

Howard County

Agricultural Land Preservation Program

MEMORANDUM

Subject: Testimony for the Ziegler Family 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

From: Joy Levy, Agricultural Land Preservation Program Administrator, Department of Planning and Zoning

Date: June 15, 2017

The Department of Planning and Zoning supports Council Bill No. -2017. This bill approves an Installment Purchase Agreement to acquire an agricultural preservation easement on property owned by the Ziegler Family Irrevocable Trust FBO Alexandra Nina Zirschky and John Christian Zirschky, the Jessica Ziegler Trust-2000, the Simon Ray Ziegler Schwartz Trust-2008 and the Reed E. Ziegler Schwartz Trust-2008. 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 Ziegler property would preserve 50.09 acres of wooded land in the County, adding to over 22,500 acres of farmland that have been preserved to date. This farm is desirable due to the significant amount of preserved land nearby.

The purchase price of the easement is \$1,303,400.00, however; when twice yearly interest payments are factored in, the overall cost of the Ziegler Family Trust acquisition will be \$ \$1,582,877.63. 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. -2017 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
Ziegler Family Trust File