

**Office of the County Auditor**  
**Auditor's Analysis**

**Council Resolution No. 89-2020**

Introduced: June 1, 2020

Auditor: Maya Cameron

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Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact to this legislation.

This legislation is a technical change and does not impact revenue or expense for the County.

The Administration does not anticipate a need for additional staff or support at this time as a result of implementation of this legislation.

Purpose:

The purpose of this legislation is to adopt *HOCO By Design General Plan Guidelines* (Guidelines) to be used for preparing and revising the General Plan.

The Guidelines are organized into four topics: planning process, public engagement, response to COVID-19, and an organizational framework.

The Guidelines provide an overview of each topic as it relates to the creation of the new General Plan.

Other Comments:

Per the Department of Planning and Zoning (DPZ), the General Plan Update (including the Guidelines) is a 24-month project funded through an existing earmark. A contract in the amount of \$1,052,454 was initiated with prime consultant City Explained, Inc., in February 2020.

City Explained, Inc., will carry out the majority of the plan development, outreach, and drafting, with assistance from current DPZ staff.

General Plan effort is a statement of policy which provides guidelines for Howard County Departments of subsequent decisions on land use, transportation, open space, agriculture, community facilities, community character, historic preservation, housing, economic development, and quality of life.