



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

Christiana Rigby
District 3

Deb Jung
District 4

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>
June 26, 2025
9:30 A.M.

Councilmembers present: Liz Walsh, Deb Jung, Christinia Rigby, and David Yungmann

Staff Present: Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council; Christopher Ashman, County Auditor; Amanda Mihill, Assistant County Solicitor; Theo Wimberly, Administrative Manager; Isaiah Anderson, Executive Assistant I; Jim Almon, Legislative Analyst; and Brenda Smith, Administrative Assistant.

Chair Walsh opened the meeting at 9:51 a.m.

Agenda

CB24-2025 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Adopting – Howard County Building Code

Erin Sherman from the Rocky Mountain Institute (“RMI”) testified about various options for amendments to the proposed International Code Council Building Codes pending before the Council. Ms. Sherman presented the Council draft model code amendment language options. Councilmembers discussed the various amendment options presented by Ms. Sherman and RMI for both residential and commercial buildings including electric readiness, potential of legal challenges and costs.

Bob Francis the Director of the Howard County Department Inspections, Licenses, and Permits testified regarding implementation of the County’s building codes

Council requested follow-up:

The Council requested a cost analysis from RMI which was provided shortly after the Work Session adjourned.

CR 113-School Capacity Chart

Councilmembers asked representatives of the Howard County Public School Schools (“HCPSS”) questions about the enrollment projections for upcoming school years. HCPSS representatives Cornell Brown, Ebony Langford-Brown, Tim Rodgers, David Lubeley discussed the process the school system uses to project enrollment including the use of a feasibility study to determine Pre-Kindergarten enrollment. Councilmembers asked about the ramifications of Pre-Kindergarten seats not being included in the enrollment projections and how school enrollment projects would be affected if those seats were included in the enrollment projections.

Council requested follow-up:

Councilmembers requested the following information:

1. *What are the number of rooms and square footage designated for PreK?*
2. *What are the enrollment numbers for PreK?*
3. *What would the Open/Close chart look like if PreK numbers were included?*

CR114- Housing Allocation Chart

Lynda Eisenberg, Director of the Department of Planning and Zoning, Jeff Bronow, and Mary Kendall appeared before the Council and provided a presentation on the General Plan and Housing Unit Allocations. Councilmembers asked a series of questions including requesting the location for Activity Centers around the County and the definition of an “Activity Center”. There was then general discussion between the Council and Ms. Eisenberg about the County’s General Plan “HOCO By Design”.

Council requested follow-up:

Councilmembers requested information regarding where Activity Center allocations were located and how the Department of Planning and Zoning awards activity center allocations.

Chair Walsh closed the meeting at 1:15 P.M

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Participants:

CB24-25 & 26-2025

Brian Shepter, Deputy Chief of Staff
Robert Frances, Director - Department of Inspections, License and Permits
Donald Mock, Engineering Manager I

Erin Sherman, Senior Associate - RMI Energy Transformed

Steve Miller – Real Estate industry
Corey Flere – Real Estate industry

CR113-2025

Lynda Eisenberg, Director of Planning and Zoning
Mary Kendall, Deputy Director of Planning and Zoning
Jeff Bronow, Chief Division of Research
Bill Barnes
Cornell Brown
Tim Rogers
Dan Lubeley
Jolene Mosley
Linfeng Chen
Jacky McCoy
Meg Ricks
Antonia Watts
Andrea Chamblee
James Obasiolu
Jennifer Mallo

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