



MEMORANDUM

Subject: Testimony support on Council Bill No. 11-2014, Amendments to Title 16, Subtitle 6

To: Lonnie Robbins, Chief Administrative Officer, Department of Administration

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

From: Beth Burgess, Chief, Resource Conservation Division, Department of Planning and Zoning

Date: February 18, 2014

The Department of Planning and Zoning supports Council Bill No. _____-2014, which amends parts of Subtitle 6 of Title 16 of the County Code regarding historic resources in the County. These include § 16.600 - Purpose; § 16.601 - Definitions; § 16.604 - Historic District Commission; § 16.605 - Procedures of the Historic District Commission; § 16.606 - Powers of the Historic District Commission; § 16.611 - Appeals; and a change in certain terms throughout the Code.

In Summary these Code Revisions bring clarity and cohesiveness to the Code and the Historic District Commission Rules of Procedure, and provide greater opportunities for preservation by the owners of historic structures. The revisions include:

- 1) Adding definition of historic district – multiple vs. single site
- 2) Changing name of Historic District Commission to Historic Preservation Commission
- 3) Extending voting deadline from 60 days to 90 days
- 4) Providing for designation of single site historic districts - by owner only
- 5) Revising areas of Commission advice on historical resources
- 6) Allowing staff discretion to determine what applications are complete
- 7) Adding maintenance of historic sites inventory
- 8) Clarifying/modifying appeal time

The Historic District Commission, at its December 5, 2013, meeting unanimously approved a motion to endorse the proposed changes to the Code and signed a letter of support for these Code changes on February 6, 2014.

The amendments are expected to have minimal to no impact on staff workloads or the Department's operating budget.

cc: Jessica Feldmark, Chief of Staff
Jennifer Sager, Legislative Coordinator, Department of Administration
Lewis Taylor, Assistant County Solicitor
Samantha Holmes, Historic Preservation Planner