



Howard County

Internal Memorandum

Subject: *Testimony for Council Bill 52 -2011 to eliminate the Cemetery Preservation Advisory Board*

To: *Lonnie Robbins
Chief Administrative Officer*

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

Date: *September 22, 2011*

The Department of Planning and Zoning recommends adoption of Council Bill 52 - 2011, which proposes to eliminate the Cemetery Preservation Advisory Board (the “Board”). The Board was instrumental in helping DPZ to develop an inventory of all County cemeteries. However, few cemeteries and burial grounds were discovered in recent years so the tasks of the Board can now be effectively accomplished by the Department of Planning and Zoning.

The Board’s function in fostering preservation of cemeteries and burial grounds in Howard County is performed in an advisory capacity to the Department of Planning and Zoning which makes the final decision. Cemetery preservation is achieved through the procedures established in the Subdivision and Land Development Regulations wherein the Department of Planning and Zoning, in conjunction with the Planning Board, ensures the accommodation of cemeteries in the development process in terms of placing the cemetery in a non-buildable lot with a cemetery designation, establishing use and structure setbacks from the cemetery and providing public access to the cemetery.

The Department of Planning and Zoning would continue to maintain the cemetery inventory and the Department, together with the Planning Board, would ensure the accommodation of cemeteries in the development process.

There are no fiscal impacts associated with adoption of this legislation.

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