

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL

Held on Monday, February 2, 2026

DISCUSSION: Anacostia Trails Heritage Area ATHA / Legislative Priorities Discussion

Mayor Jordan started the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Council Chambers via Zoom.

In attendance were: Councilmembers Frankie Santos Fritz, Amy E. Knesel, Danielle P. McKinney, Jenni A. Pompi, Silke I. Pope, Kristen L.K. Weaver, and Mayor Emmett V. Jordan.

City Staff: Josué Salmerón, City Manager; Timothy George, Assistant City Manager; James Wisniewski, Acting Public Information Officer; and Bonita Anderson, City Clerk.

Others present included Meagan Baco, Executive Director of the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area (ATHA); Grace Harness, ATHA representative; Michael Hartman; Paul Howe, a resident of Colmar Manor; and Bill Orleans, as well as members of the community online.

ATHA (Anacostia Trails Heritage Area) Presentation and Grants

Meagan Baco, Executive Director of the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area (ATHA), provided a presentation on ATHA's mission and activities related to cultural tourism. She highlighted ATHA's county-wide focus, recent expansion of its service area, and upcoming initiatives, including genealogical workshops and a public block party in recognition of the U.S. semi-quintennial.

Council discussed grant opportunities available through ATHA for local projects and the potential for Greenbelt to have representation on ATHA's Board of Directors or municipal advisory committee. Council members emphasized the importance of improved coordination and communication to ensure Greenbelt events and projects are included in ATHA promotions.

Greenbelt Preservation and Community Planning

The Council discussed historic preservation initiatives and community programming. Councilmember McKinney inquired about Recreation Department youth programming and was informed of grant opportunities that could support such efforts. The discussion included potential funding for Greenbelt's 90th-anniversary celebrations.

Capital improvement concepts were reviewed, including possible expansion of the Greenbelt Museum and the feasibility of developing the Greenbelt Armory. Council also discussed restructuring the governance board of the historic preservation organization to improve efficiency and coordination.

The conversation concluded with a discussion of upcoming community events, including a larger-than-usual Fourth of July celebration, and the need for clearer communication between the historic preservation organization and the City to better promote activities.

Legislative Priorities Discussion

Council reviewed materials from the Qualified Data Center Task Force and the Department of Housing and Community Development's 2030 housing production targets. Councilmember Fritz noted opportunities for infill development near the Metro site and potential increased density within the City.

Council agreed to focus the discussion on a consolidated bill tracking document rather than the full legislative packet. Councilmember Pompei was tasked with leading the review of the bill tracking document to narrow legislative priorities and prepare recommendations for formal Council positions.

Council emphasized the importance of aligning City positions with Maryland Municipal League (MML) priorities, particularly on housing legislation, and having clear positions adopted prior to legislative hearings.

Legislative Bill Monitoring and Support

Bills discussed and noted for support, support with an amendment, or monitoring include:

Councilmember Pompei –

- **HB032** – Local Law Enforcement Vehicles - Requirements - Automated External Defibrillators (supported/seek amendment)
- **HB035** – Local Government - Regulatory Powers - Regulation of Tree of Heaven (supported)
- **HB0071** – Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Psychiatric Rehabilitation Program Services - Reimbursement (Youth Psychiatric Rehabilitation Parity Act of 2026) (monitor)
- **HB0079** – Climate Solutions Affordability Act of 2026 (monitor)
- **HB0085** – Corporations and Associations - Cooperative Limited Equity Housing Corporations – Establishment (interest expressed; additional information to be requested from Mr. Carrington)
- **HB0092** – Environment - Beverage Containers Connected With Plastic Rings - Restriction on Sale (supported)
- **HB0099** – Municipalities - Annexed Land - Land Use and Density (monitor/support)
- **HB0104** – Unhoused Individuals - Rights and Affirmative Defense (monitor)
- **HB0153** – Residential Rental Apartments - Air Conditioning Requirement (monitor/support)
- **HB0155** – Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings (monitor)
- **HB0167** – Gasoline-Powered Leaf Blowers - Purchase and Use - Prohibitions (monitor; funding considerations noted)

- **HB0168** – Housing and Community Development - Affordable Housing - Educator Workforce Housing and Municipal Corporations (monitor)
- **HB0172** – Municipalities - Enforcement Officers - Body-Worn Cameras (monitor)
- **HB197** – Comprehensive Community Safety Funding Act (supported/amendment)
- **HB0224** – Reentry and Reintegration Support Program - Establishment(monitor/supported)
- **HB0239** – Land Use - Zoning - Limitations (Starter and Silver Homes Act of 2026) (monitor)
- **HB0331** – Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program (monitor/supported)
- **HB0345** – Public Utilities - Solar Energy Generating Systems and Solar Renewable Energy Credits (Affordable Solar Act) (monitor)
- **HB0350** – Voting Rights Act of 2026 - Counties and Municipal Corporations (monitor)
- **HB0351** – Public Safety - Federal Agents - Digital Unmasking (monitor/supported)
- **HB0357** – Municipalities - Election Dates - Reporting Requirements (monitor)
- **HB0368** – Prince George's County - Supplemental Homeowners' Property Tax Credit - Required PG 412-26 (monitor)
- **HB405** – Condominiums and Homeowners Associations - Governing Documents - Electric Vehicle Recharging Equipment (monitor).
- **HB709** – Good Cause Eviction (sponsored by Delegate Williams; discussed)

Councilmember McKinney –

- **HB0235** – Housing and Community Development - Neighborhood Business Development Program - Local Approval Requirement (monitor)
- **HB0240** – Local Comprehensive Plans - Guidance Materials and Notification to the Department of Planning (monitor)
- **HB0254** – Supporting Inclusive Community Adaptation Act (monitor)

Mayor Jordan –

- **HB0010** – Legal Advertisement or Legal Notice - Publication in Newspaper or Newspaper in General Circulation - Digital Newspapers (monitor)
- **HB0091** – Agriculture - Neonicotinoid Pesticides – Prohibitions (support/amendment)
- **HB0107** – Motor Vehicles - Intelligent Speed Assistance System Pilot Program – Establishment (monitor/support/amendment)
- **HB0249** – Vehicle Laws - Automated Enforcement - Reciprocal Agreements, Arrangements, and Declarations (monitor)
- **HB0256** – Motor Vehicles – Speed Monitoring Systems – Safety Corridors (Vulnerable Road User Protection Act of 2026) (monitor)
- **HB0341** – Maryland Commission for Boys' and Men's Health – Establishment (monitor)
- **HB0353** – Prince George's County - Termination of Gas or Electric Service to Multifamily Dwelling Units - Notification PG 406-25 (monitor)

- **HB0369** – Prince George's County - Property Tax Credit - New Businesses PG 407-26 (monitor/support)
- **HB0394** – Counties - Construction of Sidewalks and Crosswalks - Safe Alternative Routes to Public School (monitor)
- **HB0402** – Common Ownership Communities - Ombudsman Unit, Governing Document Database, and Local Commissions (monitor)
- **HB0415** – Prince George's County - Alcoholic Beverages - Class A Beer and Class A Beer and Wine Licenses - Retail Grocery Establishments PG 304-26 (monitor/hearing on Wednesday, February 4)
- **HB0434** – Residential Leases - Use of Algorithmic Device by Landlord to Determine Rent, Occupancy, and Lease Terms – Prohibition (monitor)
- **SB0349** – Vehicle Laws - Eluding Police – Penalties (monitor)
- **SB0351** – Private Passenger Motor Vehicle Insurance - Use of Programs That Measure the Operation of an Insured Vehicle (monitor)
- **PG407** – monitor
- **PG504** – monitor
- **SB349** – monitor
- **SB350** – monitor

Councilmember Fritz –

- **HB0197** – Comprehensive Community Safety Funding Act (monitor/support)

Council also agreed to track additional bills introduced by local delegates and the City’s senator, with assistance from legislative contractors, prioritizing those with direct fiscal or operational impacts on the City.

Snow Removal Operations and Data Center Concerns

The City Manager reported on ongoing snow and ice removal operations, noting continued progress despite challenging conditions. Priority areas included streets, Safe Routes to School, bus stops, sidewalks, and specific areas identified by Council.

Council discussed concerns about dangerous sidewalk conditions on state-owned overpasses and reiterated the requirement that property owners clear sidewalks within 48 hours of snowfall.

A resident raised concerns about proposed AI data centers in the county, specifically referencing a Landover project and potential environmental impacts. Council agreed to review the provided information and consider signing community letters and/or adopting a resolution opposing AI data center construction in Greenbelt.

Informational items

Council received updates regarding the swearing-in ceremony for newly elected County Councilmember Tim Adams and noted the opportunity to attend County Council Chair Oriata's listening tour for Districts 4, 5, and 6. Council expressed interest in inviting the new District 4 County Council representative to a future meeting for introductions and relationship building.

Next Steps and Action Items

1. **City Manager:** Follow up with ATHA regarding the Heritage Area grant intent-to-apply deadline and potential late submission options.
2. **City Manager / Designee:** Coordinate with ATHA to schedule a brainstorming session on collaborative projects and funding opportunities, including Rocket Grants.
3. **City Manager / Public Information Officer:** Improve information sharing and calendar coordination with ATHA.
4. **Mayor Jordan / Designee:** Join or appoint a liaison to the ATHA municipal advisory committee.
5. **Council (via Mr. Carrington and legislative contractors):** Update and consolidate the legislative bill tracking list with timing and next steps.
6. **Council:** Vote on Monday to approve legislative positions (support, support with amendment, monitor).
7. **Council:** Contact MML to obtain and review their legislative priority lists.
8. **City Manager:** Continue snow and ice removal operations, focusing on remaining priority areas.
9. **City Manager:** Follow up with property managers to ensure sidewalk clearing compliance.
10. **City Manager:** Monitor and clear storm drains and culverts to prevent flooding.
11. **Council / City Manager:** Attend or monitor County Council listening tour sessions.
12. **Council / City Manager:** Attend or monitor the swearing-in ceremony for County Councilmember Timothy Adams.
13. **Council:** Review and consider letters or a resolution opposing AI data center construction in Greenbelt.
14. **Council:** Invite the new District 4 County Council representative to a future meeting.

The meeting ended at 9:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonita Anderson
City Clerk