



HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ZONING

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Voice/Relay

Amy Gowan, Director

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Subject: Testimony for Council Resolution 110-2020

To: Lonnie R. Robbins
Chief Administrative Officer

From: Amy Gowan, Director, Department of Planning and Zoning

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AG

Date: September 9, 2020

The Department of Planning and Zoning supports CR 110-2020. This resolution confirms the appointment of 35 Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) members who will assist with the development of HoCo By Design, Howard County's next General Plan. The members of this Committee must be confirmed by the County Council as required by CR89-2020.

The PAC is intended to be a community-driven advisory group consisting of community leaders, service providers, industry groups, and the general public. It will serve as a sounding board throughout the HoCo By Design process and as a direct conduit between the general public, County staff, and the consultant team.

The Office of the County Executive considered various criteria to aide in the selection of members:

- Geographic, age, racial and ethnic diversity
- Expertise and knowledge of subject areas relevant to land use planning, such as, environment, transportation, housing, historic preservation, agriculture and land development
- Experience with past General Plan Updates in Howard County
- Community leaders active in local planning issues
- Representatives of major anchor institutions

This resolution has no fiscal impact to the County as PAC members are serving on a voluntary basis and existing DPZ staff will assume responsibilities within their current workloads to provide support to the Committee.

DPZ requests Council's support of the Committee members presented in CR-110-2020, as all members have been apprised of the time commitment and have agreed to serve for the length of the project. We hope you find the membership representative of the diverse interests within Howard County.

Finally, to ensure the PAC can begin providing guidance in advance of scenario planning, DPZ would like to hold the first meeting before the end of October. Therefore, we appreciate your expeditious consideration and decision on this resolution.

cc: Sameer Sidh, Chief of Staff
Jennifer Sager, Legislative Coordinator, County Administration