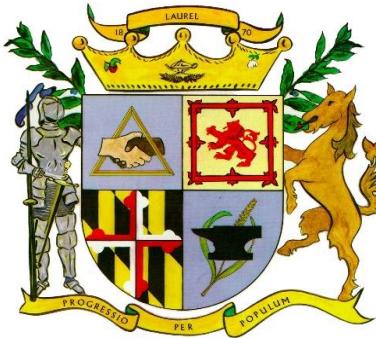


Wayne Dzwonchyk, *Commissioner*  
Roy P. Gilmore, *Commissioner*  
Douglas Redd, *Commissioner*  
Kenneth Ford, *Commissioner*  
Sharon Gibbs Cooper, *Commissioner*



Christina L. Cornwell, CPM, CEM, MEP,  
*Director/Emergency Manager*  
*Department of Emergency Management*

Lauren R. Thompson  
*Assistant Director*  
*Department of Emergency Management*

## **EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMISSION**

8103 Sandy Spring Road  
Laurel, MD 20707  
Phone: (301) 725-5300  
Fax: (301) 490-5068

## **Emergency Services Commission Meeting**

**November 12, 2025**

**7:00 PM**

**In-Person Meeting**

**Joseph R. Robison Laurel Municipal Center, Meeting Room 2  
8103 Sandy Spring Road, Laurel, MD 20707**

### **Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

#### **1. Roll Call**

- a. All Commissioners were present for the meeting.
  - i. Also in attendance:
    1. City of Laurel Department of Emergency Management (DEM)
      - a. Christina Cornwell, Director
      - b. Lauren Thompson, Assistant Director
    2. City of Laurel Department of Fire Marshal and Permit Services (FMPS)
      - a. Danny Selby, Director
    3. Laurel Police Department (LPD)
      - a. Chief Russell Hamill
    4. City of Laurel Department of Public Works (DPW)
      - a. Thomas Helms, Deputy Director
    5. Laurel Volunteer Rescue Squad (LVRS)
      - a. Deputy Chief Mark Arsenault
  - b. Approval of Meeting Minutes from September 17, 2025

- i. A motion to approve the meeting minutes was made by Vice Chairman Gilmore. It was seconded by Commissioner Gibbs Cooper. All Commissioners voted in favor.
- ii. The meeting minutes from September 17, 2025 were approved.

## 2. Staff Reports

### a. Emergency Management

- i. Director Cornwell provided updates regarding the City's previous and upcoming events.
  - 1. The 2025 Trick or Treat event was very successful. The hot chocolate served at the Canteen was a hit.
  - 2. The 2026 Main Street Festival has been moved to Saturday, May 2, 2026 to alleviate event coverage and support for the Festival and the 2026 Preakness.
    - a. Planning for the 2026 Main Street Festival will begin in January 2026.
    - 3. The 151<sup>st</sup> running of the Preakness will take place on Saturday, May 16, 2026 at the Laurel Park Racetrack.
      - a. Maryland Millions, which took place on October 11, 2025, was the kick-off race for planning for Preakness.
      - b. The City is holding committee meetings to plan for the Preakness. Three subcommittees have been created to assist with planning:
        - i. Economic
        - ii. Public Safety and Transportation
        - iii. Marketing
  - ii. Assistant Director Thompson provided an update regarding the Department of Emergency Management's website.
    - 1. Once the website goes live, the Department would appreciate it if the Commissioners would review the site and provide feedback and suggestions.
    - 2. The Commissioners were asked to review the Emergency Services Commission page and provide any updates/changes to Assistant Director Thompson.
  - iii. Director Cornwell provided information regarding updates to the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) and the City's Emergency Action Plan(s).
  - iv. Assistant Director Thompson is attending the International Association of Emergency Managers Conference in Louisville, KY November 14 – 20, 2025. During the conference, Assistant Director will be taking an examination, which is the first step towards achieving her Certified Emergency Manager designation.

### b. Fire Marshal and Permit Services

- i. Director Danny Selby provided construction updates regarding Patuxent Greens and Anderson Greens.

- c. Laurel Police Department
  - i. Chief Hamill provided information regarding holiday traffic and crime suppression details during the holiday season.
  - ii. The Commission was also provided with a crime report of recent incidents.
  - iii. Chief Hamill reviewed several past and upcoming events, including:
    - 1. 2025 Main Street Trick or Treat, which was very successful.
    - 2. "Shop with a Cop", which will be occurring on Saturday, Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>.
    - 3. "Wreaths Across America" Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM.
  - iv. Recently the traffic cameras and speeding fine system was updated. Chief Hamill gave an update regarding the price increases.
  - v. The Laurel Police Department is preparing for the upcoming legislative season. Some upcoming law enforcement items on the docket include:
    - 1. Certain primary traffic offenses will become secondary traffic offenses i.e. loud mufflers, throwing trash out the window, going the wrong way on the road, burning rubber, etc.
    - 2. A proposed bill that pertains to when juveniles may be charged as adults.
- d. Department of Public Works
  - i. Deputy Director Helms provided roadway improvement project updates, which included information regarding the Van Dusen Dam pipe repairs.
  - ii. The Department of Public Works is preparing for the winter weather. The Department has a new brine system, which can make 6,000 gallons of brine in 2 hours.
  - iii. Director Helms also advised that the Department will be performing preventative maintenance on the solar powered pedestrian crosswalk signs.
- e. Laurel Volunteer Fire Department
  - i. A representative from the Laurel Fire Department was not present.
- f. Laurel Volunteer Rescue Squad
  - i. Deputy Chief Arsenault provided the Commission with an overview of safety features installed in EMS vehicles to mitigate traffic violations and accidents.
  - ii. The Laurel Volunteer Rescue Squad's annual toy drive has started.
  - iii. The Squad has restarted its live-in program, which was ceased due to COVID.
    - 1. There are 3 residents living at the fire department.
    - 2. The residents are required to volunteer with the rescue squad and fire department for 30 hours a week, after 5:00pm Monday – Friday.
  - iv. The Laurel Volunteer Rescue Squad has ordered a new fire truck, which will take 50 months to build and deliver.
  - v. They have also ordered a new water rescue unit, which should be delivered in the next 2 months.
  - vi. The Commission and Deputy Chief Arsenault had a brief discussion regarding the Squad's needs, which includes a new station outside of the floodplain.

3. General Public Hearing

- a. The general public hearing was opened at 7:58 PM.
- b. The general public hearing was closed at 7:59 PM.

4. New Business

- a. The Commissioners will be creating an annual report about the Commission and its annual accomplishments.
  - i. The Commissioners should review and provide updates/changes to Chairman Dzwonchyk as soon as possible.
  - ii. The report is due by the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year.

5. Schedule Next Meeting, Date, and Location

- a. The next meeting will be held virtually via Zoom.
- b. The meeting will take place on Wednesday, January 21, 2026 at 7:00 PM.

6. Adjournment

- a. The meeting adjourned at 8:01 PM.