



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
District 4
David Yungmann
District 5

Minutes - Approved

Monthly Meeting

Monday, September 8, 2025

Hybrid Meeting (Virtual and In-Person Meeting)

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

9:30 am

Members present: Liz Walsh, Deb Jung, and David Yungmann.

Staff Present: Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council; Christopher Ashman, County Auditor; Gary Kuc, County Solicitor; Amanda Mihill, Assistant County Solicitor; Isaiah Anderson, Executive Assistant I; Theo Wimberly, Administrative Manager, Nick Rinehart, Legislative Analyst; Jim Almon, Legislative Analyst; Owen Kahn, Fiscal Manager II; Rozonna Hightower, Administrative Assistant; and Janine McGregor, Deputy County Auditor.

Chair Walsh opened the meeting at 9:35 am.

Agenda

1. Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) Annual Update

Jack Wilson, MACo President and Queen Anne's County Commissioner, and Michael Sanderson, Executive Director of MACo, appeared before the Council to provide an annual update for MACo.

Mr. Sanderson gave an overview of the handout provided to the Council regarding MACo's activities and priorities, and discussed three main topics: fiscal uncertainty at the Federal level and the impacts at the State level, issues with the implementation of the Blueprint program at the local level, and the market-driven problems with delivering affordable housing and local government's future role in supplying affordable housing.

There was general discussion regarding teacher pensions, unfunded mandates, the Blueprint education initiatives, plans for statewide energy generation, and streamlining permitting processes at the state and local level.

Council requested information:

- *A breakdown from MACo of the state costs/mandates that will be shifted to the local/County level for this coming year, at a future MACo update.*

2. Banneker Space Renovation

Sharon Walsh, Engineering Manager II, Department of General Services, and Zach Hollenbeck, Engineering Manager I with the Department of General Services (DGS), appeared before the Council to provide an update on the proposed renovations to the Banneker Space.

Christa Kerrigan and Bill Brown from Michael Graves, the engineering firm charged with designing the renovations, were also present for the discussion. Ms. Kerrigan gave a Power Point presentation on the proposed renovations.

Ms. Kerrigan added that the project is still in design phase, and will be soon moving to permitting and construction, pending approval/buy-in from the Council. Their goal is to submit final design for permitting by mid-October.

There was general discussion about the proposed size and shape of the dais, cost of the project, and the use and practicality of tablets installed at their seats.

Council requested information:

- *Site visit with DGS to City of Laurel Board room with a similar shaped dais to the one proposed, before a final consensus decision is made.*

3. Gateway Master Plan

Lynda Eisenberg, Director of the Department of Planning & Zoning (DPZ), appeared before the Council to provide an overview of the proposed Gateway Master Plan.

She was accompanied by Mary Kendall, Deputy Director for DPZ; Chad Edmondson, Deputy Director for DPZ; Kate Bolinger, Planning Supervisor for DPZ; Jennifer Jones, Director of the Economic Development Authority (EDA); Jason Janetti, Director of Strategic Partnerships – EDA; David Cookson, Planning Manager for Department of Transportation (DOT); Suzette Goldstein, Director of Planning at HOK; Harold De La Rosa of HOK; Laura O’Blenis, Director of Stiletto; and Tara Sutton of Stiletto.

Ms. Eisenberg, Ms. Kendall, and Ms. Bolinger walked through a Power Point presentation on the background, vision and frameworks, market opportunity, planning principles, and the recommended redevelopment approach and implementation of the Gateway Master Plan.

There was general discussion about the traffic concerns on I-95 and surrounding highways with the proposed amount of residential growth, the amount of brownfields land in the Gateway area and the environmental impacts, the projected school/student yield scenarios, the proposed target industries and having a “champion” to spearhead redevelopment for Gateway.

Council requested information:

- *More details on the environmental restrictions of the existing brownfields area and the limits of what can be built there.*
- *Information/a map identifying the property owners of all the properties in Gateway.*
- *A map that shows existing surface parking lots.*
- *Information/data on the percentage of the people living in Downtown Columbia or Maple Lawn districts are also working there.*

4. Reports

a. Council Administrator

Ms. Harrod gave an overview of the Council Administrator Report provided to the Council. The update included staffing and technology updates.

b. County Auditor

Mr. Ashman introduced Ms. McGregor as the new Deputy County Auditor and gave an overview on the progress of their multi-year audit plan, an update on their new office location and an update on the fiscal analysis responsibilities to the Legislative team.

Chair Walsh closed the meeting at 12:28 pm.

Monthly Meeting

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9:30 am

Participants:

1. MACo Annual Update

MACo Representatives

Michael Sanderson, Executive Director

Jack Wilson, MACo President

2. Banneker Room Renovation Update

County Administration

Sharon Walsh, Engineering Manager II

Zach Hollenbeck, Engineering Manager I

Christa Kerrigan, Michael Graves

Bill Brown, Micheal Graves

Felicia Alford, Michael Graves

3. Gateway Master Plan

Lynda Eisenberg, Director of Planning & Zoning

Mary Kendall, Deputy Director

Kate Bolinger, Planning Supervisor

Jason Jannati, Director of Strategic Partnerships - EDA

Chad Edmondson, Engineering Manager I

David Cookson, Planning Manager

Jennifer Jones, EDA

Suzette Goldstein, HOK

Harold De la Rosa, HOK

Laura O'Blenis, Stiletto

Tara Sutton, Stiletto