





Howard County

Internal Memorandum

Subject: *Testimony for Council Resolution in Support of the County's Application for Community Legacy Funding from the State of Maryland*

To: *Lonnie R. Robbins
Chief Administrative Officer*

Through: *Marsha McLaughlin, Director 
Department of Planning and Zoning*

From: *Stephen Lafferty *

Date: *August 9, 2012*

The Department of Planning and Zoning supports the adoption of Resolution No. ____ - 2012. This Resolution is an endorsement of the Department's request to the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development for funds from its Community Legacy Program.

This funding request is for \$75,000 to establish the Ellicott City Façade Improvement Program. This is a new initiative designed to stimulate investment and enable owners to enhance and improve their historic structures. It will provide a match of up to 50% for the cost of repairs and renovations to historic commercial buildings in the Ellicott City Historic District. This is also the County's designated Sustainable Communities Area. These funds will be made to owners in the form of grants up to \$10,000 and will be administered in conjunction with applications to the Historic District Commission ("HDC"). Departmental staff will manage and administer the program.

This Resolution is required by the State to demonstrate the County's support for the application. This initiative is one that was recommended by merchants as a way to encourage physical improvements and was identified in the County's Sustainable Communities application as an action item.

There are no County funds involved. The only fiscal impact is the utilization of staff time for review and approval of the fund request. This will be minimal since staff is already involved in reviewing and giving approval to the improvements as part of the HDC process. Please contact Stephen Lafferty at x4302 if you have any questions.

cc: Jessica Feldmark, Chief of Staff
Jennifer Sager, Legislative Coordinator