

CB 700


Howard County
Agricultural Land Preservation Program

MEMORANDUM

Subject: Testimony for the Stanley M. Pickett Revocable Trust Property Installment Purchase Agreement
To: Lonnie Robbins, Chief Administrative Officer, Department of Administration
Through: Valdis Lazdins, Director, Department of Planning and Zoning ✓
Through: Beth Burgess, Chief, Resource Conservation Division, Department of Planning and Zoning BB
From: Joy Levy, Agricultural Land Preservation Program Administrator, Department of Planning and Zoning
Date: October 26, 2016

The Department of Planning and Zoning supports Council Bill No. -2016. This bill approves an Installment Purchase Agreement to acquire an agricultural preservation easement on property owned by the Stanley M. Pickett Revocable Trust. Section 15.507(g)(4) of the Howard County Code requires County Council approval of a multi-year Installment Purchase Agreement pursuant to Section 612 of the Howard County Charter.

The approval of an Installment Purchase Agreement for the Pickett property would preserve 109.07 acres of productive farmland in the County, adding to over 22,400 acres that have been preserved to date. This farm is desirable due to its large size and the significant amount of land in active agricultural use.

The purchase price of the easement is \$3,404,600, however; when twice yearly interest payments are factored in, the overall cost of the Pickett acquisition will be \$4,093,232. The funding comes from a portion of the transfer tax dedicated to the Agricultural Land Preservation Program.

Having met all eligibility criteria for the acquisition of an agricultural preservation easement, staff supports Council Bill No. -2016 and hopes that the County Council moves to approve it. Thank you for your consideration.

cc: Jennifer Sager, Legislative Coordinator, Department of Administration
Stanley Milesky, Director, Department of Finance
Lisa O'Brien, Senior Assistant County Solicitor, Office of Law
Pickett File