



Subject: Testimony on Council Bill No. 16-2016

To: Lonnie R. Robbins,
Chief Administrative Officer

From: Jim Caldwell,
Administrator, Office of Community Sustainability

Date: March 3, 2016

We are seeking approval of CB 16-2016 that approves a multi-year grant agreement with the Chesapeake Bay Trust (“CBT”). We were notified by CBT that Howard County was awarded a grant in the amount of \$28,895 for support of the Trinity School bioretention area design project. This project will provide a design for a large bioretention area at the Trinity School (4985 Ilchester Road Ellicott City, MD 21043) where stormwater from nearly the entire site runs into a tributary of the Patapsco River. When built, the bioretention area will capture most of the runoff from the 8-acre, 32% impervious campus, gaining 2.55 acres of impervious treatment credit toward our stormwater permit. In addition to the obvious water quality benefits that will be provided by this practice (removal of nitrogen, phosphorus, and suspended solids), this bioretention area will serve as an excellent demonstration site for the County’s Nonprofit Partnership Program, as well as an educational opportunity for the school.

The grant agreement contains an indemnification provision that requires, in certain circumstances, the County to hold CBT harmless and to indemnify CBT from any claims or litigation arising from the project. The term of the grant expires during Fiscal Year 17. Because the obligation to indemnify may result in the payment of County funds during a future fiscal year, this agreement needs to be approved as a multi-year agreement pursuant to Section 612 of the Howard County Charter.

This grant was included in OCS’s budget and no additional spending authority is needed.