

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

**SECOND REGULAR MEETING
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL
MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2025
6:00 PM
VIRTUAL MEETING
MINUTES**

The meeting convened via Zoom at approximately 6:00 pm with Council President Bencis D. Smith presiding. Councilwoman Kyla M. Clark, 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, Bill Bailey, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation, Chrissy Cornwell, Director, Department of Emergency Management, Chief Russell E. Hamill, III, LPD, Marchelle LeBlanc, Director, Department of Human Services, Jay Meashey, Director, Department of Economic and Community Development, Tim Miller, Director, Department of Public Works, 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, Mark Plazinski, Deputy Chief of Police, Stephanie P. Anderson, City Solicitor, and Larry Taub, Esquire, Legal Counsel.

Agenda Item No. 4 was approval of the following minutes:

- November 24, 2025- Forth-third Regular Meeting
- November 24, 2025- First Regular Meeting
- December 3, 2025- Work Session

Councilman Mills made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Councilman Simmons seconded the motion that was carried on a roll call vote of all Councilmembers present.

Agenda Item No. 4 was Report of the Mayor and City Council. The Mayor and 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 the General Public Hearing. President Smith opened the General Public Hearing at 6:15 pm. There was no one who signed up to speak. President Smith closed the General Public Hearing at approximately 6:16 pm.

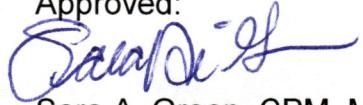
Agenda Item No. 6 was Introduction and First Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 2052- An Ordinance of the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland to Amend Laurel City Code, Chapter 11, "Planning and Development, "Article III, "Affordable Housing Program," Section 11-53, "For Sale Affordable Housing" to Update and Supplement the For Sale Housing Requirements and Providing for an Effective Date. President Smith read the title into the record for the first reading. Jay Meashey, Director, Department of Economic and Community Development, presented the proposed ordinance. Councilman Kole and Councilman Simmons briefly presented the amendments to the draft ordinance that had been reviewed during the December 3, 2025 Work Session and that the Council agreed to move forward to the first public hearing agenda. President Smith opened the Public Hearing on the item at 6:21 pm. The first person signed up to speak was Edward C. Gibbs, Jr., Esquire, 1300 Caraway Court Suite 102 Largo, Maryland 20774, Representing Pulte Homes. Mr. Gibbs noted that his client had concerns regarding the ordinance as proposed and that his client had a site plan approved by the Planning Commission for the Corridor Center project for the construction of homes that included for-sale affordable housing units and prices within the resolution approving that plan. Mr. Gibbs requested that the City staff and legal counsel work with him and his client to draft amendments to the ordinance and that it include a grandfather clause for projects that had already received approval prior to the passage of any new ordinance. Next, Arthur J. Horne, Jr., Esquire, 1101 Mercantile Lane Suite 240 Largo, Maryland 20774, Representing Stanley Martin Homes, noted that he and his client also shared similar concerns with the drafted amendments as Mr. Gibbs stated and that if the proposed ordinance were passed as drafted, it would cause the project they were working on in the City to no longer be feasible. Mr. Horne requested that the City work with him and his client on amendments to the draft.

Mayor Sydnor stated that the City would work with staff and legal counsel regarding the draft to include a grandfather clause and that he recommended that the City Council continue the public hearing on the item to allow time for the edits to be made to the legislation. Next, Councilwoman Kyla Clark noted some concerns with the draft she submitted as recommendations on the evening of the meeting to the Mayor, Councilmembers, and staff. The consensus of the Council was to work with staff, legal counsel, and builders/developers on amendments to the draft ordinance and continue the public hearing process to allow time for the amendments to be drafted as recommended by Mayor Sydnor. President Smith closed the Public Hearing at 6:45 pm.

The next agenda item was the Introduction and First Public Hearing on Resolution No. 12-2025- A Resolution of the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland, to Alter the Membership of the City of Laurel Juneteenth Freedom Day Celebration Planning Executive Committee. President Smith read the title into the record for the first reading. Ms. Crystal Hypolite, Chief of Staff to the Mayor, presented the proposed resolution. President Smith opened the Public Hearing on the item at 6:52 pm. There was no one signed up to speak. President Smith closed the Public Hearing at 6:52 pm. Councilwoman Clark noted that she had some suggestions to edit the resolution. President Smith asked Councilwoman Clark to submit the amended language she was proposing in writing. President Smith noted that the item would be on the agenda for the second public hearing with possible action scheduled for Monday, December 15, 2025 at 6:00 pm.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:53 pm.

Approved:



Sara A. Green, CPM, MMC
City Clerk

Date: *December 15, 2025*

Mayor and City Council Voting Record

December 8, 2025 6:00 pm

Virtual Meeting

Call to Order: 6:00 PM

Meeting Ended: 6:53 PM

Members of the Public: 2

Staff Attendance:

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

Roll Call

Larry Taub, Legal Counsel

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

Agenda Item No. 4- Approval of Minutes:

- November 24, 2025- Forty-third Regular Meeting
- November 24, 2025- 1st Regular Meeting
- December 3, 2025- Work Session

yes Councilwoman Clark

yes Councilman Kole

1st Councilman Mills

2nd Councilman Simmons

yes President Smith

Agenda Item No. 5- General Public Hearing

Public Hearing Open: 6:15pm

Closed: 6:15pm

Speakers: None.

Agenda Item No. 6-Introduction and First Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 2052- An Ordinance of the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland to Amend Laurel City Code, Chapter 11, "Planning and Development, "Article III, "Affordable Housing Program," Section 11-53, "For Sale Affordable Housing" to Update and Supplement the For Sale Housing Requirements and Providing for an Effective Date

Public Hearing Open: 6:21pm

Closed: 6:45pm

Speakers: Edward C. Gibbs, Jr., Esquire representing Plute Homes-1300 Caraway Ct Suite 102 Largo, MD 20774 - Client had concerns regarding draft ordinance. Requested City work with him & his client on edits and include a grandfather clause for projects that were already approved.

Arthur J. Horne, Jr., Esquire- Representing Stanley Martin Homes- 1101 mercantile Ln Suite 210 Largo, MD 20774 - Shared Mr. Gibbs' concerns regarding proposed legislation. Client had project approved. proposed ordinance would make project no longer feasible.

Agenda Item No. 7- Introduction and First Public Hearing on Resolution No. 12-2025- A Resolution of the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland, to Alter the Membership of the City of Laurel Juneteenth Freedom Day Celebration Planning Executive Committee

Public Hearing Open: 4:52 pm

Closed: 6:52 pm

Speakers: None.

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

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

Forty-Second meeting on Monday, December 8, 2025

	Name	Address	Agenda Item
1.	Edward C. Gibbs, Jr. Esq.	1300 Caraway Court, Ste 102 Largo, MD 20774	Item 6. Affordable Housing Program
2.	David Demarco from Pulte Homes	<i>Not Present during meeting</i>	Item 6. Affordable Housing Program
3.	Arthur J. Horne, Jr. Esq. on behalf of client Stanley Martin	1101 Mercantile Lane, Ste 240 Largo, MD 20774	Item 6. Affordable Housing Program
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			
11.			
12.			
13.			
14.			
15.			
16.			
17.			
18.			
19.			
20.			

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

Second Meeting

Monday, December 8, 2025

6:00 PM

Agenda

Virtual Meeting

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

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
 - November 24, 2025- Forty-third Regular Meeting
 - November 24, 2025- First Regular Meeting
 - December 3, 2025- Work Session
4. Report of the Mayor and City Council
5. General Public Hearing
6. Ordinance No. 2052- An Ordinance of the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland to Amend Laurel City Code, Chapter 11, “Planning and Development, “Article III, “Affordable Housing Program,” Section 11-53, “For Sale Affordable Housing” to Update and Supplement the For Sale Housing Requirements and Providing for an Effective Date

7. Resolution No. 12-2025- A Resolution of the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland, to Alter the Membership of the City of Laurel Juneteenth Freedom Day Celebration Planning Executive Committee
8. Adjournment



CITY OF LAUREL, MARYLAND

Item 6.

ORDINANCE NO. 2052

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL, MARYLAND TO AMEND LAUREL CITY CODE, CHAPTER 11, "PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT," ARTICLE III, "AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAM," SECTION 11-53, "FOR SALE AFFORDABLE HOUSING" TO UPDATE AND SUPPLEMENT THE FOR SALE HOUSING REQUIREMENTS AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Sponsored by the President at the request of the Administration.

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to promote for sale affordable housing in the City; and

WHEREAS, the City Council also desires to update and supplement the existing provisions involving for sale affordable housing in the City, to assure that said housing is achieving the housing goals and desires of those who are not able to afford market rate housing; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED AND ORDAINED, by the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland that the Laurel City Code, Chapter 11, "Planning and Development," Article III, "Affordable Housing Program," Section 11-53, "For sale affordable housing," is hereby amended as follows:

Sec.11-53. For sale affordable housing.

- a.** For residential developments that include a minimum of twenty (20)~~fifty (50)~~ single-family detached, townhouse, and/or condominium dwelling units in a multi-family building and also residential portions of mixed-use developments that include the same type and minimum number of dwelling units, eight (8) percent of the total number of dwelling units (with any fractional amount rounded up) shall be developed, built, and sold as affordable housing. If the development is constructed in phases, each phase of the development shall include its proportionate share of affordable units, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the City's Department of Economic and Community Development.

- b.** Eligibility for any affordable dwelling unit shall be a household income of between fifty percent (50%) and seventy percent (70%) of the Area Median Income ("AMI") for Prince George's County ~~no greater than sixty (60) percent~~

Underlining indicates new language added.

~~Strikethroughs indicate language deleted.~~

* * * *Asterisks indicate intervening language and section unchanged.*

of the median income in Prince George's County, adjusted for household size, as determined annually by the Federal Housing and Urban Development measure for the "Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD HUD Metro FMR Area" Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development.

- c. The base price of each affordable dwelling unit in the development shall not exceed thirty (30)-percent (30%) of the average price as advertised for the base price of the same market rate model, or if the affordable unit is not related to a market rate model, then to the market rate model to which it is most closely related, all as approved by the City's Department of Economic and Community Development. (Example: If the average price of the base model of a market rate model is \$500,000, 30% of that price would be \$150,000 for the price of the related, or most closely related, affordable unit.) median price of each similar unit type in the development at the time a contract for any such affordable unit is entered into.
- d. Affordable dwelling units shall be interspersed throughout the development, and the location of all lots to contain an affordable unit shall be shown on the Preliminary Plan of Subdivision for the development and approved through that process. No lot containing an affordable unit shall be adjacent to a lot containing any other affordable unit, although any lot upon which an affordable unit is constructed may be located directly across a street from another lot containing an affordable unit, or may back directly upon a lot containing another affordable unit across rear yards or common areas.
- e. All affordable units must be at least 80% of the size of the smallest base model of market unit rates within the same development (based on interior square footage). Additionally, no affordable unit shall be located on a lot that is significantly smaller or shaped much differently (as determined by the Planning Commission) from lots upon which market rate units are located within the development.
- f. The exterior of each affordable unit shall be similar in architecture, materials, color, and all other exterior design features from those of market rate units, within the development, so that they are virtually indistinguishable visually from the market rate units.

g. The number of bedrooms and bathrooms within each affordable unit shall be no less than the number of bedrooms and bathrooms in the smallest base model of the market rate units within the development. The residents of each affordable unit shall have full and equal access to all amenities within the development as do the residents of each market rate unit.

h. No affordable unit may be used for rental purposes.

i. as a rental unit. All affordable dwelling units in a development shall remain so for a period of thirty (30) years in perpetuity, and this shall be reflected in declaration of covenants that shall run with the land and shall bind the applicant, and as signee, mortgagee, subsequent purchasers, or any of their successors or assigns, and said declaration of covenants shall be recorded among the land records of Prince George's County Maryland. Should the affordable dwelling unit be resold within the 30-year period, the sale price shall be constrained to no greater than the purchase price plus an adjustment for inflation subsequent to purchase date.

j. i. Certificates of occupancy for at least seventy-five percent (75%) of the total number of affordable units within a development shall be issued prior to the issuance of more than seventy-five percent (75%) of the certificates of occupancy for the total number of market rate units within any development; and

ii. Certificates of occupancy for one hundred percent (100%) of the total number of affordable units within a development shall be issued prior to issuance of more than ninety percent (90%) of the certificates of occupancy for the total number of market rate units within the development.

k. Prior to the recordation of the final plat for any development (or prior to the first final plat, if more than one), the owner of the property shall sign and have recorded among the land records of Prince George's County a covenant to run with the land, to assure that: (1) each affordable unit within the development shall remain affordable (as described herein and as may be amended from time to time) for a period of at least thirty (30) years; (2) any resale of the affordable unit will be subject to the covenants, restrictions and other provisions related to affordable units within the City Code at the time of the resale; (3) should any affordable unit(s) be age-restricted, a covenant shall be recorded among the

land records for Prince George's County to have any such affordable unit remain age-restricted for a period of at least thirty (30) years; any such age-restricted affordable units shall be purchased only by individuals who meet the Federal HUD requirements for age restrictions in place at the time of the sale, and shall otherwise be subject to all covenants, restrictions and other provisions related to affordable units within the City Code; and (4) any refinancing of the affordable unit may not be for any more than the amount originally borrowed. twenty-five percent (25%) above the amount owed on the unit at the time of the refinancing.

AND, BE IT FURTHER ENACTED AND ORDAINED, that this Ordinance shall take effect on the date of its passage.

PASSED this _____ day of _____, 2025.

ATTEST:

SARA A. GREEN, CPM, MMC
City Clerk

BRENCIS D. SMITH
President of the City Council

APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 2025.

KEITH R. SYDNOR
Mayor

LAW OFFICES
SHIPLEY & HORNE, P.A.

Russell W. Shipley
Arthur J. Horne, Jr.*
Dennis Whitley, III*
Robert J. Antonetti, Jr.

1101 Mercantile Lane, Suite 240
Largo, Maryland 20774
Telephone: (301) 925-1800
Facsimile: (301) 925-1803
www.shpa.com

Bradley S. Farrar
L. Paul Jackson, II*

* Also admitted in the District of Columbia

December 8, 2025

VIA FIRST-CLASS MAIL

Council President Brencis Smith
Joseph R. Robison Laurel Municipal Center
8103 Sandy Spring Road
Laurel, MD 20707

**RE: Ordinance No. 2052- An Ordinance of the Mayor and
City Council of Laurel, Maryland to Amend Laurel City Code,
Chapter 11, "Planning and Development," Article III, "Affordable
Housing Program," Section 11-53, "For Sale Affordable Housing"
to Update and Supplement the For Sale Housing Requirements
and Providing for an Effective Date**

Good afternoon, Council President Brencis Smith:

Thank you for allowing my client Stanley Martin Homes (SMH) an opportunity to comment on the above-referenced legislation. The concept of providing for affordable housing is an action enthusiastically undertaken by SMH with its residential community.

Although my client shares in the goals of the City in establishing this venture, as you will read herein from its many years of experience in addressing affordable housing in neighborhoods, the proposed draft is economically impractical and counterproductive to the City's desire to grow and overall stability. My client would strongly urge the City of Laurel to reconsider this proposal as currently presented and follow the methods utilized within other jurisdictions within Maryland and elsewhere and align pricing policies with actual development costs and market conditions.

By way of an example, Stanley Martin Homes is currently pricing similar homes in our new Community at the Oaks of Laurel at \$424,900, which aligns with the current market average in Laurel. If the legislation as currently drafted is enacted, it would mandate a sale price of a similarly built affordable home with a price of \$127,497 which represents a 70% reduction from both the standard pricing and the prevailing market value.

December 8, 2025

Page 2

Under this example, by compelling a \$297,493 discount per individual home is not economically feasible, crippling to mandate and is not a discount SMH has the ability to absorb into its business model for this community. In speaking with Laurel staff when SMH originally approached the City regarding the city's policies, it was believed that the original proposal was a 30% discount on the average home sale price for a similar size unit in the community and not a 70% discount.

In some other jurisdictions, various alternative scenarios are offered like the opportunity for SMH to increase density beyond the allowable unit mix or alternative to build a house that represents on the basic building of the market homes in order to provide equity in the development process. The proposed legislation herein provides no development alternatives, nor proposed benefits or offsets to the Home Builder, which will operate as incentives to offset losses for future projects. This lack of flexibility in the City's affordable housing purchase program, directly impacts SMH's business plan and would potentially deter other builders from building housing in the City of Laurel.

The proposed 70% reduction requirement is such a drastic undervaluation; it would destabilize the housing market, negatively impact property values, and create inequities for existing homeowners.

Based on industry-standard costs for building and selling a new home at the Oaks at Laurel:

- **Vertical Build Cost:** \$218,000
- **Average Development Cost:** \$80,000
- **Production Cost:** \$18,000
- **Soft Costs (Salaries, Management Overhead):** \$15,000
- **Marketing Cost:** \$5,000
- **Land Cost:** \$80,000

Total Actual Cost Per Home:

$$\$218,000 + 80,000 + 18,000 + 15,000 + 5,000 + 80,000 = \$416,000$$

Thanks again for allowing my client to provide testimony and offer its view of the reality created by the existing legislation as currently proposed. On behalf of Stanley Martin Homes, we strongly encourage the Council to continue to consider alternatives consistent with previously approved and sustainable models. With kind regards, I am

Respectfully Yours,



Arthur J. Horne, Jr.

cc: Ms. Morgan E. Michael, Stanley Martin Homes
Mr. Dan Jackson
Stanley Martin Homes

Sara Green

From: Arthur Horne <ahorne@shpa.com>
Sent: Monday, December 8, 2025 4:35 PM
To: Clerk to the City Council
Cc: Lawrence N. Taub
Subject: Letter of submission for tonight's meeting (December 8, 2025)

This message originated from an **External Source**. Please use proper judgment and caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding to this email.

Good afternoon again Ms. Morales:

Thank you so very much for sending me the agenda and link for tonight's meeting. As stated before, I will be speaking when called upon by the Council President this evening.

If it is not too late, I would also like to include the attached letter as an exhibit in tonight's hearing.

Respectfully,

Arthur J. Horne Jr.

Arthur J. Horne, Jr., Esq.
Shipley & Horne, P.A.
1101 Mercantile Lane, Suite 240
Largo, Maryland 20774
phone: 301-925-1800
fax: 301-925-1803
ahorne@shpa.com

The contents of this email message and any attachments are intended solely for the addressee(s) named in this message. This communication is intended to be and to remain confidential and may be subject to applicable attorney/client and/or work product privileges. If you are not the intended recipient of this message, or if this message has been addressed to you in error, please immediately alert the sender by reply email and then delete this message and its attachments. Do not deliver, distribute or copy this message and/or any attachments and if you are not the intended recipient, do not disclose the contents or take any action in reliance upon the information contained in this communication or any attachments.

From: Clerk to the City Council <clerk@laurel.md.us>
Sent: Monday, December 8, 2025 3:22 PM
To: Arthur Horne <ahorne@shpa.com>; Clerk to the City Council <clerk@laurel.md.us>
Subject: RE: request for zoom link for tonight's meeting

Hello Mr. Horne,

Thank you for your interest in speaking in tonight's Mayor and City Council Meeting. I have attached the agenda for tonight and below the zoom link. I have added your name to speak on the Agenda Item 6. Affordable Housing Program – general public hearing portion of tonight's meeting. When Council President Bencis Smith calls your name, you will be unmuted and will have 3 minutes to speak.

When: Dec 8, 2025, 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: Mayor and City Council Meeting

Join from PC, Mac, iPad, or Android:

<https://cityoflaurel-org.zoom.us/j/83636662071>

Phone one-tap:

+13017158592,,83636662071# US (Washington DC)

+19292056099,,83636662071# US (New York)

Join via audio:

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

We look forward to hearing from you,

Best regards,

Maria Morales

Administrative Assistant II

City of Laurel

Office of the Clerk and City Council

Joseph R Robison - Municipal Center

8103 Sandy Spring Road Laurel, MD 20707

Office: 301-725-5300 Ext: 2120

mmorales@laurel.md.us

www.cityoflaurel.org

From: Arthur Horne <ahorne@shpa.com>

Sent: Monday, December 8, 2025 2:25 PM

To: Clerk to the City Council <clerk@laurel.md.us>

Subject: Re: request for zoom link for tonight's meeting

You don't often get email from ahorne@shpa.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

This message originated from an **External Source**. Please use proper judgment and caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding to this email.

Good afternoon Ms. Morales:

I will be speaking on behalf of Stanley Martin. My contact information is below.

Thank you so very much

Arthur J. Horne Jr.

Arthur J. Horne, Jr., Esq.



CITY OF LAUREL, MARYLAND

Item 7.

RESOLUTION NO. 12-2025

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL, MARYLAND, TO ALTER THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE CITY OF LAUREL JUNETEENTH FREEDOM DAY CELEBRATION PLANNING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Sponsored by President at the request of the Administration.

WHEREAS, on June 28, 2021, the Mayor and City Council adopted Ordinance No.1979 making Juneteenth Freedom Day an official City of Laurel Holiday; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council of Laurel recognize the importance of remembering and celebrating Juneteenth Freedom Day in the City, with a community-wide celebration; and

WHEREAS, within Ordinance No. 1979 the City Council requested that the Mayor appoint a Juneteenth Freedom Day Celebration Planning Committee to plan for a 2022, community-wide celebration to be held on or about June 19, 2022, to honor and celebrate African American freedom in the City of Laurel; and

WHEREAS, on October 25, 2021 the Mayor and City Council adopted Resolution No. 8-2021 establishing the City of Laurel Juneteenth Freedom Day Celebration Planning Committee; and

WHEREAS, the City of Laurel Juneteenth Freedom Day Celebration Planning Committee has held an annual celebration each year since 2021; and

WHEREAS, the City of Laurel Juneteenth Freedom Day Celebration Planning Executive Committee voting membership requirement of twelve (12) has made it challenging to obtain a quorum in order to conduct official business of the Executive Committee; and

WHEREAS, the City of Laurel Juneteenth Freedom Day Celebration Planning Executive Committee has requested that the Mayor and City Council reduce the required number of voting members from twelve (12) to seven (7), thus allowing for a meeting quorum to be established with a minimum of four (4) voting members present; and

WHEREAS, that the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland, desire to provide for the efficient conduct of business for the City of Laurel Juneteenth Freedom Day Celebration Planning Executive Committee.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland that the City of Laurel Juneteenth Freedom Day Celebration Planning Executive Committee voting membership requirement is hereby altered by this Resolution.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Juneteenth Freedom Day Celebration Planning Executive Committee description sheet which is contained in Attachment "A"- *Revised and attached hereto*, providing for the purpose, program description, staff assignment(s), appointment process for the Chair, Vice Chair and Members, meeting location, time and frequency is hereby adopted as part of this Resolution.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the members shall serve without compensation, and all meetings shall be held in accordance with the Maryland Open Meetings Act.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect from the date of its adoption.

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2025.

ATTEST:

SARA A. GREEN, CPM, MMC
City Clerk

BRENCIS D. SMITH
President of the City Council

APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 2025.

KEITH R. SYDNOR
Mayor

Juneteenth Freedom Day Celebration Committee

PURPOSE: To establish a Citywide celebratory Juneteenth program to commemorate that on June 19, 1865 – more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed the enslaved people of Galveston, Texas realized their freedom. The City's Juneteenth Planning Committee will invite others to join in a day of recognition, reflection, and celebration of the freedom and resilience that this day represents. Juneteenth is a City of Laurel Official Holiday.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: **JUNETEENTH FREEDOM DAY CELEBRATION COMMITTEE** is the official planning committee for the City of Laurel, to develop a community-wide annual Juneteenth Celebration. The Planning Committee will expand its efforts to enhance diversity and inclusion, with the goal to provide meaningful interactions that improve community relations, encourage collaboration, and bring forth a sense of pride. This observance of the emancipation of slaves in the United States will be focused on education, the arts, supporting local businesses, and unification. The Planning Committee may work with other non-profit organizations and local educational institutions. The celebration will promote, as well as provide a wealth of educational and health resources that will infuse the arts to enhance each attendee's understanding of African American Culture. The City's goal is to have a fun filled day, full of safe activities, community awards, contests, and games for all to enjoy.

PROGRAM SPEAKER: At least one speaker shall highlight the event and speak about the meaning of the celebration.

STAFF: Mayor and City Council Offices', the Department of Parks and Recreation, and the Department of Communications will have staff assigned, as needed.

MONTH OF YEAR: June

DAY OF MONTH: On or around June 19th

LOCATION: City of Laurel - Community-wide

TIME: To be determined (TBD) by committee

EQUIPMENT

NEEDED: TBD

APPOINTMENTS: Appointments to the Executive Committee shall be made by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council.

**EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE:**

The Executive Committee shall be made up of **seven (7)** members of the community. The Executive Committee shall set the budget, appoint sub-committees as may be needed, document minutes of the meetings, set time and location of planning meetings. **One** member of the City Council may serve as ex-officio members. No City funds may be expended, or contracts signed by the Executive Committee without the approval of the City Administrator or designee.

**CHAIR AND
VICE CHAIR:**

The Mayor shall appoint the Chair of the Executive Committee. The Vice Chair, Secretary and other positions of leadership shall be elected by the Executive Committee members. The City Council **position**- may not serve as Chair or Vice Chair but may be appointed to Chair of a sub-committees.

**PLANNING
COMMITTEE:**

The Planning Committee shall be made up of the Executive Committee members, as well as others who wish to volunteer their time to plan the Juneteenth Celebrations. The Planning Committee will also have the responsibility to make sure the event has volunteers, if needed to help set up, run, and clean up for the celebration.

MEETINGS:

Meetings shall be called by the Chair. Meetings shall be held at least bi-monthly. Meetings shall be open to the Public and held in accordance with the Maryland Open Meetings Act. **Meetings** may be held in person or virtually.

Revised 12/2025

Committee Established September 7, 2021