

Regular Meeting of County Commissioners
Wednesday June 26, 2024 (Legislative Day)

The regularly scheduled meeting of the County Commissioners was convened in person, at 5:14 p.m. with the following persons in attendance:

Reuben B. Collins II, Esq., President, County Commissioner
Ralph Patterson, II, M.A., Vice President, County Commissioner
Gilbert O. Bowling, III, County Commissioner
Thomasina O. Coates, M.S., County Commissioner
Amanda M. Stewart, M.Ed., County Commissioner
Deborah Hall, Acting County Administrator
Wes Adams, County Attorney
Carol A. DeSoto, Clerk to the Commissioners

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. All Commissioners were present in person.

Closed Session

At 5:15 p.m., a motion was made by Commissioner Patterson, seconded by Commissioner Bowling and passed, with all Commissioners 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)(7)(10) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland to discuss and receive legal advice on public security issue. The reason for moving into closed session is to keep legal advice, and strategies confidential.

Summary Closed Session Items

At about 5:17 p.m., the Commissioners went into closed session.

3-305(b)(7)(10) Legal: Discussion on a Public Safety Issue

Present: Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Stewart, Patterson, and Collins, Wes Adams, Deborah Hall, Carol DeSoto, Jerome Spencer, Captain Burroughs, Chief Carl Schinner and Lieutenant Robert Bagley.

The Commissioners, the County Attorney and law enforcement personnel discussed public safety concerns in neighborhoods and potential ways to address these concerns especially for the upcoming Fourth of July holiday.

At 4:57 p.m., a motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Patterson and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to end this close session.

At about 6:14 p.m. the Commissioners returned to open session.

Roll Call

A roll call was taken. All Commissioners were present in person.

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Discussion: Plan for Potential Neighborhood Nuisances During the Fourth of July Holiday

Mr. Wes Adams, County Attorney, Office of the County Attorney for Charles County; Charles County Sheriff's Office; and Town of La Plata Police Department and members of the Maryland State Delegation joined the Commissioners to discuss potential neighborhood nuisances during the Fourth of July holiday. Representatives from the Charles County Sheriff's Office and La Plata Police Department detailed their monitoring efforts to deal with any potential nuisance complaints brought by residents.

Mr. Adams reviewed the action taken in Prince George's County related to establishing a curfew at National Harbor due to over eight hundred (800) youth and destruction of businesses and safety issues. He opined that while the Commissioners have the legal authority to establish a State of Emergency, this would not address issues related to youth under the age of fifteen (15) in neighborhoods and does not rise to taking this level of action.

The Commissioners agreed that the issues related to the disruptive behavior in the neighborhoods does not rise to this level of action.

The Sheriff's Office indicated that they do have plans in place to address these potential disturbances and safety concerns, especially over the July 4th holiday.

The Commissioner agreed to begin holding joint meetings with partner agencies on safety concerns in the County.

At 5:57 p.m. A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling seconded by Commissioner Patterson and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to adjourn.

Carol A. DeSoto, Clerk to the Commissioners

Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President