



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 Public Hearing
Hybrid Meeting (Virtual and In-Person Meeting)
Video Streamed on <https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/watch-us>
Broadcast on channels 44(Verizon) and 1071 (Comcast)
Wednesday, September 23, 2026
7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Chair Opel Jones, Vice Chair Christiana Rigby, Council Members Jung, Walsh and Yungmann

Staff Present: Michelle Harrod, Council Administrator; Gary Kuc, County Solicitor, Amanda Mihill, Assistant County Solicitor; Jennifer Sager, Legislative Coordinator; Nick Rhinehart, Senior Administrative Analyst; Isaiah Anderson, Executive Assistant I; and Rozonna Hightower, Administrative Assistant

I. Call to Order at 7:30 p.m.

II. Roll Call

III. Public Hearing

A. General

1. **CB59-2026 - DY - AN ACT** temporarily prohibiting issuance of certain approvals of development plans or building permits for solar energy facilities; require a public meeting with various agencies to discuss the new rules introduced by the Renewable Energy Certainty Act (HB1036) and the implications on Howard County government processes for reviewing solar energy facilities; provide a report to the County Council and County Executive explaining what County authority is preempted in HB1036 and what the County is permitted to require or adopt; and generally relating to solar energy facilities in Howard County.

a. Councilmember David Yungmann's Explanation of CB59-2026

- b. James Davies did not speak
- c. Jeff Pollak called to speak
- d. Doug Siglin called to speak
- e. John Miller called to speak
- f. Ally Niphakis did not speak
- g. Damali Harding waived testimony
- h. Shannon Singleton called to speak
- i. Ryan O'Connor called to speak
- j. Nater Kane called to speak
- k. Barbara Baker called to speak
- l. Michael McAllister called to speak
- m. Ian Nagengast called to speak
- n. James Palmer did not speak
- o. Chris Alleva did not speak
- p. Ralph Lusby did not speak
- q. Gale Mackison called to speak
- r. Fitzgerald Mofor did not speak
- s. Beth Franks called to speak
- t. Cathy Heckman (sitting in for Colt Romberger) called to speak
- u. Ryan Powers called to speak
- v. Jim Heckman called to speak
- w. Jeanne Bolton called to speak
- x. Ruth White (testimony written by Liz Feighner) called to speak
- y. Spencer Rhoda called to speak
- z. Gary Cooper called to speak
- aa. Kasey Meinecke called to speak
- bb. Matt Willhite called to speak
- cc. Alan Schneider called to speak

B. Financial

1. **CB49-2026** - AN ORDINANCE authorizing the issuance, sale and delivery of up to \$670,397 bonds, pursuant to a bond enabling law; providing that such bonds shall be general obligations of the County; authorizing the County Executive to specify, prescribe, determine, provide for or approve the final principal amounts, maturity schedules, interest rates and redemption provisions for such bonds, and other matters, details, forms, documents or procedures and to determine the method of sale of such bonds; providing for the disbursement of the proceeds of such bonds and for the levying of taxes to pay debt service on such bonds; and providing for and determining various matters in connection therewith.
2. **CB50-2026** - AN ORDINANCE authorizing the issuance, sale and delivery of up to \$150,000,000 consolidated public improvement bonds and up to \$50,000,000 metropolitan

district bonds, pursuant to various bond enabling laws; providing that such bonds shall be general obligations of the County; authorizing the County Executive to specify, prescribe, determine, provide for or approve the final principal amounts, maturity schedules, interest rates and redemption provisions for such bonds, and other matters, details, forms, documents or procedures and to determine the method of sale of such bonds; providing for the disbursement of the proceeds of such bonds and for the levying of taxes to pay debt service on such bonds; and providing for and determining various matters in connection therewith.

3. **CB51-2026** - AN ORDINANCE authorizing and providing for the issuance of Howard County, Maryland Consolidated Public Improvement Refunding Bonds and Howard County, Maryland Metropolitan District Refunding Bonds; providing that such bonds shall be general obligations of the County; providing for the disbursement of the proceeds of such bonds and the levying of taxes to pay debt service on such bonds; providing for the private (negotiated) sale of such bonds; providing for an escrow deposit agreement and a continuing disclosure agreement; authorizing the County Executive to specify, prescribe, determine, provide for or approve the final principal amounts, maturity schedules, interest rates and redemption provisions for such bonds, the final list of refunded bonds, and certain other matters, details, forms, documents or procedures; and providing for and determining various matters in connection therewith.

a. Rafu Ighile, Director of Finance/Administration, (**CB49, CB50, CB51**) called to speak

b. Matt Willhite called to speak, (**CB50**)

4. **CB52-2026** - AN ACT for the purpose of repealing the current credit for day care provider, family day-care homes and group care centers and replacing the repealed credit with separate credits for certain day care providers and day care credits for large child care centers consistent with State law authority; and generally relating to property tax credits for real property owned by certain day care providers.

a. Rafu Ighile, Director of Finance/Administration, called to speak

5. **CB53-2026** - AN ACT for the purpose of expanding the Property Tax Credit for real property owned by certain Public Safety Officers who have retired from a public safety agency in Howard County; amending the definition of Public Safety Officer; and generally relating to the Property tax credit for real property owned by certain Public Safety Officers.

a. Rafu Ighile, Director of Finance/Administration, was called to speak

b. Stu Kohn, Howard County Citizens Association, did not speak

c. Wayne Livesay called to speak

d. Chuck Ridgeley, President, Retired Howard County Firefighters Association (on behalf of Andrew Liebno) called to speak

- e. Nater Kane called to speak
- f. Matt Willhite called to speak
- g. Alan Schneider called to speak
- h. James Daly, President/Howard County's Police Supervisors' Alliance called to speak
- i. Adam Nolder did not speak

C. General

1. **CR159-2026** - A RESOLUTION supporting the Howard County Arts & Culture Plan; providing for the publication of the Plan; providing that the County Executive's signature indicates support for the Plan.
 - a. Coleen West, Executive Director/Howard County Arts Council called to speak
 - b. Andrew Liebno (on CB53) called to speak
2. **CR160-2026** - A RESOLUTION approving BikeHoward 2026, the Howard County Bicycle Master Plan Update and indicating support for the County's application to be designated a bicycle-friendly community by the League of American Bicyclists.
 - a. Christopher Eatough, Administration called to speak
 - b. Nater Kane called to speak
 - c. Jason Hummel called to speak
 - d. Ted Cochran, Free Bikes 4 Kidz, Maryland called to speak
 - e. Antoine RJ Wright called to speak
 - f. Emily Ranson, Chair/Howard County Bicycle Advisory Group called to speak
 - g. James Schaub did not speak
 - h. Jennifer Suppa did not speak
3. **CR161-2026** - A RESOLUTION establishing a Surplus School Use Committee to study the disposition of property located at the Howard County Public School System Central Office, located along Md. Route 108; providing for a certain public meeting; providing for the Committee's membership, duties, and lifespan; setting certain deadlines; and generally relating to a Surplus School Use Committee.
 - a. Emily Iacchei, Chief/Bureau of Real Estate Management General Services called to speak

V. Adjourned at 10:32 p.m.