

## COMMITTEE

ANGIE O'NEAL  
Committee Member

JOYCE AWURO  
Committee Member

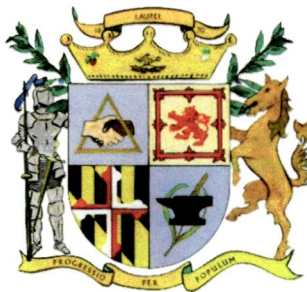
TAWANA LAMAR  
Committee Member

KIA YOUNG  
Committee Member

WILLIAM CHASE  
Committee Member

VERONICA MARTIN  
Committee Member

ARTESA JONES  
Committee Member



SANDRA CHOUTE  
Chair

JEFFREY MILLS  
Councilmember, Ex-officio

TROY GRIFFITH  
Secretary

MARIA MORALES  
Administrative Assistant II

(301) 725-5300

[www.cityoflaurel.org](http://www.cityoflaurel.org)

## LAUREL JUNETEENTH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

8103 Sandy Spring Road  
Laurel, Maryland 20707-2502

Committee meets on the second  
Wednesday of each month.

**Wednesday, January 14, 2026  
6:00 PM  
VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM  
MEETING MINUTES**

The Meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm with Chairwoman Sandra Choute presiding. The following committee members were present: Troy Griffith, Artesa Jones, Tawana Lamar and William Chase. Staff Present was: Maria Morales, Administrative Assistant II to the City Clerk. Mayor Keith Sydnor was also present. There were no members of the public present.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Chair Choute requested a motion to approve the October 8, 2025, meeting minutes. Ms. Tawana Lamar made a motion, to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. William Chase seconded the motion that was then carried on by a role call vote of all committee members present.

### **Review Location and Paperwork**

Juneteenth Celebration for 2026 will be held at Emancipation Park. Chair Choute will review and complete the required City forms in the upcoming weekend. Committee members may be contacted individually for additional input. Committee will review forms before submittal.

### **Discuss Program/Entertainment**

Chair Choute requested someone take the lead with music entertainment. Ms. Tawana Lamar suggested reviewing the budget to see what money could be put towards entertainment, noting a DJ may be more reasonable than having a band. Chair Choute asked Ms. Lamar if she wished to lead the planning portion, to which Ms. Lamar agreed. Ms. Maria Morales provided the budget numbers currently the Escrow account and in the Mayors Community Promotions account. Ms. Lamar agreed to compile a list of possible DJ/Band options and will bring it back to the committee at the next meeting.

### **Update Vendor Forms**

Chair Choute asked for input in increasing vendor fees, suggesting that the committee consider charging fees for vendors who attend for informational purposes, that previously were not charged. Chair Choute noted that the committee would further discuss actual fees and the increases in an upcoming meeting. The committee carried a voice vote by all members present to increase fees for

for-profit/food vendors.

### Open Forum

Mr. Troy Griffith requested that the committee have a debrief, since they did not have one after the previous event. He was interested in hearing about what worked and what didn't work during the last event. Ms. Tawana Lamar suggested reviewing the questionnaire she sent last year after the event, she will send feedback from the questionnaire for members to review and discuss in the next meeting.

Mayor Keith R. Sydnor thanked the committee members for their hard work and commitment. He joined the meeting to provide the committee with a few updates. He informed the committee of the changes made to the Juneteenth Committee Resolution to assist with quorum in future meetings. Mayor Sydnor also informed the committee that he would be unable to provide the \$6,000 Budget request submitted by Chair Choute, however the committee will continue to receive the same budget amount as previous years. Additionally, He informed the committee of the time change for the Juneteenth Flag raising ceremony due to heat concerns, moving it up to 9am instead of the usual afternoon start time.

Mayor Sydnor invited committee members to continue engaging with the community, by joining him in making care packages for seniors at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service event taking place at the Craig A. Moe Laurel Multiservice Center on January 19, 2026, at 2pm and the upcoming Black History Month Event taking place at the Council Chambers at the Joseph R. Robison Laurel Municipal Center on February 22, 2026, at 2pm.

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.

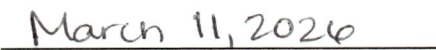
Respectfully submitted by Secretary Troy Griffith.  
January 18, 2026

Approved:

Date:



Maria Morales  
Administrative Assistant II



**Juneteenth Planning Committee**

**Regular Meeting**

**Wednesday January 14, 2026, 6:00pm**

**Virtual - Zoom**

Call to Order: 6:05pm

Meeting Ended: 6:30pm

Members of the Public: 0

**Attendance:**

- Chairwoman, Sandra Choute    Angie O'Neal    Joyce Awuro    Troy Griffith    Tawana LaMar    Kia Young  
 William Chase    Veronica Martin    Artesa Jones    Yolanda Pearson    Councilman Jeffrey Mills  
*+ Mayor Keith Sydnor*

**1. Call to Order:**

- Chairwoman, Sandra Choute    Angie O'Neal    Joyce Awuro    Troy Griffith    Tawana LaMar    Kia Young  
 William Chase    Veronica Martin    Artesa Jones    Yolanda Pearson    Councilman Jeffrey Mills

**2. Approval of Minutes**

- Chairwoman, Sandra Choute    Angie O'Neal    Joyce Awuro    Troy Griffith    Tawana LaMar    Kia Young  
*2nd*  William Chase    Veronica Martin    Artesa Jones    Yolanda Pearson    Councilman Jeffrey Mills

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### 3. Review Location and Paperwork

- Chairwoman, Sandra Choute  Angie O'Neal  Joyce Awuro  Troy Griffith  Tawana LaMar  Kia Young  
 William Chase  Veronica Martin  Artesa Jones  Yolanda Pearson  Councilman Jeffrey Mills

Chair Choute will review and complete the city's PPA forms this weekend  
May reach out to committee members; this weekend for additional  
input.  
individually

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### 4. Discuss Program/Entertainment

- Chairwoman, Sandra Choute  Angie O'Neal  Joyce Awuro  Troy Griffith  Tawana LaMar  Kia Young  
 William Chase  Veronica Martin  Artesa Jones  Yolanda Pearson  Councilman Jeffrey Mills

Chair asked who wants to take the lead with music. Ms. Tawana LaMar  
suggested reviewing our budget to see what we could use towards entertainment.  
If a band or DJ is reasonable. Chair asked Tawana if she could lead  
this portion of the planning, Ms. Tawana Lamar agreed. Ms. Morales  
provided the available escrow balance and Mayor's Community events balance.

## 5. Update Vendor Forms

Chairwoman, Sandra Choute  Angie O'Neal  Joyce Awuro  Troy Griffith  Tawana LaMar  Kia Young

William Chase  Veronica Martin  Artesa Jones <sup>2nd</sup>  Yolanda Pearson  Councilman Jeffrey Mills

Chair asked committee members their thoughts in increasing vendor fees  
suggested if perhaps committee should consider also charging vendors  
attending for informational purposes, at least a set up fee. Chair will further  
discuss actual fees in upcoming meetings. Chair asked for motion to approve  
moving forward with vendor fee increases for profit vendors.

## 6. Open Forum

Chairwoman, Sandra Choute  Angie O'Neal  Joyce Awuro  Troy Griffith  Tawana LaMar  Kia Young

William Chase  Veronica Martin  Artesa Jones  Yolanda Pearson  Councilman Jeffrey Mills

① Mr. Troy Griffith asked about having a debrief, what worked and didn't work last year.

Ms. Tawana Lamar will resend feedback questionnaire results. Chair will bring this up in  
upcoming meeting. ② Mayor Sydnor thanked the committee members for their hard work.

He informed everyone of the resolution changes he made to committee to assist with  
quorum. He informed committee that he rejected budget increase request for FY27 due to  
multiple planning committees and budget cuts happening. He also informed the  
committee of June 19th flag raising happening on June 19th at 9am instead of

## 3. Adjourn

Afternoon due to heat concerns. Mayor also invited members to  
Milk day of service happening at LMSC on 1/19/26 @ 10am 2pm and  
the upcoming Black History Month Event happening on 2/22/26 @ 2pm  
happening @ council chambers.