian American and Pacific Islander Commission
2. **CR70-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the reappointment of Young Ran Smith to the Asian American and Pacific Islander Commission
3. **CR71-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the reappointment of Kimberly Eggborn to the Asian American and Pacific Islander Commission
4. **CR72-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the reappointment of Sameer C. Ahirrao to the Asian American and Pacific Islander Commission
5. **CR73-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the reappointment of Phil Scherer to the Multimodal Transportation Board

### D. Financial (Non-Budget)

1. **CB26-2026** - AN ACT pursuant to Section 1.111(e) of the Howard County Code, approving provisions in a an amendment to a collective bargaining agreement between Howard County and the Howard County Police Officer’s Association, Lodge 21 that are in conflict with the provisions of Title 1 “Human Resources” of the Howard County Code or the Employee Manual; approving a multi-year amendment to a collective bargaining agreement between Howard County and the Howard County Police Officer’s Association, Lodge 21 that will be effective through the end of Fiscal Year 2028 and that includes payment of certain compensation in future fiscal years; providing for the application of this Act; and generally relating to the collective bargaining agreement between Howard County and the Howard County Police Officer’s Association, Lodge 21
  - a. Jamar Herry - Deputy Chief Administrative Officer/County Administration - called to speak (Mr. Herry’s testimony included CB26-2026, CB27-2026 and CB28-2026)
2. **CB27-2026** - AN ACT pursuant to Section 1.111(e) of the Howard County Code, approving provisions in a an amendment to a collective bargaining agreement between Howard County and the Howard County Police Supervisor’s Alliance Lodge 143that are in conflict with the provisions of Title 1 “Human Resources” of the Howard County Code or the Employee Manual; and generally relating to the collective bargaining agreement between Howard County and the Howard County Police Supervisor’s Alliance Lodge 143
  - a. Jamar Herry - Deputy Chief Administrative Officer/County Administration - called to speak (Mr. Herry’s testimony included CB26-2026, CB27-2026 and CB28-2026)
3. **CB28-2026** - AN ACT pursuant to Section 1.111(e) of the Howard County Code, approving provisions in a collective bargaining agreement between Howard County and the Howard County Public Safety Dispatchers Association that are in conflict with the provisions of Title 1

“Human Resources” of the Howard County Code or the Employee Manual; approving a multi-year collective bargaining agreement between Howard County and the Howard County Public Safety Dispatchers Association that will be effective through the end of Fiscal Year 2028 and that includes payment of certain compensation in future fiscal years; providing for the application of this Act; and generally relating to the collective bargaining agreement between Howard County and the Howard County Public Safety Dispatchers Association

a. Jamar Herry - Deputy Chief Administrative Officer/County Administration - called to speak (Mr. Herry’s testimony included CB26-2026, CB27-2026 and CB28-2026)

4. **SAO1-FY2026** - AN ACT transferring \$1,000,000 from the General Fund, Contingency Reserve to the Department of Public Works for unanticipated expenses related to snow removal

a. Yosef Kebede -Director/Department of Public Works - called to speak

5. **CB29-2026** - AN ACT making emergency appropriations pursuant to Section 610(b) of the Howard County Charter and amending the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2026 in order to provide additional spending authority to the Department of Public Works, the Department of General Services, the Department of Corrections and Non-Departmental expenses for unanticipated expenses related to snow removal, for overtime costs incurred by the Department of Corrections, and for SDAT billing; and declaring that this Act is an Emergency Bill necessary to meet a public emergency affecting life, health or property

a. Holly Sun - Budget Administrator/County Administration - called to speak

7. **CR74-2026** - A RESOLUTION approving certain transfers between major categories in the Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget of the Board of Education in the amount of \$3,635,000; and generally relating to the Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget of the Board of Education

a. Darin Conforti - Executive Director of Budget/Howard County Public School System on behalf of the Board of Education - called to speak

6. **CB30-2026** - AN ACT making emergency appropriations pursuant to Section 610(b) of the Howard County Charter and amending the Annual Budget and Appropriation for Fiscal Year 2026 to provide additional spending authority in the Employee Benefits Self-Insurance fund due to significant increases in medical claim expenditures of the fund; and declaring that this Act is an Emergency Bill necessary to meet a public emergency affecting life, health or property

a. Anju Bennett - Director/Department of Human Resources - called to speak (Ms. Bennett’s testimony included CB30-2026, CR75-2026 and CB32-2026)

1. **CR75-2026** - A RESOLUTION establishing the Fiscal Year 2027 Retirement Incentive Program; defining certain terms; establishing eligibility requirements; identifying certain positions that are excluded from participation; authorizing the development of Policies and Procedures; stating that there is no impact on retiree health benefits; requiring the availability of funds; and generally related to the Fiscal Year 2027 Retirement Incentive Program

a. Anju Bennett - Director/Department of Human Resources - called to speak (Ms. Bennett's testimony included CB30-2026, CR75-2026 and CB32-2026)

E. Budget

2. **CB32-2026** - AN ACT amending the Pay Plan for Howard County; providing pay scales for employees and members of certain collective bargaining units to be effective July 1, 2026 and January 1, 2027, in certain instances; making certain technical corrections; providing for the application of this Act; and generally relating to the Pay Plan for Howard County

a. Anju Bennett - Director/Department of Human Resources - called to speak (Ms. Bennett's testimony included CB30-2026, CR75-2026 and CB32-2026)

3. **CB33-2026** - AN ACT adopting the current expense budget and the capital budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027, to be known as the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance of Howard County, Fiscal Year 2027

a. Jackie Eng - Housing Affordability Coalition - called to speak

- Jackie Eng - Heritage Housing Partners Legacy Award presented by Council Member, Liz Walsh

b. Ryan Powers called to speak

4. **CB34-2026** - AN ACT for the purpose of authorizing and empowering Howard County, Maryland to borrow money in the principal amount of up to \$176,638,609 on its full faith and credit, and issue and sell its bonds or other obligations therefor, to be used to pay costs of certain County capital projects (including bridge projects, general county projects, storm drainage projects, school system projects, fire and rescue projects, road construction projects, roadside and sidewalk projects, library projects, community college projects, parks and recreation projects, police projects and traffic improvements projects), which are specified and described in the County's 2027 Capital Budget (including, without limitation, borrowings for certain capital projects previously authorized in other calendar years, which such authorization has lapsed or will lapse), and to pay costs of issuance of such bonds or other obligations; authorizing the County to issue bond anticipation notes or to enter into installment purchase agreements for payment of portions of such costs; and to levy taxes upon the assessable property within the County sufficient, together with other available funds, to pay the debt service on such obligations; and providing for and determining various matters in connection therewith

5. **CB35-2026** - AN ACT for the purpose of authorizing and empowering Howard County, Maryland to borrow money in a principal amount of up to \$15,580,723 on its full faith and credit, and issue and sell its bonds or other obligations therefor, to be used to pay costs of certain County road construction projects which are specified and described in the County's 2027 Capital Budget (including, without limitation, borrowings for certain of such capital projects previously authorized), and to pay costs of issuance of such bonds or other obligations;

authorizing and empowering the County to issue bond anticipation notes or to enter into installment purchase agreements for payment of portions of such costs; and to levy taxes upon the assessable property within the County sufficient, together with building excise taxes and other available funds, to pay the debt service on such obligations; and providing for and determining various matters in connection therewith

6. **CB36-2026** - AN ACT for the purpose of authorizing and empowering Howard County, Maryland to borrow money in the principal amount of up to \$91,407,524 on its full faith and credit, and issue and sell its bonds or other obligations therefor, to be used to pay costs of certain County water and sewer capital projects which are specified and described in the County's 2027 Capital Budget (including, without limitation, borrowings for certain water and sewer capital projects previously authorized in prior calendar years which such authorization has lapsed or will lapse), and to pay costs of issuance of such bonds or other obligations; authorizing the County to issue bond anticipation notes or to enter into installment purchase agreements for payment of portions of such costs; and to levy taxes upon the assessable property within the County sufficient, together with benefit assessments, ad valorem taxes levied upon the assessable property in the Metropolitan District and other available funds, to pay the debt service on such obligations; and providing for and determining various matters in connection therewith

7. **CB37-2026** - AN ACT for the purpose of authorizing and empowering Howard County, Maryland to borrow money in the aggregate principal amount of up to \$67,413,250 on its full faith and credit, and issue debt obligations therefor, to be used to pay costs of certain General County projects as more particularly described in the County's Fiscal Year 2027 Capital Budget, and to pay costs of issuance of such debt obligations; and to levy taxes upon the assessable property within the County sufficient, together with other available funds, to pay the debt service on such obligations; and providing for and determining various matters in connection therewith

8. **CB38-2026** - AN ACT for the purpose of authorizing and empowering Howard County, Maryland to borrow money in the aggregate principal amount of up to \$9,090,000 on its full faith and credit, and issue and sell its bonds or other obligations therefor, to be used to pay costs of certain County watershed protection and restoration projects as more particularly described in the County's 2027 Capital Budget, and to pay costs of issuance of such bonds or other obligations; authorizing and empowering the County to issue bond anticipation notes or to enter into installment purchase agreements for payment of portions of such costs; and to levy taxes upon the assessable property within the County sufficient, together with amounts held in the Watershed Protection and Restoration Fund and other available funds, to pay the debt service on such obligations; and providing for and determining various matters in connection therewith

9. **CB39-2026** - AN ACT for the purpose of authorizing and empowering Howard County, Maryland to borrow money in the aggregate principal amount of up to \$4,720,863 on its full faith and credit, and issue and sell its bonds or other obligations therefor, to be used to pay costs of certain County broadband projects as more particularly described in the County's 2027

Capital Budget, and to pay costs of issuance of such bonds or other obligations; authorizing and empowering the County to issue bond anticipation notes or to enter into installment purchase agreements for payment of portions of such costs; and to levy taxes upon the assessable property within the County sufficient, together with amounts held in the Non-County Government BBI Fund and the Private Sector BBI Fund and other available funds, to pay the debt service on such obligations; and providing for and determining various matters in connection therewith

10. **CR76-2026** - A RESOLUTION approving the Capital Program for Howard County for Fiscal Years 2028 through 2032 and the Extended Capital Program for Fiscal Years 2033 through 2036

11. **CR77-2026** - A RESOLUTION approving the Fiscal Year 2027 operating budget for the Howard Community College and indicating appropriations for major functional categories

12. **CR78-2026** - A RESOLUTION approving the Fiscal Year 2027 budget for the Howard County Library System and indicating appropriations for object classes

13. **CR79-2026** - A RESOLUTION setting forth the Fiscal Year 2027 Operating Budget for the Howard County Board of Education

14. **CR80-2026** - A RESOLUTION approving the Fiscal Year 2027 budget for the Howard County Health Department and indicating appropriations for object classes

15. **CR81-2026** - A RESOLUTION approving schedules for charges pertaining to the Metropolitan District, to water and sewer service, and to shared sewage disposal facilities

16. **CR82-2026** - A RESOLUTION approving schedules of fees for the functions regulated by the Department of Public Works

17. **CR83-2026** - A RESOLUTION approving schedules of fees, fines and charges for functions regulated by the Howard County Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits

18. **CR84-2026** - A RESOLUTION approving schedules of fees and charges for functions regulated or administered by the Department of Planning and Zoning

19. **CR85-2026** - A RESOLUTION approving schedules of fees and rates for functions regulated and administered by the Department of Police
  
20. **CR86-2026** - A RESOLUTION approving schedules of fines and penalties for violations of and administrative costs related to enforcement of Howard County's parking laws, including administrative handling fees for parking citations and citations under the automated red-light enforcement program
  
21. **CR87-2026** - A RESOLUTION approving fee and rate schedules for: (1) Applying for approval of an industrial development revenue bond or MIDFA bond or loan; (2) Solicitor and Peddler Identification Card; (3) Weekend Prisoners - Room and board; (4) Prisoner - Health care provider fee; (5) Participation in work release program; (6) Participation in home detention program; (7) Marriage license fee charge for funding of domestic violence programs; (8) Annual registration of trespass towing companies and maximum rates to be charged by trespass towing services; (9) Fee and specifications for transcripts of administrative proceedings; and (10) Reproduction of public records
  
22. **CR88-2026** - A RESOLUTION adopting schedules for various charges related to the Watershed Protection and Restoration Fee
  
23. **CR89-2026** - A RESOLUTION adopting fee schedules for functions of the Health Department
  
24. **CR90-2026** - A RESOLUTION adopting a Schedule of Fees for inspections conducted by the Department of Fire and Rescue Services
  
25. **CR91-2026** - A RESOLUTION approving a Reimbursement Schedule for the Emergency Medical Services Reimbursement Program
  
26. **CR92-2026** - A RESOLUTION adopting a schedule of fees for functions regulated by the Department of Finance
  
27. **CR93-2026** - A RESOLUTION levying a tax on certain admissions and amusements, establishing classes of admissions and amusements, setting tax rates on different classes, and providing for certain exemptions from the tax

28. **CR94-2026** - A RESOLUTION adopting the schedule of rates for the Building Excise Tax
  - a. Brent Loveless - Legislative Chair/PTACHC called to speak
29. **CR95-2026** - A RESOLUTION levying a fire and rescue tax for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027 and setting the tax rate for the fire and rescue tax
30. **CR96-2026** - A RESOLUTION levying a property tax for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027; setting the tax rates for property; and providing for the collection of the property tax
31. **CR97-2026** - A RESOLUTION setting the fee-in-lieu rate for moderate income housing
32. **CR98-2026** - A RESOLUTION adopting the Transfer Tax, the tax on every instrument of writing conveying title to real or leasehold property offered for a record and recorded in Howard County with the Clerk of the Circuit Court, and providing for certain exemptions from the tax
33. **CR99-2026** - A RESOLUTION establishing a recordation tax rate on instruments of writing that are recorded with the Clerk of the Circuit Court

## **E. GENERAL**

1. **CB25-2026** (ZRA 224) - AN ACT amending the Howard County Zoning Regulations to define “Cottage Clusters”; to provide where Age-Restricted Adult Housing Cottage Clusters will be permitted by right; to add parking requirements to Age-Restricted Adult Housing Cottage Clusters and multiplexes; to provide criteria for Age-Restricted Adult Housing Cottage Clusters within an Optional Design Project; and generally relating to the Howard County Zoning Regulations
  - a. Julia Suer - Division Chief/Planning and Zoning - called to speak
  - b. Fran LoPresti called to speak
  - c. Lisa Yangias – did not speak
  - d. Jackie Eng - Howard County Housing Affordability Coalition - was called to speak
  - e. Cindy LaFollette called to speak
  - f. Barry Mehta called to speak
  - g. Joel Hurewitz called to speak
  - h. Joshua Palagyi - Legislative Vice Chair/HCAR called to speak
2. **CB31-2026** - CR - AN ACT temporarily prohibiting issuance of certain approvals of development plans for data processing centers; creating a task force to consider defining “Data Centers” in the Zoning Regulations, study the potential impacts of data centers on the public

health, safety, and welfare, and to report and make recommendations on best practices for data center development, including but not limited to siting and location, setbacks and screening, water and energy consumption, noise mitigation, and removal of the data center tax credit; and generally relating to data center development in Howard County

- a. Fran LoPresti called to speak
- b. Dave Arndt - Co-Chair, Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice - called to speak
- c. Stu Kohn - President/Howard County Citizens Association - called to speak
- d. Carl Latkin, Sierra Club of Howard County - called to speak
- e. Doug Siglin - Chesapeake Climate Action Network - called to speak
- f. Matthew Frieswyk called to speak
- g. Murty Challa called to speak
- h. Monica O'Connor - Howard County Climate Action - called to speak
- i. Ruth Alice White called to speak
- j. John Bonstingl called to speak
- k. Kelly Schulz - CEO/Maryland Tech Council called to speak
- l. Shamioka Preston called to speak

Adjourned at 10:32 p.m.