

Sayers, Margery

From: Td Lattimer <lattimertp@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2017 3:56 PM
To: CouncilMail; Kittleman, Allan
Subject: Lattimer comments - CB119 (Economic Opportunity and Prosperity Task Force)
Attachments: CB 119-2017 - Lattimer Comments 18 Sept 2017.pdf

Dear County Council Members and County Executive Kittleman:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed resolution to create an "Economic Opportunity and Prosperity Task Force" (CB119-2017). According to the August 30 Baltimore Sun, this resolution's sponsor, Council Chair Weinstein, said, "I thought a more holistic view of the economic environment was the most efficient way to try to generate the next set of ideas. I want this to be a very thoughtful delivery process that engages the public."

I applaud the aims of this initiative. However, the draft resolution makes no mention of sustainability in either the preambular or operative text. I am concerned that this omission not only undermines the Council Chair's goal for a "holistic" endeavor, it seems to suggest that our prosperity is grounded solely on the commercial dimensions of development. I don't believe this was the Chair's intent and think that this could be fixed easily by incorporating sustainable development in CB119. This would foster a more holistic approach based on the clear recognition that the economic and environmental dimensions can be mutually reinforcing rather than mutually exclusive.

For example, the task force should look at the opportunities presented by the clean energy sector, which is one of the fastest growing job creators in the United States, far outpacing jobs in the fossil fuel sector. Moreover, energy efficiency efforts, such as retrofitting existing structures to enhance their energy efficiency, offer tremendous "win-win-win" opportunities that boost local jobs that cannot be outsourced, reduce energy costs for building owners and occupants, and improve the environment.

Likewise, seeing to it that Howard County's agricultural and urban development is done in a climate-smart fashion would help to mitigate the risks posed by potential disruptive events that can have significant impacts on jobs in the county's rural and urban communities. The loss of retail and service jobs from the catastrophic July 2016 flood that hit Old Town Ellicott City is a vivid example of what can happen if we think narrowly about commerce with minimal regard to environmental considerations.

The mandate and composition of the task force should be one that enables recommendations informed by long-term perspectives. The proposed inclusion of a clean technology entrepreneur among the notional task force members is a good start. But I remain concerned that the composition of the proposed task force remains unbalanced and at odds with the Council Chair's hopes for a "holistic" and "thoughtful delivery process." At a minimum, the task force should also include 1-2 other members who offer sustainability expertise, e.g., a professional from the county's Office of Community Sustainability and/or a representative from the county's Environmental Sustainability Board.

Absent such changes to CB119, this initiative would be a missed opportunity to put Howard County clearly at the forefront of Maryland counties in promoting a holistic, 21st Century approach to

development. Let's not repeat the mistakes of other communities that put myopic expediency ahead of long-term, strategically smart development planning. I urge the County Council to incorporate sustainable development explicitly as part of this task force's mandate and composition. Attached for the Council's consideration are my proposed suggestions to CB119 aimed at doing just that.

Thank you and best regards, Tim Lattimer
8452 Each Leaf Ct.
Columbia MD 21045

(443) 546-0124

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2017 Legislative Session

Legislative day # 12

RESOLUTION NO. 119 - 2017

Introduced by: Jon Weinstein

A RESOLUTION creating an Economic Opportunity and Prosperity Task Force to identify and study policies, programs, and potential legislation to facilitate economic growth and increase economic opportunities for individuals, businesses, and organizations in Howard County and to make recommendations to the Howard County Council and Howard County Executive.

sustainable development to

Introduced and read first time on _____, 2017.

By order _____
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council

Read for a second time and a public hearing held on _____, 2017.

By order _____
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council

This Resolution was read the third time and was ___ Adopted, ___ Adopted with amendments, ___ Failed, ___ Withdrawn by the County Council on _____, 2017.

Certified by _____
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing language; TEXT IN SMALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing language. ~~Strike-out~~ indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment.

TPL 09/18/2017

1 **WHEREAS**, the increase in the basic cost of living in Howard County and the State of
2 Maryland outpaces the increase in wages for a substantial portion of the population; and

3
4 **WHEREAS**, business, governmental, and community organizations address the issues of
5 workforce support in a variety of ways and will benefit from better coordination and
6 collaboration to develop comprehensive approaches; and

7
8 **WHEREAS**, workforce development, business sector growth, housing, transportation,
9 and education (including job skills training, apprenticeships, and internships), are a few of the
10 many critical areas that enable individuals to obtain higher paying, more fulfilling, and longer-
11 term jobs, help build a more skilled and stable workforce for local employers, make Howard
12 County a more attractive place to start and locate a business; and

13
14 **WHEREAS**, the County Council wishes to explore comprehensive, coordinated,
15 efficient, and effective ways to improve the economic situations and create as many pathways to
16 economic prosperity as possible for individuals and businesses in the County; and
17 *↑ and sustainable development*

18 **WHEREAS**, Section 902 of the Howard County Charter authorizes the creation of
19 temporary advisory boards of citizens to study policies and issues;

20
21 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the County Council of Howard County,
22 Maryland, this _____ day of _____, 2017, that there is an Economic Opportunity and
23 Prosperity Task Force established to study ways to increase economic growth in Howard County

24 by: *and advance ↑ sustainable development*

- 25 1. reviewing and analyzing policies, programs, laws, and incentives related to
- 26 expanding and supporting employment and economic growth in Howard
- 27 County;
- 28 2. recommending changes to those policies, programs, laws, and incentives; and
- 29 3. recommending any new policies, programs, and incentives to further foster
- 30 employment ~~and~~ economic growth, in Howard County.

 1 *and sustainable development*

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1
2 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** That the Task Force consists of the following
3 individuals who, informed by their diverse experiences, knowledge, and ideas, will serve as
4 representatives of the Howard County community as a whole rather than representing any
5 specific organization with which they may be affiliated:

- 6 1. Leonardo V. McClarty, Co-Chairperson
- 7 2. Phyllis B. Madachy, Co-Chairperson
- 8 3. Ali M. Abidi
- 9 4. Marianne H. Brackney
- 10 5. Anne I. Brinker
- 11 6. Paul K. Casey
- 12 7. Ana M. Cisneros
- 13 8. Kimberly A. Flowers
- 14 9. Jason S. Jannati
- 15 10. Elizabeth M. Noble
- 16 11. Jaykant D. Parekh
- 17 12. Gopi Suri
- 18 13. Lawrence F. Twele

Add 1-2 representatives from:

- Office of Community Sustainability
- Environmental Sustainability Board

19
20 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** That the Task Force shall:

- 21 1. create subcommittees to address these and other topics:
 - 22 a. workforce development, including employment processes and programs,
 - 23 compensation, and job access;
 - 24 b. education, including technology and vocational training, mentoring, and
 - 25 apprenticeships;
 - 26 c. economic development, including attracting new and relocating businesses
 - 27 through incentives, land-use, regulatory simplification, capital access, and
 - 28 public-private partnerships;
 - 29 e. A. workforce success elements, including individual health, personal finance, and
 - 30 legal matters;

2
d. sustainable development, including policies, tools, and incentives to boost jobs through low-carbon, climate-resilient development, including agriculture.

- 1 f. ~~e.~~ housing including, affordability and workforce housing; and
2 g. ~~f.~~ transportation, including but not limited to transit and ride-sharing; and
3 2. include as members of subcommittees representatives of organizations or the Howard
4 County community with the relevant expertise and experience that the Task Force
5 considers appropriate to the subjects that the Task Force will study.
6

7 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** That the Task Force shall:

- 8 1. hold regular meetings;
9 2. solicit and accept public testimony in writing or electronically;
10 3. hold at least two public hearings.
11

12 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** That the Howard County Economic Development
13 Authority, the Howard County Public School System, the Howard Community College, and the
14 Howard County government, including each of its units, are requested to cooperate fully with the
15 Task Force.
16

17 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** That the County Council shall provide staff support for
18 the Task Force.
19

20 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** That, on or before December 31, 2018, the Task Force
21 shall submit a report to the County Council and the County Executive that includes
22 recommendations for legislation, policies, and programs.
23

24 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** That the Task Force shall terminate on March 31,
25 2019.