

**CITY COUNCIL**

CHRISTINE M. JOHNSON  
At-Large

JAMES KOLE  
First Ward

ADRIAN SIMMONS  
First Ward

KYLA CLARK  
Second Ward

JEFFREY W. MILLS  
Second Ward

Council meets second and fourth  
Mondays of each month.



**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL**

8103 Sandy Spring Road  
Laurel, Maryland 20707-2502

KEITH R. SYDNOR  
Mayor

CHRISTIAN L. PULLEY, CPM  
City Administrator

JOANNE HALL BARR  
Deputy City Administrator

STEPHANIE P. ANDERSON  
City Solicitor

SARA A. GREEN, CPM, CMC  
City Clerk

(301) 725-5300

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

**TWENTY-FIFTH MEETING OF THE  
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL  
MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2025  
6:00 PM  
IN-PERSON MEETING  
MINUTES**

The meeting convened via Zoom at approximately 6:00 pm with Council President Kyla M. Clark presiding. Councilwoman Christine M. Johnson, Councilman James Kole, Councilman Jeffrey W. Mills, Councilman Adrian G. Simmons and Mayor Keith R. Sydnor were present. There were twenty-six (26) members of the public in attendance.

The following staff members were also present: Christian L. Pulley, CPM, City Administrator, Joanne Hall Barr, Deputy City Administrator, Sara A. Green, CPM, CMC, City Clerk, Bill Bailey, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation, Chief Russell Hamill, LPD, 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, Chrissy Cornwell, Director, Department of Community Resources and Emergency Management, Monta L. Burrough, Director, Department of Economic and Community Development, Natalie Willaims, Director, Department of Communications and Stephanie P. Anderson, City Solicitor.

Agenda Item No. 4 was Approval of Minutes the following minutes:

- January 6, 2025 Work Session
- January 13, 2025 Regular Meeting

Councilman Simmons made a motion to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Councilman Kole and carried on a roll call vote of all Councilmembers present.

Next, the Mayor and City Councilmembers provided their reports regarding events and happenings since the last meeting and made announcements regarding upcoming meetings and events. Mayor Sydnor presented a proclamation recognizing Black History Month.

Agenda Item No. 6 was Mayoral Appointments/Reappointments of the following:

## Appointments

Naomi McMillen	Board of Election Supervisors	01/27/25-01/27/29
Veronica Martin	Juneteenth Executive Committee	
Artesa Jones	Juneteenth Committee	

## Reappointments

The Honorable G. Rick Wilson	Planning Commission	01/27/25-01/27/30
William Wellford	Planning Commission	01/27/25-01/27/30
Sean LeVere	Community Redevelopment Authority	01/27/25-01/27/28

Councilman Mills made a motion to approve the appointments and reappointments as requested. Councilman Kole seconded the motion that was carried on a roll call vote of all Councilmembers present.

Agenda Item No. 7 was the General Public Hearing. President Clark opened the Public Hearing at 6:26 pm.

The first speaker was Connie Lucas, 1018 Ward Street. Ms. Lucas requested that the street names be included in the crime report section of the Laurel Independent.

The second person signed up to speak was Shannon Mouton, Executive Director, Laurel Advocacy and Referral Service (LARS). Ms. Mouton presented the Mayor and City Council with a plaque in recognition of their participation and support on the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual LARS Turkey Trot.

Next, Linda Carpenter- Grantam and Eric Grantam were signed up to speak. Ms. Carpenter-Grantam and Mr. Grantam thanked the Mayor and City Council for their support of Eric's Law and stated that the bill had been drafted and was going to be scheduled for a hearing date in the General Assembly. Ms. Carpenter-Grantam explained the details of the bill and Mr. Grantam provided information regarding how he developed the idea for bill.

Danielle C. Miller, Councilmember, Mt. Rainier and representative of the Coalition to Support Prince George's County Fire and EMS. Councilmember Miller urged the Mayor and City Council to support candidates for Prince George's County Executive in the upcoming special election who support the Prince George's County Fire Department and who were committed to improving the issues plaguing the Fire Department. Councilmember Miller also sent written testimony that is incorporated in these minutes as Exhibit 1.

Next, Stefan Leggin, Brentwood, representative of the Coalition to Support Prince George's County Fire and EMS, urged the Mayor and City Council to support the Prince George's County Fire and EMS including volunteers.

Georgena Ifill, 8231 Northlake Court, thanked the Mayor and City Council for hearing from Ms. Carpenter-Grantam and Mr. Grantam regarding Eric's Law and urged their continued support of the proposed legislation.

Prince George's County Fire Chief Tiffany Green provided written comments (attached hereto as Exhibit 2) in response to recommendations received from Coalition to Support Prince George's County Fire and EMS for the record and spoke briefly about some of those recommendations and responses.

Next, Assistant Fire Chief, Prince George's County Fire and Department, Michael White discussed some of the responses and recommendations in the document mentioned above.

Deputy Fire Chief, Prince George's County Fire Department, James McClelland, discussed some of the responses and recommendations in the document mentioned above.

President Clark closed the General Public Hearing at 7:00 pm.

The next agenda item was Second Public Hearing with Possible Action on Charter Amendment No. 180- A Charter Resolution of the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland Amending Article 400 "Administration" of the Charter of the City of Laurel to Reflect the Dissolution of the Department of Community Resources and Emergency Management (CREM) and the Establishment of Two New Departments: The Department of Human Services and Emergency Management and Amending Section 469 to Reflect "Director of the Department of Emergency Management" and add Section 470 "Director of the Department of Human Services." President Clark read the title into the record for the second reading. Mayor Sydnor presented the proposed Charter Amendment. President Clark opened the Public Hearing at 7:04 pm.

Former Council President Valerie M.A. Nicholas, 901 Phillip Powers Drive Laurel, Maryland 20707 expressed her support for the proposed Charter Amendment and that she supported Mayor Sydnor's vision for the Departments. Next, Pastor Strong, Laurel, Maryland told the Mayor and City Council that he too, was in support of the separation of the Department and of Mayor Sydnor's vision for the City. President Clark noted that there were numerous people signed up to speak on the item. Mayor Sydnor asked that each person who was signed up in support of the Charter Amendment line up and state their name for the record in lieu of each person speaking individually. Those in support were:

- R. Umami Modeste, - 1020 Tenth Street Laurel, Maryland 20707
- Tiffany Turner-Allen- No address provided
- Roy Smith, II- No address provided
- Ayanna Castro- 14214 Oakpointe Drive Laurel, Maryland 20707
- Norday Watson Remy- 7926 Chapel Cove Drive Laurel, Maryland 20707
- Dr. Renee Garraway- Laurel, Maryland
- Marcia B. Levi- 8014 Spring Arbor Laurel, Maryland 20707

President Clark also noted that written testimony had been received via email in support of the proposed Charter Amendment. The written testimony submitted were as follows:

TuWauna Reid- Laurel, Maryland- Received via email- 01/26/2025 (Attached hereto as Exhibit 3)  
Rosette Ladson- 14316 Bowsprit Lane Laurel, Maryland 20707- Received via email- 01/27/2025- (Attached hereto as Exhibit 4)

Next, Colandra Young, 101 Sixth Street Laurel, Maryland 20707, provided written testimony via email regarding Charter Amendment No. 180 (attached hereto as Exhibit 5) and provided verbal testimony indicating that she was not against the separation of the two departments but wanted more information on why the Department of Community Resources and Emergency Management (CREM) that had only been created a little over a year prior, needed to be split so quickly.

Lastly, Georgena Ifill, 8231 Northlake Court, spoke and had similar questions regarding the need to split the department and also expressed concern regarding the impact of having two (2) separate departments would have on the City's budget. President Clark closed the public hearing at 7:21 pm. Councilman Mills made a motion to approve Charter Amendment No. 180 as presented. President Clark seconded the motion. Roll call continued with Councilman Kole voting "No", Councilwoman Johnson voting "Yes", and Councilman Simmons voting "Yes, with the request of the Mayor to consider folding in the Office of Emergency Management into another part of the Administration." Mayor Sydnor concurred with the vote.

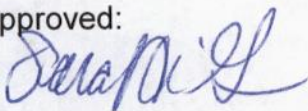
Agenda Item No. 9 was Second Public Hearing with Possible Action on Ordinance No. 2036- An Ordinance Amending the General Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program of the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 and Providing an Effective Date. President Clark read the title into the record for the second reading. Deputy Director of Budget and Personnel Services, Lisa Woods, presented the proposed ordinance. President Clark opened the Public Hearing at 7:28 pm. There was no one signed up to speak and the Public Hearing was closed at 7:29 pm. Councilman Kole made a motion to approve the Ordinance No. 2036 as presented. Councilwoman Johnson seconded the motion that was carried on a roll call vote of all Councilmember present. Mayor Sydnor concurred with the vote.

Next, Agenda Item No. 10 was Second Public Hearing with Possible Action on Resolution No. 1-2025- A Resolution of the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland to Rename and Expand the Scope of the Citizens Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities. President Clark read the title into the record for the second reading. Councilman Adrian G. Simmons and Councilwoman Christine Johnson presented the draft resolution noting that they had collaborated on the resolution and incorporated edits received from Mayor Sydnor and President Clark. President Clark opened the Public Hearing at 7:32 pm. Dr. Renee Garraway, Laurel, Maryland spoke in support of the proposed resolution. Next, Georgena Ifill, 8231 Northlake Court, spoke in support of the proposed resolution and had a question if the weight of the vote of members of the committee who lived outside the City would be any different than those residing inside the City. President Clark noted that the City would check and get back to her. President Clark closed the Public Hearing at 7:35 pm. Councilwoman Johnson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 1-2025 as presented. Councilman Simmons seconded the motion that was carried on a roll call vote of all Councilmembers present. Mayor Sydnor concurred with the vote.

Agenda Item No. 11 was Second Public Hearing with Possible Action on Resolution No. 2-2025- A Resolution of the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland Authorizing the Purchase of 7701 Old Sandy Spring Road Laurel, Maryland 20707, for the Purpose of Acquiring Real Property for City Operations. Mayor Sydnor presented the proposed resolution. President Clark read the title into the record for the second public hearing. Mayor Sydnor presented the proposed resolution. President Clark opened the Public Hearing at 7:37 pm. There was no one signed up to speak and the Public Hearing was closed at 7:37 pm. Councilman Mills made a motion to approved Resolution No. 2-2025 as presented. Councilman Kole seconded the motion that was carried on a roll call vote of all Councilmembers present. Mayor Sydnor concurred with the vote.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:39 pm.

Approved:



Date:

February 10, 2025

Sara A. Green, CPM, CMC  
City Clerk

**CITY COUNCIL**

CHRISTINE M. JOHNSON  
At-Large

ADRIAN G. SIMMONS  
First Ward

JAMES KOLE  
First Ward

KYLA CLARK  
Second Ward

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**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL**

8103 Sandy Spring Road  
Laurel, Maryland 20707-2502

**TWENTY-FIFTH REGULAR MEETING  
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL  
MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2025  
6:00 PM  
AGENDA (Revised 01/27/2025)**

**IN-PERSON 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.**

1. Call to Order – Kyla Clark, President
2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America- Mayor Keith R. Sydnor
3. Roll Call - Sara A. Green, CPM, CMC, Clerk
4. Approval of Minutes
  - January 6, 2025 Work Session
  - January 13, 2025 Regular Meeting
5. Report of the Mayor and City Council
6. Mayoral Appointments/Reappointments

**Appointment**

Naomi McMillen  
Veronica Martin

Board of Election Supervisors  
Juneteenth Executive Committee

01/27/25-01/27/29

Artesa Jones

Juneteenth Committee

## Reappointments

The Honorable G. Rick Wilson	Planning Commission	01/27/25-01/27/30
William Wellford	Planning Commission	01/27/25-01/27/30
Sean LeVere	Community Redevelopment Authority	01/27/25-01/27/28

7. General Public Hearing
8. Second Public Hearing with Possible Action on Charter Amendment No. 180- A Charter Resolution of the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland Amending Article 400 "Administration" of the Charter of the City of Laurel to Reflect the Dissolution of the Department of Community Resources and Emergency Management (CREM) and the Establishment of Two New Departments: The Department of Human Services and Emergency Management and Amending Section 469 to Reflect "Director of the Department of Emergency Management" and add Section 470 "Director of the Department of Human Services."
9. Second Public Hearing with Possible Action on Ordinance No. 2036- An Ordinance Amending the General Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program of the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 and Providing an Effective Date.
10. Second Public Hearing with Possible Action on Resolution No. 1-2025- A Resolution of the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland to Rename and Expand the Scope of the Citizens Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities.
11. Second Public Hearing with Possible Action on Resolution No. 2-2025- A Resolution of the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland Authorizing the Purchase of 7701 Old Sandy Spring Road Laurel, Maryland 20707, for the Purpose of Acquiring Real Property for City Operations.
12. Adjournment

Mayor and City Council Voting Record

January 27, 2025 6:00 pm

Regular Meeting

In-Person

Call to Order: 6:00pm

Meeting Ended: 7:39pm

Members of the Public: 26

Staff Attendance:

- Christian L Pulley  Joanne Barr  Bill Bailey  Chrissy Cornwell
- James Cornwell-Shiel  Tim Miller  Monta Burrough  Chief Russell Hamill
- S. Michele Saylor  Danny Selby  Natalie Williams  Stephanie Anderson  Mark Plazinski

Roll Call

- Councilman Mills  Councilman Kole  Councilwoman Johnson
- Councilman Simmons  President Clark  Mayor Sydnor

Agenda Item No. 4- Approval of Minutes

- January 6, 2025 Work Session
- January 13, 2025 Regular Meeting

- 2nd Councilman Kole yes Councilwoman Johnson yes Councilman Mills
- 1st Councilman Simmons yes President Clark



**Agenda Item No. 6- Mayoral Appointments**

**Appointments**

Naomi McMillen	Board of Election Supervisors	01/27/25-01/27/29
Veronica Martin	Juneteenth Executive Committee	
Artesa Jones	Juneteenth Committee	

**Reappointments**

The Honorable G. Rick Wilson	Planning Commission	01/27/25-01/27/30
William Wellford	Planning Commission	01/27/25-01/27/30
Sean LeVere	Community Redevelopment Authority	01/27/25-01/27/28

2nd Councilman Kole      yes Councilwoman Johnson      1st Councilman Mills  
yes Councilman Simmons      yes President Clark

**Agenda Item No. 7- General Public Hearing**

Open: 6:20 PM      Closed: 7:00 PM

Agenda Item No. 8- Second Public Hearing with Possible Action on Charter Amendment No. 180- A Charter Resolution of the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland Amending Article 400 "Administration" of the Charter of the City of Laurel to Reflect the Dissolution of the Department of Community Resources and Emergency Management (CREM) and the Establishment of Two New Departments: The Department of Human Services and Emergency Management and Amending

Section 469 to Reflect "Director of the Department of Emergency Management" and add Section 470 "Director of the Department of Human Services."

Open Public Hearing 7: 04pm

Close Public Hearing 7: 21pm

NO Councilman Kole

yes Councilwoman Johnson

1st Councilman Mills

yes Councilman Simmons

2nd President Clark Concur Mayor Sydnor

Agenda Item No. 9- Second Public Hearing with Possible Action on Ordinance No. 2036- An Ordinance Amending the General Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program of the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 and Providing an Effective Date.

Open Public Hearing 7: 28pm

Close Public Hearing: 7: 29pm

1st Councilman Kole

2nd Councilwoman Johnson

yes Councilman Mills

yes Councilman Simmons

yes President Clark Concur Mayor Sydnor

Agenda Item No. 10- Second Public Hearing with Possible Action on Resolution No. 1-2025- A Resolution of the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland to Rename and Expand the Scope of the Citizens Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities.

Open Public Hearing: 7: 32pm

Close Public Hearing: 7: 35pm

yes Councilman Kole

1st Councilwoman Johnson

yes Councilman Mills

2nd Councilman Simmons

yes President Clark Concur Mayor Sydnor

Agenda Item No. 11- Second Public Hearing with Possible Action on Resolution No. 2-2025- A  
Resolution of the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland Authorizing the Purchase of 7701  
Old Sandy Spring Road Laurel, Maryland 20707, for the Purpose of Acquiring Real Property for  
City Operations.

Open Public Hearing F : 3:30pm

Close Public Hearing F : 3:45pm

2nd Councilman Kole

Yes Councilwoman Johnson

1st Councilman Mills

Yes Councilman Simmons

Yes President Clark Answer Mayor Sydnor

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

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

Twenty-Fifth Meeting on Monday, January 27, 2025

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Agenda Item</u>
✓ Shannon Mouton	LARS 3111 Laurel Avenue	16
✓ Eric Grantham		7
✓ Linda Carpenter-Grantham and <del>Eric Grantham</del>		7
✓ Valerie M.A. Nicholas	901 Phillip-Powers Drive Apt. 101 Laurel, Maryland. 20707	18
✓ DANIELE C. MILLER	Mount Rainier	7
✓ Stefan Leggin	Brentwood	7
✓ R. Umni Modeste	1020 10 <sup>th</sup> St, 20707	8
✓ (G) Connie Lucas	1018 WARD Street Laurel MD	Concerning the Laurel Independent
✓ Eric Grantham		7
✓ Holly Turner-Allen		8
✓ For Smith II		13
✓ Hyanna Castro	14214 Oakpoint Dr Laurel MD 20707	8
✓ (G) Verdoy Watson-Bewj	7926 Chapel Cove Dr	18

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

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

Twenty-Fifth Meeting on Monday, January 27, 2025

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Agenda Item</u>
✓ Georgeanna IFill	8231 Northlake Ct.	8
✓ "	"	7
✓ "	"	9/10
✓ Pastor Stevens	Laurel, MD	8
✓ Dr. Renee Carraway	Laurel, MD	8
✓ Chief Tiffany Green	PGFD Fire Chief	7
✓ Assistant Fire Chief MICHAEL WHITE	PGFD MFC	7
✓ Deputy Fire Chief JAMES McLELLAND	PGFD DPC	7
✓ MARIA B. BEAN	8014 Spring Arbor	8

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

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

Twenty-Fifth Meeting on Monday, January 27, 2025

Name

✓ Calandra Young

Address

101 Sixth St. ~~Laurel~~ Laurel, MD

Agenda Item

8



# 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 6.

**Keith R. Sydnor**  
Mayor

January 15, 2025

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Kyla Clark, Council President  
Laurel City Councilmembers  
**FROM:** Keith R. Sydnor, Mayor *KS*  
**SUBJ:** Mayoral Appointments and Reappointments

I plan to make the following appointments and reappointments at the January 27, 2025, Mayor and City Council meeting.

### APPOINTMENTS

Veronica Martin	Juneteenth Executive Committee	
Artesa Jones	Juneteenth Executive Committee	
Naomi McMillen	Board of Election Supervisors	01/27/25-01/27/29

### REAPPOINTMENTS

The Honorable G. Rick Wilson	Planning Commission	01/27/25-01/27/30
William Wellford	Planning Commission	01/27/25-01/27/30
Sean LeVere	Community Redevelopment Authority	01/27/25-01/27/28

I look forward to your confirmation of these appointments and reappointments.

ec: Sara A. Green, CPM, CMC, City Clerk



# CITY OF LAUREL, MARYLAND

## CHARTER RESOLUTION NO. 180

**A CHARTER RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL, MARYLAND AMENDING ARTICLE 400 "ADMINISTRATION" OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF LAUREL TO REFLECT THE DISSOLUTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (CREM) AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TWO NEW DEPARTMENTS: THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND AMENDING SECTION 469 TO REFLECT "DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT" AND ADD SECTION 470 "DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES."**

***Sponsored by the President, at the request of the Administration.***

**WHEREAS**, the Administration reviewed the operations of the Department of Community Resources and Emergency Management; and recognized the need to enhance the efficiency and scope of City services to better serve its residents and, therefore, determined it would be in the best interest to dissolve the Department and Community Resources (CREM) and create two (2) separate departments: Emergency Management and Human Services; and

**WHEREAS**, the Human Services department would manage the Craig A. Moe Laurel Multiservice Center, Laurel Helping Hands, and other social service programs for the City of Laurel; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Emergency Management would be responsible for emergency management, preparedness, response, mitigation, and other emergency operations for the City of Laurel; and

**WHEREAS**, the Administration proposes creating two (2) separate departments to allow the activities, and the responsibilities of each to be better monitored and supervised; and

**WHEREAS**, the creation of these two (2) separate departments allows for enhanced security of confidential records and lines of communication can be more effectively supported, all of which allows the City to better serve its residents and the greater Laurel community; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and City Council believe that it would be in the best interests of the City to amend Article 400 of the City Charter, as set forth herein, to accurately reflect the existing Departments of the City.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City of Laurel's Charter Section 469 is hereby amended, and Section 470 is created as follows:



**CHARTER AMENDMENT:** Section.469,~~Section. 469.Director of the Department of Community Resources and Emergency.~~

~~(a) — There shall be a Director of the Department of Community Resources and Emergency Management that will also serve as the emergency manager appointed by the Mayor, subject to the confirmation of the City Council. His or her compensation shall be determined by the operating budget. The director of the Department of Community Resources and Emergency Management shall serve at the pleasure of the Mayor and shall devote his or her full time and attention to the duties and responsibilities of this office.~~

~~(b) — The Director of the Department of Community Resources and Emergency Management shall be responsible, under the direction of the City Administrator, for organizing, supervising, and administering that department, including any specific duties and responsibilities as directed by the Mayor and City Council.~~

Section. 469.Director of the Department of Emergency Management.

(a) There shall be a Director of the Department of Emergency Management that serves as the emergency manager appointed by the Mayor, subject to the confirmation of the City Council. His or her compensation shall be determined by the operating budget. The director of the Department of Emergency Management shall serve at the pleasure of the Mayor and shall devote his or her full time and attention to the duties and responsibilities of this office.

(b) The Director of the Department of Emergency Management shall be responsible, under the direction of the City Administrator, for organizing, supervising, and administering that department, including any specific duties and responsibilities as directed by the Mayor and City Council.

**CHARTER AMENDMENT:** Section.470,Section. 470.Director of the Department of Human Services

(a) There shall be a Director of the Department of Human Services appointed by the Mayor, subject to the confirmation of the City Council. His or her compensation shall be determined by the operating budget. The director of the Department of Human Services shall serve at the pleasure of the Mayor and shall devote his or her full time and attention to the duties and responsibilities of this office.

(b) The Director of the Department of Human Services shall be responsible, under the direction of the City Administrator, for organizing, supervising, and administering that department, including any specific duties and responsibilities as directed by the Mayor and City Council.

**AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the date of adoption of this Charter Resolution is the 27<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2025, and that the amendment to the Charter of the City as herein adopted, shall be and become effective on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2025 unless on or before the 10<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2025, a Petition for Referendum on this Charter Resolution is filed in writing with the Mayor or City Administrator, by 5:00 pm pursuant to the provision of Title 4, Subtitle 3 of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

**AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this Resolution shall become effective on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2025.

**PASSED** this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**SARA A. GREEN, CPM, CMC**  
Clerk to the City Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
**KYLA CLARK**  
President of the City Council

**APPROVED** this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**KEITH R. SYDNOR**  
Mayor



# CITY OF LAUREL, MARYLAND

## ORDINANCE NO. 2036

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL, MARYLAND, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2024 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2025 AND TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

*Sponsored by the City Council President at the request of the Administration.*

**WHEREAS**, the FY2025 General Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program (CIP) was adopted on May 28, 2024 through Ordinance No. 2026, and subsequently amended through Ordinance No. 2029, Ordinance No. 2031, and Ordinance No. 2035, and

**WHEREAS**, a proposal has been made to allocate available debt service funds and resources from the Unassigned Fund Balance to the Capital Improvement Fund to support the acquisition and enhancement of real property, and

**WHEREAS**, it is proposed to transfer available CIP project funds for the purpose of real property acquisition and improvements, and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland are required to amend the FY2025 General Operating Budget and CIP to reflect these changes.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED AND ORDAINED**, by the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland that the General Operating Budget and CIP for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 is hereby amended.

### GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET

<u>REVENUES</u>	<u>AMENDED ORD2035</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>	<u>AMENDED ORD</u>
<u>REVENUE SUB-CATEGORY</u>			
4010 - R/E TAX REVENUE	\$27,384,119		\$27,384,119
4030 - PERSONAL PROP TAX	1,385,868		1,385,868
4040 - PERSONAL PROP-INT/PENTALTY	40,000		40,000
4050 - LOCAL TAXES	4,650,000		4,650,000
4060 - OTHER LOCAL TAXES	2,047,576		2,047,576
4110 - LICENSES	734,850		734,850
4130 - PERMITS	505,445		505,445
4210 - FEDERAL GRANTS	162,980		162,980
4230 - STATE GRANTS	737,825		737,825
4250 - COUNTY GRANTS	386,642		386,642
4310 - GENERAL GOV'T SERVICE CH	169,797		169,797
4340 - SANITATION SERVICE CHGS	176,000		176,000
4350 - SERVICE CHARGE-HEALTH	10,000		10,000

4370 - FACILITY RENTALS	163,890		163,890
4411 - SWIMMING POOL FEES	124,510		124,510
4413 - RECREATION PROGRAM FEES	82,500		82,500
4415 - P&R ACTIVITY FEES	89,800		89,800
4417 - P&R CONCESSION FEES	22,000		22,000
4430 - SENIOR PROGRAM FEES	15,300		15,300
4620 - POLICE FINES	2,780,600		2,780,600
4630 - CODE ENFORCEMENT FINES	3,250		3,250
4710 - INVESTMENT INTEREST	117,000		117,000
4720 - RENTAL INCOME	18,963		18,963
4730 - CONTRIBUTIONS/DONATIONS	600		600
4740 - SALE OF PROPERTY	14,500		14,500
4750 - MISC REFUNDS AND REBATES	86,780		86,780
4761 - POLICE ACCT RECEIPTS	45,000		45,000
4790 - OTHER MISC REVENUES	453,203		453,203
4840 - FUND TRANSFER	988,247	200,000	1,188,247
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$43,397,245</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>	<b>\$43,597,245</b>

<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	AMENDED	CHANGE	AMENDED
DEPARTMENT	ORD2035		ORD
201 - CITY COUNCIL	\$122,513		\$122,513
205 - CLERK TO THE COUNCIL	243,333		243,333
210 - MAYOR	649,079		649,079
215 - CITY ADMINISTRATOR	679,268		679,268
220 - ELECTIONS	17,445		17,445
225 - BUDGET & PERSONNEL SVCS	1,230,403		1,230,403
235 - COMMUNICATIONS	701,304		701,304
240 - ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEV	1,032,943		1,032,943
244 - SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAMS	62,532		62,532
250 - INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	2,860,863		2,860,863
270 - COMMUNITY PROMOTION	184,287		184,287
280 - GROUNDS MAINTENANCE	945,518		945,518
281 - JOSEPH R. ROBISON - LAUREL MUNICIPAL CENTER	177,616		177,616
284 - PUBLIC WORKS FACILITY	128,126		128,126
285 - ROBERT J. DIPIETRO COMMUNITY CENTER	168,869		168,869
286 - ARMORY COMMUNITY CENTER	104,561		104,561
287 - LAUREL MUSEUM	13,000		13,000
288 - GUDE LAKEHOUSE	31,000		31,000
289 - MAIN ST. POOL MAINTENANC	82,670		82,670
290 - LPD FACILITY	312,121		312,121
291 - GREENVIEW DR REC COMPLEX	47,180		47,180
292 - P&R MAINTENANCE FACILITY	47,750		47,750
293 - GUDE HOUSE	73,841		73,841
294 - CRAIG A. MOE LAUREL MULITSERVICE CENTER	262,371		262,371
301 - POLICE	13,069,424		13,069,424
320 - FIRE MARSHAL & PERMIT SV	861,358		861,358
325 - OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MGT	702,952		702,952
326 - CRAIG A. MOE LAUREL MULTISERVICE CENTER PROGRAMS	563,417		563,417
401 - PUBLIC WORKS ADMIN	691,207		691,207
410 - AUTOMOTIVE MAINTENANCE	1,180,819		1,180,819
415 - WASTE COLLECTION	1,196,135		1,196,135
420 - RECYCLING	353,009		353,009
425 - HIGHWAYS & STREETS MAINT	1,272,735		1,272,735
430 - SNOW REMOVAL	198,155		198,155

435 - STREET LIGHTING	268,970		268,970
440 - ENGINEERING&TECH SERVICES	253,898		253,898
445 - TRAFFIC ENGINEERING	156,637		156,637
450 - TREE MANAGEMENT	99,781		99,781
501 - PARKS & RECREATION ADMIN	877,205		877,205
505 - RECREATION	525,256		525,256
510 - MAIN ST POOL PROGRAMS	287,053		287,053
515 - ROBERT J. DIPIETRO COMMUNITY CENTER	328,708		328,708
520 - GREENVIEW DR PROGRAMS	129,133		129,133
525 - ARMORY COMMUNITY CTR PROG	214,021		214,021
530 - YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU	256,996		256,996
535 - GUDE LAKEHOUSE PROGRAMS	25,598		25,598
550 - SENIOR SERVICES	275,021		275,021
650 - PRINCIPAL	1,895,527	(300,000)	1,595,527
651 - INTEREST	93,227	(11,789)	81,438
652 - RETIREMENT	2,369,530		2,369,530
654 - PROPERTY INSURANCE	526,251		526,251
655 - BONDING INSURANCE	27,000		27,000
656 - EMPLOYEE INSURANCE	4,018,467		4,018,467
657 - OTHER MISC FINANCING USES	-0-	511,789	511,789
658 - SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT	-0-		200,000
810 - EMPLOYEE TRAINING	194,591		194,591
820 - EMPLOYEE TUITION	6,571		6,571
	<hr/>		
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$43,397,245</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>	<b>\$43,597,245</b>

	AMENDED ORD2035	CHANGE	AMENDED ORD
<b><u>CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM</u></b>			
TOTAL FUNDING - OTHER PROJECTS	\$29,942,821		\$29,942,821
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY-FY2023	\$200,000	(60,000)	140,000
TRASH CAPTURE	\$40,000	(37,000)	3,000
7701 SANDY SPRING ROAD	-0-	608,789	608,789
	<hr/>		
<b>TOTAL AMENDED FUNDING</b>	<b>\$30,182,821</b>	<b>\$511,789</b>	<b>\$30,694,610</b>

**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, CMC**  
City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
**KYLA M. CLARK**  
President of the City Council

**APPROVED** this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**KEITH R. SYDNOR**  
Mayor



# CITY OF LAUREL, MARYLAND

## RESOLUTION NO. 1-2025

### A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL, MARYLAND TO RENAME AND EXPAND THE SCOPE OF THE CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

*Sponsored by Councilman Adrian G. Simmons and Councilwoman Christine M. Johnson*

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland, have determined that it is in the best interest of the City to rename and expand the Citizens Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities to include the senior population of Laurel to provide input to the City Council and staff about issues of concern; exchange information with the senior population, persons with disabilities and the general public about relevant programs and issues of interest and engage in outreach to senior population and persons with disabilities to disseminate information and encourage active participation in the community, and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland, that the new name of the Citizens Advisory Committee will be "Citizens Advisory Committee for Senior Residents and Persons with Disabilities" (hereinafter "the Committee") as set forth below:

1. Purpose and Duties. The following shall be the duties and purposes of the Committee:
  - (a) To identify programs and services that are either provided address the distinct and overlapping by the City or provided by other entities or organizations in or around the City that are specifically designed to address the needs of senior citizens and those with persons with disabilities, recognizing that these populations share some common challenges, but also have unique needs requiring separate consideration. and to report annually to the City regarding these programs and services.
  - (b) To evaluate the programs and services identified in paragraph (a) to determine if they effectively assist senior citizens and persons with disabilities as they are intended and to include such evaluation in its annual report.
  - (c) To identify the needs of the senior citizen population and persons with disabilities and make recommendations to the Mayor, the City Council, and the City Administrator on how the needs could be better addressed.
  - (d) To advise and assist the City in cooperating with other groups and agencies serving persons with disabilities and the senior citizen population.
  - (e) To review inquiries and complaints regarding the accessibility of City services and/or programs to persons with disabilities and the senior citizen population that have been referred to the Committee by the City Administrator and to make recommendations thereon to the City Administrator.
  - (f) The Committee may recommend the initiation of programs to educate the public with regard to the special needs of the senior citizen and persons with disability communities to the Mayor and City Council and City Administrator.

(g) The Committee shall act in an advisory capacity only.

2. Membership. The Committee shall consist of seven (7) members as follows:

- (a) Two (2) members shall be either persons with disabilities or a relative or caretaker of a person with disabilities.
- (b) Two (2) members shall be persons over the age of 55 or a caretaker of a person over the age of 55.
- (c) Two (2) members shall be members of the general public.
- (d) One (1) member shall be an incumbent member of the City Council appointed by the Mayor and will serve as the Chair of the Committee.
- (e) Members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council. The Mayor shall have the authority to remove any member who has had more than two (2) unexcused absences in one consecutive 12-month period, and any member may be removed by the Mayor for cause.
- ~~(f) The Councilmember appointed shall serve as the Chair of the Committee.~~
- ~~(g)~~ **(f)** All members shall be residents of the City. However, if a sufficient number of qualified resident applicants are not available to or interested in serving on the Committee after reasonable efforts have been made to recruit such individuals, the City Council **Mayor** may open membership to non-residents who demonstrate the qualifications listed in (a) or (b) above and who also have a direct relationship to the City, such as:

- I. Property ownership in the City or;
- II. Business ownership or operation within the City limits or;
- III. Employment by the City or business located within the City or;
- IV: Other substantial ties to the City that would qualify the individual to contribute to the work of the Committee

(g) Staff support assignment shall be set by the Mayor.

3. Term of Office. The term of office for each member shall be for a period of two years and until such member's successor is appointed and confirmed. However, the initial appointment of one (1) of the two (2) members representing persons over the age of 55 shall be one year. All reappointments shall be two-year terms after the expiration of the initial term.

4. Meetings; Reports.

- (a) ~~The Committee shall meet at the call of the Chairperson as frequently as required to perform its duties; however, in no event shall the Committee meet less frequently than quarterly.~~ **The Committee shall convene at least quarterly to fulfill its duties. However, the Chairperson may call special meetings as needed to work on specific projects. Attendance at these special meetings is not mandatory.** A majority of all the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. A vote of the majority of the entire Committee shall be required for any official action to be taken by the Committee.
- (b) The Committee shall keep minutes of all of its meetings. The records and minutes shall be maintained on file at the Joseph R. Robison Laurel Municipal Center at the place to be designated by the City. Such minutes shall be subject to inspection



and copying pursuant to applicable State law, except as may be required or permitted to be kept confidential pursuant to State law.

(c) The Committee may establish such subcommittees as may be deemed necessary and appropriate to assist in carrying out its functions and duties, but any recommendations, reports, or other official actions of the Committee pursuant to this Resolution shall be made only upon approval of a majority of the entire Committee **and provided to the Mayor's Office.**

(d) All meetings shall be open to the public with reasonable public notice, subject to the right to meet in closed session as may be authorized by State law.

5. Compensation. The Committee shall serve without compensation.

**AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that this Resolution shall take effect on the date of its adoption.

**ADOPTED** this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**SARA A. GREEN, CPM, CMC**  
City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
**KYLA M. CLARK**  
President of the City Council

**APPROVED** this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**KEITH R. SYDNOR**  
Mayor



## CITY OF LAUREL, MARYLAND

### RESOLUTION NO. 1-2025

#### **A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL, MARYLAND TO RENAME AND EXPAND THE SCOPE OF THE CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

*Sponsored by Councilman Adrian G. Simmons, and Councilwoman Christine M. Johnson*

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland have determined that it is in the best interest of the City to rename and expand the Citizens Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities to include the aging population of Laurel to provide input to the City Council and staff about issues of concern; exchange information with aging persons, persons with disabilities and the general public about relevant programs and issues of interest and engage in outreach to aging persons and persons with disabilities to disseminate information and encourage active participation in the community, and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland that the new name of the Citizens Advisory Committee will be "Citizens Advisory Committee for Aging Citizens and Persons with Disabilities" (hereinafter "the Committee") as set forth below:

1. Purpose and Duties. The following shall be the duties and purposes of the Committee:
  - (a) To identify programs and services that are either provided by the City or provided by other entities or organizations in the City that are specifically designed to address the needs of aging citizens and those with disabilities, and to report annually to the City regarding these programs and services.
  - (b) To evaluate the programs and services identified in paragraph (a) to determine if they effectively assist aging citizens and persons with disabilities as they are intended and to include such evaluation in its annual report.
  - (c) To identify the needs of the aging population and persons with disabilities and make recommendations to the Mayor, the City Council and the City Administrator as to how the needs could be better addressed.
  - (d) To advise and assist the City in cooperating with other groups and agencies serving persons with disabilities and the aging population.
  - (e) To review inquiries and complaints regarding the accessibility of City services and/or programs to persons with disabilities and the aging population that have been referred to the Committee by the City Administrator and to make recommendations thereon to the City Administrator.
  - (f) The Committee may recommend the initiation of programs to educate the public with regard to the special needs and aging communities to the Mayor and City Council and City Administrator.
  - (g) The Committee shall act in an advisory capacity only.
2. Membership. The Committee shall consist of seven (7) members as follows:

- (a) Two (2) of the members shall be either persons with disabilities or a relative or caretaker of a person with disabilities.
- (b) Two (2) members shall be persons over the age of 65 or a caretaker of a person over the age of 65.
- (c) Two (2) members shall be members of the general public.
- (d) One (1) member shall be an incumbent member of the City Council.
- (e) Members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council. The Mayor shall have the authority to remove any member who has had more than two (2) unexcused absences in one consecutive 12-month period, and any member may be removed by the Mayor for cause.
- (f) The Councilmember appointed shall serve as the Chair of the Committee.
- (g) All members shall be residents of the City. However, if a sufficient number of qualified resident applicants are not available to or interested in serving on the Committee after reasonable efforts have been made to recruit such individuals, the City Council may open membership to non-residents who demonstrate the qualifications listed in (a) or (b) above and who also have a direct relationship to the City, such as:

- I. Property ownership in the City, or;
- II. Business ownership or operation within the City limits, or;
- III. Employment by the City or business located within the City, or;
- IV. Other substantial ties to the City that would qualify the individual to contribute to the work of the Committee

(h) Staff support assignment shall be set by the Mayor.

- 3. Term of Office. The term of office for each member shall be for a period of two years and until such member's successor is appointed and confirmed. However, the initial appointment of one (1) of the two (2) members representing persons over the age of 65 shall be one year. All reappointments shall be two-year terms after the expiration of the initial term.
- 4. Meetings; Reports.
  - (a) The Committee shall meet at the call of the Chairperson as frequently as required to perform its duties; however, in no event shall the Committee meet less frequently than quarterly. A majority of all the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. A vote of the majority of the entire Committee shall be required for any official action to be taken by the Committee.
  - (b) The Committee shall keep minutes of all of its meetings. The records and minutes shall be maintained on file at the Joseph R. Robison Laurel Municipal Center at the place to be designated by the City. Such minutes shall be subject to inspection and copying pursuant to applicable State law, except as may be required or permitted to be kept confidential pursuant to State law.
  - (c) The Committee may establish such subcommittees as may be deemed necessary and appropriate to assist in carrying out its functions and duties, but any recommendations or reports or other official actions of the Committee pursuant to this Resolution shall be made only upon approval of a majority of the entire Committee.

(d) All meetings shall be open to the public with reasonable public notice, subject to the right to meet in closed session as may be authorized by State law.

5. Compensation. The Committee shall serve without compensation.

**AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this Resolution shall take effect on the date of its adoption.

**ADOPTED** this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**SARA A. GREEN, CPM, CMC**  
City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
**KYLA CLARK**  
President of the City Council

**APPROVED** this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**KEITH R. SYDNOR**  
Mayor



# CITY OF LAUREL, MARYLAND

## RESOLUTION NO. 2-2025

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL, MARYLAND APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF 7701 OLD SANDY SPRING ROAD, LAUREL, MARYLAND 20707, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ACQUIRING REAL PROPERTY FOR CITY OPERATIONS.**

***Sponsored by the President, at the request of the Administration.***

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and City Council of Laurel (hereinafter, the "City") has desired to purchase real property in the City to enhance business operations for purposes of serving certain needs of the Parks and Receptions and Public Works Departments; and

**WHEREAS**, the City was been made aware of the proposed sale of the property located at 7701 Old Sandy Spring Road Laurel, Maryland 20707, in the City (hereinafter, the "Property"), that includes an existing house and two-car garage lift, and it has been determined that the 1/3 acre property is large enough to provide overflow parking for City fleet and equipment, as well as another dedicated garage bay for minor equipment maintenance; and

**WHEREAS**, the City had an appraisal on the property conducted and negotiated with the owner of the Property, and it was determined that the price of Four Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$450,000) was fair market value for purchase; and

**WHEREAS**, the City is negotiating a contract to purchase the Property for operational purposes, for a sale price not to exceed Four Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$450,000) and the Contract will be reviewed and recommended for approval by the City Solicitor to the Mayor; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland, that the Mayor be, and hereby is, authorized to negotiate and execute a contract to purchase the Property at a price not to exceed Four Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$450,000), for the purpose of obtaining ownership of the property located at 7701 Old Sandy Spring Road, Laurel, Maryland 20707, and to execute all documents necessary to effectuate said purchase.

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this Resolution shall take effect upon its adoption.

**ADOPTED** this 27th day of January, 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**SARA A. GREEN, CPM, CMC**  
Clerk to the City Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
**KYLA CLARK**  
President of the City Council

**APPROVED** this 27th day of January, 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**KEITH R. SYDNOR**  
Mayor

Mayor + city meeting minutes  
January 27, 2025 Exhibit 1

Sara Green

**From:** Coalition to Support PGC Fire and EMS <coalitionpgcfireandems@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 15, 2025 1:40 PM  
**To:** Laurelmayor; Kyla Clark; Christine Johnson; James Kole; Adrian G. Simmons; Jeffrey Mills  
**Cc:** Clerk to the City Council; dcarter@mountrainiermd.org  
**Subject:** Your Support is Needed, Join the Coalition to Support PGC Fire & EMS  
**Attachments:** Recommendations, CoalitiontoSupportPGCFireandEMS.pdf; Candidate Letter, CoalitiontoSupportPGCFireandEMS.pdf

Some people who received this message don't often get email from coalitionpgcfireandems@gmail.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.

**COALITION TO SUPPORT PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FIRE AND EMS**

Dear Esteemed Mayor and Council of the City of Laurel,

We are writing to ask for your support of our Prince George's County Fire Department.

We are all intimately familiar with the recent staffing challenges of the Prince George's County Fire Department and the resulting reallocation of career firefighters away from the communities they serve. A combination of circumstances led to this emergency, including inadequate hiring, under funding and increasingly arduous requirements for volunteer firefighters. It doesn't have to be this way.

With a special election primary for County Executive scheduled for Tuesday, March 4, 2025, we have a unique opportunity to make the issues plaguing the Prince George's County Fire Department an important part of this election cycle. Now is the time for solutions and now is the time to lift-up candidates who are committed to improving the Fire Department in real and meaningful ways.

To help create these changes, a team of municipal leaders - including two who worked inside Prince George's County Fire and EMS - plus career volunteers, staff, and concerned residents have collaborated to create a powerful set of recommendations for our next County Executive. With your support, we believe these recommendations can be the beginning of systematic changes that will improve the Prince George's County Fire Department. With your support, we believe we can elevate the issues plaguing our Fire Department and make it an important topic of this election cycle. With your support, we can make a difference.

We kindly ask that you review the attached recommendations and the corresponding candidate letter. We hope to add your name to our list of supporters, either collectively or individually, so that we may demonstrate how vitally important public safety is to the people who live, work and play in each of Prince George's County's twenty-seven municipalities.

In addition, we would welcome the opportunity to present these recommendations at your next scheduled meeting and answer any questions you may have. Thank you for your time and thank you for your consideration of this very important issue.

Best Regards,

**The Coalition to Support Fire and EMS in Prince George's County**

Councilmember Danielle Carter Miller, City of Mount Rainier

Former Vice Mayor Stefan Leggin, Town of Brentwood

**COALITION TO SUPPORT PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FIRE AND EMS**

The Coalition to Support Prince George's County Fire and EMS includes a diverse collection of stakeholders including municipal leaders, career personnel, volunteer personnel and residents of Prince George's County. We believe it is a core responsibility of the incoming County Executive to address the deficiencies in the Prince George's County Fire Department with urgency and determination. Our recommendations are as follows:

**Reduce Barriers to Volunteerism**

Expand virtual training and in-person classes

Shorten onboarding by reducing unnecessary requirements

**Commitment to Expedited, Large Scale Recruitment**

Funding to hire 150 new Fire/EMS personnel in FY2026

A regional approach to youth recruitment in partnership with local schools and volunteer companies

Incentivize volunteers with stipends and relaxed requirements for retirement

Streamline and consolidate recruitment, training, and reciprocity process

Critically reexamine Fire Academy recruitment process and requirements

**Renegotiate single role EMS services**

Create EMS-only positions for career employees

**Improved Data Transparency**

Comprehensive data sharing and analysis including call times, budgets, staffing

Regular meetings which include all 27 municipalities at the table



## **Facility Support for Volunteer Properties and Apparatus**

Return to equally funding volunteer stations via station management

## **Establish a Task Force for Efficiency and Recruitment**

Develop and implement a sustainable staffing plan for career and volunteer staff

Hire an independent auditor

COALITION TO SUPPORT PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FIRE AND EMS



Tara H. Jackson  
Acting County Executive

Mayor + City Council Meeting January 27, 2025  
minutes exhibit 2

# THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

## Fire/EMS Department Headquarters

Office of the Fire Chief

January 27, 2025

Coalition to Support Prince George's County Fire and EMS  
*Hand Delivered*

Greetings,

I am in receipt of the recommendations drafted by the Coalition to Support Prince George's County Fire and EMS. I appreciate your concerns regarding the Prince George's County Fire/Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Department, and I have reviewed the recommendations and responded to them below.

### **Reduce Barriers to Volunteerism**

*Recommendation: Expand virtual training and in-person classes*

Response: The Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department has worked diligently over the last year to expand training opportunities to both sworn and volunteer members of the Department. The Department's Training and Leadership Academy (TLA) has offered numerous evening classes for volunteer members to accommodate a variety of schedules. The Department has also worked collaboratively with the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute (MFRI) to schedule and deliver online and in-person trainings. Between the TLA and MFRI, a total of ten (10) classes have been scheduled for evenings and weekends in calendar year 2024. We have worked to offer virtual versions of required and optional training whenever possible, to include Volunteer Recruit School (VRS), and have recently secured a contract with Bucks County Community College to facilitate additional virtual training opportunities for volunteer members of all ranks. We continue to work with our volunteer leadership to identify solutions and opportunities to enhance volunteerism in the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department.

*Recommendation: Shorten onboarding by reducing unnecessary requirements*

Response: The standards used in the volunteer background investigation process mirror the standards used for hiring career employees in a public safety role. In addition to the background investigation standards, volunteer firefighters and EMTs are required to meet the same medical and physical agility standards as career firefighters because they are required to provide the same level of service. Our standards are aligned with NFPA and County public safety standards.

9201 Basil Court, 4th Floor East  
Largo, Maryland 20774

VOICE - (301) 883-5200 FAX - (301) 883-5212 TDD - (301) 925-5167



**Commitment to Expedited, Large Scale Recruitment**

*Recommendation: Funding to hire 150 new Fire/EMS personnel in FY2026*

Response: The Fire/EMS Department would welcome a funding allocation to hire 150 new firefighters in Fiscal Year 2026. This would allow the Department to hire enough firefighters to both meet our goal complement of 1,224 and keep up with attrition.

*Recommendation: A regional approach to youth recruitment in partnership with local schools and volunteer companies*

Response: The Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department partners with the Prince George's County Public School System to host a high school cadet program in Gwynn Park High School and Charles Flowers High School. The Fire/EMS Department commits significant resources to the program, including one (1) Captain, two (2) Lieutenants, two (2) firefighters, and four (4) contracted Fire Instructors. A total of 280 Cadets have participated in the program since its inception, 37 of whom have been hired by the Fire/EMS Department. The Department has also created the Volunteer County Reserve Program, which is an operational unit of the Office of the Fire Chief, overseen by the Volunteer Services Office, for community members who do not wish to be affiliated with any specific volunteer corporation or who are interested in a broad range of volunteer opportunities to increase volunteerism in Prince George's County. Additionally, the Fire/EMS Department participates in County programs for providing work experience opportunities to community youth, to include Youth@Work Internship Program and the Summer Youth Enrichment Program.

*Recommendation: Incentivize volunteers with stipends and relaxed requirements for retirement*

Response: The Fire/EMS Department offers a variety of incentives for volunteer members. The Fire/EMS Department pays for all training associated with becoming a volunteer firefighter/EMT as well as the refresher trainings and additional training opportunities. Additionally, there are opportunities through other organizations, such as the Maryland State Firefighter's Association (MSFA), which offers a variety of scholarships to the members of the state's volunteer fire, rescue, and EMS service. Additionally, the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department has a Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP), which provides annuities to active members of the County's volunteer Fire/EMS companies that meet certain age and service eligibility criterion outlined in Prince George's County Code, Section 11-328. Monthly LOSAP Payments range between \$225.00-\$450.00 depending on the years of service, which is the third highest in the State of Maryland. In Fiscal Year 2025, the County has dedicated \$5.1 Million to LOSAP payments for volunteer members of the Fire/EMS Department, and the Department has hired a temporary employee to assist with managing this budget. On December 15, 2023, the Prince George's County Council passed CB-087-2023, establishing a property tax credit for the domicile or primary residence of a public safety officer in Prince George's County (including sworn and volunteer firefighters/EMTs) as an incentive. The Fire/EMS Department continues to work with internal and external stakeholders to identify and implement incentives for volunteer members.

*Recommendation: Streamline and consolidate recruitment, training, and reciprocity process*

Response: The Department has hired a full-time volunteer recruiter to support recruitment and retention for all volunteer corporations in the County. The volunteer recruiter has worked diligently to streamline the recruitment and application process by implementing an applicant tracking system. This system creates streamlined electronic application files and has improved the applicant experience and the ability to narrow down the stages of the application process requiring further improvement. The volunteer recruiter also hosts monthly meetings and issues monthly reports to provide updates to and share resources with all volunteer corporations in the Department. The Fire/EMS Department has also hired a temporary employee to complete fingerprints for volunteer applicants completing their background investigation to increase the number of available appointment times and provide appointments on evenings and weekends. As previously stated, the Department continues to increase the virtual training options available to members of the Department and has created additional opportunities for individuals interested in volunteering.

*Recommendation: Critically reexamine Fire Academy recruitment process and requirements*

Response: The Fire/EMS Department continuously looks for ways to improve the recruitment, onboarding, and training processes. This year, the Department has made a significant change in the background process by moving the Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT) from the beginning of the process to the end of recruit school. This will allow more qualified individuals an opportunity to start recruit school, participate in both the academic and physical training regimens, and then complete CPAT after they've had the advantage of several months of rigorous physical training. In an effort to streamline the recruit school process, the length of the class day was extended from eight (8) hours to ten (10) hours, which reduced the time spent in recruit school by two (2) months. Certain coursework that could be taught at a later time was removed, shortening class by an additional 2.5 weeks. All of these measures have jointly made the onboarding and training process more efficient, shortening the time between application submission and recruit school graduation.

### **Renegotiate single role EMS services**

*Recommendation: Create EMS-only positions for career employees*

Response: While this recommendation is logical based on the high volume of EMS calls in the County, creating EMS-only career positions is not permitted by the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Local 1619. The dual-role requirement ensures that all sworn personnel are equipped with the specialized skills necessary to respond to emergency medical, fire, rescue, and other emergency situations. The Fire/EMS Department does allow for single role Volunteer EMS Providers, which has proven beneficial for recruitment and retention within the volunteer ranks.

### **Improved Data Transparency**

*Recommendation: Comprehensive data sharing and analysis including call times, budgets, staffing*

Response: The Fire/EMS Department publishes call volume data on our social media on a monthly and annual basis as well as in our annual report, which is available on the Department's

website. The Fire/EMS Department budget is public information and is available online as well. Although the Department's staffing complement and requirements are relatively dynamic in nature, updates on this have been provided in meetings and written updates with the leadership of numerous municipalities, as well as in a public presentation to County Council. In addition to regular public updates, the Department shares call volume and response time data with the municipalities directly impacted by the staffing reallocation plan. I personally have met with the leadership of each town, city, and council member impacted by the staffing reallocation several times and have ensured they receive biweekly written updates as well. Every letter, email, or phone call from members of the community is responded to and their concerns are addressed, and I respond to all volunteer leadership questions and concerns that I receive. While I understand the concerns expressed by some volunteers in recent meetings with the public, the Fire/EMS Department is responsible for making decisions that impact service delivery across the County, and the rationale for these decisions is communicated to volunteer leadership accordingly.

*Recommendation: Regular meetings which include all 27 municipalities at the table*

Response: We welcome any opportunity to meet with our community partners. During the summer months, we met with the municipalities affected by the staffing reallocation once and sometimes twice a month.

#### **Facility Support for Volunteer Properties and Apparatus**

*Recommendation: Return to equally funding volunteer stations via station management*

Response: The Fire/EMS Department has made funding available to all volunteer stations in the County, to include primary insurance premiums for apparatus and buildings (to include one ancillary building), fuel and maintenance for all fire apparatus and most EMS units, small tool funds, Office of Central Services (OCS) warehouse supplies, volunteer service enhancement funds, uniform funds, and station management funding. The station management funding amounts are allocated based on participation, specifically, available for service times. This transition took place in Fiscal Year 2023, when the budget line item providing funding for station management and volunteer service enhancement funds was decreased by \$300,000.00. This tiered system allows for a greater availability of funds, which can be used for building repair and maintenance, lawn and grounds maintenance, apparatus repairs, cable installation and services, food and beverage purchases for volunteers, additional insurance coverage, or additional fuel purchases, for volunteer corporations providing greater levels of emergency service to the residents, visitors, and businesses of the County.

In 2024, the Fire/EMS Department was allotted \$6,656,348.00 in funding for 45 fire stations and five (5) administrative buildings. During Calendar Year 2024, repairs and maintenance were completed on all 50 buildings maintained by the Fire/EMS Department, and we were able to complete over \$3.5 Million in renovations to over 16 buildings. These renovations include:

- Alerting System Installation for Station 805
- Roof Replacement and Alerting System Installation at Station 806

- Airmation/Exhaust System Installation at Station 807
- Kitchen and Bathroom Renovation at Station 810
- Alerting System Installation for Station 812
- Generator Installation at Station 818
- Renovation of Bunkroom After Fire at Station 820
- Roof Replacement, New Gate, LED Lighting, and Training Tower Repairs at Station 826
- Replacement of All HVAC Systems at Station 830
- Alerting System Installation at Station 842
- Bay Door Replacements at Station 844
- Plumbing System Replacement at Station 847
- Fitness and Wellness Facility Bathroom Renovation
- Human Resources Office Suite Renovation
- Fiscal Affairs Office Suite Renovation
- Appliance Replacements (Refrigerators, Stoves, Ice Machines, etc.) at numerous stations including Stations 816, 820, 826, and 840

**Establish a Task Force for Efficiency and Recruitment**

*Recommendation: Develop and implement a sustainable staffing plan for career and volunteer staff*

Response: The Fire/EMS Department hired a consultant, Fitch & Associates, to assist with strategic planning. This includes a staffing assessment, which is being used to inform the Department's hiring processes and resources allocations.

*Recommendation: Hire an independent auditor*

Response: The Fire/EMS Department continually seeks to enhance the quality of services provided and align with the community's evolving needs. We welcome the opportunity to hire an independent auditor as part of this process.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. Thank you for your cooperation in ensuring that our Department can continue to provide efficient and effective service while simultaneously prioritizing the health and safety of our members.

Sincerely,



Tiffany D. Green  
Fire Chief

Sara Green

Mayor and City Council meeting January 27, 2025 exhibit 3  
meeting minutes

**From:** TuWauna Reid <tuwauna.reid@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 26, 2025 9:54 PM  
**To:** Clerk to the City Council  
**Subject:** RE: Charter Amendment No. 180 - A Charter Resolution of the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, MD

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Dear City Council Clerk,

I am writing to you regarding my testimony in support of Amending Article 400 "Administration" of the Charter of the City of Laurel to Reflect the Dissolution of the Department of Community Resources and Emergency Management (CREM) and create a Department of Human Services and a Department of Emergency Management.

I vote yes in support of Mayor Sydnor's vision of the realignment of the departments whereby it should be two different departments for two missions .

Thank you in advance.

Regards,

TuWauna Reid

Laurel, MD Resident

mayor and city council meeting January 27, 2025 exhibit 4  
meeting minutes

Sara Green

**From:** Clerk to the City Council  
**Sent:** Monday, January 27, 2025 2:02 PM  
**To:** Keith Sydnor  
**Cc:** Sara Green  
**Subject:** FW: Testimony in Support of the Realignment of the Emergency Management Department and Human Services

Hello,

Please see testimony below.

Thank you!

Maria Morales  
Administrative Assistant II

City of Laurel  
Office of the Clerk/Office of the City Council Joseph R Robison Municipal Center  
8103 Sandy Spring Road Laurel, MD 20707  
Office: 301-725-5300 Ext: 2120  
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-----Original Message-----

**From:** Rosette Ladson <ettesoreno@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 27, 2025 1:12 PM  
**To:** Clerk to the City Council <clerk@laurel.md.us>  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of the Realignment of the Emergency Management Department and Human Services

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Good day!

I am Rosette Ladson, and I am a proud resident of the City of Laurel. I am here today to express my strong support for Mayor Sydnor's proposal to realign the Department of Community Resources and Emergency Management into two distinct departments: the Department of Emergency Management and the Department of Human Services.



This realignment is a strategic and forward-thinking approach that will enhance the delivery of essential services to our community. By creating two separate departments, the city can better focus on the unique and critical responsibilities each area demands.

The Department of Emergency Management will prioritize our safety, ensuring that we are prepared for disasters, equipped to respond effectively, and able to recover quickly. This focused department will be critical in protecting our city from unforeseen emergencies, and it shows Mayor Sydnor's commitment to making public safety a top priority.

The Department of Human Services will dedicate its efforts to addressing the social needs of our residents, from housing assistance and food insecurity to mental health and community outreach programs. By separating this department, the city can provide a more tailored approach to supporting individuals and families in need, ensuring no one in Laurel is left behind.

This realignment is not just a reshuffling of resources—it's an investment in the future of Laurel. It reflects Mayor Sydnor's vision for progress, innovation, and creating a community where every resident can feel supported and secure.

I urge the Council to support this proposal, as it is a critical step in moving our city forward. I am confident that this change will enhance the quality of life for all residents and allow the City of Laurel to better serve its people.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Rosette Ladson  
14316 Bowsprit Lane  
Laurel, MD 20707

Mayor & City Council Meeting January 27, 2025  
Meeting Minutes

Exhibit 5

## Written Testimony on Charter Amendment No. 180

To the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland:

My name is Calondra Young, and I reside in Ward 1 in the City of Laurel. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding Charter Amendment No. 180, which proposes dissolving the Department of Community Resources and Emergency Management (CREM) and replacing it with two new departments: the Department of Emergency Management and the Department of Human Services.

While I understand this amendment intends to restructure and improve the delivery of services to our community, I have some questions and concerns regarding the short- and long-term implications of this decision. My testimony will help inform the discussion and ensure that the best decision is made for the residents of Laurel.

### Questions

#### 1. Short- and Long-Term Implications:

- What are the short-term implications of creating two departments, particularly regarding costs, staffing, and potential service disruptions?
- What long-term goals does the city envision for each department, and how will their success be measured over time?
- How does this change position the city to better serve its residents, now and in the future?

#### 2. Why Now?

- Why is this change needed at this particular moment?
- Are there specific challenges with the current structure of CREM that have prompted this amendment?
- Have there been instances where the current structure failed to meet community needs adequately, and if so, how will this new structure address those gaps?

#### 3. Budgetary Impact:

- What will be the initial costs of this restructuring, including creating new leadership positions, additional staffing, and resources for both departments?
- Will this amendment increase administrative overhead, and how will the city ensure it does not strain the budget?

#### 4. Community Involvement and Transparency:

- Have residents and key stakeholders been consulted about the need for this restructuring?
- How will the city ensure that services provided by both departments are equitable and accessible to all residents, especially marginalized populations?

### Considerations Based on Research

From my understanding, the separation of CREM into two departments could have several potential benefits, including:

- **Specialization and Efficiency:** Focused departments may improve service delivery, as each can concentrate on its core responsibilities.
- **Enhanced Accountability:** Establishing directors for each department creates more transparent lines of leadership and responsibility.
- **Expanded Services:** A dedicated Human Services department could develop more targeted programs to address community needs such as housing, mental health, and social welfare.

However, I also recognize some potential challenges, such as:

- **Implementation Costs:** The transition could require additional funding for staff, resources, and infrastructure, which may be a concern given budget constraints.
- **Disruptions in Service:** Splitting one department into two may temporarily disrupt operations during the transition period.
- **Overlap of Responsibilities:** There may be areas where human services and emergency management intersect, potentially causing inefficiencies or confusion without explicit coordination.

## **Suggestions for Consideration**

To address these concerns, I recommend the following:

1. **Transparency:** Provide a clear breakdown of the expected costs and timeline for implementation, as well as a roadmap for how the transition will occur.
2. **Community Engagement:** Host public forums or listening sessions to gather feedback from residents on how these changes might impact them.
3. **Performance Metrics:** Define measurable goals for both departments to ensure accountability and evaluate whether the restructuring achieves its intended outcomes.
4. **Coordination Plan:** Ensure processes are in place to manage any overlap between the two departments, particularly in areas where emergency management and human services intersect.

## **Conclusion**

I appreciate the Council's commitment to improving services for the residents of Laurel. While I understand the rationale behind this amendment, I believe it is critical to carefully evaluate its potential impact, particularly on the city's budget, service delivery, and long-term planning. By addressing these questions and concerns, I trust the Council will make an informed decision that benefits our community.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,  
Calondra Young  
(202) 867 5549

[csynov11@gmail.com](mailto:csynov11@gmail.com)