



Howard County Council

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

COUNCILMEMBERS

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

Work Session Minutes - Approved

Wednesday, November 17, 2021

Hybrid – In Person and Virtually via Webex

Video Streamed on <https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/Online-Tools/Watch-Us>

1:00 p.m.

Chair Walsh called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm

Attendees:

Councilmembers – Chair Liz Walsh; Vice-chair Opel Jones; Deb Jung; Christiana Rigby; and David Yungmann

Staff Present: Michelle Harrod, Council Administrator; Theo Wimberly, Administrative Manager; Margery Sayers, Executive Assistant; Gary Kuc, County Solicitor; Amanda Mihill, Assistant County Solicitor; Craig Glendenning, County Auditor

Council Bill 77-2021 HEARING EXAMINER

Ms. Jung and Ms. Rigby provided an overview this Bill and responded to questions from the Council. Ms. Walsh indicated her concern was that the Bill requires a majority of the Board to remand the petition to the Hearing Examiner. There was general discussion about the role of the Hearing Examiner; the process as outlined in the Bill; and the report to the Zoning Board. Ms. Robenson Hannan provided details of how the Hearing Examiner is structured in Montgomery County as it relates to CB77-2021.

Council Bill 82-2021 MINIMUM WAGE

Ms. Rigby provided the Council with a list of attendees invited to speak during this work session. Dr. Malloy and Dr. Pearson provided an overview of their research to the Council about the effect of minimum wage on income and equity; and how State minimum wage increase effect neighboring States. Research highlights included the effect on neighboring jurisdictions; unemployment rates; and poverty level.

There was general discussion about the effect on the restaurant industry; labor costs; and impact of COVID recovery. Dr. Malloy and Mr. Low responded to Council questions about minimum wage as it relates to the restaurant industry and neighboring Counties.

Dr. Jones requested Ms. Barron-Menza and Mr. England provide the Council with information and their personal experience on the effect of minimum wage on small business. Highlights include the desire to pay a fair, competitive wage; impact on economic recovery; and reduced employee turnover.

There was general discussion about the effects of minimum wage on small businesses. Ms. Barron-Menza indicated the benefit to the increase in minimum wage is a boost in consumer spending and reduction in labor cost due to reduced turnover. Mr. Thompson indicated that in Montgomery County the restaurant industry increased menu pricing; reduced staff hours; and reduced the number of staff.

Mr. Thompson responded to questions from the Council about Montgomery County's implementation of the minimum wage. This included COVID-19 recovery; and phase in impact. Ms. Barron-Menza responded to questions from the Council about the State minimum wage; State exemptions; specific small business in Howard County; and the effect of cost of living as connected to the minimum wage.

Dr. Jones, Ms. Rigby and Ms. Mihill provided information to the Council about whether or not HCPSS can be included in this legislation. Dr. Jones clarified an amendment will be filed to include the State regulation for those under the age of 18 to receive 85% of the minimum wage.

Mr. Twele provided information to the Council about the local impact; Howard County trends; and reviewed 3 industry sectors employment rate. There was general discussion about the local economic impact and how Howard County is perceived. Mr. Twele responded to questions from the Council about the phased in approach as it affects economic stability and predictability; and the EDA position on this Bill.

Mr. Meyers responded to questions from the Council about the overall economic impact; income for adults, women, and persons of color; number of jobs; and cost of living.

Council Bill 83-2021 POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD

Representatives from the Police Department provided an overview of the State Bill 670; requirements of the Police Accountability Board; and role of the Board. They responded to questions from the Council about qualification of members; investigation responsibilities; the Charging Committee; and amendments requested by PATF.

Council Bill 87-2021 ZRA 198 DUNTEACHIN ESTATES

There was general discussion about age restricted housing; expanding an affordable housing option; density of development; and school capacity. Ms. Lo Presti responded to Council questions about the types of housing units; availability of senior housing; and the impact of seniors housing choices. Mr. Raggio provided the Council with background about the size and type of the proposed housing units.

Vice Chair Jones adjourned the meeting at 4:16 pm.

ATTENDEES

HEARING EXAMINER

- Joyce Nichols – Hearing Examiner
- Katherine Taylor – Hearing Examiner
- Lynn Robeson Hannan – Director, Office of Zoning and Administrative Hearings
- Amanda Mihill – Office of Law
- Ashley Aguilar – Board Administrator

MINIMUM WAGE

- Dr. Liam Malloy, Economist
- Dr. Shanna Pearson-Merkowitz, Economist
- Alissa Barron-Menza- Vice President, Business for Fair Minimum Wage
- Christopher Meyer- Research Analyst, Maryland Center on Economic Policy
- Josh Lenes- Union, HCEA
- Yannet Lathrop, Union, SEIU 1199
- Tracy Lingo, Union, UNITE HERE LOCAL 7
- Brian England, Business Owner, BA Auto Care
- Kelly Klinefelter Lee, Advocate, Howard County Progressive Project
- Dan Newberger, Advocate, Howard County Living Wage Coalition
- Leonardo McClarty – Chamber of Commerce
- Joseph Barbera
- Amy Rohrer
- Melvin Thompson
- William Low
- Larry Twele

POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD

- Lisa Myers - Police
- Captain Lampe - Police
- Tami Bulla - Police
- Mark Verderaime - Sheriff
- Brian Baer – Sheriff
- Brook Mamo – Budget Office
- James Gormley – PATF
- Ted Steward – PATF
- Jackie Akinpelu – PATF
- Angie Page – PATF

ZRA 198 DUNTEACHIN ESTATES

- Jim Raggio
- Amy Gowan
- Jeff Goins
- Brian Shepter
- Fran Lopresti