



Howard County

Internal Memorandum

Subject: *Testimony for Council Bill ____ - 2012 (Comprehensive Zoning Process)*

To: *Lonnie Robbins
Chief Administrative Officer*

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

Date: *June 4, 2012*

The Department of Planning and Zoning supports adoption of Council Bill ____ - 2012, which proposes amendments to procedures used during development and adoption of a Comprehensive Zoning Plan for Howard County. The current legislative language was adopted in response to voter approval of Question B in 1994, which made adoption of the Comprehensive Zoning Plan a legislative process, rather than a responsibility of the Zoning Board. Certain problems were identified when the new Comprehensive Zoning procedures were used for the 2004 - 2006 Comprehensive Zoning processes.

The proposed amendments improve public notice provisions, as well as clarify and streamline procedures. The intent is to make it easier for citizens to understand and participate in the process for development, amendment and approval of the Comprehensive Zoning Plan.

There are no significant fiscal impacts associated with adoption of this Council Bill. DPZ will assume responsibility for posting properties and mailing notices to adjoining properties, but a fee to cover these costs was included in the proposed FY 13 Fee Schedule. Please contact me if you have any questions at 410-313-4301.

cc: Jessica Feldmark, Chief of Staff
Jennifer Sager, Legislative Coordinator
Paul Johnson, Deputy County Solicitor
Ray Wacks, Budget Administrator
Kimberley Flowers, Deputy Director, DPZ
Cindy Hamilton, Chief, Division of Public Service and Zoning Administration, DPZ