



# 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

Liz Walsh  
District 1

Opel Jones  
District 2

David Yungmann  
District 5

## Operating Budget Work Sessions #4

Web-based Hybrid Meeting

Video Streamed on <https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/watch-us>

Monday, May 15, 2023  
9:00 a.m.

Chair Rigby opened the meeting at 9:09 a.m.

**Members Present:** Christiana Rigby, Chairperson; Deb Jung, Vice Chairperson; Liz Walsh; and David Yungmann.

**Staff Present:** Michelle Harrod, Council Administrator; Theo Wimberly, Administrative Manager; Lynne Rosen, Legislative Analyst; Owen Kahn, Legislative Analyst; Jeff Meyers, Legislative Analyst; Charity Respass, Administrative Assistant; Roz Hightower, Administrative Support; Gary Kuc, County Solicitor; Amanda Mihill, Assistant County Solicitor; Craig Glendenning, County Auditor; and Lori Buchman, County Auditor's office.

**Administration Staff Present:** Noted below.

### Agenda:

*Include Revenue, Fees, and Funds specific to each department:*

### **Public Safety and Administration**

### **Economic Development**

Chris Moyer, Managing Director of Business Development and Marketing, HCEDA, briefed the Council on the Economic Development Authority's goals, projects, and strategies. He highlighted the growth of endeavors in minority business assistance, agricultural business promotion, small business efforts; redevelopment efforts along Route 1 and in Gateway, the increased usage of the Maryland Innovation Center, and expansion of the BRIGHT program for entrepreneurs.

### *Council Requested:*

- *Plans for and activities related to the Catalyst fund*

- *Activity under the New Economic Incentive Program*
- *Comparison of budgets of other jurisdictions' Economic Development Organizations*
- *Efforts to bring in foreign investments to the County*

## **Police**

Major Justin Baker, Deputy Chief, Field Operations Command, briefed the Council on the reasons the Police budget is increasing: mainly salaries, evidence processing and storage, and body worn camera implementation. He highlighted the Departments efforts to increase diversity. He noted the efforts to address staffing and recruitment issues. He indicated Departmental priorities related to violent crime and traffic safety.

### *Council Requested:*

- *Efforts to appropriately staff the traffic enforcement section and activities*
- *Efforts to address drag racing and loud cars including streamlining the "portal" approach and offering anonymous reporting, similarly with the Police Accountability Board online reporting*
- *Purpose and utilization of patrol cars that are observing traffic*
- *Expansion of crossing guard usage*
- *Department's position on expansion of automated enforcement*
- *Usefulness, parameters, and effects of signing bonuses particularly with academy dropouts*
- *Justification for increased expenses related to camera funds*
- *Benefits to workforce and recruitment of changes over recent years; efforts to reduce fatigue*
- *Changes in statistics related to crime and use of crime reduction teams*
- *Digital Evidence Storage Solutions costs and efficiencies*

## **Fire**

Chief Louis Winston briefed the Council on DFRS's FY '24 budget, which is designed to increase efficiency and maintain high levels of service. He indicated that additional staff will be used to reduce overtime. Additional expenditures will be used for personal equipment purchases. Increased inspection fees will align the County with similar fees elsewhere in the State. Efforts continue to address health care matters both for users of DFRS services and for employees.

### *Council Requested:*

- *Best practices and standards for employee health and wellness*
- *Information about new locations for fire stations on Cedar Lane and on BOE property including expansion of EMT classes*
- *Need for additional facilities to address rural areas proximate to north Columbia*
- *Contingency expense category appropriations and usage*
- *Vacant positions vis-à-vis recruit class slots and personnel growth*

### **County Executive**

Angela Cabellon, Chief of Staff for the County Executive, briefed the Council noting that the FY2024 budget is a maintenance budget except for the addition of a State-required position moved from Administration on matters related to the Blueprint for Excellence in Education.

#### *Council Requested:*

- *Information related to youth engagement programing including coordinating with the Council when awards are made and expanding places for young people*
- *Use of consultants and contingents for public relations related items*
- *Expenditures for New Line Strategies by County departments and the Library; conflicts of interest related to Margrave Strategies and the Baltimore Fishbowl*
- *Does the Office of Law answer to the County Executive?*

### **County Administration**

Brandee Ganz, County Administrative Office, briefed the Council on efforts to retrain and attract workers and the changes to the appropriations to the various Funds in the budget. She also addressed changes in staffing in units under County Administration.

#### *Council Requested:*

- *Duties and goals of a prevailing wage coordinator*
- *Use of sole source contracting approach for projects where County is not the property owner*
- *Trends, data, regulations, and policies related to use of Administrative Leave granted by CAO*
- *Best practices related to frequency of salary studies; estimate of results of on-going salary study*
- *Compliance with plastic bag fee requirements and should the County alter staffing for this matter*
- *Sufficiency of liaison and connections between executive and legislative branches*

### **Transportation**

Bruce Gartner, Administrator of the Office of Transportation, provided an overview of the main program areas and responsibilities of the Office. He reviewed the major accomplishments of the Office in the past year and the main goals for the next year. He provided data on RTA ridership trends, on the bus fleet and driver recruitment / retention, on schedules and routes, use of the RTA by students, implementation of new technologies, and planned changes in transit, bus rapid transit, and on-demand micro transit.

#### *Council Requested:*

- *Efforts to work with the School System and to transport students on-time*
- *Explain the change in the materials appropriations*
- *Efforts to provide safer routes for students who are walkers and bicyclists*

- *Improve coordination with council district offices*

Chair Rigby adjourned the meeting at 12:39 p.m.

## 5/15/2023 Operating Work Session #4 and #5 Attendee List:

### **Budget Office**

Holly Sun  
Brook Mamo  
James Kwak  
Andrew Galarza  
Norman Schnobrich  
Caitlin Nardolillo  
Paul McIntyre

### **Economic Development**

Larry Twele  
Elaine Brown  
Kathy Johnson

### **Police**

Greg Derr  
Sean Hollywood  
Alex Rosensweet  
Cory Zirk  
Thomas Ehart  
Justin Baker  
Gary McLhinney  
Terrence Benn  
Wayne Weaver

### **Fire**

Louis Winston  
Robert Smeltzer  
Gordon Wallace  
Tavon Claggett  
Bruce Bennett  
Meaghan Kordusky  
Sean Alliger  
Sharon Walsh

### **County Executive**

Angela Cabellon  
Felix Facchine

### **County Administration**

Anju Bennett  
Raul Delerme  
Lindsay DeMarzo  
Maria Bernadzikowski  
Dean Hof

Mark Miller  
Robert Phillips  
Patrick Pope  
Brandee Ganz  
Jennifer Sager  
Yolanda Sonnier  
Francine Trout

### **Transportation**

Bruce Gartner  
Jai Saunders  
David Cookson

### **Social Services**

Geneva Rieu  
Michelle Goodman  
Jan Wilson

### **Health Department**

Maura Rossman  
Moenik Bleu  
Antigone Vickery  
Michael Davis

### **Community Resource Services**

Jacqueline Scott  
Cheryl Mattis  
Kellie Brown

### **CSP**

Jacqueline Scott  
Cheryl Mattis  
Kellie Brown  
Rose Burton  
Megan Godfrey

### **Recreation and Parks**

Nicola Morgal  
Mike Milani  
Bill Eckart  
Dan McNamara

### **Public Works**

Yosef Kebede  
Michele Dudek  
Sharon Walsh  
Mark DeLuca

Mark Richmond  
Lindsey DeMarzo  
Ross Beschner  
Amy Hart  
Maria Madison  
Amah Binde