



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

Special Meeting
Joint County Council and Board of Appeals
Monday, November 17, 2025
George Howard Building, C. Vernon Grey
Hybrid Meeting (Virtual and In-Person Meeting)
Video Streamed on <https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/watch-us>
1:00 p.m.

Council Members Present: Opel Jones, Christiana Rigby, Deb Jung, and David Yungmann.

Board of Appeals Members Present: Gene Ryan, Lynn Foehrkolb, Robbyn Harris, Marisa McCurdy, and Felita Phillips.

Staff Present: Michelle Harrod, Council Administrator; Isaiah Anderson, Executive Aide; Gary Kuc, County Solicitor; Amanda Mihill, Assistant County Solicitor; Theo Wimberly, Administrative Manager; Nick Reihart, Senior Administrative Analyst; Owen Kahn, Fiscal Manager; and Kiasten Miller, Executive Aide.

Vice Chair Jones convened the meeting at 1:01 p.m.

Agenda

Joint meeting with Howard County Council and Howard County Board of Appeals in which there will be a general discussion of policy and procedure concerns from Council and Board Members.

Vice Chair Jones gave introductory remarks. Vice Chair Jones and Ms. Jung discussed the agenda and timing for the meeting. Mr. Yungmann gave introductory remarks. Ms. Rigby and Ms. Phillips discussed pending resignations. Vice Chair Jones discussed the Council's role in the recent resignations.

The Council and the Board had a general discussion on the circumstances and the environment which influenced the recent resignations, including recent remarks by specific Council Members; whether the resignations should be considered voluntary or involuntary; the history of statements made by Council and Board Members in the press and in public; the current state of the vacancies on the Board and the process by which a Board Members resigns; if Council Members

had influenced the decisions or the public engagement in ongoing Board cases; the status of proposed changes to the Board's rules and procedures; recent altercations that involved Board Members and the public; the tabling of the pending nominee for the Board; what happens to submitted resignations if a member wishes to rescind or postpone their resignation; and the timeline of a resignation and resolution to appoint a new member.

Those present discussed the status of resignations; potential vacancies; and ways to handle the pending nomination resolution. Ms. Rigby read portions of Ms. Foehrkolb's resignation letter and discussed the nature of the resignations. Ms. Foehrkolb read a statement made by Ms. Walsh at a recent legislative hearing.

The Council and the Board had a general discussion on the communications between Council and Board Members; the first amendment rights of Council Members to discuss pending cases in public; how the lives of public officials are changed by their roles; and potential policies to govern Council Member interactions with the Board and ongoing cases.

Board Members gave final remarks on their time on the Board; how the work of the Board has been impacted by recent events; and the status of resignations. Council Members gave final remarks on prior conduct between the Council and the Board; potential changes to the laws and procedures that govern the Board; and the process for cases to be heard by the Hearing Examiner and the Board of Appeals. Vice Chair Jones gave concluding remarks.

Vice Chair Jones adjourned the meeting at 2:33 p.m.