

## HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes (approved)  
Monthly Meeting  
October 9, 2007

The chair called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. on September 10, 2007.

Members present on call to order: Calvin Ball, Greg Fox, Courtney Watson, and Jen Terrasa. Mary Kay Sigaty arrived at 8:37 a.m.

Council Chairman Ball reported that the Council website has been updated with a change of labels to clarify that testimony posted with legislation is the Administration's explanation of legislation introduced at the request of the County Executive.

Councilperson Greg Fox reported that he has been appointed to serve on the Steering Committee of the National Association of Counties and that he will be reporting regularly to the Council on NACo's activities. He also reported that the Liquor Board has received a request for modifications to a licensed site and that the Department of Police has some comments on the proposal. He will follow-up with members individually.

Councilperson Jen Terrasa reported that the Maryland Association of Counties has posted a link to legislation passed in the 2007 session and a summary of the bills endorsed by MACo that were passed. She reported on MACo's meeting on September 12, where Governor O'Malley talked about the State's deficit. She noted that those planning to attend MACo's winter meeting in Cambridge should register before the early registration deadline in December.

The Council Administrator, Sheila Tolliver, reported on the forthcoming events, the Employee Recognition Dinner and Diversity Day. She also updated the Council on the procurement of digital recording equipment, portable microphones, and on the construction of electronic sign-in. Two groups of visitors from China will meet with Council members, one on October 15 at 6:30 p.m.; the other on October 25 in the morning.

County Auditor Haskell Arnold reported on audit reports issued and in progress, including the County Financial Audit. He also noted the development of a risk assessment management plan. He noted his participation in a web cast demonstration of a hotline and his recent meeting with a delegation of auditors from China.

Josh Feldmark, Executive Director of the County Executive's Commission on the Environment, introduced members of the commission who were present: Betsy Singer, Co-chair; Mark Southerland, Co-chair; Ned Tillman; Betsy McMillion; Lee Walker Oxenheim; and John Byrd (ex-officio). Ned Tillman reported for the Commission. He summarized the Commission's recommendation for a change in governance to include a cabinet-level office consisting of a director and five bureaus. The purpose of the office would be to staff a permanent 11-member citizen commission, to coordinate and track activities of the departments of government engaged in activities related to the environment and sustainability. Josh Feldmark said that the Executive plans to introduce two pieces of legislation: one to create the commission and another to create

the office. The exact structure and phasing in of the office has not been determined. Mr. Feldmark noted that the Charter requires the Executive to give the Council a plan of any government reorganization at least 120 days before submission of the operating budget in which the reorganization is budgeted. The Office of Law is reviewing the Commission's recommendations to advise whether or not creation of the proposed office would constitute a reorganization as described in the Charter.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 a.m.