

CITY COUNCIL

BRENCIS D. SMITH
At-Large

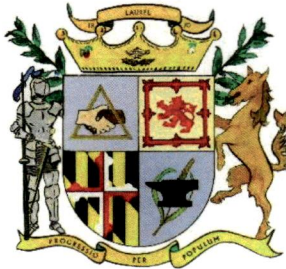
JAMES KOLE
First Ward

ADRIAN G. SIMMONS
First Ward

KYLA M. CLARK
Second Ward

JEFFREY W. MILLS
Second Ward

Council meets second and fourth
Mondays of each month.



KEITH R. SYDNOR
Mayor

CHRISTIAN L. PULLEY, CPM
City Administrator

NEKESA MATLOCK
Deputy City Administrator

STEPHANIE P. ANDERSON
City Solicitor

SARA A. GREEN, CPM, MMC
City Clerk

(301) 725-5300

www.cityoflaurel.org

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL

8103 Sandy Spring Road

Laurel, Maryland 20707-2502

**EIGHTEENTH MEETING
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL
MONDAY, JULY 13, 2026
6:00 PM
VIRTUAL MEETING
MINUTES**

The meeting convened via Zoom at approximately 6:00 pm with Council President Brencis D. Smith presiding. Councilman James Kole, Councilman Jeffrey W. Mills, Councilman Adrian G. Simmons and Mayor Keith R. Sydnor were present. There were two (2) members of the public in attendance.

The following staff members were also present: Christian L. Pulley, CPM, City Administrator, Nekesa Matlock, Deputy City Administrator, Sara A. Green, CPM, MMC, City Clerk, Crystal Hypolite, Chief of Staff, Bill Bailey, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation, Marchelle LeBlanc, Director, Department of Human Services, Jay Meashey, Director, Department of Economic and Community Development, S. Michele Saylor, Director, Department of Budget and Personnel Services, Danny Selby, Director, Department of the Fire Marshal and Permit Services, James Cornwell-Shiel, Director, Department of Information Technology, Tim Miller, Director, Department of Public Works, Lauren Thompson, Acting Director, Department of Emergency Management, Natalie Williams, Director, Department of Communications, Deputy Chief Mark Plazinski, Captain Stephen Ivory, and Stephanie P. Anderson, City Solicitor.

Agenda Item No. 2 was approval of May 27, 2026 Regular Meeting. Councilman Kole made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Councilman Mills seconded the motion that was carried on a roll call vote of all Councilmembers present.

Councilwoman Clark entered the meeting at approximately 6:04 pm.

Agenda Item No. 4 was the Report of the Mayor and City Council. The City Councilmembers provided their reports regarding events and happenings since the last meeting and made announcements regarding upcoming meetings and events.

Agenda Item No. 5 was Mayoral Appointments:

Karina Riva	Board of Appeals	07/13/2026-07/13/2029
Jenelle Herbert-King	Multicultural Advisory Committee	07/13/2026-07/13/2028
Irlene Santos	CAC for Senior Residents and	07/13/2026-07/13/2028
	Persons with Disabilities	
Brittany Golding	CAC for Senior Residents and	07/13/2026-07/13/2028
	Persons with Disabilities	

Mayor Sydnor noted that Irlene Santos was not being appointed to the CAC for Senior Residents and Persons with Disabilities and would be removed from the list. Councilwoman Clark made a motion to approve the appointments as requested by Mayor Sydnor. Councilman Simmons seconded the motion that was carried on a roll call vote of all Councilmembers present.

Agenda Item No. 6 was the General Public Hearing. President Smith opened the General Public Hearing at 6:21 pm. Mrs. Ruth Walls, 414 Prince George Street spoke about fireworks as part of the Independence Day Celebration and the loud noises that they produce. Mrs. Walls was concerned about loud noises and other negative impacts caused by shooting off fireworks on all living things including babies, people with PTSD, wildlife, animals, and the environment. Mrs. Walls encouraged the City to consider other alternatives to shooting off fireworks in the future. There was no one else who signed up to speak. President Smith closed the public hearing at 6:25 pm.

Agenda Item No. 7 was a Bid Recommendation- Laurel Police Department- Purchase of Ammunition. Chief Russell E. Hamill, Laurel Police Department presented the item recommending that the item be approved to make the purchase through The Gun Shop in the amount of \$65,000. Councilman Kole made a motion to approve the purchase as presented. Councilman Mills seconded the motion that was carried on a roll call vote of all Councilmembers present.

Agenda Item No. 8 was a Bid Recommendation- Laurel Police Department- Purchase of Unmanned Aerial System. Chief Russell E. Hamill, Laurel Police Department presented the item recommending that the bid be awarded to Skydio via Axon in the amount of \$89,649.60. Councilman Simmons made a motion to approve the bid as recommended. Councilwoman Clark seconded the motion that was carried on a roll call vote of all Councilmembers present.

Agenda Item No. 9 was a Bid Recommendation- Laurel Police Department- Purchase of Peregrine AI System. Chief Russell E. Hamill, Laurel Police Department presented the item recommending the approval of a three-year contract with Peregrine AI in the amount of \$79,500 annually for each year of the contract. Chief Hamill introduced Dinesh Patil, representing Peregrine AI Systems who proceeded to give a PowerPoint presentation regarding the system being proposed for purchase. Councilwoman Clark made a motion to approve the bid as presented. Councilman Kole seconded the motion. Councilman Mills voted "No." Councilman Simmons and President Smith both voted "Yes."

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:07 pm.

Approved:



Date:

September 14, 2026

Sara A. Green, CPM, MMC
City Clerk

Mayor and City Council Voting Record

July 13, 2026

6:00 pm

Virtual Meeting

Call to Order: 6:00 pm

Meeting Ended: 7:07 pm

Members of the Public: 2

Staff Attendance:

✓ Christian L Pulley ✓ Nekesa Matlock ✓ Bill Bailey ✓ Lauren Thompson ✓ James Cornwell-Shiel
✓ Chief Russell Hamill ✓ Crystal Hypolite ✓ Marchelle LeBlanc ✓ Jay Meashey ✓ Tim Miller
✓ S. Michele Saylor ✓ Danny Selby ✓ Natalie Williams ✓ Stephanie Anderson ✓ Mark Plazinski

✓ Captain Steve Ivory

Roll Call

came in at 6:04 pm

✓ Councilwoman Clark ✓ Councilman Kole ✓ Councilman Mills
✓ Councilman Simmons ✓ President Smith ✓ Mayor Sydnor

Agenda Item No. 3. Approval of Minutes

• May 27, 2026- Regular Meeting

not yet present

Councilwoman Clark

1st

Councilman Kole

2nd

Councilman Mills

yes Councilman Simmons yes President Smith

Agenda Item No. 4- Report of the Mayor and City Council

Mayoral Appointments

Karina Riva	Board of Appeals	07/13/2026-07/13/2029
Jenelle Herbert-King	Multicultural Advisory Committee	07/13/2026-07/13/2028
Irlene Santos	CAC for Senior Residents and	07/13/2026-07/13/2028
	Persons with Disabilities	
Brittany Golding	CAC for Senior Residents and	07/13/2026-07/13/2028
	Persons with Disabilities	

*Removed
Per Mayor*

1st Councilwoman Clark yes Councilman Kole yes Councilman Mills

2nd Councilman Simmons yes President Smith

Agenda Item No. 6- General Public Hearing

Public Hearing Open: 6:21pm Closed: 6:25pm

Speakers: Ruth Wallis
414 Prince George Street - things fire works need to be rethought. - animals, children
are scared and the loud noises hurt their ears. loud noises

Agenda Item No. 7- Bid Recommendation- Laurel Police Department- Purchase of Ammunition

2nds Councilman Mills 1st Councilman Kole yes Councilwoman Clark

yes Councilman Simmons yes President Smith

Agenda Item No. 8- Bid Recommendation- Laurel Police Department- Purchase of Unmanned Aerial System

yes Councilman Mills yes Councilman Kole 2nd Councilwoman Clark

1st Councilman Simmons yes President Smith

Agenda Item No. 9- Bid Recommendation- Laurel Police Department- Purchase of Peregrine AI System

NO Councilman Mills 2nd Councilman Kole 1st Councilwoman Clark

yes Councilman Simmons yes President Smith

*****PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY*****

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL, MARYLAND
8103 Sandy Spring Road, Laurel, Maryland 20707

Eighteenth Meeting
Monday, July 13, 2026
6:00 pm (Virtual)

	Name	Address	Agenda Item
1.	Ruth Walls	ruthkwalls@gmail.com	General Public Hearing
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			
11.			
12.			

CITY COUNCIL

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Eighteenth Meeting
Monday, July 13, 2026
6:00 PM
Agenda
Virtual Meeting

Watch the meeting on Laurel TV streaming live in your web browser at <https://laurelvtv.org/watch-live> or locally Laurel TV can be found on Comcast Channel 996 (HD), 71 (SD) or Verizon FiOS Channel 12.

Those interested in signing-up to speak during the general public hearing or on a specific agenda item, please contact the Clerk for Zoom information at clerk@laurel.md.us no later than 2:00 pm the day of the meeting.

1. Call to Order – Brencis D. Smith, Council President
2. Roll Call- Sara A. Green, CPM, MMC, City Clerk
3. Approval of Minutes
 - May 27, 2026- Regular Meeting
4. Report of the Mayor and City Council
5. Mayoral Appointments

Karina Riva	Board of Appeals	07/13/2026-07/13/2029
Jenelle Herbert-King	Multicultural Advisory Committee	07/13/2026-07/13/2028
Irlene Santos	CAC for Senior Residents and Persons with Disabilities	07/13/2026-07/13/2028
Brittany Golding	CAC for Senior Residents and Persons with Disabilities	07/13/2026-07/13/2028

6. General Public Hearing

7. Bid Recommendation- Laurel Police Department- Purchase of Ammunition
8. Bid Recommendation- Laurel Police Department- Purchase of Unmanned Aerial System
9. Bid Recommendation- Laurel Police Department- Purchase of Peregrine AI System
10. Adjournment



CITY OF LAUREL OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

8103 Sandy Spring Road, Laurel, MD 20707
Phone: 301-725-5300 ext. 2125 • Fax: 301-725-6831

Item 5.

Keith R. Sydnor
Mayor

July 2, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Brencis Smith, Council President
Laurel City Councilmembers *KRS*
FROM: Keith R. Sydnor, Mayor
SUBJ: Mayoral Appointments/Reappointments

I plan to make the following appointments at the July 13, 2026, Mayor and City Council meeting.

APPOINTMENTS

Karina Riva	Board of Appeals	7/13/26 – 7/13/29
Jenelle Herbert-King	Multicultural	7/13/26 – 7/13/28
Irlene Santos	CAC for Senior Residents and Persons with Disabilities	7/13/26 – 7/13/28
Brittany Golding	CAC for Senior Residents and Persons with Disabilities	7/13/26 – 7/13/28

I look forward to your confirmation of these appointments.



LAUREL POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE CHIEF

Item 7.

Russell E. Hamill, III
Chief of Police

811 Fifth Street, Laurel, MD 20707-5103 • Phone: 301-498-0092
www.cityoflaurel.org/police • lpd@laurel.md.us • Fax: 410-880-0817

May 26, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Keith R. Sydnor
President Smith and the Laurel City Council
FROM: Russell E. Hamill, Chief of Police *REH*
SUBJ: Bid Recommendation for Purchase of Ammunition

The Laurel Police Department is requesting permission to purchase ammunition for Fiscal Year 2027 to be used in accordance with the training standards of the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commission and this department.

Specifications:

We will be riding the Maryland State Contract #001B96600243 for this purchase through The Gun Shop.

Funding:

Funding for this purchase is included in the Adopted FY2027 Operating Budget in account #301-52571 entitled Ammunition Purchases with a line item total of \$65,000.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Mayor and City Council approve the purchase of ammunition in the amount of \$65,000 through the Maryland State Contract pricing with The Gun Shop.

Should you have any questions or desire further information, please contact me at (301) 498-0092, Extension 1130.

REVIEWED:

S. Michele Saylor

S. Michele Saylor, Director
Department of Budget and Personnel Services

06/12/2026

Date

Cc: Christian Pulley, City Administrator
Nekesa Matlock, Deputy City Administrator



LAUREL POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE CHIEF

Item 8.

Russell E. Hamill, III
Chief of Police

811 Fifth Street, Laurel, MD 20707-5103 • Phone: 301-498-0092
www.cityoflaurel.org/police • lpd@laurel.md.us • Fax: 410-880-0817

June 2, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Keith R. Sydnor
President Smith and the Laurel City Council
FROM: Russell E. Hamill, Chief of Police
SUBJ: Bid Recommendation for Purchase of Unmanned Aerial System

The Laurel Police Department is requesting permission to sign a five-year contract for the use of two Unmanned Aerial Systems from Skydio with funds allocated in the FY2027 Operating Budget. Skydio is affiliated with Axon and payments and billing will be handled by Axon.

The technology will allow the Laurel Police Department to start its first ever Drone as First Responder (DFR) program. Drones will be housed on city buildings and operated remotely by trained and FAA-certified personnel. The devices will be able to arrive over calls for service before officers arrive, and stream live video to dispatchers, responding officers, and supervisors.

The Skydio drones are fully integrated into our current Axon evidence ecosystem. Footage from the drones is automatically uploaded to Axon's evidence.com website. The Skydio drones can locate an officer's Axon body worn camera and in-car camera.

Procurement:

In selecting a DFR vendor, LPD Commanders spoke with numerous agencies and performed site visits with the Montgomery County PD's UAS team and the Anne Arundel County PD's UAS team. We obtained quotes from three companies: Skydio, Paladin, and Brinc. Ultimately, LPD selected Skydio because of their Axon integration, their use of US manufactured drones that are not subject to federal import restrictions, and their reputation with area law enforcement for ease of use and robust customer support. The Skydio platform was used on a trial basis during the week of Preakness 151 and exceeded our expectations.

Bids:

1. Skydio \$89,649.60 annually for five-year contract, US manufactured
2. Brinc \$120,000 annually, free first year, four-year contract,
US manufactured
3. Paladin \$122,000 first year, \$74,000 annually after, Chinese manufactured



LAUREL POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE CHIEF

Item 8.

Russell E. Hamill, III
Chief of Police

811 Fifth Street, Laurel, MD 20707-5103 • Phone: 301-498-0092
www.cityoflaurel.org/police • lpd@laurel.md.us • Fax: 410-880-0817

Funding:

Funding for this purchase is included in the Adopted FY2027 Operating Budget – Department of Information Technology account 52312-Evidence Recording & Collections.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Mayor and City Council approve a five-year contract with Skydio via Axon in the amount of \$89,649.60 annually for each year of the contract.

Should you have any questions or desire further information, please contact me at (301) 498-0092, Extension 1130.

REVIEWED:



S. Michele Saylor, Director
Department of Budget and Personnel Services



Date

Cc: Nekesa Matlock, Acting City Administrator
Tim Miller, Acting Deputy City Administrator



LAUREL POLICE DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF

Item 9.

Russell E. Hamill, III
Chief of Police

811 Fifth Street, Laurel, MD 20707-5103 • Phone: 301-498-0092
www.cityoflaurel.org/police • lpd@laurel.md.us • Fax: 410-880-0817

June 12, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Keith R. Sydnor
President Smith and the Laurel City Council
FROM: Russell E. Hamill, Chief of Police
SUBJ: Bid Recommendation for Purchase of Peregrine AI

The Laurel Police Department is requesting permission to contract with Peregrine AI to use their application to enhance the Laurel Police Department's data analytics.

The Peregrine AI system will aggregate and analyze data from a number of existing data sources, including the police department's Records Management System and Computer Aided Dispatch, as well as transcripts from body worn camera videos and license plate readers. The AI tools can quickly summarize investigations, perform link analysis with persons and vehicles, and allow the agency's crime analyst to do in minutes what typically takes hours or days to accomplish. Deep crime analysis will no longer be restricted to only the department's most serious crimes and will become a tool that all officers can deploy in their routine investigations.

The Peregrine product was deployed for a demonstration during the week of Preakness 151 and proved to be a valuable tool during several incidents.

Procurement:

Peregrine AI is a sole source provider who uses a patented technology to handle "de-duplication" of data records. The Prince George's County Police Department is a current client of Peregrine AI and procured them via sole source. The "de-duplication" technology sold exclusively by Peregrine allows for the identification and consolidation of duplicate database entries. Duplicate entity records are a serious concern in our current police records management software, and this technology solution would be of great value.

Funding:

Funding for this purchase is included in the Adopted FY2027 Operating Budget – Department of Information Technology account 52312-Law Enforcement Intelligence Systems.



LAUREL POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE CHIEF

Item 9.

Russell E. Hamill, III
Chief of Police

811 Fifth Street, Laurel, MD 20707-5103 • Phone: 301-498-0092
www.cityoflaurel.org/police • lpd@laurel.md.us • Fax: 410-880-0817

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Mayor and City Council approve a three-year contract with Peregrine AI in the amount of \$79,500 annually for each year of the contract.

Should you have any questions or desire further information, please contact me at (301) 498-0092, Extension 1130.

REVIEWED:

S. Michele Saylor

S. Michele Saylor, Director
Department of Budget and Personnel Services

06/12/2026

Date

Cc: Nekesa Matlock, Acting City Administrator
Tim Miller, Acting Deputy City Administrator

City of Laurel



PROCLAMATION
2026-37

WHEREAS, every day, more than 120 Americans are killed by gun violence and more than 200 who are shot and wounded, and on average, there are nearly 17,000 gun homicides every year; and

WHEREAS, cities across the nation, including in the City of Laurel are working to end the senseless violence with evidence-based solutions and protecting public safety in the City of Laurel is the Mayor's highest responsibility; and

WHEREAS, Mayors and Law Enforcement Officers know their communities best, are the most familiar with local criminal activity and how to address it, and are best positioned to understand how to keep their citizens safe; and

WHEREAS, in January 2013, Hadiya Pendleton was tragically shot and killed at age 15; and on June 2, 2025, to recognize the 28th birthday of Hadiya Pendleton (born: June 2, 1997), people across the United States will recognize National Gun Violence Awareness Day and wear orange in tribute to Hadiya Pendleton and other victims of gun violence; and to the loved ones of those victims; and

WHEREAS, the idea of recognizing this day was inspired by a group of Hadiya's friends, who asked their classmates to commemorate her life by wearing orange and they chose this color because hunters wear orange to announce themselves to other hunters when out in the woods and orange is a color that symbolizes the value of human life; and

WHEREAS, anyone can join this campaign by pledging to Wear Orange on June 5th, the first Friday in June 2026, to help raise awareness about gun violence; and

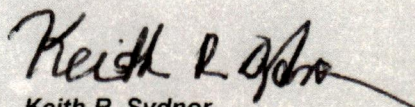
WHEREAS, by wearing orange on June 5, 2026, Americans will raise awareness about gun violence and honor the lives of gun violence victims and survivors; and

WHEREAS, we renew our commitment to reduce gun violence and pledge to do all we can to keep firearms out of the wrong hands, and encourage responsible gun ownership to help keep our children safe.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, KEITH R. SYDNOR, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF LAUREL, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM JUNE 5, 2026, AS

National Gun Violence Awareness Day

in the City of Laurel and encourage all citizens to support their local communities' efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor and value human lives.


Keith R. Sydnor
Mayor

City of Laurel



PROCLAMATION 2026-38

WHEREAS: on January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, setting in motion the end of slavery in the United States; and

WHEREAS: it was not until June 19, 1865, that it was announced to those Americans still enslaved in Texas: "The people are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free"; and

WHEREAS: Juneteenth is the oldest known public celebration of the end of slavery in the United States, and began in the southern part of the country before moving nationwide; and

WHEREAS: June 19th has a special meaning to African Americans, and is called "Juneteenth" combining the words June and Nineteenth, and has been celebrated by the African American community for over 150 years; and

WHEREAS: Juneteenth celebrates freedom for African Americans and recognizes the strives gained through determination, perseverance, education, and greater opportunity; and

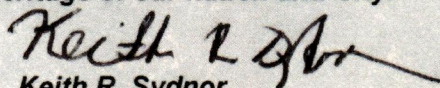
WHEREAS: we acknowledge that the struggle for equality continues, and we recommit to continue the work to ensure that all City of Laurel residents feel equally valued, equally protected and have access to opportunities that help them thrive; and

WHEREAS: The City of Laurel urges all citizens to acknowledge and observe June 19th in various ways like displaying Juneteenth yard signs; participate in community events and posting information through social media posts to raise awareness of this historic event.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, KEITH R. SYDNOR, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF LAUREL, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM JUNE 19, 2026, AS

JUNETEENTH

in the City of Laurel and urge all citizens to become more aware of the significance of this celebration in African American history and in the heritage of our nation and City.


Keith R. Sydnor
Mayor

City of Laurel



**PROCLAMATION
2026-39**

WHEREAS, the City of Laurel is home to many brave and selfless individuals who have honorably served our nation and community through military service, emergency response, and extraordinary civilian contributions; and

WHEREAS, our Hometown Heroes include veterans and active-duty members of the United States Armed Forces, first responders, and devoted civilians who embody service, sacrifice, and an unwavering commitment to the well-being of others; and

WHEREAS, the City of Laurel proudly recognizes and honors the following individuals whose dedication, valor, and service reflect the highest ideals of citizenship and patriotism:

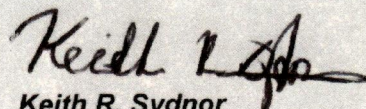
WHEREAS, these individuals, through their service and sacrifice, have contributed to the security, freedom, and betterment of our community, our state, and our nation; and

WHEREAS, the City of Laurel desires to set aside one day each year to express our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all who have served as Hometown Heroes in military, first responder, or civilian capacities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Keith R. Sydnor, Mayor of the City of Laurel, Maryland, do hereby proclaim June 22nd of each year as

HOMETOWN HEROES RECOGNITION DAY

in the City of Laurel and encourage all residents to join in celebrating the contributions and legacies of those who have selflessly served our community and our country.


Keith R. Sydnor
Mayor

City of Laurel



PROCLAMATION 2026-40

WHEREAS: *The medical condition known as HIV and AIDS is still a prominent and national concern, with 32,000 new infections each year. In the United States alone, 1,000 youth are diagnosed monthly with HIV; and*

WHEREAS: *One in seven individuals are unaware that they are HIV positive, with a new HIV infection occurring every 10.5 minutes; and*

WHEREAS: *Testing is critical to HIV prevention. Getting tested and actively managing HIV through treatment can not only reduce mortality and improve quality of life, but also reduces the risk of spread of HIV from an infected person to their partner by 96%; and*

WHEREAS: *Each year, on June 27, the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), AIDS.gov and other national and local entities across the United States, organize National Testing Day; and*

NOW, THEREFORE, I, KEITH R. SYDNOR, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF LAUREL, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM June 27, 2026, as

National HIV Testing Day

in the City of Laurel and encourage residents to "Level up your self-love: check your status."

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith R. Sydnor", with a long, sweeping underline.

Keith R. Sydnor
Mayor