Local Development Council September Meeting

September 17, 2026

Attendance: Vice Chair Lawmont Green, Sheila Curry, A'Lana Lester, Christina Jackson, Delegate Veronica Turner, Betel Worku, Ernest Lewis, Dani Moore-King, Earl O'Neal, Keyanna Morant, and Rhonda Dorsey.

Meeting called to order at 7:16 p.m.

1. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the previous meetings.
- Members voted in favor of approval.
- Motion passed.

2. FY 2026 School Funding Update

Ms. Curry provided an update on the FY 2026 Local Development Council funding awarded to 21 schools within a six-mile radius of MGM.

- Each school received $19,000 in funding.
- Checks have been distributed, and schools have confirmed receipt of the funding.
- Award letters were sent to each school; approximately half have been returned with principal signatures, with the remaining letters expected to be returned.
- Schools have expressed appreciation and excitement about the funding.
- Schools have asked about allowable uses, including:
    - Classroom equipment and supplies
    - Teacher chairs
    - Digital whiteboards
    - Student field trips
    - Sports equipment
    - Playground equipment
- Ms. Curry will compile school wish lists to provide the Council with information that may be useful for future funding decisions.

School Funding Follow-Up

- The Council discussed holding one group celebration/reception with the participating schools rather than visiting each school individually.
- The event could include school principals and teachers and provide an opportunity for the schools to meet the Council and discuss how the funding will be used.

- The possibility of inviting the County Executive was also discussed.
- Members expressed interest in holding the event before the end of the year, potentially in November or December.

Verification of School Funding

- A member raised a concern about whether individual schools could directly receive the full $19,000.
- Ms. Curry confirmed that schools that have already returned signed award letters have confirmed receiving the full $19,000.
- Ms. Curry will verify whether there are any differences in funding procedures among schools.

3. FY 2027 Local Impact Grant Update

The Council discussed the FY 2027 Local Impact Grant funding and the impact of previously allocated funds throughout the community.

- Members highlighted various community events and programs supported by Local Impact Grant funding, including:
    - Back-to-school events
    - Book bag drives
    - Summer camps
    - Math and technology programs
    - Other community initiatives
- Members noted the positive impact of the funding on residents within the six-mile radius of MGM.

Additional FY 2027 Funding

- Ms. Curry reported that approximately $400,000 in additional funding is expected to be available for FY 2027.
- The County Council is expected to vote on the FY 2027 funding in the coming weeks.
- A public hearing is expected to take place, with members of the LDC potentially invited to participate.
- The Council will determine how to use the additional $400,000 at a future meeting.
- Potential uses may include continued school funding, nonprofit funding, or other community needs.

4. FY 2028–2030 Spending Plan

The Council reviewed the proposed FY 2028–2030 Local Impact Grant spending plan.

- The plan was provided to members prior to the meeting.

- Members discussed changes from previous spending plans and noted that funding allocations may change from year to year as community needs and participating organizations change.
- The Council confirmed that the plan covers FY 2028 through FY 2030.
- The Council's allocation is approximately $400,000 per year, totaling approximately $1.2 million over three years.
- A member requested additional clarification regarding funding that appeared in previous spending plans but is not included in the current plan. Follow-up discussion will occur as needed.

Vote

- A motion was made and seconded to approve the FY 2028–2030 spending plan.
- A roll-call vote was conducted.
- All members voted in favor.
- Motion passed.

5. Meeting Schedule

- The Council discussed whether the meeting schedule needed to change.
- No change was necessary at this time.
- Meetings will continue to be held on the third Wednesday of each month.

6. Legislative Update – Delegate Turner

Delegate Turner provided a legislative and community update, including:

- Participation in committee meetings related to economic matters and housing/community development.
- Discussion of Maryland's housing shortage and the need for additional affordable and low-income housing.
- Updates regarding housing development and tax-credit opportunities.
- Updates on Maryland's banking and credit union landscape.
- The 26th District held a scholarship reception and awarded 115 scholarships.
- Participation in the MACo conference in Ocean City.
- Updates regarding the recent special session and other legislative activities.
- Community outreach efforts, including turkey and financial assistance distributions.
- Delegate Turner invited the LDC to contact her office regarding potential legislation or issues that could benefit the community.

7. MGM Update

Mr. Lewis provided an update from MGM.

- No major updates were reported at this time.
- MGM's collective bargaining/business agreement report has been made available to the community.
- The report can also be provided to the LDC upon request.
- MGM offered to host the LDC at the property for a future meeting or gathering.

8. Council Member Gathering

- Members discussed getting together for an informal gathering before the end of the year.
- A restaurant in District 8 was suggested, and additional restaurant suggestions are welcome.
- Members may discuss and select a location through email.
- MGM was also offered as a potential location for a future gathering.

9. Council Membership

- The current LDC membership was confirmed at 15 members.

10. Closing

- Members expressed appreciation for the Council's work and community involvement throughout the year.
- The September Local Development Council meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:56 p.m.