

Regular Meeting of County Commissioners

Tuesday September 16, 2025

The regularly scheduled meeting of the County Commissioners was convened in hybrid format (in person and virtual) at 8:59 a.m. with the following people in attendance:

Reuben B. Collins II, Esq., President, County Commissioner
Gilbert O. Bowling, III, County Commissioner
Thomasina O. Coates, M.S., County Commissioner
Amanda M. Stewart, Ed.D., County Commissioner
Danielle Mitchell, Acting Deputy County Administrator
Wes Adams, County Attorney
Carol A. DeSoto, Clerk to the Commissioners

**Ralph Patterson, II, M.A., Vice President, County Commissioner, was absent and joined session later this day as noted.*

Call to Order/Pledge

Commissioner Collins called the meeting to order and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

A roll call was taken. Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Stewart and Collins were present in person.

**Commissioner Patterson was absent.*

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Collins shared information the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) Artificial Intelligence (AI) Workshop he attended, and that AI will be nearly apart of every aspect of governance. The call to action is clear that we must adopt strong guardrails, test, and set benchmarks.

Commissioner Stewart invited residents to the Joint Town Hall Meeting for District Three (3) being held at the Waldorf Senior and Recreational Center this evening at 6:00 p.m.; she also talked about the Annual Women's Equality Day Luncheon hosted by Congressman Steny Hoyer that she was honored to speak at this event.

Commissioner Coates spoke on the home the retired veteran received in White Plains from Building Homes for Heroes in partnership with Lennar.

Approval of the Minutes of September 9, 2025

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Stewart and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Stewart, and Collins present, voting in favor to approve the minutes of September 9, 2025. **Commissioner Patterson was not present for the vote.*

Announcement

Next Scheduled Session(s): September 23-24, 2025.

Notice of Attendance Summaries were listed on the agenda.

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Approval Items

Budget Amendment(s) and Budget Transfer(s):

There were no budget approval items.

Request Funding for Historic Rich Hill Permits, Inspections and Architectural and Engineering Plans for Steps and Handicap Ramp

(Mr. Michael Mazzeo, Vice President, Historical Society of Charles County and Ms. Cathy Thompson, Deputy Director, Department of Planning and Growth Management)

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Stewart and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Stewart, and Collins present, voting in favor to approve this funding request. **Commissioner Patterson was not present for the vote.*

Display Missing Man Table: 2025 National POW MIA Recognition Day

(Commissioner Collins)

A motion was made Commissioner Coates, seconded by Commissioner Bowling and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Stewart, and Collins present, voting in favor to approve this recognition with the amendment to make this an annual recognition. **Commissioner Patterson was not present for the vote.*

Contract Renewal(s): GS Proctor, Lobbyist

(Danielle Mitchell, Acting Deputy County Administrator, Office of the County Administrator)

A motion was made Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Coates and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Stewart, and Collins present, voting in favor to approve the state lobbyist contract agreement. **Commissioner Patterson was not present for the vote.*

A motion was made Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Coates and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Stewart, and Collins present, voting in favor to approve the federal lobbyist contract agreement. **Commissioner Patterson was not present for the vote.*

Request for Approval: Board of Social Services Bylaws

(Mr. Kerwin Wilson, Chair, Ms. Denise Joseph, Vice Chair, and Mr. Anthony Wilson, Board of Social Services)

A motion was made Commissioner Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Bowling and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Stewart, Coates, and Collins present, voting in favor to approve these bylaws. **Commissioner Patterson was not present for the vote.*

**Break 9:23 a.m. - 9:31 a.m.*

**At about 9:30 a.m. Commissioner Stewart left session.*

Charles County Boards and Commissions Annual Update

Briefing: Annual Update from the Board of Social Services

Briefing: Annual Update from the Adult Public Guardianship Review Board

Briefing: Annual Update from the Area Council on Aging

**TO BE RESCHEDULED* Briefing: Annual Update from the Commission on Individuals with Disabilities*

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Staff and members of the Board of Social Services and the Area Council on Aging provided an overview of their 2024 Annual Reports. The Adult Public Guardianship Review Board provided a written copy of their report posted on the agenda.

Roll Call

A roll call was taken. Commissioners Bowling, Coates, and Collis were present in person.

**Commissioners Stewart and Patterson were absent.*

Briefing: University of Maryland Charles Regional Medical Center (UMCRMC) Update

Mr. Albert Zanger, Chief Administrative Officer, UM Charles Regional Medical Center, joined the Commissioners to provide an update on the University of Maryland Charles Regional Medical Center. UMCRMC is a not-for-profit corporation operating one hundred and eleven licensed-bed hospital primarily serving the residents of Charles County and Southern Maryland. He reviewed key FY2025 statistics; the current and future service environment and key challenges; their expanding health access; patient care improvements; recognitions they have received; and completed Master Plan Projects such as the Emergency Department Modernization, Employee Entrance and Parking, Acquisition of Final Lot for proposed West Tower, and the new MRI Suite. He reviewed the 2026 Major Project for a State-of-the-Art Interventional Radiology Lab as well as plans for preparing for the future and master plan concept for the La Plata campus.

**At about 10:05 a.m. Commissioner Stewart rejoined session in person.*

Briefing: Update Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC) Food Insecurity Program

Ms. Shelby Watson-Hampton, Director, SMADC, and Ms. Cristina Berthelot, Maryland Department of Agriculture provided a presentation on food access initiatives in Charles County. Ms. Watson-Hampton explained food insecurity and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) which provides food benefits to low-income families to supplement their grocery budget so they can afford the nutritious food essential to health and well-being. Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC), a division of the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland (TCCSMD), has a mission to support farms and the future of agriculture in Southern Maryland and has several food access programs such as the Community Fridge program, Community School Family Markets, and Food Box Distribution program which are available to Charles County residents. Eleven thousand six hundred and eighty-three (11,683) households in Charles County have been served and two hundred and thirty-two thousand seven hundred and sixty-one dollars and eighty-one cents (\$232,761.81) in food has been distributed to Charles County Residents over the life of the grant. Ms. Berthelot spoke about Maryland Market Money (MMM) which is a statewide food access program that feeds Marylanders and supports farmers. It provides dollar-for-dollar match for purchases made using federal nutrition benefits at participating Maryland farmers markets, farm stands, and CSAs while providing technical assistance, training, marketing, and additional services to stakeholders. Forty-two thousand sixty-eight dollars (\$42,068.00) was distributed in Charles County via federal nutrition benefit matching incentive funds granted to participating MMM Access Points and six hundred and eighty-three (683) households were served in Charles County

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Closed Session

At 10:46 a.m., a motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Stewart, and passed with Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Stewart, and Collins present, voting in favor to move into Close Session where all or a portion of this session may be closed pursuant to Section 3-305 (b)(1) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland to conduct interviews and discuss appointments to Commissioner Appointed Boards and Commissions . The reason for moving into closed session is to keep personnel matters confidential. **Commissioner Patterson was not present for the vote.*

Summary Closed Session Items

At about 10:58 a.m., the Commissioners went into closed session.

3-305(b)(1)(7) Personnel- Interviews for Boards and Commissions and Appointments

Present: Commissioners Bowling, Stewart, Coates and Collins, Danielle Mitchell, Carol DeSoto, John Adelodun

The Commissioners conducted interviews for the Board of Appeal, Liquor Board and police Accountability Board.

Afterward they reviewed vacancies on other Commissioner appointed Boards and Commissions.

The Commissioners present reached agreement and consensus on appointments. Official action took place later this day under Additional Approval Items-Action on Boards and Commissions.

At 1:18 p.m., A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Coates and passed, with Commissioner Bowling, Coates, Stewart and Collins present, voting in favor to end this close session. **Commissioner Patterson was not present for the vote.*

The Commissioners returned to open session at 3:05 p.m.

Roll Call

A roll call was taken. Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Stewart, and Collins were present in person. **Commissioner Patterson was absent.*

Additional Approval Items

Action on Boards and Commission

A motion was made Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Coates and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Stewart, and Collins present, voting in favor to appoint Ann Davis as the Non-Profit Social Service Organization representative to the Adult Public Guardianship Review Board. **Commissioner Patterson was not present for the vote.*

A motion was made Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Coates and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Stewart, and Collins present, voting in favor to appoint Timothy Treanor as an At-Large member and appoint Regina Newkirk as an Alternate member to the Board of Appeals. **Commissioner Patterson was not present for the vote.*

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A motion was made Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Stewart and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Stewart, and Collins present, voting in favor to appoint China Coleman as the Finance/Banking member to the Business Development Loan Fund for Women, Minorities, and Veterans. **Commissioner Patterson was not present for the vote.*

A motion was made Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Coates and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Stewart, and Collins present, voting in favor to appoint Sharlamar Taliaferro-Savannah as a representative of District Two (2) and Jude Mutah as a representative of District Four (4), to the Compensation Commission. **Commissioner Patterson was not present for the vote.*

A motion was made Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Stewart and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Stewart, and Collins present, voting in favor to reappoint Quantral Fletcher as an At-Large member and Esperita Garrison as a District Two (2) Representative to the Police Accountability Board. **Commissioner Patterson was not present for the vote.*

Commissioners' New Business

There was no new business discussed.

Closed Session

At 3:07 p.m., a motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Stewart, and passed with Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Stewart, and Collins present, voting in favor to move into Close Session where all or a portion of this session may be closed pursuant to Section 3-305 (b)(1)(7) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland to discuss a personnel matter. The reason for moving into closed session is to keep personnel matters confidential.

**Commissioner Patterson was not present for the vote.*

Summary Closed Session Items

At about 3:09 p.m., the Commissioners went into closed session.

3-305(b)(1) Personnel

Present: Commissioners Bowling, Stewart, Patterson (Virtual) and Collins, Danielle Mitchell, John Adelodun, Alexis Blackwell, Kevin Karpinski and Matthew McCloskey.

Outside Council provided an update and reviewed potential next steps related to this personnel matter.

At about 3:34 p.m., a motion was made Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Stewart and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Stewart, Patterson, and Collins present, voting in favor to end this closed session. **Commissioner Coates was not present for the vote*

The Commissioners returned to open session at about 6:02 p.m.

Roll Call

A roll call was taken. Commissioners Bowling, Stewart, Patterson and Collins were present in person. **Commissioner Coates was absent.*

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Board of County Commissioners Quarterly Town Hall Meeting District 3

The Commissioners held an in-person town hall meeting in the Waldorf Seniors Recreation Center for District 3. They were joined by staff from each department.

There were nine (9) people who asked questions or provided comments in-person.

Each Commissioner was given the opportunity to respond or asked staff to provide more information on the comments/questions shared by the public.

At about 7:19 p.m., a motion was made by Commissioner Patterson, seconded by Commissioner Bowling and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Stewart, Patterson, and Collins present, voting in favor to adjourn. **Commissioners Coates was not present for the vote.*

Carol A. DeSoto, Clerk to the Commissioners

Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President