



Howard County Council

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

COUNCILMEMBERS

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

Monthly Meeting Minutes - Approved

Virtual – this meeting will **Hybrid** held In-Person and via WebEx
Video Streamed on <https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/Online-Tools/Watch-Us>
Monday, January 9, 2023
9:30 a.m.

The Chairperson opened the meeting at 9:34 am

Councilmembers present: Christiana Rigby, Chairperson; Deb Jung, Vice Chairperson; Opel Jones; Liz Walsh (joined late); and David Yungmann.

Staff Present: Michelle Harrod, Council Administrator; Theo Wimberly, Administrative Manager; Margery Sayers, Executive Assistant; Jeff Meyers, Legislative Analyst; Charity Respass, Administrative Assistant; Patricia Hammond, Administrative Support; Gary Kuc, County Solicitor; Amanda Mihill, Assistant County Solicitor; Craig Glendenning, County Auditor; and Owen Clark, Deputy County Auditor.

Agenda:

1. Body Worn Camera

Lt. Janowich, Howard County Police, and Richard Gibson, Howard County States Attorney, provided an update on implementation of Body Worn Cameras. The State's Attorney and the Police Department provided written reports.

The County Police went live with body-worn cameras on August 15, 2022 and the State's Attorney's office began processing body worn camera recordings three weeks later. The State's Attorney has 6 paralegals assigned to the unit. On average, it takes approximately twice as long to process a video than the length of the video. The Police Department reports that approximately 300 officers have been using body worn cameras. The Police Department has had to add significant staff to run program: 3 sworn officers and 7 civilians. So far 48,000 videos have been generated – about 10,000/ month. Body worn cameras obviate the need for digital still cameras, which the Department formerly used.

The Council was alerted to expect a budget request bump for next year. There was a robust discussion of need for additional staff and which individuals in the Police Department are equipped with body worn cameras. The Council asked about body worn camera hardware and the licensing costs. Council Member Jung asked for more updated information about the experiences of other jurisdictions. The Council asked for more information about how the video from body worn cameras is uploaded to the computer system and how the video is reviewed and tagged.

2. MDOT – TSMO Project Update

Andrew Radcliffe, Dan Houck, and Elizabeth Harris, from the Maryland Department of Transportation and Bruce Gartner and David Cookson, from Howard County briefed the Council on the Transportation Systems Management Operation plan and implementation.

The Maryland Department of Transportation provided a presentation on implementation. The presentation analyzed the transportation network on a system-wide basis. The Department indicated that it consults and coordinates with localities – counties and municipalities -- and other agencies on transportation issues. The goal of the consultation and plan is to ensure better traffic flows and improve safety.

Council Member Jung asked for sound barriers along Maryland Route 32 and also indicated a desire for more public transit services and options. Council Member Yungmann asked about origin/destination of travelers who drive through or in the County with the goal of removing through-commuters from local and neighborhood roads.

3. General Plan Process Review

Amy Gowan and Jeff Bronow from the Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning gave an overview of General Plan update process. The Draft Plan is available now for public comment. The Department has held two worksessions with the County Planning Board and will have another worksession with the Planning Board in February. The Draft General Plan will be updated based on comments from the public and the Planning Board before the Draft General Plan is presented to the County Council, probably in March. After that presentation, there will be about seven worksessions running through June on each part of the Draft General Plan. Council Member Rigby suggested that the order of worksessions be revised.

The Council had a lengthy discussion of the various legal requirements for, and scheduling of, the various activities related to review before adoption of the new General Plan. The

consensus was that there is a need to finish on time but the Council needs more time to finish.

4. Reports

- a. Chair Report
- b. MACo/NACo
- c. BWI Roundtable
- d. Council Administrator
- e. County Auditor

Chair Report – none

Administrator – provided in writing; The Administrator noted that the CVG and Control Room will out of service on specified dates for upgrades

MACo – Council Member Jung had a great time at winter MACo and learned a great deal. She said the Council should expect State legislation on body worn cameras and cannabis. Council Member Rigby desires a worksession on cannabis in the fall.

County Auditor – no audits or reports were provided; however, some audits and reports are in progress. The Auditor indicated that peer review preparation is in progress. The Auditor noted that the flow of information from the County Administration has become an issue.

Chair Rigby adjourned the meeting at 12:01 pm.