



Howard County

Internal Memorandum

Subject: *Testimony for Council Bill CB xx-2024
Code Enforcement Property Inspection Authorization*

To: *Brandee Ganz
Chief Administrative Officer*

From: *Jessica Bellah, AICP, Deputy Director, on behalf of Lynda Eisenberg, AICP,
Director, Department of Planning and Zoning*

Date: *June 19, 2024*

Council Bill No. XX-2024 – Code Enforcement Property Inspection Authorization

This bill amends Section 16.1602 of Howard County’s code which governs enforcement of the Howard County Subdivision and Land Development Regulations and the Zoning Regulations. This legislation is necessary to establish the inspection and enforcement authority for the Department of Planning and Zoning and enable the Department to carry out its duty to investigate alleged violations of the Subdivision and Land Development regulations. The proposed language establishes the Department of Planning and Zoning’s right of entry for the purpose of conducting inspections related to enforcement of Howard County’s laws and for protecting the health and safety of its citizens.

Site access is necessary to conduct investigations and determine if a violation is or has occurred. Where site access has been denied to the Director or their Designee, this legislation would enable the Department to seek a court order permitting access to the site for the purpose of conducting said investigation. It further outlines that the Department may enter premises at any time where there is evidence that an imminent danger exists that may threaten public health and safety.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact to the County budget.

cc: Angela Cabellon, Chief of Staff
Brian Shepter, Deputy Chief of Staff
Jennifer Sager, Legislative Coordinator
Mary Kendall, Deputy Director, DPZ