



Howard County Council

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

COUNCILMEMBERS

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

Legislative Public Hearing
Hybrid Meeting (Virtual and In-Person Meeting)
Video Streamed on <https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/watch-us>
Broadcast on channels 44(Verizon) and 1071 (Comcast)
Tuesday, September 22, 2026
7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Chair Opel Jones, Vice Chair Christiana Rigby, Council Members Jung, Walsh and Yungmann

Staff Present: Michelle Harrod, Council Administrator; Gary Kuc, County Solicitor, Amanda Mihill, Assistant County Solicitor; Jennifer Sager, Legislative Coordinator; Nick Rhinehart, Senior Administrative Analyst; Isaiah Anderson, Executive Assistant I; and Rozonna Hightower, Administrative Assistant

I. Call to Order at 7:07 p.m.

II. Roll Call

III. Public Hearing

A. Appointments

Student Member: Josiah Wheeler

1. **CR143-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Josiah D. Wheeler to the Human Rights Commission.

a. Josiah Wheeler, called to speak

2. **CR141-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Rev. Hyiwot Teshome to the Interfaith Advisory Commission.

a. Reverend Hyiwot Teshome called to speak

3. **CR124-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Larry Daniel Bratt to the Opioid Restitution Fund Commission.

a. Larry Bratt called to speak

4. **CR125-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Kim M. Lightfoot, SHRM-SCP to the Board of Social Services.

a. Kim M. Lightfoot called to speak

5. **CR127-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Erica Davis to the Housing Commission.

a. Erica Davis called to speak

6. **CR128-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Mustafa Mahir Akpınar to the Interfaith Advisory Commission.

a. Mustafa Mahir Akpınar called to speak

7. **CR129-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Rabbi Craig Axler to the Interfaith Advisory Commission.

a. Rabbi Craig Axler called to speak

8. **CR130-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Rabbi Yanky Baron to the Interfaith Advisory Commission.

a. Rabbi Yanky Baron called to speak

9. **CR131-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Mary O. Barton to the Interfaith Advisory Commission.

a. Mary O. Barton did not sign up to testify

10. **CR132-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Dr. Yolanda R. Bethea to the Interfaith Advisory Commission.

a. Reverend Dr. Yolanda Bethea called to speak

11. **CR133-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Erika Cole to the Interfaith Advisory Commission.

a. Erika Cole called to speak

12. **CR134-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Rev. Ian C. Collier to the Interfaith Advisory Commission.

a. Reverend Ian Collier called to speak

13. **CR135-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Dr. Naresh Chandra Das to the Interfaith Advisory Commission.

a. Dr. Naresh Chandra Das called to speak

14. **CR136-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Dr. Kalpana Panigrahi to the Interfaith Advisory Commission.

a. Dr. Kalpana Panigrahi called to speak

15. **CR137-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Emily Eyring Robertson to the Interfaith Advisory Commission.

a. Emily Robertson called to speak

16. **CR138-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Dr. Alexander Ross to the Interfaith Advisory Commission.

a. Dr. Alexander Ross called to speak

17. **CR139-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Jodi Grossblatt Saunders to the Interfaith Advisory Commission.

a. Jodi Grossblatt Saunders called to speak

18. **CR140-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Hamza E. Zgidou to the Interfaith Advisory Commission.

a. Hamza Zgidou called to speak

19. **CR142-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Teresa T. Murbach to the Commission on Disabilities.

a. Teresa Murbach called to speak

20. CR144-2026 - A RESOLUTION appointing Jennifer Jones to the SMART (Strategic Moratorium for Assessing Responsible Technology) Data Center Task Force as an appointee for the County Executive.

a. Jennifer Jones called to speak

22. CR145-2026 - A RESOLUTION appointing Hye Yeong Kwon to the SMART (Strategic Moratorium for Assessing Responsible Technology) Data Center Task Force as an appointee for the County Executive.

a. Hye Yeong Kwon called to speak

23. CR146-2026 - A RESOLUTION appointing David Norfolk, Jr., to the SMART (Strategic Moratorium for Assessing Responsible Technology) Data Center Task Force as an appointee for the County Executive.

a. David Norfolk, Jr. called to speak

24. CR147-2026 - A RESOLUTION appointing Jack Morris Powell to the SMART (Strategic Moratorium for Assessing Responsible Technology) Data Center Task Force as an appointee for the County Executive.

a. Jack Morris Powell called to speak

25. CR148-2026 - A RESOLUTION appointing Greg Zudock to the SMART (Strategic Moratorium for Assessing Responsible Technology) Data Center Task Force as an appointee for the County Executive.

a. Greg Zudock called to speak

26. CR149-2026 - LW - A RESOLUTION appointing Meg Boyd to the SMART (Strategic Moratorium for Assessing Responsible Technology) Data Center Task Force as the appointee for the First Councilmanic District.

a. Meg Boyd was unable to join this evening

27. CR150-2026 - OJ - A RESOLUTION appointing Aftab Ahmed to the SMART (Strategic Moratorium for Assessing Responsible Technology) Data Center Task Force as the appointee for the Second Councilmanic District.

a. Aftab Ahmed called to speak

28. **CR151-2026** - CR - A RESOLUTION appointing Hussnain Yaser to the SMART (Strategic Moratorium for Assessing Responsible Technology) Data Center Task Force as the appointee for the Third Councilmanic District.

a. Hussnain Yaser did not sign up to testify

29. **CR152-2026** - DJ - A RESOLUTION appointing Doug Siglin to the SMART (Strategic Moratorium for Assessing Responsible Technology) Data Center Task Force as the appointee for the Fourth Councilmanic District.

a. Doug Siglin called to speak

30. **CR153-2026** - DY - A RESOLUTION appointing Daniel Sweeney to the SMART (Strategic Moratorium for Assessing Responsible Technology) Data Center Task Force as the appointee for the Fifth Councilmanic District.

a. Daniel Sweeney called to speak

31. **CR154-2026** - LW - A RESOLUTION appointing Liman (Julia) Zhu to the Inspector General Advisory Board to fill a term ending on April 7, 2030.

a. Liman Zhu called to speak

B. Reappointments

1. **CR155-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the reappointment of Antoine RJ Wright to the Multimodal Transportation Board.

2. **CR156-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the reappointment of Joseph Dymek to the Howard County Agricultural Preservation Board.

3. **CR157-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the reappointment of Chris Rhodes to the Howard County Agricultural Preservation Board.

4. **CR158-2026** - A RESOLUTION confirming the reappointment of Leslie Bauer to the Howard County Agricultural Preservation Board.

D. General

1. **CR162-2026** - A RESOLUTION changing a legislative session date for the County Council of Howard County, Maryland.

2. **CB58-2026** - DJ - AN ACT renaming certain sections of the County Code; amending the County's authority to award grants; adding conditions for the application and awarding of grants; establishing requirements for the application and awarding of grants for the purchase, construction, development, or redevelopment of real property; establishing a centralized grants application platform and database; and generally relating to grants.

- a. Deb Jung, Council Member gave a brief explanation of CB58-2026
- b. Jessamine Duvall, Executive Director - Bridges to Housing Stability, called to speak
- c. Lois Mikkila, Executive Director - Association of Community Services of Howard County, was called to speak
- d. Stu Kohn, President - Howard County Citizens Association, was called to speak
- e. Christy Page, Chief of Development Officer - Rebuilding Together Howard County, was called to speak
- f. Lisa Markovitz, The People's Voice Columbia, was called to speak
- g. Lisa Krausz was called to speak
- h. Jackie Eng, Howard County Housing Affordability Coalition, was called to speak
- i. Karin Emery, did not speak
- j. Linda Lamppert Leslie, President - Columbia Democratic Club was called to speak
- k. Dawn Popp was called to speak
- l. Nater Kane did not speak
- m. Jessica Nichols called to speak
- n. Seema Agarwal-Harding, Executive Director - Luminous Network, was called to speak
- o. Cindy LaFollette was called to speak
- p. Melissa Curtin, President and CEO- Community Foundation of Howard County, was called to speak
- q. Christopher Alleva was called to speak
- r. Shamioka Preston was called to speak
- s. Angela Bruce was called to speak
- t. Andrea Levinson was called to speak
- u. Ryan Powers was called to speak
- v. Tina Horn was called to speak
- w. James Cecil was called to speak
- x. Ruth White did not speak
- y. Drew Roth White was called to speak
- z. Matt Willhite was called to speak
- aa. Alan Schneider was called to speak

V. Adjourned at 10:24 p.m.