



Howard County Council

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

COUNCILMEMBERS

Deb Jung, Chair
District 4

Liz Walsh, Vice Chair
District 1

Opel Jones
District 2

Christiana Rigby
District 3

David Yungmann
District 5

Minutes - Approved

Legislative Work Session
Hybrid Meeting (Virtual and In-Person Meeting)
Video Streamed on <https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/watch-us>
Tuesday, October 7, 2024
3:00 p.m.

Chair Jung opened the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

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

Staff present: Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council; Lisa Geerman, Acting County Auditor; Gary Kuc, County Solicitor; Amanda Mihill, Assistant County Solicitor; Isaiah Anderson, Executive Assistant I; Theo Wimberly, Administrative Manager; Ervens Jean-Pierre, Legislative Analyst; and Brenda Smith, Administrative Aide.

Agenda:

CB47-2024 - Introduced by Liz Walsh

Short Title: Inspector General – Establishment

Title: AN ACT establishing the Office of the Inspector General; specifying the selection, term, qualifications, and responsibilities of the Inspector General; providing for the referral of certain matters; specifying the funding and powers of the Office of the Inspector General; requiring certain reports; establishing the Inspector General Advisory Board; specifying the composition, powers, and duties of the Inspector General Advisory Board; specifying the selection, term, and responsibilities of the Inspector General Advisory Board; and generally relating to the Office of the Inspector General.
expires – 09/09/2024; extended – 10/15/2024; extended twice – 11/18/2024

CB48-2024 - Introduced by Liz Walsh

Short Title: Inspector General – Companion Legislation and Code Revisions

Title: AN ACT supporting the creation of the Office of the Inspector General; amending the process for whistleblower complaints; repealing certain duties of the County Auditor; amending the composition of the Howard County Ethics Commission; and relating to supporting the Office of the Inspector General.

expires – 09/09/2024; extended – 10/15/2024; extended twice – 11/18/2024

Chair Jung opened the session and started the discussion around establishing an independent Inspector General (IG) position for Howard County Government. The Council discussed various aspects of the proposed legislation, including candidate selection, termination procedures, and citizen board responsibilities. David McClintock provided the Council with suggestions, and recommendations on best practices in establishing an IG Office. A consensus was reached on various aspects of Howard County Code requirements for the Inspector General, the Citizen Board, legal representation, and maintaining independence of an IG Office.

The Council recognized the importance of diverse perspectives, debated whether the citizen board should or should not reflect political affiliation requirements while agreeing on criteria disqualifying individuals from board membership. The Council planned to incorporate all discussed elements into draft legislation for pre-filing, to solidify the roles and oversight processes necessary for the IG office.

Chair Jung adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

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

Legislative Work Session - Participants
Monday, October 7, 2024

CB47-2024 & CB48-2024

David McClintock, Government Relations for National Association of Inspectors General
Richard Henry, State Education Inspector General