



Howard County Council

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

COUNCILMEMBERS

Opel Jones, Chair
District 2
Christiana Rigby, Vice Chair
District 3
Deb Jung
District 4
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>
Wednesday, September 14, 2022
1:00 p.m.

The Vice Chairperson opened the meeting at 1:02 pm

Councilmembers present: Christiana Rigby, Vice Chairperson; Deb Jung, Liz Walsh; and David Yungmann.

Staff Present: Michelle Harrod, Council Administrator; Theo Wimberly, Administrative Manager; Margery Sayers, Executive Assistant; Charity Respass, Administrative Assistant; Roz Hightower, Administrative Support; Gary Kuc, County Solicitor; Amanda Mihill, Assistant County Solicitor; Brenda Cachuela, Deputy County Auditor; Owen Clark, Deputy County Auditor

Agenda:

1. Website Redesign Presentation

Ms. Ganz and Mr. Lovelace provided an overview of the New Council Website project including the timeline for training, user acceptance testing and timeline for go live. Mr. Lovelace reviewed mockup of the new website and responded to questions from the Council about specific pages, access to legislation, Racial Equity Task Force recommendations and ease of use.

2. Building Electrification

Ms. Rigby provided an overview of the reason behind the policy goal of building electrification. She introduced participants.

Mr. Siglin, from HoCo Climate Action and Chesapeake Climate Action Network, provided background information to the Council about the policy related to global climate conditions. He emphasized his position regarding the use of fossil fuel in homes and buildings. Mr. Siglin requested the Council enact legislation to limit this use. He cited studies that equate fossil methane gas to health-related issues.

Mr. Pantano, from Rewiring America, provide the Council with an overview of his organization; Federal funds available for this effort; direct rebates available to homeowners; Federal tax credits; benefits to Howard County and their residents; and potential job creation. Mr. Pantano pointed to studies on their website. <https://www.rewiringamerica.org/>

Panelist responded to questions from the Council about impact and alternatives of gas stove emissions; the time line and steps taken to implement legislation; legislation implemented by local jurisdictions; recommendation to have municipal governments purchase green fleets; measures taken by the State; and impact on the real estate market.

Ms. Taylor-Templeton provided the Council information about “The Pathway to Clean” which is a program to provide safe, reliable and environmentally friendly energy. She indicated the BGE supports green efforts and are willing to partner with local jurisdictions. There was discussion about transitioning to allow for “the grid” to keep up with implementation and studies to ensure the reliability of the infrastructure.

Mr. Pippen and Mr. VanKirk provided the Council with information about commercial and residential development. They provided examples such as the retail space of River Hill Square; and the determination of source of energy. Panelist responded to Council questions about unique needs of restaurants; safety features within residential units; reduction of energy and carbon footprint; cost of energy sources; Federal incentives for different types of construction; maintenance and retrofit of the fossil fuel infrastructure; and disseminating information about the impact of each source of energy.

Ms. Taylor-Templeton to provide the Council with information about the on-going maintenance and retrofit of the gas lines. Specifically, what does BGE have planned for the Howard County gas infrastructure?

3. Car Rallies

Mr. Yungmann provided an overview of the issue within the County of car rallies and drag racing. Look to what can be done to improve the safety of the public. Deputy Chief Baker provided the Council with information about the trend within Howard County; action taken and efforts to enforce public safety.

Deputy Chief Baker responded to questions from the Council about the activity that has taken place within the County; business outreach for prevention; tracking on social media; the criminal approach to enforcement; potential State or County legislation; response to a constituent complaint; authority to impound vehicles as they leave the rally; and difference between car rally versus street racing and cars with modified engines.

Ms. Jung walked through the Montgomery County legislation with Deputy Chief Baker and whether those regulations are included within the Howard County regulations and communication with local jurisdictions.

Ms. Bulla was asked to provide research and suggested legislation to assist the Police Department to ensure public safety.

4. Downtown Columbia

Ms. Jung introduced Mr. Fitchitt from Howard Hughes organization. He provided the Council with an overview of what his organization has accomplished and expect to accomplish within Downtown Columbia. Details included individual projects with Merriweather and Downtown Columbia area; components of leasing; commercial and residential units; and environmental efforts. Mr. Fitchitt provided a list of Howard County Businesses; contract value with these organizations; the status of tax assessment appeal; and property tax revenue generation to the County.

Mr. Fitchett responded to questions from the Council about tax assessment appeals within the Tax Increment Finance district; TIF funding for bonds; affordable housing plans; and funding for public facilities. Further questions included information about various leasing; and impact of pandemic on leased space.

Mr. Gartner and Mr. Fitchett provided information about the Transportation Demand Management Plan; goals for reduction of overall single vehicle trips; partnership with the developer; development of best practices; needed infrastructure improvements; and shuttle/circulator services.

Mr. Fitchett responded to additional questions about use of TIF funding; agreements between the Mall and the developer; timeline for completion of phased development; transit connection to other jurisdictions; goals for future leasing; CEPPA thresholds; and details of contractor's with HHRD.

Mr. DeLorenzo responded to questions about the TIF model and meeting the financial needs of the plan if the TIF revenues do not materialize; adjustments of the capital budget in response to TIF shortfalls; NCC contract status; Toby's theatre sale; and fund raising efforts.

Ms. Feldmark responded to questions about her role as liaison for Downtown Columbia; her role within DPZ; and her relationship with HHRD.

5. Reports

a. MACo/NACo – No updates provided.

b. BWI Roundtable

Mr. Gartner provided information about implemented Noise Monitoring reporting on a monthly basis. Ms. Jung provide a brief update about the BWI Roundtable including the FFA has agreed to a change in procedure for routing of planes at low altitudes over Howard County.

c. Council Administrator

Ms. Harrod provided an electronic report to the Council and responded to questions about the PIA form implemented by DTCS.

d. County Auditor

The Auditor provided electronic report to the Council but was unable to provide a report during the meeting as the Council lost their quorum and had to adjourn the meeting.

Vice Chair Rigby adjourned the meeting at 4:09 pm.

Attendees
County Council Monthly Meeting
September 14, 2022

1. Website Redesign Presentation

Brandee Ganz
Lisa Shives
Glenn Lovelace

2. Building Electrification

DILP – Bob Frances and/or Don Mock – not available
OCS – Josh Feldmark
HoCo Climate Action and Chesapeake Climate Action Network –
Ruth Alice White
Doug Siglin
MBIA – Isaac Ambruso
HCAR –Steve Miller; Sarah Anderson
Rewiring America - Stephen Pantano
Williamsburg LLC – Bruce Harvey
Elm Street Development – Jason VanKirk
SDC Group – Will Pippen
BGE – Marche Taylor Templeton

3. Car Rallies

Chief Der
Major Justin Baker
Tami Bulla

4. Downtown Columbia

Jessica Feldmark	Amy Gowan
Carl DeLorenzo	Jill Manion
Kristen Perry	Anthony Cataldo
Rafiu Ighile	Jeff Bronow
Angela Price	John Vu
Bruce Gartner	Chris Eatough
John Seefried	Kris Jagarapu
Peter Engel	Kelly Cimino
Pat Sylvester	

Howard Hughes - Greg Fitchett

5. Reports

a. MACo/NACo

(410) 313-2001 fax: (410) 313-3297
<http://cc.howardcountymd.gov>

- b. BWI Roundtable
Bruce Gartner
- c. Council Administrator
- d. County Auditor