COUNCILMEMBERS

Opel Jones, Chair
District 2
Christiana Rigby, Vice Chair
District 3
Liz Walsh
District 1
Deb Jung
District 4
David Yungmann
District 5

Howard County Council

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

Meeting Minutes - Approved

Special Meeting
Wednesday, October 14, 2026
George Howard Building, Banneker Room
In-Person Meeting
Video Streamed at cc.howardcountymd.gov/watch-us
10:00 AM

Chair Jones started the meeting at 10:07 AM.

Councilmembers present: Chair Opel Jones, Vice-Chair Rigby, Councilmembers: Deb Jung, Liz Walsh, and David Yungmann.

Council Staff present: Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council; Kristen Perry, Deputy County Solicitor; Amanda Mihill, Senior Assistant County Solicitor; Robert Robinson, Senior Assistant County Solicitor; Mark Beaumount, Senior Assistant County Solicitor; Theo Wimberly, Administrative Manager; and Jim Almon, Legislative Analyst.

Others present for the Open Session: Gene Ryan; Lydia Lawless, Attorney for Mr. Ryan.

Agenda

1. Hearing Pursuant to Section 903 of the Howard County Charter

Gene Ryan read a prepared statement regarding his removal from the Board of Appeals. Mr. Ryan also discussed a complaint filed in the Cicuit Court of Howard County. Chair Jones then read a letter sent to Mr. Ryan on September 16th, 2026, regarding his removal from Board of Appeals which was signed by Councilmembers Rigby, Walsh, and Jung. Dr. Jones and Mr. Yungmann raised concerns regarding Charter Section 903, the type of hearing required, the legality of actions taken by a majority of Council, and whether Mr. Ryan received due process. Amanda Mihill, Michelle Harrod, and Councilmember Rigby responded to questions from Dr. Jones and Mr. Yungmann.

2. Closed session

Councilmember Rigby moved to go into closed session for legal advice which was seconded by Councilmember Jung. This was followed by a discussion on the procedure for going into closed sessions.

Subsequently, again during open session, Councilmember Walsh moved that the meeting be closed in accordance with Section 3-305(b)(1) and (7) of the General Provisions Article of the

Annotated Code of Maryland to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom the County Council has jurisdiction; or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals; and to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter. The topics were performance, removal, and resignation of one or more Board Members and legal advice from counsel regarding that personnel matter. Councilmember Rigby seconded the motion.

Chair Jones and Mr. Ryan objected to the motion to go into a closed session.

The roll call vote called by the Administrator on the motion to go into closed session was: Yea: Councilmembers Jung, Rigby, and Walsh. Nay: Chair Jones and Councilmember Yungmann.

The motion to close the meeting in accordance with Section 3-305(b)(1) and (7) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland passed.

The Council moved from the Banneker Room to the Council's Large Conference Room to meet in closed session. The closed session began at 11:03 a.m.

The Council discussed the performance and removal of a specific Board Member, and obtained legal advice regarding that topic. The Council took the following action during the Closed Session:

Ms. Rigby moved to confirm the removal of a specific Board member. The motion was seconded by Ms. Jung. A roll call vote of the members present was Yea: Councilmembers Jung, Rigby, and Walsh. Nay: Councilmember Yungmann. Not present for the vote: Chair Jones.

The closed session ended at **11:37 a.m.**

3. Reconvene in open session.

The Council reconvened at 11:42 a.m. in open session. Chair Jones announced the actions which took place in Closed Session, that the Closed Session ended at 11:37 a.m., stated his objections to the process, and noted pending litigation.

Chair Jones adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

Statement of Closed Session

As required by Section 3-306(c)(2), of the *General Provisions* Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, the following is a report of the County Council's closed session of October 14, 2026. The County Council met in closed session at 11:03 a.m. on October 14, 2026 in the Council's Large Conference Room, pursuant to Section 3-305(b)(1) and (7) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland to Maryland to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom the County Council has jurisdiction; or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals; and to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter. The topics were performance, discipline, and removal of one or more Board Members and legal advice from counsel regarding that personnel matter.

The topics actually discussed were performance and removal of a specific Board member and legal advice regarding that topic.

Action taken by Council during the Closed Session was to confirm the removal of a specific Board member.

The following people were present at the closed session:

Council Members Present for the Closed Session: Opel Jones, Deb Jung; Christiana Rigby; Liz Walsh; and David Yungmann.

Staff present: Michelle Harrod, Council Administrator; Kristen Perry, Deputy County Solicitor; Amanda Mihill, Senior Assistant County Solicitor; Robert Robinson, Senior Assistant County Solicitor; and Mark Beaumount, Senior Assistant County Solicitor.

The closed session ended at **11:37 a.m.**

Persons needing accommodations to fully participate in the meeting, please contact the Council Office, 410-313-2001 or email CouncilADA@howardcountymd.gov