

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.

Introduced and read first time on September 5, 2017.

By order Jessica Feldmark
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council

Read for a second time and a public hearing held on September 18, 2017.

By order Jessica Feldmark
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This Resolution was read the third time and was ___ Adopted, Adopted with amendments, ___ Failed, ___ Withdrawn by the County Council on October 2, 2017.

Certified by Jessica Feldmark
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.

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

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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

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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
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 2nd day of October, 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:

- 25 1. reviewing and analyzing polices, 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.

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the Task Force shall:

1. create subcommittees to address these and other topics:
 - a. workforce development, including employment processes and programs, compensation, and job access;
 - b. education, including technology and vocational training, mentoring, and apprenticeships;
 - c. economic development, including attracting new and relocating businesses through incentives, land-use, regulatory simplification, capital access, and public-private partnerships;

- 1 d. workforce success elements, including individual health, personal finance, and
2 legal matters;
3 e. housing including, affordability and workforce housing; and
4 f. transportation, including but not limited to transit and ride-sharing; and
5 2. include as members of subcommittees representatives of organizations or the Howard
6 County community with the relevant expertise and experience that the Task Force
7 considers appropriate to the subjects that the Task Force will study.
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9 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** That the Task Force shall:

- 10 1. hold regular meetings;
11 2. solicit and accept public testimony in writing or electronically;
12 3. hold at least two public hearings.
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14 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** That the Howard County Economic Development
15 Authority, the Howard County Public School System, the Howard Community College, and the
16 Howard County government, including each of its units, are requested to cooperate fully with the
17 Task Force.
18

19 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** That the County Council shall provide staff support for
20 the Task Force.
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22 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** That, on or before December 31, 2018, the Task Force
23 shall submit a report to the County Council and the County Executive that includes
24 recommendations for legislation, policies, and programs.
25

26 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** That the Task Force shall terminate on March 31,
27 2019.

Amendment 1 to Council Resolution No. 119-2017

BY: Jon Weinstein

Legislative Day No. 13

Date: October 2, 2017

Amendment No. 1

(This amendment adds members to the Task Force.)

1 On page 2, after line 18, insert:

2 "14. Jamie Brown

3 15. Dr. Maddy Halbach".

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ADOPTED 10/2/17
FAILED _____
SIGNATURE Jessica Feldman

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Sayers, Margery

From: Jason Jannati <jasonjannati@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2017 2:27 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CR 119 Support

Hello, thank you for your time. I would like to wholeheartedly endorse Jon Weinstein's Task Force CR 119. I am honored to contribute to our County and our community. With the collection of folks I am confident we will deliver actionable steps that will enhance life for all in Howard County.

Thank you again and I appreciate all that you all do.

Cheers,
Jason Jannati

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Cheers,
Jason Jannati

Sept. 18, 2017

Testimony Council Resolution 119-2017

Phyllis B. Madachy

Good evening, members of the Howard County Council. My name is Phyllis Madachy, and I live at 8410 Adderley Avenue, Ellicott City, Maryland 21043.

I'm testifying tonight in favor of Council Resolution 119-2017, the Economic Opportunity and Prosperity Task Force Resolution submitted by Council Chairperson, Jon Weinstein.

I have been asked to serve as co-chair of this Task Force along with Leonardo McClarty who is representing the Howard County Chamber of Commerce. Unfortunately, Leonardo cannot be here tonight and not all 13 members of the proposed Task Force can be here either. However, I would like for those who are here to stand. And, of course, you will be hearing testimony from one member in addition to myself.

My family and I have lived in Howard County since 1974, and I worked for Howard County government for over much of that time. For five years I was VP for Aging and Health at The Coordinating Center, reducing hospital readmission rates of Medicare beneficiaries in West Baltimore

Over 40 years, my interest has been around community based strategies that support vulnerable adults of all ages, recognizing and removing barriers to their success. In addition to community boards on which I serve, I want to describe one board in particular because it is directly relevant to the topics described in this legislation.

I am a charter member of the Paul R. Willging Endowment at Howard Community College that provides scholarships for students wanting health care careers in which they will work with older adults. In his lengthy career Paul worked in long term care policy and operations at the national level and was deeply concerned that there were not enough people going into the fields needed in long term care. There was and remains, a sizeable gap between the number of professionals and paraprofessionals needed and the greater number of older adults and persons with disabilities that need their expertise.

When I retired last year, I did not know I was going to be diving into the area of workforce development of direct care and paraprofessionals. It was a direct outcome of my work with the Willging Endowment and as a result, the Endowment and UMBC's Erickson School of Aging will convene a statewide workforce development summit at Turf Valley on Sept 28. With close to 200 people attending, the Summit will address the lack of a sustainable career pathway which is a significant issue for businesses that need those employees to serve growing numbers of older adults and persons with disabilities.

It is clear to me that this Economic Opportunity and Prosperity Task Force is timely, particularly in the way in which we can look at businesses and employee sharing success as a single unit. The legislation has three themes I find particularly important:

1. The systemic nature of economic opportunity. It's not just a job, not only a career in a county, not just a desirable company. It's also the housing, the transportation, and the ease with which systems interact with each other on a regular basis to plan for the future.
2. Inclusion of nonprofit organizations in the work of the Task Force. That inclusion represents the fact these organizations have an economic impact on the County, as well as provide essential services.
3. Existing policies and programs may inadvertently hamper business and employee growth and, when identified, will be included in the recommendations for change.

In addition, the named appointees in the legislation represent a solid range of voices in Howard County with diverse backgrounds and fields of expertise. The Task Force will recruit additional people to the six subcommittees as the work plans are developed and engage the community in the process.

Finally, I believe the proposal has the right intent and strikes the right balance. By joining community members, businesses and content experts together in a single process of discovery, we have an opportunity to provide recommendations to the County Council in December 2018 that are actionable.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify for this legislation and I welcome any questions you may have.

Submitted,

Phyllis Madachy

Good Evening!

My name is Jay Parekh. I reside at 3730 Garand Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042. I am here this evening to testify in favor of CR-119-2017

I would like to split my testimony into two parts. First, to say a few words about why I welcome formation of a Task Force to study Economic Opportunity and Prosperity in Howard County. And then I will speak as to why I am interested in serving on the Task Force.

Howard County was a wonderful and affordable bedroom community to Washington DC where the people working in the DC region liked to bring up their families. It also had a good portion of land that was utilized for Agriculture. Over last 25 years, County has seen changes that have transformed it into a community that not only is a suburban location to DC and Baltimore, but a place where people want to live, bring up their families. We have been ranked the best place, best schools, library system, Recreation and Parks etc., and I can go on and on. However, BRAC, DISA relocation, large Government contractors locating in the County, reorganization of downtown Columbia are some of the items that have changed the County. They have impacted jobs, salaries, business opportunities, demographics, school capacities, affordable housing availability for the County.

This Task Force as proposed will study (with the help of sub committees) all of the areas, such as jobs, workforce, transportation, business environment, small business growth, economic independence for the residents of Howard County.

And that is why I support CR-119-2017.

Now, why I would want to be involved.

I have been working in the County for 34 years and have lived here for 24 years. Over the years my wife and I have had privilege of being involved in many local volunteering efforts. We have two daughters who have graduated from Howard County School System and we couldn't be more proud of them. It is time for us to give back to the community.

I have worked as a Land Development Engineer in the County for 16 years and then have been a small business owner in Information Technology field for last 17 years. I have served on the Technology Council, Equal Business Commission and Economic Development Board. I have a Master's Degree in Engineering from University of Maryland and have practiced as a Professional Engineer. With my education, knowledge and experience, I am confident that I can contribute effectively and help achieve a comprehensive look at the State of the County and create a Road Map for the future Economic Opportunity and Prosperity.

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

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Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council

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

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TPL 09/18/2017

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Add 1-2 representatives from:

- *Office of Community Sustainability*
- *Environmental Sustainability Board*

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 - e. d. workforce success elements, including individual health, personal finance, and legal matters;

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

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