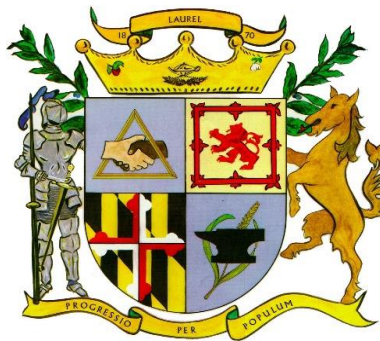


Wayne Dzwonchyk, *Commissioner*
Roy P. Gilmore, *Commissioner*
Douglas Redd, *Commissioner*
Kenneth Ford, *Commissioner*
Sharon Gibbs Cooper, *Commissioner*



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
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Emergency Services Commission Meeting

September 17, 2025

7:00 PM

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

<https://cityoflaurel-org.zoom.us/j/84320670453>

Meeting Notes

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 Public Works (DPW)
 - a. Arman Safakhah, City Engineer
 3. Laurel Police Department (LPD)
 - a. Chief Russell Hamill
 - b. Deputy Chief Mark Plazinski
 4. Laurel Volunteer Fire Department (LVFD)
 - a. Chief Brian Cox
 5. Laurel Volunteer Rescue Squad (LVRS)
 - a. Chief Chris Ruehl
 - ii. Approval of Meeting Minutes from June 18, 2025
 - i. A motion to approve the meeting minutes was made by Vice Chairman Gilmore. It was seconded by Commissioner Ford. All Commissioners voted in favor.
 - ii. The meeting minutes from June 18, 2025 were approved.

- c. Commissioner Sharon Gibbs Cooper introduced herself to the Emergency Services Commission.

2. Staff Reports

a. Emergency Management (DEM)

- i. Director Cornwell provided an update regarding the City's emergency management plans.
 - 1. The Continuity of Operations Plans (COOP) are ready to be submitted to the Mayor for signature.
 - 2. The Department of Emergency Management is working with the Department of Information Technology to update the floors plans for the City's Emergency Action Plans (EAPs).
- ii. The Department of Emergency Management is working with various City Departments and Partners to update the City's event processes and policies, as well as plan for the following special events:
 - 1. 2025 Trick or Treat on Main Street
 - 2. 2026 Main Street Festival
 - 3. 2026 Preakness at the Laurel Racetrack
 - a. The City has created subcommittees to assist with planning.
 - i. Economic
 - ii. Public Safety and Transportation Safety
 - iii. Marketing
 - 4. 2026 Main Street Festival
- iii. The Department of Emergency Management is actively working to reactivate its City Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program update.
 - 1. The Department is currently working to determine funding sources, instructors, and training/participation opportunities to keep CERT members engaged.
- iv. Director Cornwell also provided the Commission with an update regarding training courses that have been conducted for City personnel and residents, including Basic WebEOC, Incident Command System, and Heartsaver CPR/AED use.

b. Fire Marshal and Permit Services (FMPS)

- i. FMPS was not present for the meeting.

c. Laurel Police Department (LPD)

- i. Chief Hamill provided an overview of arrests, incidents, and investigations that have occurred in the City since the Commission's last meeting.
- ii. Chief Hamill was pleased to announce that two (2) officers from the Laurel Police Department graduated from the Maryland Chiefs and Sheriffs Leadership program.
- iii. The Laurel Police Department Leadership attended an executive leadership training seminar.
- iv. Over the past several weeks, the Laurel Police Department hired a new officer, and eleven (11) applicants passed the most recent police exam.
- v. The Laurel Police Department is preparing for the Trick or Treat event.

- vi. Chief Hamill provided a brief overview of the 2025 Independence Day Celebration.
- d. Department of Public Works (DPW)
 - i. City Engineer Safakhah provided updates regarding on-going roadway improvement projects, which included installing signage, sidewalks, and raised crosswalks; lane improvements; and the three-phase Van Dusen Road project.
 - ii. The Department of Public Works is conducting several traffic calming studies at the request of several City residents.
- e. Laurel Volunteer Fire Department (LVFD)
 - i. Chief Cox provided a maintenance update on several pieces of apparatus.
 - ii. The Laurel Volunteer Fire Department participated in a community outreach opportunity at the West Laurel Civic Association Meeting. They discussed fire safety and prevention with the association.
 - iii. The Laurel Volunteer Fire Department on-boarded twelve (12) new members.
 - iv. A new fire engine has been ordered and is slated to go into service in August 2026.
- f. Laurel Volunteer Rescue Squad (LVRS)
 - i. Volunteer EMT Monica Hendrix was awarded the Prince George's County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association Volunteer EMS Captain George Linnell Memorial Award during its annual award ceremony.
 - ii. Two (2) members of the Laurel Volunteer Rescue Squad were also inducted into the Prince George's County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association Hall of Fame.
 - iii. The Laurel Volunteer Rescue Squad is obtaining 2 additional vehicles.
 - iv. Chief Ruehl advised that they are continuing efforts to recruit and retain volunteers. There are twenty (20) new recruits currently going through the on-boarding process.
- 3. General Public Hearing
 - a. The general public hearing was opened at 8:02 PM.
 - b. The general public hearing was closed at 8:03 PM.
- 4. Charter Discussion
 - a. Chairman Dzwonchyk recommended that the Commissioners review the charter prior to the next meeting.
 - b. A review of the resolutions will be added to the agenda for the next meeting.
- 5. Schedule Next Meeting, Date, and Location
 - a. The next meeting will be held in-person at the Laurel Municipal Center in Meeting Room 2.
 - b. It will be held on Wednesday, November 12, 2025 at 7:00 PM.
- 6. Adjournment
 - a. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.