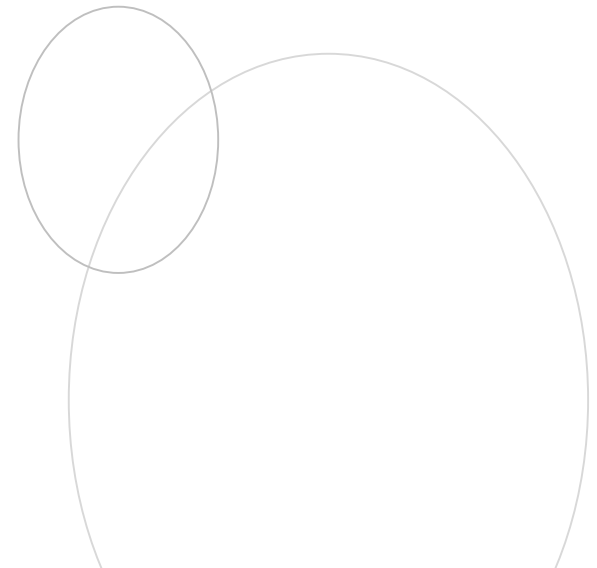




# Office of Law

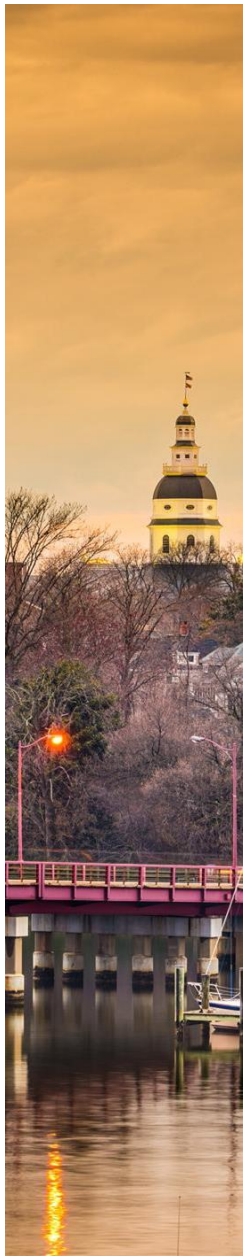
FY26 BUDGET REVIEW





## FY25 HIGHLIGHTS – Major Trends and Events

- Successfully defended the City and AFD personnel in wrongful death/civil rights matter; the City obtained dismissal by the Court granting its Motion to Dismiss (Green)
- Successfully defended the City in a claim for declaratory and injunctive relief; the City obtained dismissal (Kingsport/Carey)
- Successfully defending the City against 2 Motions for Summary Judgment in ongoing Civil Rights Cases involving residents of Public Housing; Case proceeds.(Johnson/Fisher)
- Successfully defended the City in a trip and fall matter; the City obtained a defense verdict by jury on the second trial of the matter (Bozarth)
- Advocating for the City in climate change litigation; managed oversight and filings of outside counsel; matter is under appeal to the Supreme Court of Maryland (BP, et al.)

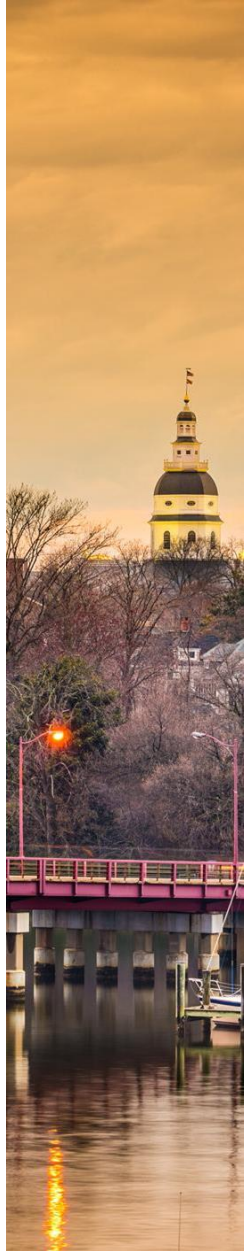


## **FY25 HIGHLIGHTS – Major Trends and Events, con't.**

- Successfully produced 16 legal opinions in response to requests, timely response within 14 days
- Successfully provided timely legal advice and support for Labor negotiations, resulting in an approved 2-year Collective Bargaining Agreement with all unions
- Successfully prosecuted 37 municipal infraction citations to Anne Arundel District Court
- Produced 30 ordinances/resolutions that were introduced to City Council, including:
  - - 18 ordinances/resolutions adopted
  - - 12 ordinances/resolutions rejected or withdrawn
  - - 45 legislative bills in various stages of drafting
  - - 29 legislation pieces set aside while in drafting
  - - 30 legislative summaries

## **FY25 HIGHLIGHTS – Major Trends and Events, con't.**

- Successfully processed all Alcoholic Beverage License applications and renewals:
  - 117 total licenses to be renewed
  - 42 sidewalk café licenses to be renewed
  - 291 Special Class C one-day applications for events
  - 9 new/transfer licenses
  - 6 substitution applications
  - \$1,550 collected in fines
- Assisted in management of 26 current City leases and 1 purchase of property
- Legal research and timely processing of 86 MPIA requests





## Looking Ahead to FY26: Expected Trends and Events

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- Successfully began City Code legal review and modernization, with substantial portions ready for City Council review and approval
- 2025 City-wide Elections administration and implementation
- Public Housing Resident Lawsuit against the City proceeds to trial in U.S. District Court
- New Assistant City Attorney hired (backfill of open position)
- 1-2 Law Clerks to be hired for Summer 2025 internship(s)
- Office of Law is seeing an increase in litigation activities
- Office of Law expects increase in legislation drafting and review requests before end of year





# PERFORMANCE

Notes regarding current performance:

How FY26 budget changes will affect performance:

Question(s) we are trying to answer:

Performance Measure	Benchmark	FY25 YTD Actual
Average number of hours it takes to respond to initial request for service	100% initial responses within 48 hours	100%
Average number of days it takes for staff attorneys to respond with final product	100 % completion within two weeks	98%
# Days between request and final draft to Sponsor	100% of legislative requests shall be legally sufficient, error free and drafted within the standards of the MD Drafting Manual within 30 days	100% (Avg. 14 days)
# of cases successfully defended or prosecuted vs. Total # of cases defended or prosecuted	Verdicts and rulings success where City is successful in no less than 95% of matters	100%
Percentage of records and materials published without error	100% of legal and legislative and City Council standing committee action recorded, published and preserved without error for public information and dissemination	95%



## PERFORMANCE

Question(s) we are trying to answer:

Notes regarding current performance:

How FY26 budget changes will affect performance:

Performance Measure	Benchmark	FY25 YTD Actual
Number of meetings where staff and counsel were not present if requested or required	Attendance at meetings and prepared to offer legal advice	95%
(1) Election Plan Completed no later than 12 months before election. (2) # of staff hired pursuant to plan. (3) Release of Election publication schedule and finalized election mailers and announcements to voters 60 days before Primary and General Election. (4) % of polling places opened timely. (5) # of complaints regarding polling sites, materials and machines.	Planning Schedule Finalized. Staffing Readiness. Publication Plan and follow-up. Election held.	(TBD)
Average number of days response was delivered beyond the mandated time period	100% on-time response to all Maryland Public Information Act (MPIA) requests.	98%



## Other context to be aware of

- The Office of Law's relocation to new space(s) is expected this fiscal year. The transition may have some impact on timeliness of fulfilling service requests.





# THANK YOU

