

**Amendment 89 to Council Bill No. 28 -2023**

**BY: David Yungmann**

**Legislative Day 11**

**Date: 10/02/2023**

**Amendment No. 89**

*(This Amendment makes the following changes to HoCo by Design Chapters 5 and 11 to:*

*Chapter 5: Economic Prosperity*      *Adds a new Implementing Action in Policy Statement EP-10 to recognize the Agricultural Land Preservation Program Fund as a funding source not only for acquisition of easements, but for the promotion and backing of the agriculture industry and operating businesses; and*

*Chapter 11: Implementation*      *- Adds a new Implementing Action in Policy Statement EP-10 to recognize the Agricultural Land Preservation Program Fund as a funding source not only for acquisition of easements, but for the promotion and backing of the agriculture industry and operating businesses.)*

1 In the *HoCo By Design* General Plan, attached to this Act as Exhibit A, amend the following  
2 pages as indicated in this Amendment:

- 3      • Chapter 5: Economic Prosperity, page 59.  
4      • Chapter 11: Implementation, page 34.

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6 Correct all page numbers, numbering, and formatting within this Act to accommodate this  
7 amendment.

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### EP-9 Policy Statement

Promote and support modern farming initiatives that reflect the changing needs and economic drivers of agriculture in Howard County.

#### Implementing Actions

1. Support development of appropriately equipped and licensed commercial processing and kitchen facilities that can accommodate various agricultural and food processing needs for farmers and entrepreneurs.
2. Continue and expand business development services that can position agricultural enterprises for growth, innovation, and diversification.
3. Improve opportunities for the growth of e-commerce and last-mile delivery infrastructure, including integration of technological advances in customer delivery.
4. Encourage and enhance agricultural opportunities in the eastern portion of the County.
5. Enhance and expand the partnership between the Agricultural Land Preservation Program, the Howard County Economic Development Authority, the University of Maryland, and the farming community to assist farmers as agriculture continues to evolve and diversify.
6. Consider consolidating offices, services, and educational resources for the farming community in a single location.

### EP-10 Policy Statement

Continue and enhance established technical and funding efforts to support the farming community.

#### Implementing Actions

1. Continue funding for the Howard Soil Conservation District to assist farmers with design and installation of best management practices (BMPs).
2. Consider expanding County assistance to fill gaps in cost share programs for agricultural BMPs.
3. Continue the Howard County Economic Development Authority's Agricultural Marketing Program, including its Agricultural Innovation Grants, business planning, and other financial and technical assistance.
4. Expand the Agricultural Innovation Grants by allocating additional resources and creating opportunities for urban agriculture endeavors in the East.
5. [Recognize the Agriculture Land Preservation and Promotion Fund as a funding source not only for acquisition of easements, but for the promotion and backing of the industry and operating businesses in accordance with applicable laws.](#)

### EP-11 Policy Statement



Support and encourage beginning farmers to build a diverse farming community.

#### Implementing Actions

1. Support the development of new and continue ongoing agricultural education initiatives that encourage students from a variety of backgrounds to consider agriculture as a career choice.
2. Consider establishing a financing program to help farmers purchase farmland.
3. Establish a grant program for beginning farmers.
4. Consider leasing county-owned land for start-up agricultural businesses.
5. Consider creating a program to loan or share farm equipment.
6. Enhance availability and access to community gardens that can be used by beginning farmers.

### EP-12 Policy Statement

Reduce regulatory barriers to diversified agricultural operations in both the Rural West and the East.

#### Implementing Actions

1. Update the Zoning Regulations and other policies to promote agricultural expansion and diversification, especially for on-farm processing and other agribusiness opportunities.
2. Work with agricultural and community stakeholders to review and update the Zoning Regulations and other regulations to create more opportunities for agritourism.
3. Reduce barriers to the burgeoning demand for on-farm breweries, wineries, cideries, meaderies, and distilleries.

### EP-13 Policy Statement

Review transportation planning and road development and maintenance standards to reduce transportation barriers to farming.

#### Implementing Actions

1. Improve rural road conditions by increasing overhead tree clearance and addressing passage at narrow bridges.
2. Reduce conflict between recreational, residential, commercial, and agricultural road uses.

| Table 10-1: Implementation Matrix   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| Policy and Implementing Actions   | Lead Agency                              | Timeframe<br>(Mid-Term five-year, Long-Term six+ years, Ongoing) |
| <b>EP-9 - Promote and support modern farming initiatives that reflect the changing needs and economic drivers of agriculture in Howard County.</b>  |  |  |
| 1. Support development of appropriately equipped and licensed commercial processing and kitchen facilities that can accommodate various agricultural and food processing needs for farmers and entrepreneurs.   | OCS<br>HCEDA                             | Mid-Term   |
| 2. Continue and expand business development services that can position agricultural enterprises for growth, innovation, and diversification.  | HCEDA<br>OCS                             | Ongoing  |
| 3. Improve opportunities for the growth of e-commerce and last-mile delivery infrastructure, including integration of technological advances in customer delivery.  | HCEDA<br>OCS<br>DOT                      | Long-term  |
| 4. Encourage and enhance agricultural opportunities in the eastern portion of the County.   | OCS<br>HCEDA<br>DPZ                      | Mid-Term   |
| 5. Enhance and expand the partnership between the Agricultural Land Preservation Program, the Howard County Economic Development Authority, the University of Maryland, and the farming community to assist farmers as agriculture continues to evolve and diversify. | HCED<br>A OCS<br>DPZ<br>Private Partners | Ongoing  |
| 6. Consider consolidating offices, services, and educational resources for the farming community in a single location.  | OCS<br>HCEDA                             | Long-Term  |

| Table 10-1: Implementation Matrix  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| Policy and Implementing Actions  | Lead Agency                                    | Timeframe<br>(Mid-Term five-year, Long-Term six+ years, Ongoing) |
| <b>EP-10 - Continue and enhance established technical and funding efforts to support the farming community.</b>  |  |  |
| 1. Continue funding for the Howard Soil Conservation District to assist farmers with design and installation of best management practices (BMPs).  | DPZ<br>DPW/<br>OCS<br>Elected Officials<br>OOR | Ongoing  |
| 2. Consider expanding County assistance to fill gaps in cost share programs for agricultural BMPs.   | HCEDA<br>OCS                                   | Mid-Term   |
| 3. Continue the Howard County Economic Development Authority's Agricultural Marketing Program, including its Agricultural Innovation Grants, business planning, and other financial and technical assistance.                                      | HCEDA<br>DPZ                                   | Ongoing  |
| 4. Expand the Agricultural Innovation Grants by allocating additional resources and creating opportunities for urban agriculture endeavors in the East.  | HCEDA<br>DPZ<br>OCS                            | Long-term  |
| <u>5. Recognize the Agriculture Land Preservation and Promotion Fund as a funding source not only for acquisition of easements, but for the promotion and backing of the industry and operating businesses in accordance with applicable laws.</u> | HCEDA  | <u>Ongoing</u>   |
| <b>EP-11 - Support and encourage beginning farmers to build a diverse farming community.</b>   |  |  |
| 1. Support the development of new and continue ongoing agricultural education initiatives that encourage students from a variety of backgrounds to consider agriculture as a career choice.  | HCEDA  | Mid-Term   |
| 2. Consider establishing a financing program to help farmers purchase farmland.  | HCEDA  | Mid-Term   |
| 3. Establish a grant program for beginning farmers.  | HCEDA<br>OCS                                   | Mid-Term   |
| 4. Consider leasing county-owned land for start-up agricultural businesses.  | DPW<br>HCEDA<br>DPZ DRP                        | Mid-Term   |
| 5. Consider creating a program to loan or share farm equipment.  | HCEDA  | Mid-Term   |
| 6. Enhance availability and access to community gardens that can be used by beginning farmers.   | DRP<br>OCS<br>DPZ                              | Mid-Term   |