



HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ZONING

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Subject: Testimony for Council Resolution ___-2026 – Elkridge Sustainable Community Designation

To: Brandee Ganz
Chief Administrative Officer

From: Lynda Eisenberg, Director
Department of Planning and Zoning ^{DS}
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Date: June 22, 2026

The Department of Planning and Zoning (DPZ) supports Council Resolution ___-2026, which seeks the Howard County Council's endorsement of the Elkridge Sustainable Communities application.

The Sustainable Communities Program is administered by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development. The program's goal is to support local governments with the resources needed to revitalize older communities. By offering a toolkit of community development programs, technical assistance and public investment incentives, Maryland's Sustainable Communities can become more environmentally, economically and socially sustainable. If the Elkridge application is approved by the State, this area will become eligible for various state funds and resources.

The Elkridge Sustainable Communities application was prepared by the Department of Planning and Zoning staff and is the result of contributions made by the Elkridge Sustainable Community Workgroup, which included agency representatives, nonprofit representatives, area residents and business owners. The Workgroup met twice in April to brainstorm strengths, challenges, and potential strategies. The application was also informed by prior County plans (such as the County's General Plan, HoCo By Design, and the Route 1 Corridor Plan) and feedback provided during a public comment period.

Howard County currently has three Sustainable Communities designations in Ellicott City, North Laurel-Savage, and Long Reach Village. Since fiscal year 2024, the County or its non-profit partners has received more than \$2 million in grant awards through this designation.

While there is no direct fiscal impact associated with the adoption of this resolution, the County will need dedicated staff to renew the designation every five years and apply to and manage grants awards that support County projects and programs that receive state funding.

cc: Tim Lattimer, Deputy Chief of Staff
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