

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



Christina L. Cornwell, CPM, CEM, MEP,  
*Director*  
*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  
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## **Emergency Services Commission Meeting**

**June 18, 2025**

**7:00 PM**

**In-Person Meeting at the Joseph R. Robison Laurel Municipal Center, Meeting Room 2  
8103 Sandy Spring Road, Laurel, MD 20707**

### **Meeting Minutes**

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

- a. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM with all Commissioners present.
  - i. Also in attendance:
    1. City of Laurel Department of Emergency Management
      - a. Christina Cornwell, Director
      - b. Lauren Thompson, Assistant Director
    2. City of Laurel Department of Public Works
      - a. Arman Safakhah, City Engineer
    3. Laurel Police Department
      - a. Chief Russell Hamill
    4. Laurel Volunteer Fire Department
      - a. Chief Brian Cox
    5. Laurel Volunteer Rescue Squad
      - a. Deputy Chief Mark Arsenault
  - b. Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 26, 2025
    - i. A motion to approve the meeting minutes was made by Commissioner Gibbs Cooper. It was seconded by Commissioner Ford. The motion carried.
    - ii. The February 26, 2025 meeting minutes were approved.

2. Nomination and Election of New Chairman
  - a. Commissioner Wayne Dzwonchyk was elected Chairman of the Commission.
3. Staff Reports
  - a. Emergency Management
    - i. Director Cornwell provided the Commission with an update regarding upcoming events, which included the Juneteenth Flag Raising and Celebration, as well as the Independence Day Celebration (IDC).
      1. The Emergency Operations Center will be activated in support of the Independence Day Celebration event.
    - ii. Director Cornwell also provided an update regarding the Continuity of Operations (COOP) plan and Emergency Action Plan (EAP) updates, as well as event support/processes.
  - b. Fire Marshal and Permit Services (FMPS)
    - i. FMPS was absent due to a scheduling conflict.
  - c. Laurel Police Department
    - i. Chief Hamill provided an update regarding the Main Street Festival explosion and car breach incidents.
    - ii. The group was provided with an update regarding the vehicle break-ins.
    - iii. Over the past few months, 3 new speed cameras have been installed at various locations in the City.
    - iv. Chief Hamill gave a brief overview of the crime analysis unit and data collection.
  - d. Department of Public Works
    - i. DPW reviewed the status of several capital improvement projects, which includes sidewalk installation and repair, crosswalk restriping, new island and traffic signal installation, and sidewalk/roadway realignment. DPW applied for a grant to support initiatives set forth in the Master Plan.
    - ii. A new development is coming to the City, which will consist of 84 townhouses.
      1. DPW is currently reviewing the plans to ensure the community is accessible to emergency vehicles and if a new traffic signal is needed at the entrance.
    - iii. DPW will be looking for new engineering consultants for a new 5-year contract.
  - e. Laurel Volunteer Fire Department (LVFD)
    - i. Chief Cox advised that LVFD is looking to replace 1 engine.
    - ii. Recruiting is going well; there are a lot of new members in class.
    - iii. LVFD will be on-site to support the Independence Day Celebration with several other surrounding jurisdictions. There will be 2 people from LVFD in the EOC for event.
    - iv. The new full-time staffing schedule is going well. The additional personnel has allowed LVFD to respond to more calls.
  - f. Laurel Volunteer Rescue Squad (LVRS)
    - i. LVRS will not have representation on the EOC for the Independence Day Celebration, but they will be on-site to support the event.

- ii. There are about 20 people in the recruiting class.
- iii. Looking to replace 1 rescue engine (25 years old).

4. General Public Hearing

- a. The general public hearing was opened 8:13 PM.
- b. The general public hearing was closed 8:14 PM.

5. Schedule Next Meeting, Date and Location

- a. The next meeting will be virtual.
- b. It will be held on September 17, 2025 at 7:00 PM.

6. Adjournment

- a. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.