County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2017 Legislative Session

Legislative day # 14

RESOLUTION NO. 149 - 2017

Introduced by: Jon Weinstein

A RESOLUTION amending the Howard County Council Rules of Procedure to ensure that the Council consider including in legislation authorizing the issuance of bonds in accordance with the Maryland Tax Increment Financing Act requirements that the Council be given certain notices for specified purposes.

Introduced and read first time on	_, 2017.
	By order
Read for a second time and a public hearing held on _	, 2017.
	By order
This Resolution was read the third time and was Adop County Council on, 2017.	pted, Adopted with amendments, Failed, Withdrawn by the
	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; <u>Underlining</u> indicates material added by amendment.

1	WHEREAS	S, Article II, Section 2	208(f) of the Howard County Charter provides that the
2	Council shall adop	t and publish such Ru	ales of Procedure as it determines are desirable for its
3	efficient operation;		
4			
5	WHEREAS	s, the Council has dete	ermined that the Rules of Procedure must be amended to
6	ensure that the Cour	ncil operates efficientl	y and effectively;
7			
8	WHEREAS	s, tax increment finar	ncing is a dynamic tool which allows the County to
9	partner with a devel	oper in economic deve	elopment and revitalization opportunities; and
10			
11	WHEREAS	s, the Council wishes	s to ensure full public transparency in the use of tax
12	increment financing	· •	
13		·	
14	NOW, THE	CREFORE, BE IT R	ESOLVED by the County Council of Howard County,
15	Maryland this	day of	, 2017 that the Rules of Procedure of the Howard
16	County Council, set	forth in Appendix A	of the Howard County Code, are amended as follows:
17			•
18			Appendix A.
19			
20		Rules of Proceed	dure for the County Council
21		of Howa	rd County, Maryland
22		·	
23	Rule 1.016 – [Reser	ved] TAX INCREMENT	Financing.
24	(A) IN GENERAL.		
25	THE COUNTY	COUNCIL SHALL ENSU	URE THAT ITS CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATION
26	AUTHORIZING THE IS	SUANCE OF BONDS IN A	ACCORDANCE WITH THE MARYLAND TAX INCREMENT
27	FINANCING ACT COM	1PLIES WITH THE REQU	IREMENTS OF THIS RULE.
28	(B) REQUIRED PR	OVISIONS IN LEGISLATIO	ON.

1	(1) THE COUNCIL SHALL CONSIDER REQUIRING THE LEGISLATION TO INCLUDE A PUBLIC	
2	IMPROVEMENT BUDGET THAT IDENTIFIES ONLY THOSE IMPROVEMENTS PROPOSED TO BE FINANCED	D
3	WHOLLY OR PARTLY BY THE PROCEEDS OF THE BONDS AUTHORIZED BY THE LEGISLATION.	
4	(2) For the improvements identified in paragraph (1) of this subsection, the	
5	COUNCIL SHALL CONSIDER REQUIRING THE LEGISLATION TO INCLUDE:	
6	(I)A DESCRIPTION OF THE IMPROVEMENTS;	
7	(II) DETAIL ON THE TOTAL ESTIMATED COST OF THOSE IMPROVEMENTS; AND	
8	(III) THE COSTS THAT ARE ELIGIBLE FOR USE OF BOND PROCEEDS.	
9	(C) Specific authorization.	
10	IF THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE DEVELOPER PRESENT A HIGH LEVEL OF CERTAINTY	
11	ABOUT EXACTLY WHICH PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS ARE PLANNED TO BE FINANCED BY THE PROCEED	S
12	OF THE BONDS AUTHORIZED BY THE LEGISLATION, THE COUNCIL MAY CHOOSE TO LIMIT THE	
13	AUTHORIZATION SPECIFICALLY TO THOSE IMPROVEMENTS INCLUDED IN THE PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT	VΤ
14	BUDGET.	
15	(d) Safeguards required for flexibility.	
16	THE COUNCIL MAY CHOOSE TO DEFINE THE SCOPE OF THE PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS TO	
17	PROVIDE GREATER FLEXIBILITY IN THE POTENTIAL USE OF THE BONDS AUTHORIZED BY THE BILL.	
18	HOWEVER, TO ENSURE THAT TAX INCREMENT REVENUES ARE SPENT IN A TRANSPARENT MANNER	
19	CONSISTENT WITH THE COUNCIL'S LEGISLATIVE INTENT, THE COUNCIL SHALL CONSIDER THAT	
20	SUCH FLEXIBILITY MAY BE ACCOMPANIED BY PROVISIONS REQUIRING THAT:	
21	(1) UPON COMPLETION OF THE FINAL PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT BUDGET AND BEFORE	3
22	ISSUING A PRELIMINARY LIMITED OFFERING MEMORANDUM OR SIMILAR DOCUMENT, THE	
23	COUNTY EXECUTIVE SHALL SEND THE COUNTY COUNCIL:	
24	(I) THE FINAL PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT BUDGET FOR THE IMPROVEMENTS TO)
25	BE INCLUDED IN THE MEMORANDUM; AND	
26	(II) A DOCUMENT THAT HIGHLIGHTS ANY CHANGES TO THE PLAN FOR	
27	IMPROVEMENTS BETWEEN THE PROPOSED PLAN THAT WAS PRESENTED WHEN THE	
28	COUNCIL AUTHORIZED THE TAX INCREMENT FINANCING AND THE PLAN TO BE	
29	INDICATED IN THE MEMORANDUM AND, IF THE PLAN INCLUDES ANY IMPROVEMEN	T
30	WHICH THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE HAD PREVIOUSLY DETERMINED TO BE	

1	INELIGIBLE, PROVIDES AN EXPLANATION OF THE CHANGE IN CIRCUMSTANCES OR
2	THE RATIONALE FOR THE POLICY REINTERPRETATION WHICH RESULTED IN THE
3	RECONSIDERATION OF ELIGIBILITY;
4	(2) A PRELIMINARY LIMITED OFFERING MEMORANDUM OR SIMILAR DOCUMENT
5	SHALL NOT BE ISSUED UNTIL 45 DAYS AFTER THE SUBMISSION REQUIRED IN PARAGRAPH (1)
6	OF THIS SUBSECTION; AND
7	(3) IF THE CHANGES TO THE PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT BUDGET EXCEED A CERTAIN
8	THRESHOLD SET BY THE COUNCIL WITHIN THE BOND AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION, SUCH AS
9	A PERCENTAGE OF THE DOLLAR VALUE OF THE TOTAL IMPROVEMENT COSTS PLANNED TO BE
10	FUNDED BY THE TAX INCREMENT FINANCING, THEN:
11	(I) THE SUBMISSION SHALL INCLUDE THE SAME COMPONENTS DESCRIBED IN
12	PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION;
13	(II) THE SUBMISSION SHALL INCLUDE UPDATES OF ANY OF THE FINANCIAL
14	ANALYSES PROVIDED TO THE COUNTY COUNCIL DURING ITS CONSIDERATION OF
15	THE LEGISLATION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS; AND
16	(III) A PRELIMINARY LIMITED OFFERING MEMORANDUM OR SIMILAR
17	DOCUMENT SHALL NOT BE ISSUED UNTIL 60 DAYS AFTER THE SUBMISSION.
18	
19	

From:

Price, Maiko S. <mprice@MilesStockbridge.com>

Sent:

Monday, November 20, 2017 5:06 PM

To:

Weinstein, Jon

Cc:

CouncilMail; Greg Fitchitt (Greg.Fitchitt@howardhughes.com); Stalfort, John A.

Subject:

Letter to Honorable Jon S. Weinstein re CR 149 11-20-2017

Attachments:

Letter to Honorable Jon S Weinstein re CR 149 11-20-2017.pdf; Comparison TIF Council

Rule Resolution (10-26-17) - TIF Council Rule Resolution.doc

Councilmember Weinstein,

Please find attached letter from John Stalfort regarding CR 149 along with the proposed amendments to the text of CR 149 for your review.

Thank you, Maiko

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From:

Price, Maiko S. <mprice@MilesStockbridge.com>

Sent:

Monday, November 20, 2017 5:12 PM

To:

Terrasa, Jen

Cc:

CouncilMail; 'Greg Fitchitt (Greg.Fitchitt@howardhughes.com)'; Stalfort, John A.

Subject:

Letter to Honorable Jon S. Weinstein re CR 149 11-20-2017

Attachments:

Letter to Honorable Jon S Weinstein re CR 149 11-20-2017.pdf; Comparison TIF Council

Rule Resolution (10-26-17) - TIF Council Rule Resolution.doc

Councilmember Terrasa,

Please find attached letter from John Stalfort to Councilmember Weinstein regarding CR 149 along with the proposed amendments to the text of CR 149 for your review.

Thank you, Maiko

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From:

Price, Maiko S. <mprice@MilesStockbridge.com>

Sent:

Monday, November 20, 2017 5:10 PM

To:

Sigaty, Mary Kay

Cc:

CouncilMail; 'Greg Fitchitt (Greg.Fitchitt@howardhughes.com)'; Stalfort, John A.

Subject:

Letter to Honorable Jon S. Weinstein re CR 149 11-20-2017

Attachments:

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Rule Resolution (10-26-17) - TIF Council Rule Resolution.doc

Councilmember Sigaty,

Please find attached letter from John Stalfort regarding CR 149 along with the proposed amendments to the text of CR 149 for your review.

Thank you, Maiko

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From:

Price, Maiko S. <mprice@MilesStockbridge.com>

Sent:

Monday, November 20, 2017 5:09 PM

To:

Fox, Grea

Cc:

CouncilMail; 'Greg Fitchitt (Greg.Fitchitt@howardhughes.com)'; Stalfort, John A.

Subject:

Letter to Honorable Jon S. Weinstein re CR 149 11-20-2017

Attachments:

Letter to Honorable Jon S Weinstein re CR 149 11-20-2017.pdf; Comparison TIF Council

Rule Resolution (10-26-17) - TIF Council Rule Resolution.doc

Councilmember Fox,

Please find attached letter from John Stalfort to Councilmember Weinstein regarding CR 149 along with the proposed amendments to the text of CR 149 for your review.

Thank you, Maiko

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From:

Price, Maiko S. <mprice@MilesStockbridge.com>

Sent:

Monday, November 20, 2017 5:08 PM

To:

Ball, Calvin B

Cc:

CouncilMail; 'Greg Fitchitt (Greg.Fitchitt@howardhughes.com)'; Stalfort, John A.

Subject:

Letter to Honorable Jon S. Weinstein re CR 149 11-20-2017

Attachments:

Letter to Honorable Jon S Weinstein re CR 149 11-20-2017.pdf; Comparison TIF Council

Rule Resolution (10-26-17) - TIF Council Rule Resolution.doc

Councilmember Ball,

Please find attached letter from John Stalfort to Councilmember Weinstein regarding CR 149 along with the proposed amendments to the text of CR 149 for your review.

Thank you, Maiko

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John A. Stalfort 202-465-8414 jstalfor@milesstockbridge.com

November 20, 2017

Honorable Jonathan S. Weinstein Council Chairperson County Council of Howard County, Maryland George Howard Building 3430 Court House Drive Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Re: Council Resolution 149-2017 (CR149)

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

I am writing in my role as TIF counsel to The Howard Research And Development Corporation in connection with CR 149 introduced by you as a result of certain concerns arising from the issuance of the first series of the Downtown Columbia TIF Bonds.

By way of background, I have worked as a lawyer in public finance my entire career – over 40 years – and have a special concentration in tax increment financing and special tax district financing for almost 20 years. During that time, I drafted the original Howard County TIF Policy Guidelines when Miles & Stockbridge was serving as bond counsel to Howard County in an effort to implement best practices in connection with the use of TIF as an economic development tool. I have also served on the Council of Development Finance Agencies TIF Policy Task Force which was a leader in promoting TIF best practices throughout the United States. So, I am very aware of the need for transparency and trust among all stakeholders to have a successful TIF deal.

My conceptual comments to CR 149 fall into two categories: (i) the nature of what should be included in the authorizing TIF legislation, and (ii) the timing of delivery of any new information to the County Council after initial enactment of the authorizing legislation.

In connection with its deliberations concerning any proposed TIF legislation, the County Council should receive summaries of the information and financial analyses received by the Department of Finance pursuant to the County's TIF Guidelines. Such information should include preliminary estimates of the costs of all of the proposed public improvements to be financed with proceeds of the bonds or by the developer and a description of any public improvements the Department of Finance determines not to be eligible to be financed with proceeds of the Bonds. At this stage of the transaction, specific details on costs and public improvements are typically not finalized.

Honorable Jonathan S. Weinstein November 20, 2017 Page 2



There are two reasons the authorizing TIF legislation should not contain specific, limiting details on public improvement descriptions and costs: (i) that level of detailed information is either not available, or otherwise still very conceptual, at the time of enacting the legislation, and (ii) it prevents crucial flexibility in the finalization of the plan of finance. Why not wait to enact the legislation until these facts are clearer? Every TIF transaction is different. There may be a need to move quickly to establish the base value of the property in the TIF district and preserve the tax increment for the bond debt service. There may be a need to establish the district or bond authorization in order to advance other aspects of the project's development, such as other financing components or major tenant leases. There may be countless other reasons for a particular transaction. Best practice is to make the authorizing legislation as flexible as possible.

So, how to assure that the proceeds of the TIF bonds authorized by the legislation are spent in a transparent manner consistent with the County Council's legislative intent? I concur that a process should be required for the County Executive to inform the County Council of the final use of bond proceeds and costs of the public improvements, and if those costs are substantially different from the information initially provided to the County Council, updates to any of the financial analyses provided to the County Council during its initial consideration of the legislation. This will allow the County Council an opportunity for further discussion on these matters with the Administration and the developer.

However, the time frame for providing this updated information must recognize the often urgency of mailing the offering document for the bonds to take advantage of capital markets opportunities. The 45 and 60 days proposed in CR 149 are not reasonable for these types of financings. I would suggest 15 <u>business</u> days as a more appropriate time frame.

I have attached for your review proposed amendments to the text of CR 149 which reflect the foregoing comments.

I hope that the foregoing comments with respect to CR 149 are informative. I certainly support the concept of transparency you are attempting to instill in the County's process. Please let me know if you have any questions on these comments.

Sincerely,

John A. Stalfort

John S. Salfart

cc: Honorable Calvin B. Ball
Honorable Gregory Fox
Honorable Mary Kay Sigaty
Honorable Jennifer R. Terrasa

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2017 Legislative Session	Legislative day #
RESOLUT	ION NO 2017
In	troduced by:
legislation creating or modifying	County Council Rules of Procedure to ensure that g a Tax Increment Financing District includes ren certain notices for specified purposes.
Introduced and read first time on, 20	017.
	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 County Council on, 2017.	, Adopted with amendments , Failed , Withdrawn by the
	Certified by

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

1	WHEREAS, Article II, Section 208(f) of the Howard County Charter provides that the
2	Council shall adopt and publish such Rules of Procedure as it determines are desirable for its
3	efficient operation;
4	
5	WHEREAS, the Council has determined that the Rules of Procedure must be amended to
6	ensure that the Council operates efficiently and effectively;
7	
8	WHEREAS, tax increment financing is a dynamic tool which allows the County to partner
9	with a developer in economic development and revitalization opportunities; and
10	
11	WHEREAS, the Council wishes to ensure full public transparency in the use of tax
12	increment financing;
13	
14	NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Howard County,
15	Maryland this day of, 2017 that the Rules of Procedure of the Howard
16	County Council, set forth in Appendix A of the Howard County Code, are amended as follows:
17	
18	Appendix A.
19	
20	Rules of Procedure for the County Council
21	of Howard County, Maryland
22	
23	Rule 1.016 – [Reserved] Tax Increment Financing.
24	(a) In general.
25	THE COUNTY COUNCIL SHALL ENSURE THAT LEGISLATION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF
26	BONDS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MARYLAND TAX INCREMENT FINANCING ACT COMPLIES WITH
27	THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS RULE.
28	(B) REQUIRED PROVISIONS IN LEGISLATION

- 1 (1) The legislation shall include a <u>description of the</u> Public <u>Improvement</u> <u>Budget that identifies Improvements</u>
- 2 ONLY THOSE IMPROVEMENTS PROPOSED TO BE FINANCED WHOLLY OR PARTLY BY THE PROCEEDS OF
- 3 THE BONDS AUTHORIZED BY THE LEGISLATION.
- 4 (2) FOR THE IMPROVEMENTS IDENTIFIED IN PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE
- 5 **LEGISLATION SHALL PROVIDE:**
- 6 (I)A DESCRIPTION OF THE IMPROVEMENTS;
- 7 (II) DETAIL ON THE TOTAL ESTIMATED COST OF THOSE IMPROVEMENTS; AND
- 8 (III) THE COSTS THAT ARE ELIGIBLE FOR USE OF BOND PROCEEDS.
- 9 (c) Specific authorization.
- 10 IF THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE DEVELOPER PRESENT A HIGH LEVEL OF CERTAINTY
- ABOUT EXACTLY WHICH PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS ARE PLANNED TO BE FINANCED BY THE PROCEEDS
- 12 OF THE BONDS AUTHORIZED BY THE LEGISLATION, THE <u>COUNTY</u> COUNCIL MAY CHOOSE TO LIMIT THE
- 13 AUTHORIZATION SPECIFICALLY TO <u>CERTAIN OF</u> THOSE <u>PUBLIC</u> IMPROVEMENTS <u>INCLUDED DESCRIBED</u> IN THE <u>PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT LEGISLATION</u>.
- 14 BUDGET. (D) TIF GUIDELINES

IN CONNECTION WITH ITS CONSIDERATION OF THE LEGISLATION, THE COUNTY COUNCIL SHALL RECEIVE SUMMARIES OF THE INFORMATION AND FINANCIAL ANALYSES RECEIVED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE PURSUANT TO THE COUNTY'S TIF GUIDELINES. SUCH INFORMATION SHALL INCLUDE (I) PRELIMIARY ESTIMATES OF THE COSTS OF ALL OF THE PROPOSED PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS TO BE FINANCED WITH PROCEEDS OF THE BONDS OR BY THE DEVELOPER, AND (II) A DESCRIPTION OF ANY PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE DETERMINES NOT TO BE ELIGIBLE TO BE FINANCED WITH PROCEEDS OF THE BONDS.

- 15 (D) SAFEGUARDS REQUIRED FOR FLEXIBILITY TRANSPARENCY.
- 16 THE COUNCIL MAY CHOOSE TO DEFINE THE SCOPE OF THE PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS TO
- 17 PROVIDE GREATER FLEXIBILITY IN THE POTENTIAL USE OF THE BONDS AUTHORIZED BY THE BILL.
- 18 However, To ensure that <u>Tax increment revenues proceeds of the bonds authroized by</u> <u>The legislation</u> are spent in a transparent manner
- 19 CONSISTENT WITH THE COUNTY COUNCIL'S LEGISLATIVE INTENT, SUCH FLEXIBILITY SHALL BE:
- 20 ACCOMPANIED BY PROVISIONS REQUIRING THAT:
- 21 (1) AT LEAST 45 15 BUSINESS DAYS BEFORE ISSUING A PRELIMINARY LIMITED OFFERING
- 22 MEMORANDUM OR SIMILAR DOCUMENT, THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE SHALL SEND TO THE

23	COUNTY COUNCIL:
24 FOR THE	(I) <u>an updated a definitive list of the</u> Public Improvement Budget Improvements <u>to be financed with the proceeds of the bonds authroized by the</u>
LEGISLA'	TION AND THE BUDGETED COSTS FOR SUCH PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS
25	TO BE INCLUDED IN THE MEMORANDUM; AND
26	(II) A DOCUMENT THAT HIGHLIGHTS ANY CHANGES TO THE PLAN FOR
27 BETWEEI	THE PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS TO BE FINANCED WITH THE PROCEEDS OF THE BONDS IN THE PROPOSED PLAN THAT WAS PRESENTED TO THE COUNCIL WHEN THE
28 LEGISLA	<u>COUNTY</u> COUNCIL <u>AUTHORIZED THE TAX INCREMENT FINANCINGENACTED THE</u> <u>FION</u> AND THE PLAN TO BE
29 INCLUDE	INDICATEDDESCRIBED IN THE <u>LIMITED OFFERING</u> MEMORANDUM AND, IF THE PLANS ANY <u>PUBLIC</u> IMPROVEMENT
30	WHICH THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE HAD PREVIOUSLY DETERMINED TO BE
	2

THE RATIONALE FOR THE POLICY REINTERPRETATION WHICH RESULTED IN THE	
2 THE ACTIONALE FOR THE FOLICE RESULTED IN THE	
3 RECONSIDERATION OF ELIGIBILITY; AND	
4 (2II) IF THE CHANGES TO THE PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT BUDGET EXC CERTAIN PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES OF THE TOTAL COSTS OF THE PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS TO BE F WITH THE PROCEES OF THE BONDS EXCEED %,	
5 THRESHOLD SET BY THE COUNCIL WITHIN THE BOND AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION, SUC	H AS
6 A PERCENTAGE OF THE DOLLAR VALUE OF THE TOTAL IMPROVEMENT COSTS PLANNED	TO BE
7 FUNDED BY THE TAX INCREMENT FINANCING, THEN:	
8 (1) THE SUBMISSION TO THE COUNTY COUNCIL SHALL BE PROVIDED AT	2
9 LEAST 60-DAYS BEFORE ISSUING THE PRELIMINARY LIMITED OFFERING	
10 <u>MEMORANDUM OR SIMILAR DOCUMENT</u> ;	
11 (II) THE SUBMISSION SHALL INCLUDE THE SAME COMPONENTS DESCRIB	ED IN
12 PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION; AND	
13 (III) THE SUBMISSION SHALL INCLUDE UPDATES OF ANY OF THE FINANCE	IAL
14 ANALYSES PROVIDED TO THE COUNTY COUNCIL DURING ITS CONSIDERATION O	F
15 THE LEGISLATION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF THE BONDS .	
16	

Legend:		
Insertion		
Deletion		
Moved from		
Moved to		
Style change		
Format change		
Moved deletion		
Inserted cell		
Deleted cell		
Moved cell		
Split/Merged cell		
Padding cell		

Statistics:	
	Count
Insertions	28
Deletions	36
Moved from	0
Moved to	0
Style change	0
Format changed	0
Total changes	64