



Howard County Council

George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043-4392

Opel Jones, Chair
District 2
Christiana Rigby, Vice Chair
District 3
Liz Walsh
District 1
Deb Jung
District 4
David Yungmann
District 5

Minutes - Approved

Special Meeting and Closed Session Meeting
Thursday, February 19, 2026
Virtual Only (Via WebEx)
Video Streamed on <https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/watch-us>
12:30 p.m.

The Chairperson convened a special meeting at **12:42 p.m.** virtually via WebEx.

Council Members Present for the Special Meeting to Determine Closed Session: Opel Jones, Deb Jung, Christiana Rigby, Liz Walsh, and David Yungmann.

Staff present: Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council; Gary Kuc, County Solicitor; Amanda Mihill, Assistant County Solicitor; Isaiah Anderson, Executive Assistant I; and Charity Respass, Administrative Assistant.

The County Council held a Special Meeting to determine the need for a closed session on February 19, 2026, at 12:42 p.m. The open portion of the meeting was held virtually via WebEx. The Council then determined the need for a closed session on February 19, 2026, which was convened at 12:45 p.m.

During open session, Chair Opel Jones moved that the meeting be closed in accordance with Section 3-305(b)(1) and (7) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom the County Council has jurisdiction; or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals; and to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter. The topics were performance, compensation, discipline, and removal of one or more specific employees and legal advice from counsel regarding that personnel matter. Council Member Christiana Rigby seconded the motion.

The roll call vote called by the Administrator on the motion was: Yea: Council Members Opel Jones, Deb Jung, Christiana Rigby, Liz Walsh, and David Yungmann.

The motion to close the meeting in accordance with Section 3-305(b)(1) and (7) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland passed.

The Council moved from the open portion WebEx to a different WebEx to meet virtually in closed session.

The Council discussed performance, compensation, discipline, and removal of one or more specific employees and legal advice from counsel regarding that personnel matter. Actions taken by the Council during the Closed Session include the following items.

- Ms. Rigby made a motion to remove a specific employee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Yungmann.
- Ms. Jung made a motion to amend Ms. Rigby's motion from removal to suspend a specific employee for two weeks without pay.
- The roll call vote called by the Administrator on the motion to amend Ms. Rigby's motion from removal to suspend a specific employee for two weeks without pay was: Yea: Council Members Jones and Jung. Nay: Council Members Rigby, and Yungmann. Abstain: Council Member Walsh. The motion to amend Ms. Rigby's motion from removal to suspend a specific employee for two weeks without pay failed.
- The roll call vote called by the Administrator to remove a specific employee was: Yea: Council Members Jones, Jung, Rigby, and Yungmann. Abstain: Council Member Walsh. The motion to remove a specific employee passed.
- By consensus, the Council identified an individual to temporarily perform the functions of the removed employee.

The closed session ended at **1:52 p.m.**

Statement of Closed Session

As required by Section 3-306(c)(2), of the *General Provisions* Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, the following is a report of the County Council's closed session of February 19, 2026. The County Council met in closed session at 12:45 p.m. on February 19, 2026, in the Council's Large Conference Room, pursuant to Section 3-305(b)(1) and (7) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland to Maryland to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom the County Council has jurisdiction; or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals; and to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter. The topics were performance, compensation, discipline, and removal of one or more specific employees and legal advice from counsel regarding that personnel matter.

The topics actually discussed were performance, compensation, discipline, and removal of one or more specific employees and legal advice from counsel regarding that personnel matter.

Actions taken by the Council during the Closed Session include the following items.

- Ms. Rigby made a motion to remove a specific employee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Yungmann.
- Ms. Jung made a motion to amend Ms. Rigby's motion from removal to suspend a specific employee for two weeks without pay.
- The roll call vote called by the Administrator on the motion to amend Ms. Rigby's motion from removal to suspend a specific employee for two weeks without pay was: Yea: Council Members Jones and Jung. Nay: Council Members Rigby, and Yungmann. Abstain: Council Member Walsh. The motion to amend Ms. Rigby's motion from removal to suspend a specific employee for two weeks without pay failed.
- The roll call vote called by the Administrator to remove a specific employee was: Yea: Council Members Jones, Jung, Rigby, and Yungmann. Abstain: Council Member Walsh. The motion to remove a specific employee passed.
- By consensus, the Council identified an individual to temporarily perform the functions of the removed employee.

The following people were present at the closed session:

Council Members Present for the Closed Session: Opel Jones; Deb Jung; Christiana Rigby; Liz Walsh; and David Yungmann.

Staff present: Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council; Gary Kuc, County Solicitor; Amanda Mihill, Assistant County Solicitor; Brandee Ganz, Chief Administrative Officer; and Anju Bennett, Human Resources Administrator.

The closed session ended at **1:52 p.m.**

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