

COUNTY COUNCIL  
OF  
HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND

2024 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. 3  
March 4, 2024

HOWARD COUNTY TO WIT:

The Chairperson called the legislative session to order at 7:01 p.m.

Chairperson Deb Jung, Vice Chairperson, Liz Walsh, Council Member Opel Jones, Council Member Christiana Rigby, and Council Member David Yungmann were present.

Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council; Owen Clark, Acting County Auditor; Gary Kuc, County Solicitor; Amanda Mihill, Assistant County Solicitor; Jennifer Sager, Legislative Coordinator; Owen Khan, Legislative Analyst; Isaiah Anderson, Executive Assistant and Rozonna Hightower, Administrative Aide were also present.

**APPROVE JOURNAL AND MINUTES**

The Chairperson moved to approve the Journal of: Legislative Session – February 5, 2024

The motion was seconded by Ms. Walsh.

The roll call vote called by the Administrator on the motion to approve the Journal was: Yea: Council Members Jung, Jones, Rigby, Walsh, and Yungmann.

The motion to approve the Journals passed.

The Chairperson moved to approve the Minutes of:

Joint Meeting with Board of Education – February 12, 2024  
Legislative Public Hearing – February 20, 2024  
Legislative Work Session – February 27, 2024  
Closed Meeting – February 27, 2024

The motion was seconded by Ms. Walsh.

The roll call vote called by the Administrator on the motion to approve the minutes was: Yea: Council Members Jung, Rigby, and Walsh; Abstain: Council Members Jones and Yungmann.

The motion to approve the minutes passed.

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**INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION**

## Introduction

### **Appointments**

**CR23-2024** - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Appointing Hannah Eunji Chang to the Commission for Women.

Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Hannah Eunji Chang to the Commission for Women.

**CR24-2024** - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Appointing Kristen Mahoney to the Commission for Women.

Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Kristen Mahoney to the Commission for Women.

**CR25-2024** - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Appointing Ted L. Meyerson to the Advisory Board on Consumer Protection.

Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Ted L. Meyerson to the Advisory Board on Consumer Protection.

**CR26-2024** - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Appointing Shannon B. Taitt to the Commission for Women.

Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Shannon B. Taitt to the Commission for Women.

**CR27-2024** - Introduced by Christiana Rigby

Short Title: Appointment - Robbyn Harris – Board of Appeals

Title: A RESOLUTION appointing Robbyn Harris to the Board of Appeals of Howard County, Maryland, to fill a term ending on December 31, 2028.

### **Reappointments**

**CR28-2024** - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Reappointing Lynda Earle to the Human Rights Commission.

Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the reappointment of Lynda Earle to the Human Rights Commission. **Administration requested not to be introduced.**

**CR29-2024** - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Reappointing Pedro Ramirez to the Public Works Board.

Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the reappointment of Pedro Ramirez to the Public Works Board.

### **Financial**

**CR30-2024** - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Amending the Health Department Fiscal Year 2024 Operating Budget to receive funding from the State of Maryland.

Title: A RESOLUTION amending the Howard County Health Department Operating Budget, as adopted by Council Resolution No. 70-2023, to account for additional funding received from the State of Maryland; and generally relating to the Health Department Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2024.

## General

**CB10-2024** - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive  
Short Title: Amending the Howard County Retirement Plan to create an enhanced normal retirement benefit for Dispatchers.

Title: AN ACT amending the Howard County Retirement Plan in order to create an enhanced normal retirement benefit for Dispatchers, adding and amending certain definitions; increasing the amount of employee pick up contributions to be made by participating Dispatchers, changing the normal retirement age for participating Dispatchers and generally relating to the Howard County Retirement Plan.

expires – 05/13/2024; extended – 06/17/2024; extended twice – 07/22/2024

**CB11-2024** - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Adopting the 2023 National Electrical Code and local amendments.

Title: AN ACT adopting the 2023 National Electrical Code as the Electrical Code for Howard County; regulating the design, construction, alteration, improvement or modification to electrical equipment; adopting certain local amendments to the Electrical Code; making certain technical corrections; and generally relating to the electrical code in Howard County.

expires – 05/13/2024; extended – 06/17/2024; extended twice – 07/22/2024

**CB12-2024** - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Amending the membership of the Local Children’s Board.

Title: AN ACT amending the membership of the Local Children’s Board to add certain ex officio members and to amend the total number of members accordingly; and generally relating to the Local Children’s Board.

expires – 05/13/2024; extended – 06/17/2024; extended twice – 07/22/2024

**CR31-2024** - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Authorizing the sale of certain microwave network equipment.

Title: A RESOLUTION authorizing the sale of certain microwave network equipment owned by Howard County to the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems upon such terms and conditions as the County Purchasing Agent deems proper.

**CR32-2024** - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Granting the renewal of a cable franchise agreement to Comcast of Howard County, LLC.

Title: A RESOLUTION pursuant to the Howard County Cable Televisions Systems Franchise Act, granting the renewal of a cable franchise agreement to Comcast of Howard County, LLC under certain terms and conditions.

**CB13-2024** - Introduced by Deb Jung

Short Title: Trap-Neuter-Return Program – Establishment

Title: AN ACT establishing the Trap-Neuter-Return program for community cats, specifying the purpose and administration of the program, defining certain terms; and generally relating to the Trap-Neuter-Return program.

expires – 05/13/2024; extended – 06/17/2024; extended twice – 07/22/2024

**CB14-2024** (ZRA 205) - Introduced by The Chair at the request of Corridor 70/32, LLC  
Short Title: (ZRA 205) Addition of certain light manufacturing uses for Flex spaces in the Planned Office Research (POR) zoning district  
Title: AN ACT amending the Howard County Zoning Regulations to amend the Flex space land use classification of the Planned Office Research (POR) zoning district by defining the light manufacturing uses permitted as a matter of right to include “Contractor’s Office and Outdoor or Indoor Storage Facility, Self-Storage Facilities, Warehouses, Moving and Storage Establishments and Light Industrial Uses”; removing the restriction to limit the light manufacturing uses to those uses permitted in the PEC District; and generally relating to light manufacturing uses in the POR zoning district.  
expires – 05/13/2024; extended – 06/17/2024; extended twice – 07/22/2024

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## **FINAL CONSIDERATION**

**CR14-2024** - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive  
A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Kelly Cimino as an additional nonvoting Commissioner to the Housing Commission.

**CR16-2024** - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive  
A RESOLUTION confirming the reappointment of Jin Chung to the Asian American and Pacific Islander Commission.

**CR17-2024** - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive  
A RESOLUTION confirming the reappointment of Sanjeev Gholap to the Asian American and Pacific Islander Commission.

**CR18-2024** - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive  
A RESOLUTION confirming the reappointment of Saffiyah Madraswala to the Asian American and Pacific Islander Commission.

The Chairperson moved to approve Council Resolutions 14; 16; 17; and 18-2024. The motion was seconded by Ms. Walsh.

The roll call vote called by the Administrator on the motion to approve Council Resolutions 14; 16; 17; and 18-2024 was Yea: Council Members Jung, Jones, Rigby, Walsh and Yungmann.

The motion to approve Council Resolutions 14; 16; 17; and 18-2024 passed.

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**CR15-2024** - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive  
A RESOLUTION approving a list of Howard County residents to be sent to the Governor, in accordance with State law, so that the Governor may choose one of the residents from the list to fill a vacancy on the Property Tax Assessment Appeal Board.

The Chairperson moved to approve CR15-2024. The motion was seconded by Ms. Walsh.

The Chairperson moved to approve Amendment 1 to CR 15-2024. The motion was seconded by Ms. Walsh.

**Amendment 1 to CR 15-2024**

*This Amendment makes a technical correction to the name of one of the individuals on the list in order to match the whereas clauses.*

The roll call vote called by the Administrator on the motion to approve Amendment 1 to CR15-2024 was Council Members Jung, Jones, Rigby, Walsh and Yungmann.

The motion to approve Amendment 1 to CR15-2024 passed.

The roll call vote called by the Administrator on the motion to approve CR15-2024 as amended was Council Members Jung, Jones, Rigby, Walsh and Yungmann.

The motion to approve CR15-2024 as amended passed.

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**CB5-2024** - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive 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 2024 in order to receive Water Quality State Revolving Funds in the amount of \$23,500,000 from the State of Maryland for the County's Safe and Sound project; adding loan funding to Capital Project C0337, Ellicott City Improvements and Enhancements; and declaring that this Act is an Emergency Bill necessary to meet a public emergency affecting life, health or property.  
*expires – 04/15/2024; extended – 05/20/2024; extended twice – 06/24/2024*

The Chairperson moved to approve CB5-2024. The motion was seconded by Ms. Walsh.

The roll call vote called by the Administrator on the motion to approve CB5-2024 was Yea: Council Members Jung, Jones, Rigby, Walsh and Yungmann.

The motion to approve CB5-2024 passed.

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**CB6-2024** - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive AN ACT pursuant to Section 612 of the Howard County Charter, approving Lease Agreement between Howard County, Maryland and AAK II, LLC, a Maryland Limited Liability Company, for approximately 13,057 square feet of rentable space in a building located at 7095 Samuel Morse Drive, Columbia, Maryland, under the terms of which the County agrees to pay certain costs associated with the premises; authorizing the County Executive to enter into the Lease Agreement and to make changes to the Lease Agreement before executing it, under certain conditions; and generally relating to a multi-year Lease.  
*expires – 04/15/2024; extended – 05/20/2024; extended twice – 06/24/2024*

The Chairperson moved to approve CB6-2024. The motion was seconded by Ms. Walsh.

The roll call vote called by the Administrator on the motion to approve CB6-2024 was  
Yea: Council Members Jones, Rigby, Walsh and Yungmann; Nay, Council Member Jung.

The motion to approve CB6-2024 passed.

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**CR19-2024** - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive  
A RESOLUTION adopting a permit fee for the Publicly Accessible Electric Scooter Sharing System.

The Chairperson moved to approve CR19-2024. The motion was seconded by Ms. Walsh.

The roll call vote called by the Administrator on the motion to approve CR19-2024 was  
Yea: Council Members Jung, Jones, Rigby, Walsh and Yungmann.

The motion to approve CR19-2024 passed.

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**CB7-2024** - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive  
AN ACT reorganizing the Executive Branch of County Government pursuant to Section 403 of the Howard County Charter; moving the Office of Consumer Protection to the Department of County Administration; establishing an Office of Agriculture within the Department of County Administration; establishing an Opioid Restitution Fund Commission within the Department of Community Resources and Services; setting forth the duties and qualifications of the Opioid Restitution Fund Commission; providing that the Office of Community Partnerships within the Department of Community Resources and Services shall perform certain functions with regard to the receipt of Opioid Restitution Funds; setting forth the duties and qualifications of the Administrator of the Office of Agriculture; removing certain functions from the Office of Community Sustainability that will be functions of the Office of Agriculture; moving the function of administering homelessness services to the Department of Housing and Community Development; requiring that members of the Opioid Restitution Fund Commission provide certain financial disclosure statements; clarifying certain duties; making certain technical corrections; and generally relating to the Executive Branch of County Government.  
*expires – 04/15/2024; extended – 05/20/2024; extended twice – 06/24/2024*

The Chairperson moved to approve CB7-2024. The motion was seconded by Ms. Walsh.

The Chairperson moved to approve Amendment 1 to CB7-2024. The motion was seconded by Ms. Walsh.

### **Amendment 1 to CB7-2024**

*This Amendment:*

- 1. Clarifies the number of voting versus nonvoting members of the Opioid Restitution Fund Commission;*
- 2. Amends the number of voting members of the Opioid Restitution Fund Commission;*
- 3. Provides that the youth member of the Opioid Restitution Fund Commission shall be appointed prior to turning 19 and may serve a full term;*
- 4. Provides for the staggering of the initial voting members of the Opioid Restitution Fund Commission; and*
- 5. Makes a technical correction.*

The roll call vote called by the Administrator on the motion to approve Amendment 1 to CB7-2024 was Council Members Jung, Jones, Rigby, Walsh and Yungmann.

The motion to approve Amendment 1 to CB7-2024 passed.

The roll call vote called by the Administrator on the motion to approve CB7-2024 as amended was Council Members Jung, Jones, Rigby, Walsh and Yungmann.

The motion to approve CB7-2024 as amended passed.

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**CR20-2024** - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive  
A RESOLUTION amending a Resolution previously adopted by the County Council to correct the term of an appointment to the Howard County Housing Commission.

The Chairperson moved to approve CR20-2024. The motion was seconded by Ms. Walsh.

The roll call vote called by the Administrator on the motion to approve CR20-2024 was  
Yea: Council Members Jung, Jones, Rigby, Walsh and Yungmann.

The motion to approve CR20-2024 passed.

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**CR21-2024** - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the Howard County Council  
A RESOLUTION calling the County Council of Howard County, Maryland into legislative session on specified dates.

The Chairperson moved to approve CR21-2024. The motion was seconded by Ms. Walsh.

The roll call vote called by the Administrator on the motion to approve CR21-2024 was  
Yea: Council Members Jung, Jones, Rigby, Walsh and Yungmann.

The motion to approve CR21-2024 passed.

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**CB8-2024** - Introduced by Liz Walsh

AN ACT amending the process for approving waivers which allow for alternative compliance to protections of wetlands, streams, and steep slopes; requiring the Departments that grant the waivers to adhere to certain requirements; and generally relating to the alternative compliance for protection of wetlands, streams, and steep slopes.

*expires – 04/15/2024; extended – 05/20/2024; extended twice – 06/24/2024*

Ms. Walsh moved to approve CB8-2024. The motion was seconded by Ms. Jung.

The roll call vote called by the Administrator on the motion to approve CB8-2024 was Yea: Council Members Jung, and Walsh; Nay: Council Members Jones, Rigby and Yungmann.

The motion to approve CB8-2024 failed.

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**CB9-2024** - Introduced by Christiana Rigby Co-sponsor(s) Opel Jones, Deb Jung

AN ACT amending the Public Protection Services title of the Code to require Motor Vehicle Fueling Station operators to add the highest price on their fuel pricing signs; and generally relating to Motor Vehicle Fueling Stations.

*expires – 04/15/2024; extended – 05/20/2024; extended twice – 06/24/2024*

Ms. Rigby moved to approve CB9-2024. The motion was seconded by Ms. Jung.

Ms. Rigby moved to approve Amendment 1 to CB9-2024. The motion was seconded by Ms. Jung.

**Amendment 1 to CB9-2024**

*This amendment clarifies that “highest price” for fuel does not include a price that factors in ancillary services, such as car washes.*

The roll call vote called by the Administrator on the motion to approve Amendment 1 to CB9-2024 was Yea: Council Members Jung, Jones, Rigby, Walsh and Yungmann.

The motion to approve Amendment 1 to CB9-2024 passed.

Ms. Rigby moved to approve Amendment 2 to CB9-2024 as amended. The motion was seconded by Ms. Jung.

**Amendment 2 to CB9-2024**

*This amendment establishes a seven-year sunset provision.*

Mr. Yungmann moved to approve Amendment 1 to Amendment 2 to CB9-2024. The motion was seconded by Ms. Jung.



**Amendment 1 to Amendment 2 to CB9-2024**

*This amendment changes the effective date of the legislation to add a sunset provision that will have the County ordinance expire if the state has not removed the lowest gas price provisions in Section 10.315 e2 of the Business Regulation Article by September 1, 2025.*

The roll call vote called by the Administrator on the motion to approve Amendment 1 to Amendment 2 to CB9-2024 was Council Members Jung, Jones, Rigby, Walsh and Yungmann.

The motion to approve Amendment 1 to Amendment 2 to CB9-2024 passed.

The roll call vote called by the Administrator on the motion to approve Amendment 2 to CB9-2024 as amended was Yea: Council Members Jung, Jones, Rigby, and Yungmann. Nay: Council Member Walsh.

The motion to approve Amendment 2 to CB9-2024 as amended passed.

The roll call vote called by the Administrator on the motion to approve CB9-2024 as amended was Yea: Council Members, Jung, Jones, Rigby and Yungmann. Nay: Council Member Walsh

The motion to approve CB9-2024 as amended passed.

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The Chairperson moved to remove CB3-2024 from the table. The motion was seconded by Ms. Walsh

The roll call vote called by the Administrator on the motion to remove CB3-2024 from the table was Yea: Council Members, Jung, Jones, Rigby, Walsh and Yungmann.

The motion to remove CB3-2024 from the table passed.

**CB3-2024** - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive AN ACT imposing a cap on the amount of damages that can be awarded to a person aggrieved by a prohibited employment action; and generally relating causes of action and the award of civil remedies.

*expires – 03/12/2024; extended – 04/16/2024; extended twice – 05/21/2024*

The Chairperson moved to approve CB3-2024. The motion was seconded by Ms. Walsh.

The Chairperson moved to approve Amendment 1 to CB3-2024. The motion was seconded by Ms. Walsh.

**Amendment 1 to CB3-202**

*(This Amendment aligns the limit on damages with the size of employers covered by the County's Human Rights Law.)*

The roll call vote called by the Administrator on the motion to approve Amendment 1 to CB3-2024 was Yea: Council Members, Jung, Jones, Rigby and Yungmann: Nay: Council Member Walsh

The motion to approve Amendment 1 to CB3-2024 passed.

The roll call vote called by the Administrator on the motion to approve CB3-2024 as amended was Yea: Council Members, Jung, Jones, Rigby and Yungmann: Nay: Council Member Walsh

The motion to approve CB3-2024 as amended passed.

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Adjourned at 7:48 p.m.