



# Howard County

## Agricultural Land Preservation Program

### MEMORANDUM

**Subject:** Testimony for Genevieve Carroll Property Installment Purchase Agreement

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

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

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

**From:** Joy Levy, Agricultural Land Preservation Program Administrator, Department of Planning and Zoning

**Date:** June 18, 2015

The Department of Planning and Zoning, of which the Agricultural Land Preservation Program is a part, supports Council Bill No. -2015. This bill approves an Installment Purchase Agreement to acquire an agricultural preservation easement on property owned by Genevieve Carroll. Section 15.507(g)(4) of the Howard County Code requires County Council approval of a multi-year Installment Purchase Agreement pursuant to Section 612 of the Howard County Charter.

The approval of an Installment Purchase Agreement for the Carroll property would preserve 52.95 acres of productive farmland in the County, adding to the over 22,000 acres that have been preserved to date. The easement will cost \$1,639,700 to acquire. The funding comes from the portion of the transfer tax dedicated to the agricultural land preservation program. When the twice yearly interest payments that the IPA provides are factored in, the overall cost of the Carroll easement will be \$1,949,942. This farm is desirable due to the high percentage of land in agricultural use, it's fully implemented Soil Conservation and Water Quality Plan, and the significant amount of preserved land nearby.

Having met all eligibility criteria for the acquisition of an agricultural preservation easement, staff supports Council Bill No. -2015 and hopes that the County Council moves to approve it. Thank you for your consideration.

cc: Jennifer Sager, Legislative Coordinator, Department of Administration  
Stanley Milesky, Director, Department of Finance  
Lisa O'Brien, Senior Assistant County Solicitor, Office of Law  
Ag Read File  
G Carroll File