



Howard County Council

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COUNCILMEMBERS

Christiana Mercer Rigby, Chairperson
District 3

Opel Jones, Vice Chairperson
District 2

Deb Jung
District 4

Liz Walsh
District 1

David Yungmann
District 5

Legislative Work Session #3
Friday, October 4, 2019
C. Vernon Gray Room
12:00 p.m.

Minutes (Approved)

The Council Chairperson Mercer Rigby reconvened the meeting at 12:06 p.m.

Council Members Present: Deb Jung, Christiana Mercer Rigby, Liz Walsh, Dave Yungmann

Council Member Jones was absent.

Staff Present: Diane Schwartz Jones, Council Administrator, Theodore Wimberly, Council Administrative Manager; Michelle Harrod, Deputy County Auditor; Gary Kuc, County Solicitor, John Gwynn, Assistant County Solicitor.

Council Bill 38-2019 prohibiting certain waivers, etc.

Discussion participants included:

- Peter Conrad
- Chad Edmondson
- Shaina Hernandez
- Marc DeLuca

Council Member Walsh summarized the 9 amendments to CB38-2019 including: clarification that it was not intended to apply to homeowner projects, elimination of necessary disturbance requirement, used Administration language proposed for design manual to replace flood language; eliminated application to residential infill, deleted the provisions related to expanded open space requirements and forest conservation, etc. CM Walsh clarified that intent is to capture large projects. The remaining provisions are increases to buffers, eliminating waivers in the watershed, and encouraging redevelopment over greenfield which was shown on a chart provided by Council Member Walsh.

There was general discussion about relationship of CB38-2019 to CB56-2018.

Administration representatives generally discussed the Administration's proposed amendment to CR123-2019 to clarify that the burden is on the development team to justify alternative compliance, waivers, and fees in lieu. Any off-site facilities must be built at the same time.

Council members discussed whether public projects should be held to a different standard than the private sector.

Administration staff requested the opportunity for a more in-depth review. There was a preliminary indication from one department that many changes work but need more time to review and understand the package of amendments

There was discussion that the amendments go a long way to address concerns heard in testimony and general discussion about buffers and forest conservation.

Council Bill 41-2019 to create a community zoning navigator

Council Member Yungmann summarized the objectives of the bill to create a point person for information for the public to help them understand complicated development processes and that the creation of the position is not intended to replace need to make the process easier.

General discussion followed about funding, whether the position is needed, if it is needed where it should be located and potential expectations that could flow from creation of the position.

The work session adjourned at 2:35 p.m.