



Howard County Council

George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043-4392

COUNCILMEMBERS

Calvin Ball, Chairperson
District 2
Jennifer Terrasa, Vice Chairperson
District 3
Greg Fox
District 5
Mary Kay Sigaty
District 4
Courtney Watson
District 1

Minutes (approved)
Legislative Work Session
September 26, 2011

The work session was called to order by Vice Chairperson Terrasa at 4:33 pm in the Banneker Room, George Howard Building, 3430 Courthouse Drive, Ellicott City.

Members present: Jennifer Terrasa, Greg Fox, Mary Kay Sigaty and Courtney Watson.

Council Bill No. 50-2011 – Introduced by, The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive and Cosponsored by Calvin Ball, Mary Kay Sigaty, Jennifer Terrasa and Courtney Watson – Pursuant to State law requirements, repealing and reenacting the Howard County Public Ethics Law; defining certain terms; restating the role of the Howard County Ethics Commission and the role of the County Solicitor; authorizing certain late fees for failure to file certain forms; clarifying certain prohibited conduct and interests; clarifying provisions related to gifts and authorizing the acceptance of certain limited types of gifts; maintaining certain exceptions currently allowed under the Howard County Charter; clarifying the disclosure of certain information by elected officials, candidates for elected offices, county employees and board and commission members; clarifying and expanding certain lobbyist provisions including reporting requirements; providing for certain enforcement; and generally relating to the Howard County Public Ethics Law.

The members discussed the bill with Margaret Ann Nolan, Beverly Hayden and Jennifer Sager. Topics included the reporting requirements for County Boards and Commissions and the procedures for levying fines for failure to file a required disclosure statement. The members requested a recommendation for inclusion of the various Boards and Commissions under the bill as well as input from the Boards and Commissions. The bill will likely be tabled pending further information.

Transfer of Appropriation Ordinance No. 1- Fiscal Year 2012 – Transferring \$600,000 in excise tax funding to capital project T7101, State/County Shared Intersections, from capital project J4148, Dorsey Run Road Extension; making certain text changes to the detail pages for Capital Project T7101 in order to authorize certain studies to be funded by the transfer.

The members discussed the TAO with Marsha McLaughlin, Jim Irvin and Steve Lafferty. Topics included the text changes to the detail page for Capital Project T7101, the scope, purpose and timing of the study funded by the proposed transfer, the impact on pending development projects, and the cost-benefit to the County.

Council Resolution No. 150-2011 – Introduced by, Greg Fox – Proposing to add a section to Article VIII. “Centralized Purchasing” of the Howard County Charter to limit the exercise of the power of eminent domain so that the power is used only for public purposes and not for private economic development, and submitting

this amendment to the voters of Howard County for their adoption or rejection in accordance with Article X of the Howard County Charter and Article XIA of the Maryland Constitution.

The members discussed the resolution with Margaret Ann Nolan and Gary Kuc. Mr. Fox expressed a willingness to ask that the resolution be tabled and referred to the Charter Review Commission.

The work session was adjourned at 6:25pm.