

Local Development Council March Meeting

March 18, 2026

Attendance: Chair Kendal Wade, Kimberly Harris, Sheila Curry, Christna Jackson, Lawmont Green, Betel Worku, Ernest Lewis, Earl O'Neal, Rhonda Dorsey, Paula Noble, Brandon Johnson, Keyanna Morant, and Mikel Mikell (Guest).

Meeting called to order at 7:09 p.m.

- Opening Prayer Chair Kendal Wade

Excused Absences

Chair Kendal Wade received notification from Dani Moore, Senator Muse, Delegate Veronica Turner, and Delegate Jamila requesting excused absences while in session.

Results of Vice Chair Vote Discussion

- Chair Kendal Wade congratulates the newly elected Vice Chair, Mr. Lamont Green
- Vice Chair Lamont Green acknowledges role and responsibilities as the backup to the chair.

Discussion of the \$400,000 LDC Budget

- Chair Kendal Wade discusses the biggest challenge with the funds and timeline. We are behind schedule.
- Chair Kendal Wade gives scenarios for the funds. But as a group, we need to discuss the processes and be in agreement:
 - How much money will each nonprofit be allowed to apply for? It was \$50,000 in the past. Do we raise it? Chair Wade's concern is that if we keep it at 50,000, we need to find more community partners to whom to grant the funds. If the amount is raised to \$100,000, we will only need 4 organizations in the community.
 - It must be communicated that the grant funds, if raised, are not an annual thing. This is a one-time because we want to get the funds out the door by the deadline and to provide enough resources to make a difference.
 - We need to market so people can apply for the grant.
 - We need a timeline on the budget that the county council submitted last week

- All of these need to be considered because there is a timeline to get the funds out.
 - If we do not get the funds out by June 30th, 2026, we lose the funding.
- Council Member Paula Noble asks about the marketing timeline and process.
 - Ms. Sheila Curry explains that by the next meeting, April 15, 2026, the council should have approved the budget. Once the LDC decides the maximum award amount, she will log in to the portal and increase the amount. The office of the county Executive Communication's Team will send out a press release to apply for the grant. The grant will have a two-week deadline, after which the LDC will review and select organizations to receive the award. Ms. Curry will send award and denial letters to every organization, and the Office of Management and Budget and the Department of Finance will disburse the funds to the awardees. This process must be completed by June 30th, 2026.
- Ms. Mekell Mikell (guest), resident of Ft. Washington, former MGM employee, Communications for Lockheed Martin, Department of Energy, Obama Administration, and wanted to share some ideas for the funding. Ms. Mikell suggested selecting 2 or 3 organizations to fund large amounts and save funds for organizations that need smaller amounts. The second recommendation was to advertise on social media. Social media broadens marketing and allows more organizations to see the grant.
 - Chair Wade shares that there is a vetting process with the County for organizations. The chair also shares about the Resource Fair, which will help organizations prepare for next year's vetting process.
 - Ms. Curry confirmed that when the press release happens, Social Media is announced on the county executives' social media.
- Chair Wade asks if all the funds have to be awarded to 501 (c) (3)s. Can some of the funds be used for scholarships?
 - Ms. Curry answers yes, we can use funds for scholarships.
- A discussion around the process included that every year, every organization must be re-vetted because anything could happen, lose 501c3 status, etc.
- Council Member Earl Oneal discusses the scholarship process.
- Ms. Mekell (guest) shares that if people don't apply, it's because they don't know; if they know, they don't know how.
- Council Member Brandon Johnson suggests considering the criteria for scholarships given.
- Council Member Keyanna Morant suggests smaller organizations get funding.

- The chair suggests a scholarship deadline, and then whatever isn't used is then given to smaller non-profits.
- Ms. Kimberly Harris (County Exec Office) shares that while the budget is not approved, the LDC can engage with community partners without discussing the funding.
- A discussion around paying the remaining balance of students who are on the verge of graduating and need a balance paid, who are residents of the 6- mile radius of the MGM.
 - Ms. Curry shares that there is already a program with Mr. Burroughs' Office and PGCC. The chair or Vice Chair should email their team to get started with the community college.
- A discussion around the scholarship process and how the funding would get to the school. Reach out to Mr. Burroughs' office to find out how the PGCC does it. And how the scholarship committees work. Discussions around the process, what the schools will and won't do, and the work can be done, and it's not as hard as the LDC may think.
- Council Member Keyanna Morant reminds the LDA that in May 2025, the state of MD stopped funding for childcare. They allowed parents to apply for subsidies and scholarships, but because funding has been cut, they can't afford childcare. Is there a way to support the Residents of District 8 in this situation? Consider partnering with a non-profit. These parents are already approved through the state, but since funding was cut, they need assistance. These are working families in District 8.
- Ms. Curry emphasizes that the funds need to be disbursed by June 30th.
- Chair Wade proposes to get with Vice Chair and Betel over the next few days to present a plan to the LDC.
- Chair Wade called for a special session meeting next week. The strategy should include:
 - A child care funding plan- how to get the parents of those approved by the state?
 - Those graduating from local college, trade school, etc
 - Those entering college
 - Back-up plan would be by June 1st, whatever funds are left over, vetted non-profits will be considered

Minutes

- Vice Chair motioned to approve the February 18, 2026, Meeting Minutes with the correction of Congressman Hakeem Jeffries.

- Seconded by Council Member Earl Oneal
- All in favor
 - Approved and passed with unanimous consent

Special Session Next Wednesday

- Vice Chair Lawmont Green motioned to meet next Wednesday for a special session in planning for the \$400,00 grant allocation.
- Seconded by Council Member Paula Noble.
- All in favor
 - Approved and passed with unanimous consent

The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm