



Howard County

Internal Memorandum

Subject: Testimony on CR#123-2019
A resolution amending Volume I (Storm Drainage) of the Howard County Design Manual to require storm water management of short duration, high intensity storms within the Tiber Branch and Plumtree watersheds.

To: Lonnie R. Robbins
Chief Administrative Officer

From: ✓ Valdis Lazdins, Director
Department of Planning and Zoning

Date: September 11, 2019

The Department of Planning and Zoning (DPZ) supports CR#123-2019 which would amend Volume I (Storm Drainage) of the Howard County Design Manual to require storm water management (SWM) of short duration, high intensity storms within the Tiber Branch and Plumtree watersheds. This resolution is necessary to update storm water regulations to protect the Tiber Branch and Plumtree Branch watersheds and mitigate flooding in Ellicott City.

The resolution would amend the existing SWM standards in the Tiber-Hudson/Plumtree watersheds by requiring management for a 3.55-hour, 6.6-inch storm. This is equivalent to the storm the county experienced on July 30, 2016. The resolution also adds to the Plumtree watershed a requirement to address a 100-year, 24-hour (8.51 inch) storm. Such a storm is already addressed in the Tiber-Hudson watershed. Projects subject to the moratorium established by CB#56-2018 would be required to meet these new standards regardless when the project received subdivision or site development plan approval. All such projects would be required to provide stormwater management, as outlined in the manual.

On-site SWM facilities will be the standard rule. There may be rare occasions, however, where an on-site SWM is impossible from an engineering or site layout perspective. On these occasions, the resolution establishes a priority for SWM strategies, as follows:

- Providing on-site SWM for all listed storms.
- Managing a 24-hour, 100-year storm on-site and the equivalent management of a 3.55-hour, 6.6-inch, storm on another property, but within the same watershed.
- Managing a 24-hour, 100-year storm on-site and paying an in-lieu fee for a 3.55-hour, 6.6-inch, storm, which would be applied to a County flood mitigation project within the same watershed. This will have the ultimate result of expediting projects in the County's stormwater facility pipeline.
- Managing a 24-hour, 100-year storm on-site and paying a fee-in-lieu for a 3.55-hour, 6.6-inch, storm, which would go toward an established stormwater bank within the same watershed.

With the passage of CB#56-2018, also known as the Tiber-Hudson/Plumtree Watershed Moratorium, DPZ and the Department of Public Works (DPW) were tasked with leading a study to investigate "...the extent to which existing, planned, and future land use, storm water management, drainage infrastructure, and flood mitigation for property that drains in whole or in part to the Tiber Branch Watershed or the Plumtree Branch Watershed, and any other relevant factor, may contribute to flooding in each Watershed..." and submit "...recommendations about changes in law and procedures that may help protect the Watershed from the effects of future flood events." DPZ and DPW have developed a companion resolution, CR#122-2019, that amends the fee-in-lieu for constructing storm water management facilities.