

**WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL** held Wednesday, March 25, 2026, to discuss the Legislative Priorities Update.

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

**PRESENT WERE:** Councilmembers Frankie S. Fritz, Amy E. Knesel, Danielle P. McKinney, Jenni A. Pompei, Silke I. Pope, Mayor Pro Tem Kristen L.K. Weaver, and Mayor Emmett V. Jordan.

**STAFF PRESENT WERE:** Josué Salmerón, City Manager; Tim George, Assistant City Manager; and Shaniya Lashley-Mullen, Deputy City Clerk.

**OTHERS PRESENT WERE:** Darrell Carrington, Managing Director of Carrington & Associates, LLC; Jimmy Tarlau, Perez Team; and others.

The Council held a work session to discuss legislative priorities, with Darrell Carrington of Carrington & Associates and Jimmy Tarlau of L.A. Perez & Associates providing updates on bills in the Maryland General Assembly. Key bills discussed included HB34/SB189 regarding Municipal Drainage Inlets (Mason Law), which would require inventory and improvements, and HB1178/SB189 regarding Municipal Organization and Limitations, which the City opposes. Mr. Carrington informed the Council that while many bills had passed Crossover Day, several important pieces of legislation, including the Body-Worn Cameras Bill for Municipal Enforcement Officers (HB748) and HB386/SB386, the Metro Funding Modification Act, were still moving through the process.

The Council discussed several legislative bills, including an Election Equipment Bill introduced by Senator Kagan related to Ranked Choice Voting, which Mr. Carrington agreed to research further. Mayor Jordan expressed disappointment about the Bottle Bill not advancing, with Mr. Carrington noting concerns about its potential impact on local recycling center employees. There was also discussion regarding the Liquor Store Sales Bill. Regarding the Just Cause Eviction Bill, Mr. Carrington noted it did not progress this year, likely due to COVID-related protections for landlords, but could return next year. He suggested that opponents work together to find compromise positions.

Councilmember Pompei discussed Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission General Counsel and Powers of Local Planning Boards – Alterations, SB1005. Mr. Carrington clarified that the bill has minimal impact on the state and municipalities, focusing on internal governance changes, which propose restructuring IT, legal, and HR functions. Councilmember Fritz inquired about the specific problem the bill aims to address, and Mr. Carrington stated that he is committed to following up with Chairman Barnes and Senator Ron Watson to gather more information.

The discussion also covered updates on several bills that did not cross over, including HB831, Collective Bargaining Expansion; HB1223, Prince George's County Workgroup on Farmers Markets and Street Vending Zones (PG 411-26); and HB350/SB255, Voting Rights Act of 2026 – Counties and Municipal Corporations. Mr. Carrington stated that he will follow up and send a memorandum on HB1066/SB0727, Municipal Elections – Qualified Electronic Transmission Systems – Authorization for Use. Mr. Carrington explained the legislative process for crossover bills, noting that while SB255 has a hearing scheduled for April 1, it does not necessarily indicate the bill is moving forward. He explained how conference committees work when different chambers pass different versions of bills, and how the budget reconciliation process operates.

Mr. Tarlau and the Council discussed County legislation, and Mayor Jordan noted recent changes in Greenbelt's working relationship with sister municipalities. Mr. Tarlau highlighted the County Council's aggressive introduction of over 50 bills, including significant legislation on immigration enforcement and childcare. The discussion covered two key areas of interest for Greenbelt: Community Ownership Regulations affecting condominiums and homeowners' associations, and a new Task Force on Streamlining Development aimed at addressing permitting delays. He also mentioned upcoming budget meetings as opportunities to raise concerns about reducing permitting costs and time.

The Council discussed a proposed reorganization of public safety and code enforcement functions, with positions being transferred from the Department of Permitting, Inspections, and Enforcement to the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer (DCAO) for Public Safety and Homeland Security as part of budget reallocation. Mr. Tarlau noted concerns about potential impacts on North County, particularly regarding resource distribution and the effect on nonprofits in the northern part of the County. He plans to monitor upcoming budget discussions, including departmental hearings scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, and suggested considering having Councilmembers attend to represent Greenbelt's perspective.

The Council discussed a bill that would increase fees for liquor stores, tobacco shops, firearms dealers, and storage use to \$5,000 each as part of a Quality-of-Life Fund initiative. Mr. Tarlau expressed concern about the rapid pace of the County Council's decision-making process, noting that bills are being pushed through without proper committee review and public deliberation. The discussion concluded with Mr. Tarlau recommending that Council attend the public hearings, particularly budget hearings scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, to engage with the process and raise concerns about proposed changes.

Councilmember Fritz discussed public hearing procedures and compared Montgomery County's liquor store system to Prince George's County's model. Councilmember Fritz expressed concerns about the deployment of Capital Bike Share Stations, noting that despite having 27 stations across the County, only 4 are located throughout the City but not at the Greenbelt Metro Station, which he argued contradicts transit-oriented

planning goals. Mayor Jordan inquired about the Common Ownership Communities Bill, expressing concerns about training requirements and HOA financial notifications.

Mayor Jordan discussed ongoing efforts to address rising utility bills and energy costs. Mr. Salmerón explained that state legislation aims to cap prices charged by PJM and provide funding for energy projects. Mr. Tarlau examined CR19, proposed changes to data center regulations, particularly the removal of exemptions from detailed site plan reviews, with Councilmember Pompei expressing concerns about transparency and the need for strong County regulations if data centers are permitted. The discussion also touched on the County Council's efforts to address affordability issues, particularly through childcare legislation, though no specific measures were mentioned regarding gasoline or food price increases.

Councilmember Fritz discussed the significant impact of data centers on electricity consumption in Virginia, which is expected to double to 25 gigawatts by 2030, potentially hindering climate goals. He emphasized the need for honest communication with constituents about these challenges and Mayor Jordan highlighted ongoing discussions at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments and the National League of Cities conference regarding data center impacts. Councilmember Pompei addressed the importance of regulations to mitigate environmental impacts if data centers are allowed in the area, and discussed legislative challenges in Maryland, particularly regarding bills related to municipal taxing authorities for land use.

Bill Orleans, a Greenbelt resident, inquired about the status of HB78, Property Taxes – Authority of Counties to Establish Subclasses and Set Separate Rates for Land and Improvements to Land. Mr. Carrington answered that the bill did not pass both chambers. Mr. Carrington and Mr. Tarlau discussed legislative processes and next steps for the City of Greenbelt's advocacy efforts. Mayor Jordan and Mr. Carrington stated the need to start planning and advocating for bills earlier in the year, as the session does not truly end with sine die but begins anew immediately after. The Council was advised to monitor bills that have crossed over and focus on budget-related issues, particularly the school budget and permitting capabilities in Greenbelt.

**Information Items:**

Mayor Pro Tem Weaver informed the Council that she will be sending out a reminder email to have their questions for staff by next week's budget session.

Mr. Salmerón provided the Council with an update on the recent upgrades to the camera system in the Council Chambers.

The meeting ended at 9:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shaniya Lashley-Mullen  
Deputy City Clerk