



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, Chair
District 4
David Yungmann
District 5

Minutes - Approved

Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, April 22, 2025
Hybrid Meeting (Virtual and In-Person Meeting)
Video Streamed on <https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/watch-us>
9:00 a.m.

The Monthly Meeting was called to order at: 9:06 am.

Council Members Present: Liz Walsh, Opel Jones, Christiana Rigby, Deb Jung.

Council Staff Present: Michelle Harrod, Council Administrator; Ishiah Anderson, Executive Assistant; Virginia Gambrell, Administrative support; Theo Wimberley, Administrative Manager; Jim Almon, Legislative Analyst; Christopher Ashman, County Auditor.

Agenda

Bond Rating Update

Rafiu Ighile, Director of Finance, Angie Price, Deputy Director of Finance, and Holly Sun – Budget Administrator provided a general overview of the bond rating process. Director Ighile discussed the County's fiscal picture and presentation to the various rating agencies. Director Ighile reiterated the significance of the accomplishment that the County has received a AAA for 28 consecutive years.

Director Ighile discussed the measures the County takes to maintain its AAA bond rating. He also described in detail the County's fund balance and what the amount the bond agencies require in the fund balance to qualify for an AAA bond rating.

There was general discussion with the Councilmembers about the benefits of the County having a AAA bond rating and the effect that bond rating has on loans the County receives from the State and federal governments. There was also discussion about the Howard County Public School System teachers pensions and health care liabilities. Councilmembers asked about the amount allocated to the County's reserve fund and the County's exposure to the Federal Government budget.

Council requested follow up:

- *What are the fund balance reserve percentage requirements for each rating agency?*

Banneker Space Renovation

Sharon Walsh, Engineering Manager II, Zach Hollenbeck, Engineering Manager I, Christa Kerrigan and Bill Brown of Micheal Graves Architecture & Design, and Jason Lapp of Washington Professional Systems were present to lead a discussion on potential renovations to the Banneker room in the George Howard County Building. The consultants provided a presentation of design concepts and finished samples for the Councilmembers review as well as an estimated timeline for the renovation project.

There was general discussion and questions about the proposed designs and costs. It was stated that the budgeted cost of the renovation is \$700,000. Mr. Hollenbeck testified that the next steps in the project involve drafting construction documents of the planned renovations based on the Council's comments.

Reports

There was no report from the Chair this month. The MACo/NACo, Council Administrator's report, and County Auditor's report were not discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:44 am

Legislative Monthly Meeting – Participants
Tuesday, April 22, 2025

Bond Rating Update

Rafiu Ighile, Director of Finance
Angie Price, Deputy Director of Finance
Holly Sun, Budget Administrator

Banneker Space Renovation

Sharon Walsh, Engineering Manager II
Zach Hollenbeck, Engineering Manager I
Christa Kerrigan, Michael Graves
Bill Brown, Micheal Graves
Felicia Alford, Michael Graves
Jason Lapp, Washington Professional

Persons needing accommodations to fully participate in the meeting, please contact the Council Office, 410-313-2001 or email CouncilADA@howardcountymd.gov

