

Hyattsville Code Compliance Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes 7.22.26

Members:

Name	Title	Status
Michael Bonds	Chair	Present
Arinee Flurry	Vice Chair	
Stacy Dennery	Recorder	Present
Juan Pablo (JP) Madrid	Member	
Susan Zahran	Member	Present
Gloria Felix-Thompson	Member	Present
CJ Reading	Code Compliance Staff Liaison	Present
Jeff Ulysse	Director of Community, Business, and Econ Dev	
Hal Metzler	Code Compliance Staff Liaison	
Dealon LaCroix	CAO Rep for Hyattsville Public Works	
Gopi Dhokai	Council Member Liaison Ward 3	Present

Topics Discussed:

1. Roll Call taken.
2. Agenda is approved by the Committee.
3. Minutes for the prior meeting (April 15, 2026) are approved.
4. Comments from the public:
 - o Nelson Moses: Sitting in to listen. No comments
5. Code Compliance Updates from City's Staff Liaison:
 - o City Council drafted legislation for a ordinance to register vacant properties, which is currently with the City attorney. It will come to this committee for comments. Purpose: All vacant commercial spaces would have to register after X days being vacant. This will impact the Code team, as they will have to ensure that they are registered and meeting the commercial property standards; the legislation should also motivate businesses to fill the remaining vacant spots.
 - Currently ~90 vacant properties in the City.
 - Some council members would also like to see residential vacancy legislation, but that is harder to prove (not a current proposed legislation).
 - o Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs): State passed leg that required all cities adopt an ADU policy. The Council's recommendations were sent to PG County.
 - o Changing Grass Length days change: City's code does not align with what the state's municipal infraction flow provides (timeline to appeal and timeline to pay are not aligned). Per the City Attorney, if we go under what is allowed by the state, we're not giving proper due process. If anything, the days should go up to 20 days.
 - o Definition of Short Term Rentals: We currently license and inspect any rental property. By definition, short term rentals do not fall into the rental property definition and CJ shared the copy of the County Short Term Rental definition:
 - **Short-term rental** means a residential dwelling unit occupied by a short-term rental guest, other than a permanent occupant,

for fewer than 31 consecutive days and no more than 90 days per calendar year, where a host receives monetary compensation for such occupancy, if the owner is not present during the rental. A short-term rental may be occupied by a short-term rental guest for no more than 180 days per calendar year, if the host is present during the short-term rental. A short-term rental provider shall not combine time limits for short-term rentals. The maximum allowable days for a short-term rental are 180 calendar days, provided all requirements are met for that time frame. A short-term rental is a tourist home that is an accessory use to a dwelling, but does not include a hotel, motel, inn, boarding house, group residential facility, and fraternity or sorority house.

- **Short-term rental** – Any unit or room meeting the definition of a short-term rental under the Prince George’s County Code shall be considered a rental dwelling unit, as that term is defined in the City Code, making it subject to the City’s licensing requirements.”

6. Council Updates:

- o Nothing to add from above.

7. New Business:

- o Snow removal (content of draft memo copied in the Appendix below)
 - Add “\$200 for a subsequent offenses.”
- o Race and Equity Task Force would like to collaborate with Code Advisory Committee on areas to align our efforts. Mike Bonds will reach out to the new Race and Equity Task Force Chair.

8. Next Meeting

- o Consider having Race and Equity Task Force providing a presentation to this committee.
- o Date: August 19, 2026

9. Meeting is adjourned.

Appendix

Snow Removal Fines Memo link: [SnowRemovalFines - Google Docs](#)

Draft Memo content:

Code Compliance Advisory Committee Hyattsville, Maryland

July 22, 2026

Dear Mr. Mayor and Members of the City Council:

The late January 2026 snowstorm tested the limits of both Hyattsville's and the county's emergency response. Several inches of snow, ice, and "snowcrete" followed by days of below-freezing temperatures made road and sidewalk clearing much more difficult than usual, prompting the City to extend the normal 24-hour deadline for snow removal to 48 hours.

After that, the City's Department of Code Enforcement issued roughly 30 citations to businesses and multifamily properties for failure to remove snow from sidewalks as per Section 105-2 of the Code of the City of Hyattsville, but only issued warnings to residences. This is because, per Section 105-125 of the Code, fines for failure to remove snow "shall be 1/2 of the maximum fine allowed by the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland" for a first offense, and "equal to the maximum allowed" by the same section of the Code of Maryland. That section of the state code (Local Government Article, §6-102) specifies a maximum fine of \$5,000, and the city's Code does not allow for any other partial amount. Code Enforcement, given a choice between issuing onerous fines of upwards of \$2,500 to individuals for not clearing sidewalks and issuing only warnings, chose to do the latter.

If fines are to be an effective tool for encouraging individuals to clear sidewalks in front of their homes, then the amounts should be set such that Code Enforcement will actually issue them. Therefore, having voted at the July 22, 2026 meeting, the Code Compliance Advisory Committee recommends that the City Council amend Chapter 105 of the code to set fines for failure to remove snow from sidewalks at \$100 for individuals upon the first offense and \$200 for subsequent offenses, while retaining the current amount for businesses and multifamily properties.

Furthermore, the city should also consider identifying other fines that could reasonably be issued to individuals for which the penalty is tied to the same section of the Code of Maryland, that should also be reduced.

Sincerely,

Michael Bonds
Chair, Code Compliance Advisory Committee