

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2014 Legislative Session

Legislative day # 7

RESOLUTION NO. 74 - 2014

Introduced by: Greg Fox and Mary Kay Sigaty

A RESOLUTION creating a task force to study mulching, composting and wood processing policies and regulations with respect to Howard County land use planning processes and Zoning Regulations.

Introduced and read for the first time on _____, 2014.

By order _____
Sheila M. Tolliver, Administrator to the County Council

Read for a second time and a public hearing held on _____, 2014.

By order _____
Sheila M. Tolliver, Administrator to the County Council

This Resolution was read for the third time and was Adopted ____, Adopted with amendments ____, Failed ____, Withdrawn ____ by the County Council on _____, 2014.

Certified by _____
Sheila M. Tolliver, Administrator to the County Council

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing language; TEXT IN ALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing language.
~~Strike-out~~ indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment.

1 **WHEREAS**, Section 902 of the Howard County Charter authorizes the creation of
2 temporary advisory boards of residents to assist in the consideration of administrative policies
3 and programs; and
4

5 **WHEREAS**, the Howard County Council recognizes that sustaining the profitability of
6 farmland while protecting the quality of life for rural residents are both worthy goals which
7 occasionally may conflict with each other; and
8

9 **WHEREAS**, the County Council recognizes that there is opportunity for improvement in
10 the land use planning process; and
11

12 **WHEREAS**, the County Council sees a need for a task force to study land use policy as it
13 relates to mulching, composting, and wood processing and recommend ways to make them more
14 responsive to both agricultural and residential needs; and
15

16 **WHEREAS**, the County Council believes to conduct this study a task force should
17 comprise diverse and interested parties, including residents, business owners, and government
18 officials to reflect the diversity of the County and the multitude of concerns and solutions to be
19 investigated.
20

21 **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the County Council of Howard County,
22 Maryland, this ____ day of _____, 2014, that the County Council establishes the Wood
23 Processing Task Force to perform the following tasks:

- 24 1. Examine, including but not limited to, the following:
- 25 a. The role, scope, and impacts of mulching, composting, and wood
 - 26 processing activities to the overall sustainability of the County.
 - 27 b. The best management practices for mulching, composting and wood
 - 28 processing uses.

- c. Optimal sizes and locations for mulching, composting and wood processing uses.
- d. Statewide (Maryland Departments of the Environment and Agriculture) regulations and potential changes in the area of mulching, composting, and wood processing activities.

- 2. Elect co – chairs from the taskforce’s membership to direct and facilitate the group’s functions. There shall be one co-chair who represents residential interests and the other co-chair shall represent agricultural interests; and
- 3. Prepare and present to the County Council a draft task force report by November 15, 2014, which recommends potential changes to the County’s planning process and Zoning Regulations.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the County Council of Howard County, that the Mulching, Composting and Wood Processing Task Force consists of the following members:

- 1. A member to be named by each Council member;
- 2. A member to be named by the Dayton Rural Preservation Society;
- 3. A member to be named by the Howard County Citizen’s Association;
- 4. A member to be named by the Concerned Citizens of Western Howard County;
- 5. A member to be named by the Howard County Farm Bureau;
- 6. A member to be named by Howard Soil Conservation District;
- 7. A member to be named by the Howard County Agricultural Land Preservation Board;
- 8. A member to be named by the Howard County Health Department, Bureau of Environmental Health;
- 9. A member to be named by the Howard County Department of Public Works, Bureau of Environmental Services;
- 10. A member to be named by the Howard County Environmental Sustainability

1 Board;

2 **11.** A member to be named by the Howard County Economic Development Authority
3 of Howard County;

4 **12.** A member to be named by the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension;

5 **13.** The owner of a mulching, composting or wood processing operation that holds a
6 Maryland Department of the Environment permit;

7
8 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the County Council requests that the County
9 Executive appoint a member to this task force;

10
11 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the County Council of Howard County that
12 the task force membership may break into sub-committees to accomplish its tasks and the
13 membership of any sub-committee may expand as needed to accomplish the task.

14
15 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the County Council of Howard County asks
16 the County Executive to assign one staff member from the Department of Planning and Zoning to
17 attend task force meetings and provide expertise and advice.