




Howard County

Internal Memorandum

Subject: *Testimony for Council Bill 26--2012
Adoption of PlanHOWARD 2030*

To: *Lonnie Robbins
Chief Administrative Officer*

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

Date: *May 24, 2012*

The Department of Planning and Zoning supports Council Bill _____ - 2012 which proposes adoption of Howard County's new General Plan - *PlanHOWARD 2030*. Howard County reviews and updates its General Plan about once every decade. Since General Plans typically look 20 years into the future, this update comes at the mid-point in the planning timeframe, which then becomes a new starting point for the next 20-year General Plan.

PlanHOWARD 2030 follows the General Plan Guidelines adopted by the County Council on July 28, 2011 (Council Resolution 117-2011). It incorporates all planning elements required by the County Code and Maryland Smart Growth mandates, including the twelve State Visions and designation of new "place types" and "growth tiers". *Plan HOWARD 2030* presents a forward looking approach to a greener and more sustainable future – environmentally, economically and for the quality of life in our communities.

In preparation for the plan, the General Plan Task Force held nine meetings between June 2011 and January 2012. A preliminary draft plan was completed on March 19, 2012.

In early April, the Howard County Planning Board held three open houses to discuss the plan with the public at the Miller Branch Library in Ellicott City, the North Laurel Community Center, and the Gary J. Arthur Community Center in Glenwood.

Following these open houses, the Planning Board held a public hearing on April 18, 2012, to receive input from the public. The Planning Board held open work sessions on April 19, 2012, and May 3, 2012, to complete their recommendations, which were integrated into *PlanHOWARD 2030* and are attached here for the County Council's review.

There is no immediate fiscal impact associated with adoption of this Council Bill. However, a Fiscal Impact Analysis was conducted to assess the implications of future growth in terms of both projected revenues and expenses for supporting public services and facilities.

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