



Howard County

Internal Memorandum

Subject: Testimony for Resolution No. 112-2017

To: Lonnie R. Robbins, Chief Administrative Officer
Department of Administration

From: ✓ Valdis Lazdins, Director
Department of Planning and Zoning

Beth Burgess, Chief, Resource Conservation Division
Department of Planning and Zoning

Date: June 27, 2017

The Department of Planning and Zoning supports Council Resolution No. 112-2017. This resolution amends the Green Neighborhood standards that are used to qualify residential development projects for Green Neighborhood Allocations, and amends the total number of possible points on the Site portion of the Green Neighborhood Checklist.

The current Green Neighborhood Checklist was adopted under Council Resolution No. 116-2007. The Checklist is divided into a Green Neighborhood Site and Home Checklist. Residential developments must achieve a minimum of 90 points out of a possible 167 total points on the Green Neighborhood Site Checklist to qualify for the program. Points are earned by achieving 'credits' that address various aspects of sustainable community design, environmental protection and resource conservation.

After nearly 10 years of administering the program, DPZ has determined the Green Neighborhood Site Checklist needs adjustments to encourage greater use. Since adoption only two projects have accessed the Green Neighborhood allocations, and current and potential applicants have asked for greater flexibility and options to achieve the minimum point threshold. The revisions proposed in CR 112-2017 provide flexibility for achieving the following credits: Redevelopment Site, Diversity of Uses and Native Plants. Additionally, the proposed resolution doubles the points that can be earned under the existing Innovative Design credit and adds new credits for reusing non-historic buildings, protecting the Green Infrastructure Network and exceeding flood control requirements. These changes also increase the total possible points available to 180.

The Department believes that the proposed changes will enhance program flexibility and encourage innovative approaches to sustainable development. Therefore, we strongly support CR-112-2017 and appreciate Council's consideration.

cc: Jennifer Sager, Legislative Coordinator, Department of Administration