



# Howard County Council

George Howard Building  
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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

**Association of Maryland's Restaurant Roundtable – Approved Minutes**  
**Tuesday, November 14, 2023**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
**Hudson Coastal**  
**Fulton, Maryland**

**Council Members Present:** Chair Christiana Rigby; Vice-Chair Deb Jung; Liz Walsh; and David Yungmann.

**Council Staff Present:** China Williams, Chief of Staff to Council Member Jung; and Owen Kahn, Legislative Analyst.

The event began at 10 a.m.

Council Members and participants networked.

Trish and Brad Hudson welcomed participants and gave introductory remarks. The Council Members recognized the importance of local restaurants and issues facing the restaurant industry in Howard County. Staff from the County Executive's office introduced themselves.

Brendan Mahoney gave introductory remarks on industry issues and the need to collaborate with the Council. Ms. Jung and Ms. Rigby reminded participants that a quorum of the Council is present.

The participants discussed the legislation related to healthy children's meals and the potential affect of introduced legislation. Participants expressed their experience with children dining customers, nutritional information on their menus, and what they expect the proposed law would change. Ms. Jung and Ms. Walsh discussed what qualifies as a healthy meal under the law and how the Department of Health would enforce the law. There was a discussion about existing healthy options for kids at local restaurants and how the bill would be applied. Ms. Walsh asked if the bill would compel restaurants to remove the kids' section from the menu. Ms. Walsh discussed the intent of the bill and the advocate support for the bill. Ms. Rigby and Ms. Walsh discussed healthy meals in schools. There was a discussion about what problem the bill was trying to solve and if the bill could accomplish that goal with an incentive.

The participants discussed the DILP study of natural gas appliance bans and if exemptions would be needed for restaurants. Ms. Rigby expressed confidence that the upcoming report would include exemptions for commercial appliances, including for commercial kitchens. There was a discussion about what appliances kitchen uses, including hot water heaters. Ms. Rigby discussed why there was a focus on natural gas and if any participants made use of a service that converts

food waste into gas. There was a discussion about the Community Action Council's efforts to bring a food bank to Jessup.

The participants discussed the tip-credit and how it is essential for local restaurants. There was further discussion on efforts to amend Howard County's tip-credit and what other counties have done.

The event concluded at 11:13 a.m.