



City of Bowie

15901 Fred Robinson Way
Bowie, Maryland 20716

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2026

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting of the Bowie City Council was held on Tuesday, January 20, 2026, in Council Chambers at City Hall. Mayor Adams called the meeting to order at 8:01 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:

Mayor Adams led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

QUORUM:

In attendance were Mayor Adams, Councilmembers Brady, Estève, Ndebumadu, Rogers, Truesdale and Woolfley, City Manager Lott, Assistant City Manager Mears, City Attorney Ruff, City Clerk Hernandez and Staff.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/AMENDMENTS:

None.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

1. Amy Posey – Addressed traffic safety concerns surrounding Tulip Grove Elementary school. Copy of document provided to Council attached.
2. Charles Hudson – Copy of comment attached.
3. Patrick Laley – Spoke in support of traffic-calming measures surrounding Tulip Grove Elementary school.
4. Gavin Stokes, GBCC – Provided an overview of recent Chamber activities and upcoming events.
5. Scott Vining – Addressed concerns regarding excessive vehicle noise and speeding along Trinity Drive, Bel Air Drive, and nearby streets.

PRESENTATIONS:

None.

CITY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

A. Appointments and Swearing-in:

1. Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley motioned to appoint Nicole Reed to the Administrative Review Board as a regular member for a 2-year term. Councilmember Rogers second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Councilmember Rogers motioned to appoint Carolyn Murphy to the Green Team Executive Committee as a regular member for a 2-year term. Councilmember Truesdale second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Councilmember Rogers motioned to appoint Fernando Castro Gomez to the Diversity Committee as a regular member for a 2-year term. Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Adams swore in the members to their respective committees.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Adams thanked staff, volunteers, and committee members for the successful Martin Luther King Jr. Art Contest and encouraged continued community participation on City boards and committees.

Councilmember Rogers highlighted the MLK Art Contest, thanked the Diversity Committee and Community Services staff, reported on an open-air gas leak in Woodmore Highlands that was resolved on January 12, 2026, and requested Washington Gas provide an explanation to Council. She also reported on a recent business and technology event and attendance at the opening of the Maryland General Assembly session.

Councilmember Truesdale extended greetings to residents, particularly those in District 3, and reflected on the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley thanked residents who spoke on traffic and noise concerns, stated he would work with staff and Council to address school-area safety issues, and acknowledged similar concerns in other neighborhoods.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Lott reported that departmental budget reviews for FY 2027 were ongoing, with Public Works completed and additional departments scheduled.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley motioned to approve Consent Agenda items: A) Approval of January 5, 2026 Council Meeting Minutes; B) Adoption of Resolution R-5-26 Accepting the Right-of-Way Improvements Constructed Under Permit ROW-0002-22 at South Lake Apartments and the Release of Construction Securities; C) Adoption of Resolution R-6-26 Request for 50% Bond Reduction for Permit SDP-0004-21 at South Lake Residential Phase 1A; D) Adoption of Resolution R-7-26 Request for 50% Bond Reduction for Permit SDP-0008-21 at South Lake Residential Phase 1B; E) Adoption of Resolution R-8-26 Request for 50% Bond Reduction for Permit SDP-0009-21 at South Lake Residential Phase 1C; F) Adoption of Resolution R-9-26 Request for 50% Bond Reduction for Permit SDP-0003-23 at South Lake Residential Phase 1D; G) Adoption of Resolution R-10-26 Accepting the Improvement to the Right-of-Way Constructed Under Permit RG-0001-21 for Melford Townhomes and Release of Construction Securities; H) Adoption of Resolution R-11-26 Accepting the Right-of-Way Improvements Constructed Under Permit SDP-0006-21 at Melford Townhomes and the Release of Construction Securities; I) Adoption of Resolution R-12-26 Accepting the Stormwater Management Facility Improvements Constructed Under Permit SWM-009-20 at the Aspen at Melford and the Release of Construction Securities; J) Adoption of Resolution R-13-26 Accepting the Right-of-Way Improvements Constructed Under Permit ROW-130-18 for Belair Drive SHA Sidewalk Improvements and the Release of Construction Securities; K) Adoption of Resolution R-14-26 Accepting the Stormwater Management

Facility Improvements Constructed Under Permit SWM-0008-20 at Melford Pond Trail and the Release of Construction Securities. Councilmember Brady second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Adoption of Charter Amendment Resolution CAR-3-25 Amending "Voter Registration, Filing of Candidacy, and Elections" (Sections 21–37) of the City Charter – City Clerk Hernandez summarized the resolution, explaining that the amendments modernize and clarify election-related Charter provisions to align with Maryland law and current City practices without altering voter eligibility or election integrity.

Public Hearing:

City Clerk Hernandez stated that no one signed up to speak and no comments were received via email. Mayor Adams declared the public hearing to have been held.

Councilmember Ndebumadu asked for clarification of why the Recall section is being moved from the Charter to the Code. City Attorney Ruff explained that the ability to do a Recall is still in the Charter, but the process of how it is conducted is what is being moved to the Code.

Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley thanked City Clerk and City Attorney for the work on the proposed Charter changes and looks forward to seeing the changes on the Code next month.

Councilmember Brady commented that under Section 33 the language doesn't address the At-Large elections regarding who are the winners. He suggested including the following verbiage "The two candidates for At-Large with the highest number of votes shall be declared elected as At-Large Councilmembers". City Attorney Ruff responded that the resolution can be adopted with Councilmember Brady's amendment.

Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley motioned to adopt Charter Amendment Resolution CAR-3-25 with the amendment of adding in Sec. 33 the following sentence "The two candidates for At-Large with the highest number of votes shall be declared elected as At-Large Councilmembers". Councilmember Brady second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Adoption of Ordinance O-1-26 Amending the Adopted Budget for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2025, and Ending June 30, 2026, as Embodied in Ordinance O-4-25 and Amended by Ordinances O-11-25 and O-13-25, to Appropriate Funds in the Amount of \$47,900 for the Replacement of a Message Board – Acting Finance Director Lola Ogunremi summarized the ordinance.

Councilmembers asked for clarification of new location of the message board so that it does not get destroyed again. Community Services Director, Nick Spurgeon stated that it is being moved back from current location and it will have heavy landscaping around it.

Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley motioned to adopt Ordinance O-1-26. Councilmember Estève second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Department of Community Services "Sweet Bowie" Honey – Ms. Alyssa Jarrett, Arts and Culture Program Specialist, Ms. Lexie Williams, Sustainability Planner, and Mr. Charlie Blevins, Park Ranger and Beekeeper, presented the City's Sweet Bowie Honey initiative and the inaugural harvest. Staff explained that the program is a City-led sustainability and education initiative supporting pollinators and environmental stewardship through the use of City green space.

Council thanked staff for the presentation and honey.

B. Financial Advisory Committee – Way Ahead – Ms. Lola Ogunremi, Acting Finance Director, introduced Mr. Carl Robinson, Chair of the Financial Advisory Committee (FAC), who presented on the purpose and function of the Committee. Mr. Robinson reviewed Resolution R-88-98, which established the FAC in 1998, and outlined the Committee's charge to review and advise the City Council on the City's fiscal condition and related financial matters. He explained that the Committee's work has largely focused on review of the proposed annual budget and six-year Capital Improvement Program, along with community outreach activities, and noted that the Committee is seeking Council guidance on whether the scope and structure of the resolution should be revisited to better align with current needs and expectations.

Mr. Robinson described additional areas the Committee has explored, including benchmarking, workload performance indicators, and grant management, and stated that discussions with the former Finance Director highlighted that the resolution may be outdated. He requested Council's consideration of reviewing and potentially revising the resolution to allow the Committee to provide greater value, including possible coordination with the Economic Development Committee and expanded fiscal analysis.

Councilmembers encouraged the Committee to propose updates to the resolution, suggested enhanced public education and outreach on the City's budget and fiscal structure, and discussed potential areas for FAC focus, including evaluation of the General Fund balance policy, midyear financial reporting, and fiscal impacts of major development activity.

Mayor Adams thanked Mr. Robinson and the committee for their service and proactive outreach.

C. Arts Committee City of Bowie Poet Laureate – Ms. Kathleen Parker, Chair of the City of Bowie Arts Committee, along with Vice Chair Selena Hayes and Secretary Valerie Michaels, presented a proposal to establish a City of Bowie Poet Laureate. Ms. Michaels outlined the proposed purpose of the honorary civic role, eligibility requirements, duties, application process, term length, and honorarium, noting that the position would promote poetry, literature, and spoken word through public readings, youth engagement, and community events.

Councilmembers expressed support for the proposal and asked clarifying questions regarding residency requirements, term length, event expectations, and compensation. Discussion included consideration of increasing the proposed honorarium.

Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley motioned to approve the creation of a Poet Laureate for the City with an honorarium of \$100 a month once the City Manager reviews the budget to see if funds are available. Councilmember Estève second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

D. Friendship Aspire Bowie STEM Public Charter School - Ms. Kathy Mason, Chair of Friendship Aspire Public Charter School, and Mr. Phong Tran, Superintendent and Chief Operating Officer, presented a proposal for a STEM-focused public charter elementary school serving grades K-3, with planned expansion to K-5. The presenters outlined the organization's background, educational approach, community engagement focus, and interest in locating the school at the Kenhill Center, emphasizing a shared-use model that would respect existing tenants and community services.

E. Feasibility of Repurposing Kenhill Center for Use as a Charter School - Mr. Nick Spurgeon, Director of Community Services, presented staff's due diligence review regarding potential repurposing of the Kenhill Center. He summarized findings related to deed restrictions, space availability, operational impacts, community use, and financial considerations, noting that City Hall is fully occupied and that

approximately 60 City employees and public safety staff currently operate from the Kenhill Center. Mr. Spurgeon explained that relocating existing functions would involve significant cost and service impacts.

Councilmember Ndebumadu suggested that Community Services staff and Ms. Mason work together to see what other City properties outside of Kenhill, is available for their potential use.

Mayor Adams stated that a conversation should also be had with Prince Georges County Public Schools reinforcing to them that the City is interested in having Friendship Aspire School in the City and consider extending the time for them to locate a building.

Councilmember Ndebumadu motioned to have a letter prepared and sent to PGCPs on behalf of Friendship Aspire requesting that more time be allotted to them to find a location for the school within the City. Also, to have Community Services staff work with Friendship Aspire to look at possible open space locations that the City owns for possible use with modulars. Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

F. Economic Development Discussion - Council held a discussion regarding economic development policy and the potential establishment of a City Economic Development Corporation (EDC). The discussion focused on consolidating prior economic development studies and policies and determining next steps toward creating an EDC, including possible engagement of a consultant to assist with developing an implementation framework.

City Manager Lott explained that the concept of an EDC had been discussed previously and that staff had identified a qualified consultant to outline the steps, structure, and requirements for establishing an EDC. He noted that staff sought clear Council direction regarding the scope of work before proceeding, including whether Council preferred a focused EDC implementation plan or a broader consolidated economic development framework.

Councilmember Ndebumadu emphasized the need for a clear economic development structure and articulated goals, recommending that Council move forward with intent to establish an EDC and align on a State funding request to support the effort. She identified expansion of the non-residential tax base and job creation as key objectives and suggested pursuing a substantial State funding request to adequately resource the initiative.

Councilmember Estève cautioned that the current State budget year may be challenging and encouraged continued coordination with the City's legislative delegation regarding the feasibility and timing of funding requests.

Councilmember Brady reported on recent discussions with Delegate Boafu and noted that potential funding discussions had included amounts in the hundreds of thousands, possibly with a local match. He advised that any funding request should be carefully considered in light of budget implications and accountability requirements. Council discussed the concept of submitting a placeholder request and clarified that no budget impact would occur absent an actual award.

Council further discussed anticipated consultant costs, potential timelines for engagement and deliverables, and the desired focus of the EDC, including redevelopment of existing commercial areas, revitalization of key districts, business expansion, job creation, and long-term growth of the City's non-residential tax base.

Council concurred to continue with the approved recommendation from Council's November 3, 2025 meeting. Mayor Adams motioned to also request to the State Delegation funding support of \$1M

for the development of the Economic Development Corporation. Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley second the motion. Motion passed 6-1 (Ndebumadu).

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley motioned to adjourn the regular City Council meeting. Councilmember Rogers second the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:36 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Awilda Hernandez", with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Awilda Hernandez, MMC
City Clerk

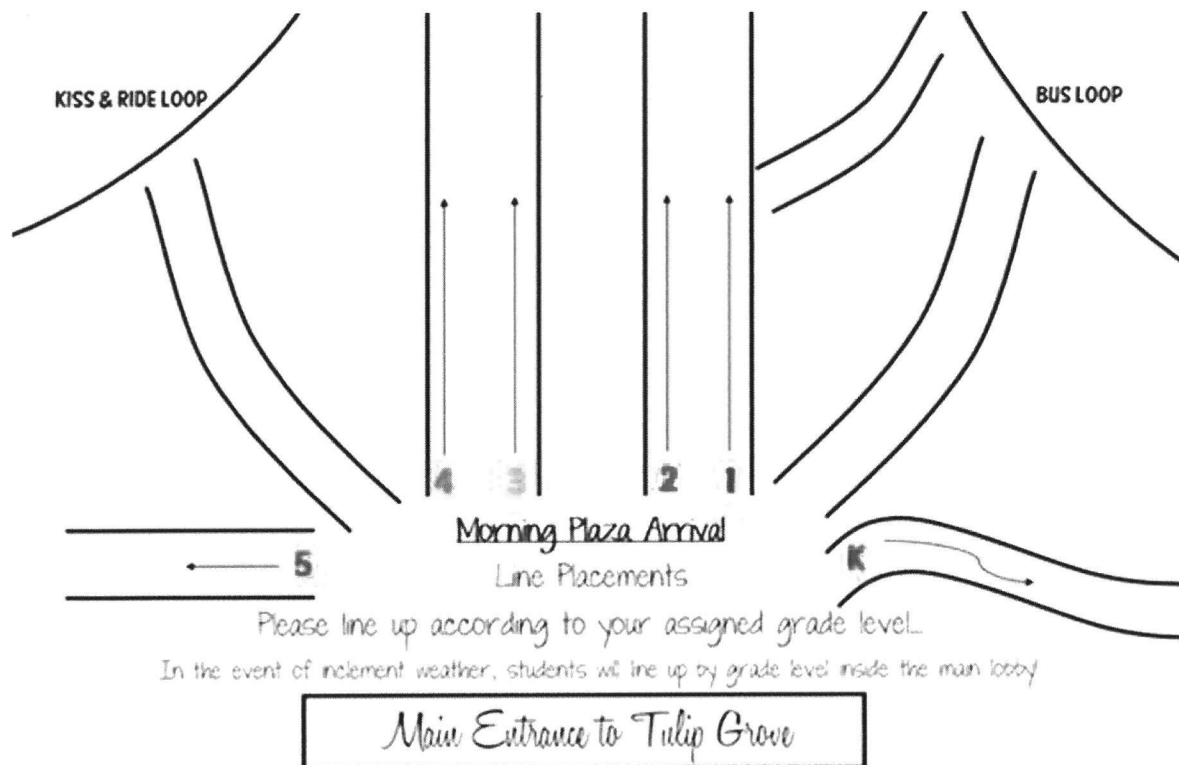
Approved by the City Council of the City of Bowie, Maryland on February 2, 2026.

Arrival and Dismissal excerpt from Tulip Grove Elementary School Parent/Student Handbook

Arrival Procedures

Students are expected to arrive at school between 8:15 AM and 8:30 AM. Supervision is not available before 8:15 AM; therefore, children who walk to school, ride in private cars, or arrive in a daycare van should not arrive at school before 8:15 AM. You are tardy after 8:30 AM!

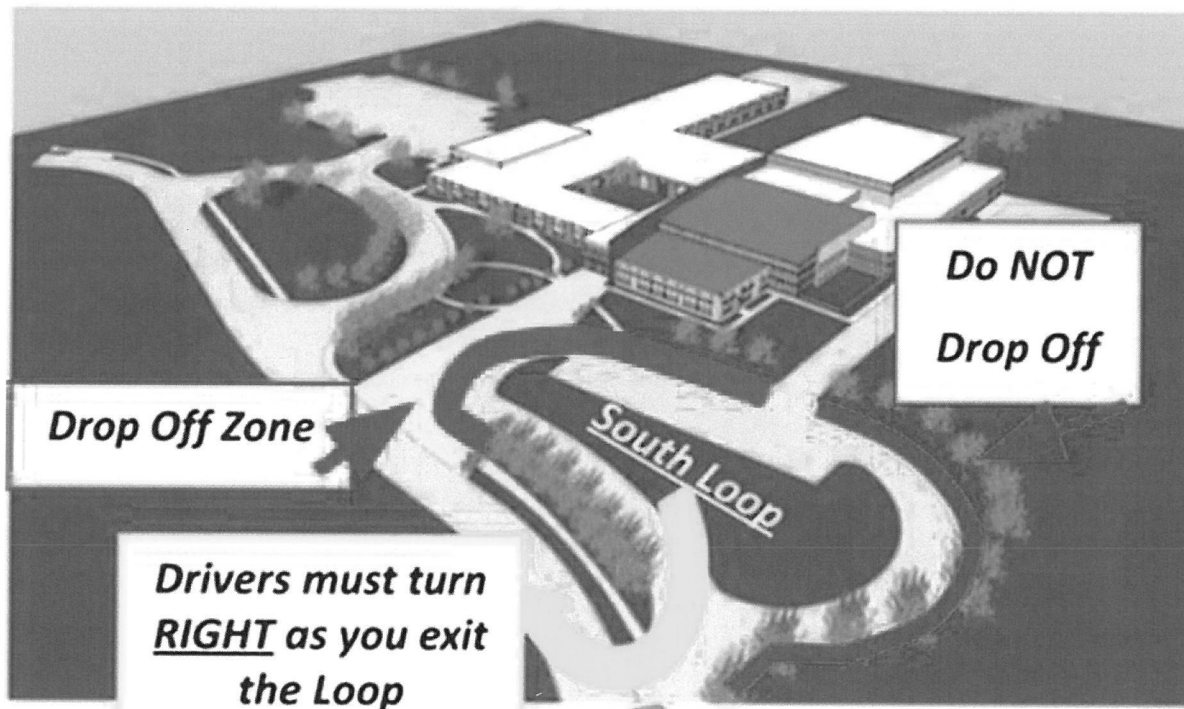
Students arriving for school at 8:15 AM will line up on the plaza when weather permits. Each grade will have clearly marked positions to line up. Tulip Grove faculty will be on duty at 8:15 AM to monitor our TIGERS. An arrival map is provided below for your reference. During the event of inclement weather, students will line up in the main hallway, and sit in their appropriate line.



Morning Plaza Arrival Diagram

Arrival Kiss & Ride Vehicles

Kiss & Ride (diagram below) is available beginning at 8:15 AM.



Drop Off Zone for Kiss & Ride arrival vehicles diagram

- Families should travel from the direction of Tulip Grove Drive, onto Trainor Lane, and then make a right into the entrance of the South Loop.
- Please DO NOT allow children to exit the vehicle prior to the properly marked area. While you are in the loop, families should prepare their child to exit the vehicle.
- We ask that parents and other family members remain in the car, follow the directions of school personnel and signs along the loop.
- Once you are in front of the Drop Off Zone of the loop (clearly marked), children may exit the vehicle. Staff will be available to open doors and welcome students to school.
- For the safety of all, please be mindful of speed (5mph) and signage when entering and exiting the loop and parking areas.
- Drivers must exit the South Loop making a RIGHT turn ONLY back onto Trainor Lane.

Dismissal

- Afternoon announcements begin at 2:20 PM. If you desire to pick-up children early please do so before 2:00 p.m. **Early dismissals will NOT be permitted after 2:00pm. It disrupts the flow of afternoon dismissal and jeopardizes the safety of our Tigers.**
- Bus riders and Daycare Vans will be dismissed first, followed by parent pickups, car riders, and independent walkers or bike riders..
- Have you chosen a dismissal plan for your tiger?

Six Dismissal Plans

- [Option #1](#) My TIGER will be a Bus/Daycare Van Rider.
- [Option #2](#) My TIGER will participate in Kiss & Ride.
- [Option #3](#) My TIGER (Grades 1 – 5) will be a Parent/caregiver Pick-Up Walker
- [Option #3A](#) My Kindergarten TIGER will be a Parent/caregiver Pick-Up Walker.
- [Option #4](#) My TIGER is an Independent Walker (Grades 2 – 5 only Independently.)
- [Option #4A](#) Students in grades K – 1 may walk home independently with an older sibling.
- [Option #5](#) My TIGER is an independent Bike/Scooter Rider (Grades 2-5 independently only.)
- [Option #5A](#) For safety reasons, a caregiver, parent/guardian, or older sibling must accompany Kindergarten - 1st grade students riding bikes or scooters.
- [Option #6](#) My TIGER will attend Champions After Care Program held at Tulip Grove Elementary School

Option #1 Bus/Daycare Van Rider

Please remember that a caregiver/parent or guardian must meet Kindergarten students at the bus stop. If no one is at the bus stop, the driver will bring the student/s back to Tulip Grove.

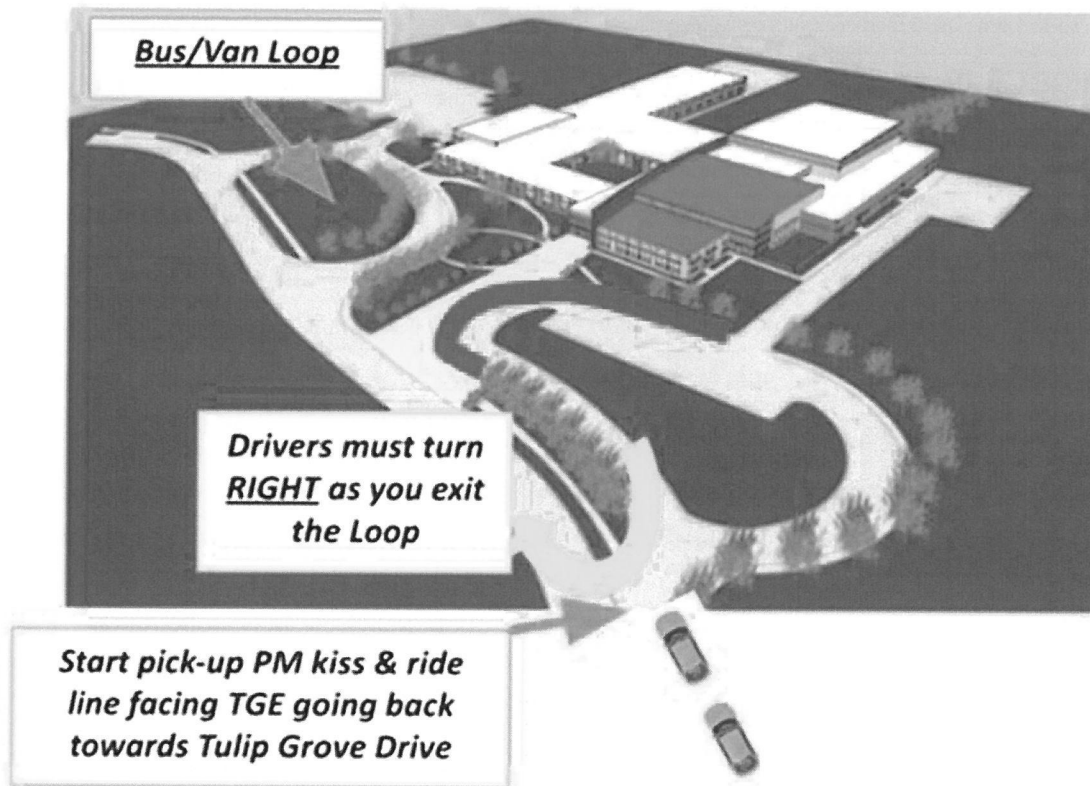
Bus Riders

If your child rides a school bus, please discuss with him/her the following [Student Bus Rider Responsibilities](#) as determined by the school system:

- Be at designated stop ten minutes prior to pick-up time.
- **Only ride the** [bus you are assigned to](#) by the [PGCPS Department of Transportation](#).
- Get on and off the bus at your assigned stop.
- Remain seated while the bus is in motion; keep noise down by talking in normal conversational tones only; maintain normal classroom standard of conduct.
- No eating or drinking on the bus; no animals or other non-school related objects should be taken onto the bus.
- Do not extend arms, hands, head, or any object from windows, or throw any object from the bus.
- A responsible adult or designee is expected to meet Kindergarten children at the bus stop. If the bus driver is uncertain if the child will have a responsible escort at the stop, they will return the child to school.

According to regulations issued by the Board of Education, students who are not bus riders may not ride a bus. In addition, students may not ride a bus different from the one they are assigned. If your child is to go home with a bus rider, please contact school administration for authorization. Regulations prohibit parents from riding the buses to and from school.

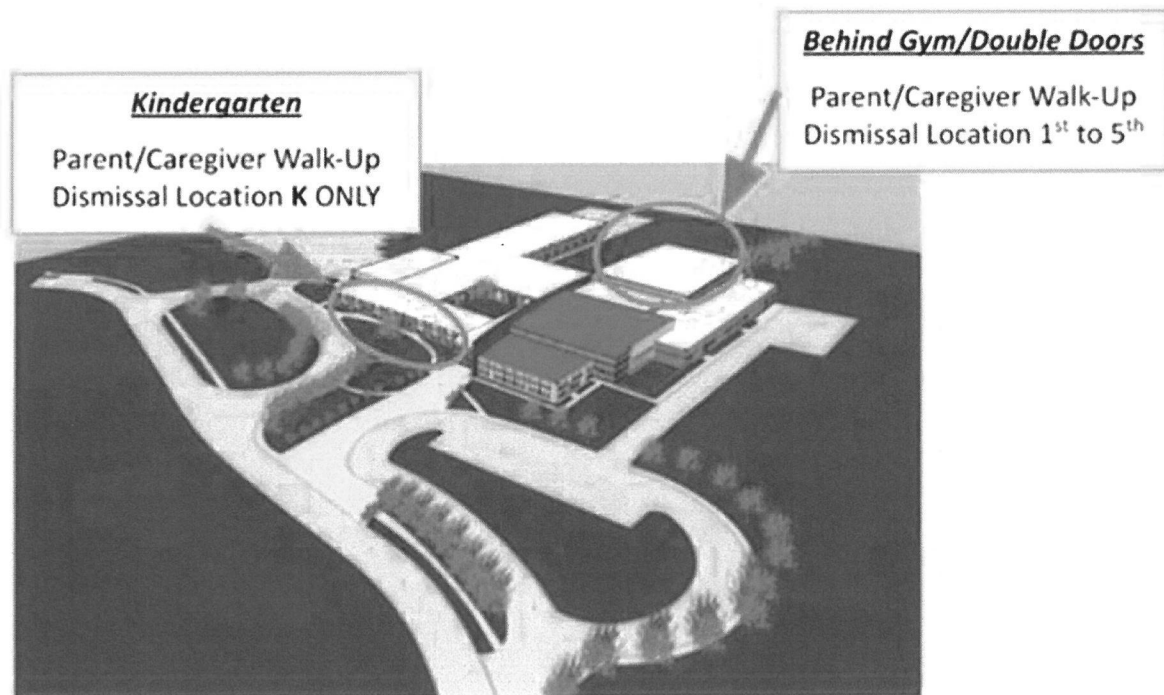
Option #2 Kiss & Ride



Kiss & Ride pick-up diagram

- PM Kiss & Ride service will be available between 2:40 – 2:55pm.
- Parent/caregivers should gather along Trainor Lane starting at the bottom of the South Loop, making a line going back towards Tulip Grove Drive, ready to make a right into the entrance of the south loop. (Fig.3)
- We ask that you give school personnel your child's name, so they can be requested from the gathering area.
- All parents/caregivers participating in Kiss and Ride must have a Kiss and Ride identification card. Kiss and Ride cards will be distributed during Sneak-A-Peek. If someone is picking up your Tiger without the identification card, they will be required to show state-issued identification if they student may be released to them.
- At the exit of the Loop, all traffic must turn RIGHT onto Trainor Lane.

Option #3 Parent/caregiver Pick-Up Walker (Grades 1-5)



Parent/caregiver Walker Pick-Up Diagram

- **Parents/Caregivers will meet students in the back of the building at the back gym doors lobby.** All parents participating in Parent Pick-Up must have an Official TGES Parent-Pick-Up Identification Card. The Card is our way of knowing you are approved to retrieve your TIGER from Parent Pick-Up. Every effort should be made to get this prior to the first day of school.
- At the end of the day, parents/caregivers of walkers in grades 1 to 5 choosing to walk up to Tulip Grove are asked to *park on the street (Traymore Ln. or Tulip Grove Dr.)* and **walk around the back of the school to the gym lobby double doors.** School Personnel will provide a sign out sheet for the first couple of weeks to ensure there is a record of each child being released. **Vehicles in the pick-up loop will NOT be permitted to stop, park, and walk-up to the school.**

Option #3A Kindergarten Parent/caregiver Pick-Up Walker

Parents/Caregivers will meet students at the Kindergarten Door. All parents participating in Parent Pick-Up must have an Official TGES Parent-Pick-Up Identification Card. The Card is our way of knowing you are approved to retrieve your TIGER from Parent Pick-Up.

Option #4 Independent Walker (Grades 2 – 5)



Walker Exit Diagram

- Independent walkers leave school premises independently. ***A parent or caregiver is not meeting them on school property for dismissal.***
- **With proper paperwork and permission (TGES Dismissal Plan) submitted to the main office in advance, students in grades second through five (younger sibling may be escorted home by students in grades three through five) may walk home when independent walkers are called.** It is recommended that parents and families review the proper path to and from school with students prior to the first day.

Option #4A Student Walkers with Older Sibling (Grades K – 1)

- Students in grades K – 1 may walk home independently with an older sibling.

Walking Safety Rules for Students

- Use the same route every day and avoid shortcuts.
- Walk with other students.
- Use sidewalks. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far to the left as possible.
- Use designated crosswalks, street corners and traffic-controlled intersections when crossing the street.
- Always look both ways before crossing the street.
- **Avoid** using alleys, canals, train tracks, *cutting through yards* and open fields.
- Do not get into a stranger's car.

Walking Safety Rules for Parents

- Ensure your child leaves early enough to get to school on time.

- Choose the safest route between home and school and practice walking it with your child until they can demonstrate traffic safety awareness.
- Teach children to recognize and obey traffic signals and pavement markings.
- Teach children to never accept a ride from strangers.
- Encourage children to report unusual activity to a teacher or administrator.

Option #5 Independent Bike/Scooter Rider (Grades 2-5)

- If you and your child decide they will bike/scooter to and from school, they **MUST** have proper safety equipment and a lock for their bike/scooter.
- **State law requires children of elementary age to wear helmets. Neither bikes or scooters will be allowed to enter the building for any reason.**
- Tulip Grove Elementary is **NOT RESPONSIBLE** for theft or damages to bikes/scooters on school property and injuries that may occur on the ride to and from school.

Please review rules and expectations prior to the first day of school, along with the path they will travel. We recommend reviewing the "[Walking Safety Rules for Students/Parents](#)" when designing a routine and path for your bike/scooter rider. ***If you are permitting your child to ride his/her bike to school or home, this must be clearly stated on their Dismissal Plan.***

Option #5A Bike/Scooter Rider Kindergarten-1st Grade (accompanied)

- For safety reasons, a caregiver, parent/guardian, or older sibling must accompany Kindergarten – 1st grade students riding bikes or scooters.

Option #6 Champions After Care Program at TGES School

Students will go to dedicated Champions After Care Program location at Tulip Grove Elementary School.

Arrival & Dismissal Final Notes

- All students must be picked up ***no later than 2:55 PM.***
- If a child is to follow a ***different dismissal protocol, parents must send a note to the teacher indicating the date and change.***
- ***A child may not visit another child's home after school or be transported by a person not in your family without prior parent approval.*** This rule is for all children's safety. If a student does not bring a note to school, we will insist that he/she follows the normal dismissal routine. Once a student has boarded the bus, the student will not be removed from the bus.

Early Dismissal

- If it is necessary for a student to be dismissed early from school, parents are asked to send a note to the child's teacher. The note will be given to the school office for verification. When arriving to pick up children for early dismissal, parents must report to the front office and present government issued identification.
- **If an adult other than individuals listed on the emergency contact document are picking up a child, that person must be designated in writing. They will be required to present Photo ID. Photo ID will also be requested from individuals on the emergency contact document if they have never been to the school.**
- **Early dismissals will NOT be permitted after 2:00pm. It disrupts the flow of afternoon dismissal and jeopardizes the safety of our Tigers.**

Change in Dismissal Routine

- In cases of poor weather conditions or other local emergencies, changes in the dismissal routine may be modified. Local school personnel are not responsible for the final decision to close school.
- **These decisions concerning early morning closings are generally made prior to 5:00 AM. Radio stations and television stations within the Washington Metropolitan area then provide an announcement.** The goal is to contact the stations in time for early morning broadcasts that begin between 5:00 and 6:00 AM.
- This information may also be accessed on the Prince George's County Public Schools web page at www.pgcps.org. Parents can sign up to receive emails about delayed openings and early closings through [School Messenger](#).

Changes in School Hours

When schools are closed early or all day, all evening activities are cancelled, and school buildings are not available for after-school activities by other public or private organizations.

Delayed Openings

Delayed openings will be either one or two hours.

- One-hour delay – All buses run one hour later than normal. School begins one hour later, 9:30 AM.
- Two-hour delay – All buses run two hours later than normal. School begins two hours later, 10:30 AM.

Please do not drop your child off prior to these times; there will be no adult supervision.

Early Closing

Early closing decisions are made by the Superintendent of Prince George's County Schools, not the individual school. This information will be posted on the county website and televised on local TV stations. When in doubt please contact the front office.

It is most imperative that you make plans **in advance** for your child's care in case schools are dismissed early. You could possibly be away from your home at the time an emergency occurs. Make decisions now, before the emergency, so that your child will know where to go when you are not home. Be sure to keep the emergency cards you sent in the first week of school up to date. Childcare providers should be made aware of any changes as well. **If your emergency/early dismissal plan for your child changes, please be certain to notify the school of**

the change immediately.

Half Day/Two-Hour Early Dismissal

Several times during the school year, the students will have a half-day or two-hour early dismissal of school. At Tulip Grove, this means that the school day will end for students at 11:40 AM (half day) or 12:40 PM (2-hour early). Parents are expected to make appropriate arrangements for children as no provision exists for children to be cared for at school unless they are enrolled in the TGES Before & After Care Program.

Three-Hour Early Dismissal

Several times during the school year, the students will have a three-hour early dismissal of school. At Tulip Grove, this means that the school day will end for students at 11:40 PM (3-hour early). Parents are expected to make appropriate arrangements for children as no provision exists for children to be cared for at school unless they are enrolled in the TGES Before & After Care Program.

From: Charlie Hudson Oldsman231@gmail.com
Subject:
Date: January 20, 2026 at 6:50 PM
To:

Testimony on Traffic Calming around Tulip Grove Elementary

Charles Hudson - 2904 Trainor Ln, Bowie, MD 20715 - 3016411863

Good evening Mayor Adams and members of the Council. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you tonight regarding my neighbors' and my concerns about traffic safety on our neighborhood streets.

My name is Charles Hudson. I am a Bowie native and have lived on Trainor Lane for the past eleven years. I am also the parent of a ten-year-old child, so this issue is not abstract for me—it affects my own family every single day.

The streets I'm speaking about—Trainor Lane, Traymore Lane, and Tulip Grove Drive—are not typical residential streets. They directly surround Tulip Grove Elementary School. That reality brings a high concentration of children, parents, pedestrians, and vehicles into a very small area, often within short and intense windows of time.

Like many neighbors, we look out for one another, and in that spirit we are here tonight to express serious concerns about the lack of adequate traffic-calming measures on and around these streets.

I don't need to remind the Council of the incident last November in which a child was struck by a vehicle after school dismissal. We are thankful that the child did not suffer life-threatening injuries, but that outcome depended largely on circumstance and luck. As residents, we routinely observe vehicles traveling at excessive speeds in these areas, particularly outside of peak enforcement windows, placing children, pedestrians, and drivers at unnecessary risk.

These concerns have intensified in recent years. School rezoning increased Tulip Grove's enrollment by more than 140 students. Many of those students walk to school or are driven by parents, significantly increasing traffic volume. During drop-off and pick-up, conditions can become congested and chaotic, with limited visibility and frequent conflicts between vehicles and pedestrians.

In light of these realities, neighbors on Trainor Lane—along with members of the Tulip Grove Elementary community—are asking the City to take immediate, targeted action to reduce the risk of a more serious incident.

Specifically, we are requesting the following:

- **Installation of at least two full speed humps on Trainor Lane**

• **Installation of at least two rum speed bumps on Trainor Lane**

These will ensure vehicles slow while traveling past the school and through the surrounding residential area.

• **Installation of all-way stop signs at the following intersections:**

- Tulip Grove Drive and Trainor Lane
- Trainor Lane and Traymore Lane
- Traymore Lane and Tulip Grove Drive

These intersections are heavily used by children walking to and from school.

Importantly, the City's own **2024 Stop Sign Camera Pilot Program** demonstrated that stop sign noncompliance is widespread. At multiple Bowie intersections, the City recorded **violation rates ranging from over 50 percent to nearly 90 percent of vehicles failing to come to a complete stop.**

This data shows that signage alone is often not enough. We respectfully request that the City consider **deploying stop sign enforcement technology in school zones**, such as ours, where children are most vulnerable—consistent with approaches used in other jurisdictions.

• **Replacement and expansion of “No Stopping or Standing” signage**, with enforcement times updated to reflect the current Tulip Grove Elementary bell schedule. This will improve sightlines and ensure access for emergency vehicles.

• **Temporary one-way traffic patterns during school drop-off and pick-up**, coordinated with enforcement, to maintain traffic flow and reduce congestion and pedestrian conflict.

• **Lowering the speed limit on Trainor Lane**, further reducing the risk of excessive speed in areas with the highest concentration of children.

These are proven, low-cost, low-maintenance traffic-calming measures that many communities use successfully to protect children in school zones.

We have raised these concerns for years. The recent incident makes clear that the risks on these streets are not hypothetical. As a parent, a neighbor, and a lifelong member of this community, I respectfully urge the City to act now—before we are faced with a far more tragic outcome.

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to the safety of Bowie's children.