



Angela D. Alsobrooks  
County Executive

# PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

## OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

September 27, 2024

The Honorable Jolene Ivey  
Chair  
Prince George's County Council  
1301 McCormick Drive, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Largo, Maryland 20774

Dear Chair Ivey:

It is my pleasure to submit to you and the County Council the appointments of Mr. Austin D. Martinez, Mr. Raymond J. Nardella, Ms. Afiya J. Watkins, and the reappointment of Ms. Melissa Scales Hamilton, Ms. Katrina Dixon Patterson, and Ms. Dahlia M. Shaewitz as members of the Commission for Individuals with Disabilities for Prince George's County.

Ms. Melissa Scales Hamilton, a resident of Upper Marlboro, is a AHP Employment Specialist with the Autism Society of American; is also a Person-Centered Thinking Program Administrator with Helen Sanderson Associates USA; and CEO/Person-Centered Thinking Trainer with I am Special Consulting, LLC. She has demonstrated success in developing Independent Educational and Living Skills to improve personal and business operations. Ms. Hamilton previously served as Director of Independent Living with Accessible Resources for Independence. She attended North Carolina Central University and the University of Maryland University College.

Mr. Austin Martinez, a resident of Hyattsville, is a small business owner and a community advocate. He previously worked as a Medical Assistant Intern providing a range of support to individuals with disabilities. Mr. Martinez served as a Data Analyst for the District of Columbia Board of Elections. He is a graduate of Brightwood College.

Mr. Raymond J. Nardella, a resident of College Park, is a policy-oriented student affair and clinical counseling professional who is currently the Assistant Director of Resident Life for Student Conduct/Deputy Title IX Coordinator at the University of Maryland, College Park. He previously held elected and appointed office in Connecticut, where he did extensive work on ADA, 504, and Title VII compliance. Mr. Nardella is a passionate advocate for the better understanding, education, and inclusion of neurodiverse individuals. He received his undergraduate degree from Southern Connecticut State University; his master's degree from Central Connecticut State University; and his Juris Doctorate from the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law.

Ms. Katrina Dixon Patterson, a resident of Upper Marlboro, is a clinically trained and practicing Social Worker and Person-Centered Training Coach. Ms. Patterson currently employed by the District of Columbia Government Department on Disability Services and is a Psychiatric Rehabilitation Program Supportive Counselor with Affordable Behavioral Consultant. She will bring her in-depth knowledge of the

healthcare and social service system to the commission. Ms. Patterson is a graduate of Salisbury University and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

Ms. Dahlia M. Shaewitz, a resident of Capitol Heights, is CEO, Third Sight, LLC where she leads her 30 years of experience in policy, practice, and research in the areas of disability, adult literacy, and special education. She previously served as Vice President, Transition, Disability and Employment with the Institute for Educational Leadership. Ms. Shaewitz is also the co-lead and co-author of two research briefs highlighting the business case for hiring and marketing to people with disabilities. She is a graduate of the University of Maryland, College Park, Norwich University and Johns Hopkins University.

Ms. Afiya J. Watkins, a resident of Upper Marlboro, is a seasoned real estate professional having worked in the Maryland and Delaware. She possesses real estate licenses and is trained on laws and policies that affect individuals with disabilities and received certification from the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights. Ms. Watkins received her undergraduate degree from Eastern University and her master's degree from the University of Maryland Global Campus.

Pursuant to Section 2-431 of the Prince George's County Code and Sections 322, 402 and 504 of the Charter, I am appointing the following individuals to the Commission for Individuals with Disabilities:

Ms. Melissa Scales Hamilton

[REDACTED]

Reappointment  
Public Member  
Term Expiration: 7/1/2027

Mr. Austin D. Martinez

[REDACTED]

Appointment  
General/Public Member  
Replacing: William R. Brownlee  
Term Expiration: 7/1/2026

Mr. Raymond J. Nardella

[REDACTED]

Appointment  
Consumer Member  
Replacing: (Vacant)  
Term Expiration: 7/1/2027

Ms. Katrina Dixon Patterson

[REDACTED]

Reappointment  
Agency Member  
Term Expiration: 7/1/2027

Ms. Dahlia M. Shaewitz

[REDACTED]

Reappointment  
Agency Member  
Term Expiration: 7/1/2027

Ms. Afiya J. Watkins


[REDACTED]

Appointment  
Consumer Member  
Replacing: (Raymond Raysor-Vacant)  
Term Expiration: 7/1/2027

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September 27, 2024  
Page 3

Attached for the County Council's consideration is an Appointee Data Form for the new appointments and resumes for each nominee. Your favorable consideration of these appointments is appreciated. If I may provide you with any additional information, please contact Ms. Miriam L. Brewer, Appointments Liaison at (301) 952-4136.

Sincerely,

  
Angela D. Alsobrooks  
County Executive

#### Attachments

cc: Members of the County Council  
Jennifer A. Jenkins, Council Administrator  
Donna J. Brown, Clerk of the Council  
Rhonda L. Weaver, County Attorney