

**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
**2025 Legislative Session**

Reference No.: APPT-12-25

Draft No.: 1

Committee: Health, Human Services, and Public Safety

Date: October 2, 2025

Action: FAV

**REPORT:**

Committee Vote: Favorable 5-0 (In favor Council Members Blegay, Fisher, Olson, Oriadha, and Watson)

The Health, Human Services, and Public Safety Committee met on October 2, 2025, to consider Dr. Katina Gomez's nomination as Director of the Office of Homeland Security.

Ms. Danielle Hunter, Appointments Liaison, Office of the County Executive, introduced the nominee, Dr. Katina Gomez, Acting Director of the Office of Homeland Security, for the position of Director of the Office of Homeland Security, and provided an overview of her professional and educational background.

Ms. Hunter highlighted Dr. Gomez's nearly 20 years of service in law enforcement, noting her steady rise through the ranks from patrol officer to Deputy Chief. Dr. Gomez has led major investigations, overseen Homeland Security operations, and improved school safety initiatives.

Ms. Hunter also pointed out Dr. Gomez's academic background, which includes a doctorate and an MBA, as well as advanced training through the FBI National Academy and other top programs for law enforcement leaders.

Ms. Hunter concluded by saying Dr. Gomez's career, credentials, and character make her an excellent choice to lead the Office of Homeland Security Agency for Prince George's County.

Ms. Melodye Batten-Mickens spoke in support of Dr. Gomez's nomination. She said Dr. Gomez quickly got involved with all parts of the Office of Homeland Security, Emergency Management, Public Safety, and Administration, and has taken time to understand the staff and their needs. She highlighted Dr. Gomez's focus on community preparedness, including starting a new Pathways Program with local schools to give students exposure to 9-1-1 communications. She also noted Dr. Gomez's efforts to improve workflow and bring new tools to the agency. Ms.

Batten-Pickens described her as a strong collaborator and problem-solver and said she believes Dr. Gomez's leadership will strengthen the agency's role in the county.

Dr. Katina Gomez thanked the County Executive for the opportunity to serve as Acting Director of the Office of Homeland Security and expressed her gratitude for the support she has received. She gave a brief overview of the agency, which includes Administration, Emergency Management, and Public Safety Communications, and shared highlights of her first 60 days in the role.

She noted the launch of the Pathways Program with four county high schools, giving students the chance to earn 9-1-1 dispatcher certification and gain career opportunities after graduation. She highlighted progress on a countywide preparedness exercise scheduled for October 29, upgrades to outdated equipment in the Emergency Operations Center, and efforts to reduce staffing shortages in the 9-1-1 call center. She also mentioned working to secure funding for grant-supported employees, given federal budget uncertainties.

Dr. Gomez outlined her goals of increasing resident enrollment in the county's emergency alert system and raising salaries for 9-1-1 dispatchers, who currently handle the highest call volume in the region but are the lowest paid. She closed by thanking the Council for its support and emphasizing the importance of the Office of Homeland Security's work.

Chair Fisher asked how the Office of Homeland Security coordinated with other county agencies on emergency preparedness, particularly for weather-related events or other safety emergencies.

Dr. Gomez responded, explaining that she is working closely with the Department of Public Works and Transportation on emergency preparedness, including developing the snow removal plan and coordinating with county agencies to keep residents informed and prepared for any emergencies.

Chair Blegay called for a motion to move the nomination favorably. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Fisher. In explaining their votes, Council Members noted their long-standing experience with Dr. Gomez, praised her qualifications and leadership, and expressed confidence in her ability to lead the Office of Homeland Security.

The Health, Human Services, and Public Safety Committee voted favorably 5-0 on the nomination of Dr. Katina Gomez as Director of the Office of Homeland Security.