

# Office of Homelan

Public Safety, Health, and Human Services  
Committee

FY2027 Budget Work Session

April 27, 2026

# Security



Dr. Katina L. Gomez  
*Director*



Aisha N. Braveboy  
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# Agency Insights



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# Office of Homeland Security

## *Mission and Agency Information*

*The Office of Homeland Security's mission is to save lives, protect property, assist the public in times of need, and ensure first responder safety through integrated technology, call taking, and dispatch.*

OHS serves as the County's lead agency for:

- Emergency preparedness and coordination
- Incident management and continuity of operations
- Public safety communications
- Interagency and intergovernmental coordination
- Risk mitigation
- Resilience planning
- Ensuring compliance of state and local property maintenance codes



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1. **Converted three limited term grant funded positions**

2. **Increased the number of incidents transferred to mental health professionals** through the diversion program by implementing the International Academy of Emergency Dispatch (IAED)

3. **Decreased the average answer time at 9-1-1 communications to 4 seconds.** The state mandate is 10

4. **Achieved a 0% vacancy rate for positions in communications.** All positions are allocated

5. **Operationalized the Emergency Management Strategic Plan** with focus areas in division management, mission support, preparedness, community engagement, response and recovery, and

6. **Distributed over 3,000 Public Preparedness Surveys**, gathering insights into community

7. **Completed Countywide training and exercise activities** that reinforced the importance of coordination and preparedness.



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## Agency Priorities for FY2027



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**Priority 1:**

Ensure 50% of County buildings and agencies have had a security assessment.

**Priority 2:**

Finalize the Pathway Program with Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS).

**Priority 3:**

Upgrade the aging public safety radio infrastructure and beginning to refresh subscriber radios.

**Priority 4:**

Decrease the backlog of 311 service requests as it relates to code compliance and ensure a more seamless response to requests.

**Priority 5:**

Improve callers' experience using advanced technology and operational adjustments.

**Priority 6:**

Ensure there is up to date technology in the Emergency Operations Center.

**Priority 7:**

Improve outreach and communication with other agencies as it relates to Snow Emergency and Preparedness Training.

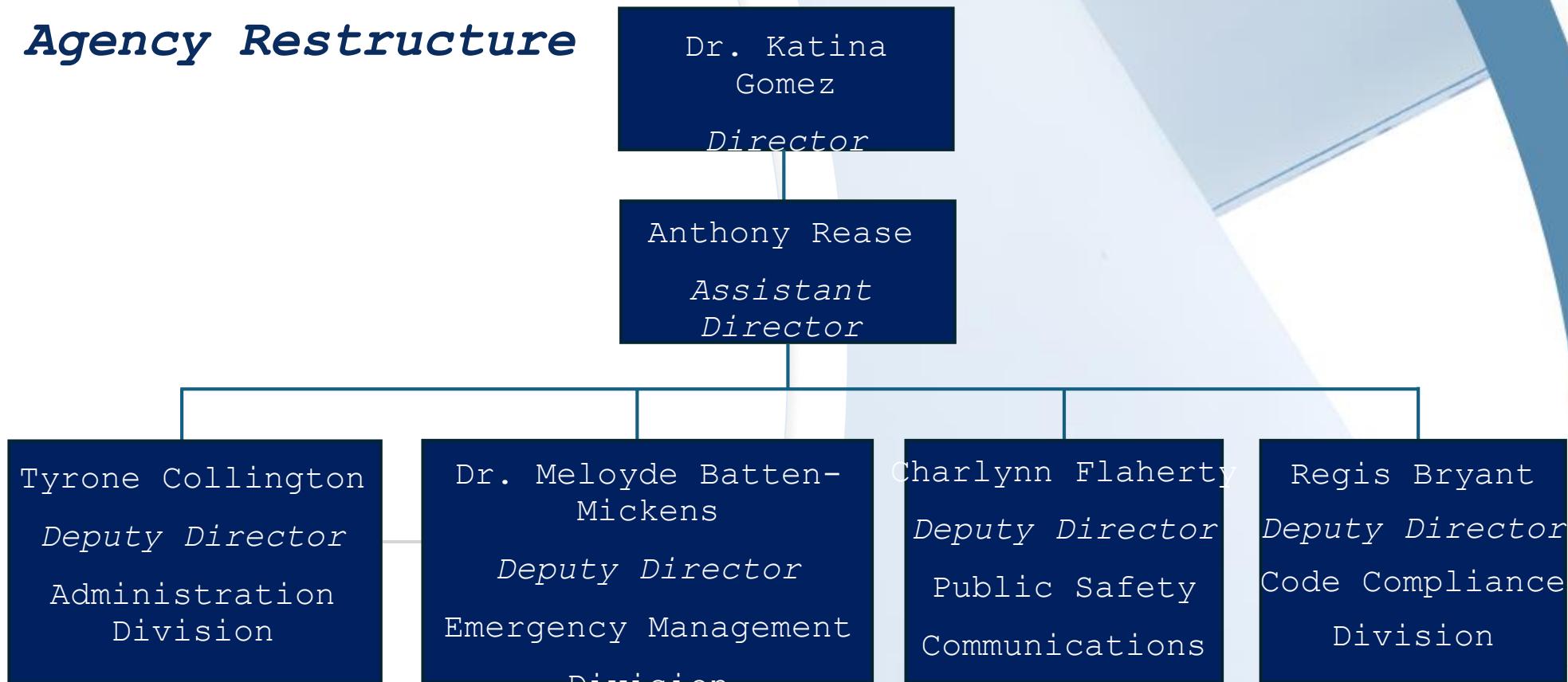


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## Agency Restructure



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## ***Administration Division***

The Administration Division supports the day-to-day functions within the agency and includes:

### Human Resources

- Oversees hiring and promotional processes
- Compensation (attendance, timekeeping, and leave)
- Health and safety compliance (risk management and ADA compliance)
- Employee engagement and performance management

### Fiscal

- Oversees the General Fund Budget
- Manages and tracks agency funds and expenditures
- Manages, prepares, and presents the annual ENSB 911 audit

### Grants

- Verifies that grant funds are used according to the agreed terms and conditions
- Processes reimbursements within the guidelines
- Ensures accurate records of all grant activity.



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## *Emergency Management Division*

The Emergency Management Division is responsible for:

- Managing and staffing the Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
- Maintaining the County's Emergency Operations and Recovery Plans
- Coordinating multi-agency response during major incidents
- Serving as the County's liaison with State and Federal emergency management agencies



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## *Public Safety Communications*

PSC responsibilities include:

- 9-1-1 call taking for police, fire, and emergency medical services
- Dispatch coordination for all public safety agencies
- Radio and communications support
- Non-emergency call-handling and public education



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## ***Code Compliance***

- Focuses on property standards activities
  - Residential (single family, multi-family, short-term rentals, and single-family rentals)
  - Zoning
  - Vacant and abandoned private and commercial properties
- Ensures that properties comply with local codes and regulations
- Conducts inspections and issues violation notices

## Transition from “Code Enforcement” to “Code Compliance”

- Reframes the mission from reactive enforcement toward proactive risk mitigation, resilience, and life-safety outcomes.
- Reduces the risks posed by unsafe housing conditions, improper land uses, and community health and safety vulnerabilities.
- This transition will:
  - Improve safety and security of code compliance officials
  - Increase efficiency and efficacy of compliance initiatives by enhancing proactive risk mitigation efforts
  - Add additional benefits to include a pilot shift program and shift differential



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# Agency Initiatives



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The Office of Homeland Security has participated in over 100 **Community Outreach Initiatives** thus far in Fiscal Year 2026, offering:

- English and Spanish CPR/AED/First Aid Classes
- Stop the Bleed Trainings
- Disaster Preparedness Presentations
- Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Trainings
- Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Walk
- Collaborative Interagency Events such as Forever Fit (OCR & DFS)
- Back to School Events
- National Night Out

OHS has also supported Prince George's County and municipal agencies at 22 events and trainings, providing:

- County Employee CPR Training
- Continuity of Operations Plan Reviews, Tabletops, and Drills
- Virtual County Emergency Preparedness eLearning Training
- Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and WebEOC Trainings



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## *Pathways Program*

- Partnership with Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS)
- Pathway Program students:
  - Toured of the Emergency Operations Center and backup 9-1-1 Center
  - Received emergency preparedness educational materials
- The training and internship program is being developed.
  - Students and teachers have taken the 9-1-1 NECI Dispatcher Course and Exam.
  - PGCPS funding has been identified to support PSC staff taking the online class and certification.
  - PGCPS has an AI/VR simulation where students can take calls at a mocked-up public safety communications center.
  - Reviewing options for seniors to intern with OHS PSC and build a path to expedited hiring.



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## *9-1-1 Specialists as First Responders*

- This recognition as first responders is critical for our 9-1-1 specialists, who are the *first*, first responder for emergencies.
- The efforts to recognize 9-1-1 Specialists are ongoing and based on Maryland Public Safety Article §1-301(j)2, §1-301(o), §1-301(u) and §1-302.1
- Updating classes of work with OHRM to ensure they meet the legislative and salary requirements.
- The legislation impacts:
  - Call Takers
  - Dispatchers
  - Quality Assurance
  - Supervisors
  - Technical Support
  - Management staff



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## **Critical Infrastructure Special Protection**

Critical Infrastructure refers to the systems, assets, networks, and services so vital to a community that their disruption, damage, or destruction would have a serious impact on public safety, security, the economy, or daily life.

The protection of this infrastructure includes assessing vulnerabilities, sharing threat intelligence, coordinating with partners, and improving resilience before incidents happen.

The Office of Homeland Security conducts:

- Comprehensive physical security assessments
- Vehicle ramming vulnerability assessments
- Tabletop exercises and trainings

These assessments and exercises are offered to:

- County government facilities and agencies
- Municipal government facilities and agencies within the County
- Private facilities, businesses, and religious organizations within the County



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## *Historical Relevance and Impacts*

- Established in 2003, incorporating critical emergency response entities that were previously part of other agencies.
- Created in response to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, to focus on terrorism prevention and emergency management.
- Homeland Security represented an effective and integrated Department to support a safer and more prepared jurisdiction.
- Continued use of Homeland Security ensures our agency is eligible to receive federal funding and grants to support terrorism prevention.
- Although the name is currently weaponized, "Homeland Security" offices and departments were initially created to protect the homeland.



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# Thank You

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