



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION AGENDA

Work Session - Religious/Spiritual Organization

This meeting will be held in-person and virtual.

**25 Crescent Road
Greenbelt, MD 20770**

OR

**Virtual Participation
Zoom Webinar Attendees:**

Please submit your request in writing via email to questions@greenbeltmd.gov

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89109990529?pwd=THg4c3Z4R1l3QWNiYktXMVZ3RG5rZz09>

Dial-in: 301 715 8592

Webinar ID: 891 0999 0529

Passcode: 400772

**Wednesday, February 28, 2024
7:30 PM**

Work Session Packet - Religious/Spiritual Organizations

Work Session - Religious/Spiritual Organization

Suggested Action:

Agenda

- Introductions - 15 minutes (7:30 - 7:45 pm)
- Council Discussion - 60 minutes (7:45 - 8:45 pm)
- Questions and Answers - 15 minutes (8:45 - 9:00 pm)
- Other Items - 30 minutes (9:00 - 9:30 pm)
 - Information Items
 - Council Reports

- Meetings and Stakeholder List

[Work Session Meeting Minutes - June 29, 2022.pdf](#)
[meetings.pdf](#)
[Stakeholder Schedule.pdf](#)

City Council Work Session Agenda Item Report

Meeting Date: February 28, 2024

Submitted by: Shaniya Lashley-Mullen

Submitting Department: Administration

Item Type: Work Session Item

Agenda Section: Work Session Packet - Religious/Spiritual Organizations

Subject:

Work Session - Religious/Spiritual Organization

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Attachments:

[Work Session Meeting Minutes - June 29, 2022.pdf](#)

[meetings.pdf](#)

[Stakeholder Schedule.pdf](#)

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Wednesday, June 29, 2022, to meet with the Religious/Spiritual Organizations.

Mayor Jordan started the meeting at 7:30 pm. The meeting was held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road and virtually via Zoom.

PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Colin A. Byrd (7:32 pm), Judith F. Davis, Ric Gordon, Silke I. Pope, Rodney M. Roberts (7:59 pm), Kristen L. K. Weaver, and Mayor Emmett V. Jordan.

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Debi Sandlin, Interim Assistant City Manager, and Shaniya Lashley-Mullen, Assistant to the City Clerk.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Rev. Stephen Unthank, Greenbelt Baptist Church; Trudy Conrad, Catholic Community of Greenbelt; Mary Ann Tretler, St. Hugh of Grenoble Catholic Church; Jim Fischer, Greenbelt Baha'i Community; Pastor Abby Daramola, The Redeemed Christian Church of God Restoration Center; and others.

Mayor Jordan and Council welcomed the representatives.

Rev. Stephen Unthank advised that the Greenbelt Baptist Church was established in the late 1950s. He had been the pastor for the last eight years.

Trudy Conrad advised that the Catholic Community of Greenbelt meets in person in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building with a congregation of 25-30 members. She stated that the Catholic Community of Greenbelt supports Greenbelt CARES, S.O.M.E. (So Others Might Eat), and the Community Ministry of Prince George's County. Ms. Conrad noted that she belongs to G.I.L.A. (Greenbelt Interfaith Leadership Association). G.I.L.A. has a Thanksgiving and Easter Sunrise Service.

Mary Ann Tretler advised that St. Hugh of Grenoble Catholic Church works closely with Greenbelt CARES with the Rent Assistance Program and the Greenbelt Food Pantry. She stated that she is a member of G.I.L.A.

Jim Fischer advised that the Greenbelt Baha'i Community was established and had been a member of G.I.L.A. for 40-plus years. The Greenbelt Baha'i Community has hosted Race Amity Day for the last two years. The congregation meets with their residents.

Pastor Abby Daramola advised that The Redeemed Christian Church of God Restoration Center's goal is to help as many people as possible. The Redeemed Christian Church of God Restoration Center provides a food bank and houseware open to the community. Pastor Abby noted that The Redeemed Christian Church of God Restoration Center is educational-driven and holds a graduation ceremony for the youth. She thanked Mayor Jordan for attending this ceremony.

Mayor Jordan asked what the state of the spiritual health in Greenbelt was and what are the needs of the congregations. Ms. Davis asked what the impact of Covid had on the congregations. Ms. Pope inquired if an emergency plan was implemented in the congregations and if the

congregations had any safety concerns. Mr. Gordon asked the congregations what did they need from Council.

Mr. Fischer explained that G.I.L.A. gained cohesion during Covid and took on the advocacy role to bring public attention to potential homelessness. He noted during times of trouble that residents wanted to make connections that created strength. Mr. Fischer stated that security never crossed the congregation's mind when because they met with their residents.

Rev. Unthank explained that the Greenbelt Baptist Church gathered outside on the front lawn for services during the summer and winter. He stated that the country's spiritual needs are a sense of divisiveness and ideology butting heads. Regarding the safety question, Rev. Unthank noted that it is always a concern and has installed the Ring Camera System. He stated that it is wise to speak with the Greenbelt Police Department on legal ways to protect oneself.

Ms. Davis stated that Chief Bowers offered to have an officer come and speak with a congregation regarding safety. Ms. Pope noted that the police provided a security walk-through to make a church a little safer.

Ms. Tretler explained that St. Hugh of Grenoble Catholic Church is in the exploratory stage of working with St. Joseph Regional School in Beltsville to reopen the school at St. Hugh of Grenoble Catholic Church. The St. Hugh of Grenoble Catholic Church School would be for sixth, seventh, and eighth-graders. In addition, she stated that St. Hugh of Grenoble Catholic Church is meeting in person and live streaming the daily masses.

Based on a question asked by Ms. Davis, Ms. Tretler answered that the Police Department provided recommendations regarding security with a walk-through. She stated that officers often sit in the parking lot to be visible.

Mayor Jordan congratulated St. Hugh of Grenoble Catholic Church on celebrating its 75th Anniversary.

Based on a question by Mayor Jordan, Ms. Tretler answered that St. Hugh of Grenoble Catholic Church had opened the church doors to the Deaf Community for services in the education school.

Ms. Conrad answered that the Catholic Community of Greenbelt has no concerns regarding security issues. She explained that the Catholic Community of Greenbelt held a funeral via Zoom.

Pastor Tayo explained that the Redeemed Christian Church of God Restoration Center saw an increased awareness and sensitivity to the need for something beyond the natural during the pandemic. He stated that the Redeemed Christian Church of God Restoration Center pays the police department for extra security for the food bank on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Sundays during the worship service, which is very expensive. Pastor Tayo stated that the church provides contactless food, homeware, and clothes. He inquired where the faith community stands with the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Fund with the City. Pastor Tayo advised that the Springhill Lake Elementary School is a concern to the church regarding students with special education needs and a teacher being let go. Ms. Pope explained that Special Education Department at Springhill Lake Elementary School would not be as large as it was, and the Prince George's

County School Board is cutting staff. She advised other neighboring schools accommodate special needs students.

There was a discussion regarding The Redeemed Christian Church of God Restoration Center paying the police department for security. Ms. Davis requested that Mr. George, Interim City Manager, and Chief Bowers report to Council regarding the church paying for extra duty security.

Regarding the discussion regarding the community's spiritual needs, Ms. Rose stated that she had noticed that the community is worried, feeling rejected, confused, rude and angry. She explained that the Greenbelt Baha'i Community offers Ruhi courses to help study sacred texts, learn how to read scriptures, and learn how to pray. Finally, Ms. Rose thanked Council for the Race Amity Day Proclamation.

In a discussion regarding G.I.L.A., Pastor Abby stated that she was invited to join but hasn't. Mr. Fischer explained that G.I.L.A. had been established in the 1970s, and meetings are interesting. Ms. Davis stated that G.I.L.A. submitted a list to Council regarding ARPA's recommended spending plan, which included rent assistance, residential assistance, utility assistance, expanding the Greenbelt CARES Department, homeless, mental health services, premium pay for essential workers, and health care vouchers. Susan Walker, 35 Ridge Road, advised that G.I.L.A. has written articles in the Greenbelt News Review on behalf of residents who don't qualify for ARPA Funds assistance. She stated that G.I.L.A. could provide public education programs for the Reparation Commission. Ms. Walker advised that G.I.L.A. is working with the Methodist Church to sponsor a walk regarding immigration issues.

Mayor Jordan inquired about outreach activities to the youth, seniors, and immigrants.

Pastor Abby outlined some of the Redeemed Christian Church of God Restoration Center outreach activities, including providing resources regarding status, assisting with addressing immigrant language barriers, and partnering with the African Alliance in Prince George's County. In addition, she stated that the church had adopted Greenbelt Elementary School and assisted with providing items to students.

Mr. Gordon stated that he is working with Franklin Park with a back pack, shoes, and clothes giveaway on August 20 and could use churches and other organizations to partner.

Rev. Unthank outlined some Greenbelt Baptist Church outreach activities, including the Annual 4th of July Cookout, the Young Narnians meeting on the first and third Friday, and hosting the first-ever Prince George's Conference on Reformed Theology on September 23-24.

Mr. Fischer stated that CARES is a valuable organization and values Dr. Park's support and her priorities.

Ms. Conrad inquired if the Food and Friendship senior luncheon at the Community Center would be brought back. Mayor Jordan stated that he would follow up with the Interim City Manager.

Mr. Byrd thanked the religious/spiritual organizations and appreciated all their work.

Ms. Davis suggested that the religious/spiritual organizations promote their upcoming events by writing articles with photos for the Greenbelt News Review. Mayor Jordan asked that the religious/spiritual organizations keep Council informed on all upcoming events.

Ms. Walker thanked Council for the \$50,000 designated to the Dental Assistance Fund. She stated that if Council set an additional \$50,000 in the fund, G.I.L.A. would be appreciative. Ms. Walker explained that the funds in the Rental Assistance Fund are for residents who didn't qualify for the Covid relief fund.

Pastor Abby wanted to thank Mr. McNeill, who had just retired from Eleanor Roosevelt High School. She also informed Council that the Redeemed Christian Church of God Restoration Center was having a community cookout on Sunday, July 3, in Bladensburg Park at 2 pm.

Council thanked the religious/spiritual organizations.

Informational Items:

Ms. Davis provided a report on the National League of Cities State of Cities conference call. She also provided information on a work session, Recruiting the Next Generation of Leaders While Valuing Experience, which she attended at the Maryland Municipal League Summer Conference.

Ms. Pope provided that she will be on vacation from July 11 through August 3 and will not be able to attend Council meetings and work sessions.

There was a discussion regarding scheduling Council's work sessions.
The meeting ended at 9:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shaniya Lashley-Mullen
Assistant to the City Clerk

CITY OF GREENBELT, MARYLAND
25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770-1891

2/27/2024 11:55 AM



City Council Meetings & Work Sessions
February – March – April

Work Session – TBD	Mon.	03/04	7:30 pm
Work Session – Economic Development	Wed.	03/06	7:30 pm
NLC Congressional Cities Conference (DC)	Mon. – Wed.	03/11 – 03/13	
Regular Meeting	Mon.	03/11	7:30 pm
Work Session – Northway Fields Security Improvement	Wed.	03/13	7:30 pm
Advisory Board Interview	Mon.	03/18	7:10 pm
Work Session – Prince George’s County Council	Mon.	03/18	7:30 pm
Greenbelt Mid-Session Legislative Dinner (Annapolis)	Wed.	03/20	6:00 pm
Regular Meeting – Budget Presentation	Mon.	03/25	7:30 pm
Budget Work Session – Overview, Revenues & General Government / Other Funds / Non-Departmental & Fund Transfers /Economic Development	Wed.	03/27	7:30 pm
No Meeting – Easter Monday	Mon.	04/01	
Work Session – Reparations Commission (tentative)	Wed.	04/03	7:30 pm
Regular Meeting	Mon.	04/08	7:30 pm
Budget Work Session – Planning and Community Development	Wed.	04/10	7:30 pm
Budget Work Session – Misc. – Grants & Contributions/Social Services/ Greenbelt Cinema	Mon.	04/15	7:30 pm
Budget Work Session – Public Works/Capital Projects	Wed.	04/17	7:30 pm
Regular Meeting / 1 st Public Hearing	Mon.	04/22	7:30 pm
Budget Work Session – Recreation/Museum	Wed.	04/24	7:30 pm
Four Cities Meeting (Greenbelt)	Thurs.	04/25	7:00 pm
Budget Work Session – Public Safety	Mon.	04/29	7:30 pm

This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation, call 301-474-8000. Regular and Special meetings and Work Sessions are open to the public. If special accommodations are required for any disabled person, please call 301-474-8000 or 301-474-3870 no later than 10 a.m. on the meeting day. Deaf individuals are advised to use Video Relay Services (VRS) at 711 or e-mail banderson@greenbeltmd.gov to reach the City Clerk. Unless otherwise noted, meetings will be held in the Council Chambers in the Municipal Building (MB) at 25 Crescent Road and virtually by Zoom. Zoom meeting information for public participation is posted on the City’s website at www.greenbeltmd.gov on the meeting calendar.

Bonita Anderson, City Clerk

A NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

(301) 474-8000

fax (301) 441-8248
www.greenbeltmd.gov

MD RELAY 711

CITY OF GREENBELT, MARYLAND

25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770-1891



2/27/2024 11:55 AM

Ready to be scheduled:

Townhall Meeting: Virtual Meetings Accessibility
for Blind and Visually Impaired
City Contracting Policy
Walk-way fixture
Verde Apartments
Greenbelt Road Corridor
WSSC (*March/April*)
Bureau of Engraving and Printing
Beltway Plaza (stakeholder)
Greenbelt Access TV
Greenbelt Center HOAs/COAs (*May 1st*)
Council Retreat Follow-Up

For later scheduling:

Zoning Enforcement
Parkway Apartment Owners/GHI (*parking*)
Northway Fields Master Plan
City Manager Updates (Jan, Pre-budget; July &
Sept/Oct)
Meeting with County on Transportation Plan
Museum Plan
Bernard Penney (*Memorial Donation in honor of
Leonie Penney*)
Potential Bond Referendum/Capital Financing
Cemetery Plans
MARC Train Service/ MDOT
Arts & Entertainment District
EV Chargers Five Year Plan
Fleet Vehicles Ten Year Plan
GHI/Prince George's County (Stormwater issues)
Office of Human Rights

Annual														
Advisory Group Chairs	7/22	7/23												
Franklin Park at Greenbelt Station Mgmt.	12/21	12/22	2/24											
Greenbelt Center HOAs	3/23													
Greenbelt East HOAs and COAs/Greenbelt East Advisory Coalition	4/22	6/23												
Greenbelt Homes, Inc.	8/22	8/23												
Greenbelt Station HOA/Verde Apts.	8/22	8/23												
School Board Member	9/21	2/23	8/23											
State Highway Administration	11/20	11/22	12/23											
Biennial														
Beltsville Ag. Research Center	8/18	11/22	11/23											
Beltway Plaza	9/22													
NASA/GSFC	3/22	4/23												
Greenbelt Business Alliance	10/22													
Greenbelt Park NPS	1/22	3/23												
Greenway Shopping Center	12/20	2/23												
Religious/Spiritual Organizations	6/22													
Twice a Year														
County Council Person and At Large Members	5/23													
Meetings as Needed														
Apartments	4/21													
Comcast/Verizon	3/21													
Greenbelt Office Parks														
Greenbelt Watershed Groups	10/19													
Hotels	8/23													
PEPCO	2/22	9/23												
WSSC	2/22	6/23	10/23											
Washington Gas	8/23													
Prince George's Economic Development Corp.	11/21													
Prince George's Planning Board	10/19													
Roosevelt Center Owner	8/20													
University of Maryland	4/15													
WMATA/PGDPW&T (Semi-Annual)	5/22													
Newly Elected/Appointed Officials (Presentation of a Council Regular Meeting)														
County Executive														
School Board CEO	1/24													
State's Attorney	1/23													