

FIRST READING: November 4, 2025
SECOND READING/ADOPTION: December 2, 2025

CITY OF MOUNT RAINIER, MARYLAND
Ordinance No. 05- 2025
Introduced by: Councilmember Joseph Jakuta

An Ordinance Codifying the Mount Rainier Green Team and Disbanding the Mount Rainier Environmental Protection Board

~~WHEREAS, pursuant to §5-202 of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, the Council of the City of Mount Rainier (“the City”) has the authority to adopt such ordinances as it deems necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the municipality; and~~

WHEREAS, pursuant to § 5-202 of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, the Council of the City of Mount Rainier, Maryland (“the City”) has the authority to pass such ordinances as it deems necessary to assure the good government of the municipality, protect and preserve the municipality’s rights, property, and privileges, preserve peace and good order, secure persons and property from danger and destruction, and protect the health, comfort, and convenience of the residents of the municipality; and

WHEREAS, the City Charter § 402.6 grants the City Council the power to “appoint any boards, commissions, and committees that may be deemed necessary to further the purposes of the City;” and

~~WHEREAS~~, the City Council adopted Resolution 9-2007, founding the Environmental Protection Board to provide an efficient and integrated environmental protection system for the City of Mount Rainier following eleven (11) strategic goals and specifically to conduct a greenhouse gas assessment, strive to meet or exceed Kyoto protocol goals as a city, and develop a biodiversity plan for the City of Mount Rainier; and

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted Resolution 6-2012, founding the **Mount Rainier Green Team (“Green Team”)**, made up of members of the Mount Rainier Business Association, the Tool Shed, the Bike Coop, the Tree Commission, the Design Review Board, the Mixed-Use Town Center Review Committee (now the Legacy Mixed-Use Town Center Committee), the Environmental Protection Board, and other residents in order to collaborate on the implementation of green initiatives in the City of Mount Rainier; and

WHEREAS, the Green Team had taken on many of the additional responsibilities of the Environmental Protection Board, and the Environmental Protection Board has ceased to meet as an independent body; and

WHEREAS, the existence of an active Green Team is necessary to be certified Sustainable Maryland through the Sustainable Maryland Certification program; and

WHEREAS, the planet continues to face environmental crises from climate change, biodiversity and habitat loss, **and** the proliferation of plastics, among others; and

WHEREAS, the residents who served on the Environmental Protection Board are thanked for their service to the City of Mount Rainier, for their work in making the City a more sustainable, biodiverse community that acts on the climate crisis; and

Section 1. NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED, by the Mayor and Council of the City of Mount Rainier, Maryland, that Chapter 4, “Boards, Committees, and Commissions”, of the Code of Ordinances shall be and hereby is amended to add Title 4, “Green Team”, to read as follows:

Section 4-400. - Establishment of the Green Team.

A. The Mount Rainier Green Team is established to:

1. **Facilitate meetings of** ~~Convene~~ representatives of other city commissions, city staff, residents, business owners, and other interested parties to prepare for submissions to the Sustainable Maryland Certification program;
2. Foster community engagement in issues of sustainability; and
3. Advise the City Council on issues of sustainability, including, but not limited to, biodiversity, beautification, climate mitigation, and resiliency.

B. Each fiscal year, the City Manager's proposed budget shall include funding for the Team's operation ~~and for the payment of artists commissioned to create works of art for public enjoyment, whether on public or private property.~~

Section 4-401. - Composition and Structure of the Green Team.

A. The Team shall be composed of five (5) members who are appointed by the Mayor and Council.

B. The term of Team membership is two (2) years, except that they shall serve until **their** ~~his or her~~ successor is appointed.

C. Team members may be reappointed for consecutive terms.

D. The City Council may remove members of the Team only for cause as defined in this Title.

E. All members of the **Team** ~~Board~~ shall be residents of the City.

F. If a Team member ceases to be a resident of the City, they shall no longer be eligible to serve on the Team, and the position shall remain vacant until a new member is appointed to complete the term of the member formerly holding the position.

G. A quorum of at least three (3) Team members is required to conduct the Team's business.

H. The Team shall elect from its members a chairperson, secretary, and such other officers as it shall deem necessary. The chairperson shall convene and preside over meetings of the Team. The secretary shall keep minutes of the Team's business.

Section 4-402. – Duties of the Green Team.

A. In order to fulfill its purpose established in 4-400 (A), the Green Team:

1. Shall **facilitate annual meetings of annually convene** representatives of other city commissions, city staff, residents, business owners, and other interested parties, **that are convened by the City Manager**, to prepare for submissions to the Sustainable Maryland Certification program;
2. Shall, in collaboration with the City Manager or their designee, prepare and submit the application for the Sustainable Maryland Certification;
3. Shall meet regularly, with all meetings open to the public and subject to the Maryland Open Meetings Act;
4. Shall review the proposed budget for the City of Mount Rainier to provide recommendations on how the budget achieves sustainability goals;
5. May hold events open to the public to foster community engagement on issues of sustainability; and
6. May provide recommendations on policies and procedures to the Mayor and Council on issues of sustainability; and
7. Shall undertake the responsibilities specified in Section 12C-1 of the City Code.

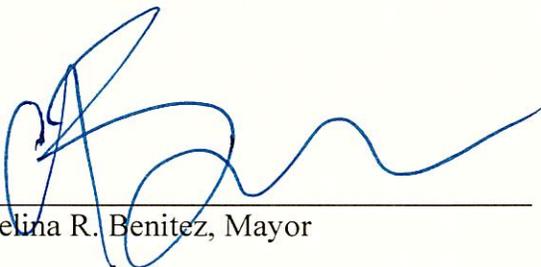
Section 2. BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that the Environmental Protection Board, established through Resolution 9-2007, be formally dissolved.

Section 3. This Ordinance is adopted by the Mayor and Council of the City of Mount Rainier this 2nd day of December, 2025, and shall take effect on the 2nd day of December, 2025, provided that a fair summary has been read at the meeting at which it is introduced and at a the meeting at which it has been acted upon, that a copy shall be posted at City Hall immediately after introduction until it is acted upon and for at least two weeks after it becomes effective, and that a fair summary is published at least once in a newspaper having general circulation in the City, inclusive of the city’s newsletter mailed or otherwise delivered to every City household.

Attest:



Melissa Sam, City Clerk



Celina R. Benitez, Mayor



Danielle Carter, Councilmember Ward 1



Jennifer Hoffpauir, Councilmember Ward 1

Valerie Woodall

Valerie Woodall, Councilmember Ward 2

Joseph Jakuta

Joseph Jakuta, Councilmember Ward 2