

FREDERICK COUNTY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



Recently Passed Legislation

Bill 25-08 - Amend the Police Accountability Board and Administrative Charging Committee, passed by 7-0 vote.

Upcoming Legislation

Bill 25-09 - Establish a Critical Digital Infrastructure Overlay Zone

*This Bill is scheduled for a Public Hearing on
July 15, 2025 at 7pm,
and for final vote on August 19, 2025.*

Pictured left to right:

Steve McKay (District 2),

Council President Brad Young (At Large),

Renee Knapp (At Large),

MC Keegan-Ayer (District 3),

Council Vice President Kavonté Duckett (District 4),

Mason Carter (District 5),

Jerry Donald (District 1).



On left: Council President Brad Young attends the Grand Opening of Weis Markets on June 18 in Ijamsville.



On right: Council President Brad Young attends the Grand Opening of Penny Mart in downtown Frederick on July 2.



On left: Council Member Jerry Donald and Council President Brad Young attend the Grand Opening of Vault of Visions Art Gallery in Downtown Frederick on July 2.

A Message From Council President Brad Young:

The Frederick County Council meets regularly on Tuesday evenings at 5:30 pm at Winchester Hall, located at 12 East Church Street in downtown Frederick. All meetings are open to the public, and we public welcome participation. Members of the public are welcome to attend in person or participate over the phone. Public comments will occur during every meeting.

At the June 17th meeting the Frederick County Council had the introduction of Bill 25-09, a Bill concerning the Critical Digital Infrastructure (CDI) Overlay Zone. This bill was the first step of the process and it will proceed through our typical legislative process with several opportunities for public input. The Administration presented a clear process to the Council at our May 27th workshop, which includes: the zoning text amendment which was introduced at the June 17th meeting. This process will include a comprehensive plan amendment, which has not yet been introduced and a zoning map amendment to add the overlay area to our county maps, which has not yet been published. The location, size, and boundaries of the overlay will be established through a separate process that has not yet begun.

The first step for the map amendment is a recommendation from the Division of Planning and Permitting, which will be presented to the Planning Commission. The Administration shared with us at our May 27th workshop the criteria which they have directed Division of Planning and Permitting to use for selecting which parcels will be included in the overlay. These include proximity to industrial lands and the growth area boundary, access to necessary infrastructure, and parcel size. There will be a 1% cap of County land established in this Bill is an upper limit, but does not mean the overlay will include 1% of County land. I would note that current law allows data centers to be developed on any land zoned industrial. That means about 5,000 acres (4,966) are currently eligible without any zoning changes.

Bill 25-09 proposes a 1% cap which limits it to 4,284 acres – at most. This will include the East Alcoa site, which is 2,200 acres. Any maps or claims of specific acreage for the overlay circulating in the public are not official maps from Frederick County Government and are likely created by advocacy groups that are spreading misinformation to stoke skepticism in this process. I urge all residents who are interested in this topic to stay tuned to our County Council and Planning Commission meetings to ensure the information you have is accurate and up to date. This bill will have its public hearing with the County Council on Tuesday, July 15, at 7:00 pm.

The Frederick County Council encourages public involvement at every stage of the legislative process. Members of the public are welcome to attend and give comment in person, leave a voicemail to be forwarded to each Council Member, or email us any time at councilmembers@frederickcountymd.gov. Please visit our website at <http://www.frederickcountymd.gov/county council> to view our latest agendas, legislation, and upcoming calendar of events. Council Members often attend events such as new business openings, business anniversaries, or groundbreaking ceremonies. If you have an event, you'd like to invite us to, please email us as at councilmembers@frederickcountymd.gov.

And as always, if there is ever anything I can do for you, please feel free to reach out to me and my office. You can email at: BYoung@FrederickCountyMD.gov, or you can call my office at 301-600-1108.

A Message From Council Vice President Kavonté Duckett:

Supporting Small Business in Frederick County

At our June 24th Council Meeting, we received an informative update from the Division of Planning & Permitting's Applicant Support Team. If you're considering starting a small business or navigating the permitting process, this dedicated team is here to help guide you every step of the way. Their support can make a real difference—don't hesitate to reach out!

Learn more at: www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/ApplicantSupport

Stay Connected

I'm always here to listen and help. If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas, please feel free to reach out:

Email: kduckett@frederickcountymd.gov

Phone: (301) 600-1104

Let's keep working together to make Frederick County a great place to live, work, and thrive.

On the Council's Calendar:

Frederick County Board of Health Meeting: Monday, July 21, 2025 at 6pm.

Summer Recess: Please note that the Council will be on Summer Recess and will not hold meetings on the following days:

Tuesday, July 29, 2025

Tuesday, August 5, 2025

Tuesday, August 12, 2025

Our Tuesday meetings will resume on August 19, 2025.

We wish everyone a safe, happy, and healthy 4th of July!

HOW TO WATCH A COUNCIL MEETING VIRTUALLY

Members of the Public are welcome to join us at Winchester Hall,
12 East Church Street, Frederick MD 21701.

Council meetings are also live streamed on our website:
www.frederickcountymd.gov/FCGTV and air on
Comcast channels 19 (SD) and 1072 (HD).

If you would like to participate via phone:
Call toll free 855-925-2801 and enter meeting code 8365
to listen to our meetings or to give public comment.

You can also email us a comment at councilmembers@frederickcountymd.gov