

LAW OFFICES
O'MALLEY, MILES, NYLEN & GILMORE, P.A.

La Plata:
Street Address:
403 East Charles Street
La Plata, MD 20646
Mailing Address:
P O. Box 2625
La Plata, MD 20646
(301) 934-5600
Fax No. (301) 934-0595

P.O. Box 689
Greenbelt, Maryland 20768
Street Address
11785 Beltsville Drive
Tenth Floor
Calverton, Maryland 20705
(301) 572 7900
Fax No. (301) 572-6655
www.omng.com

Annapolis:
2007 Tidewater Colony Drive
Suite 2B
Annapolis, MD 21401
(410) 266-9500
Fax No. (410) 266-9522

Edward W Nylen
Mark G. Levin
William M. Shipp
Isaac H. Marks, Sr.
Susan Zuhowski
Matthew P Gorman

F Robert Troll, Jr.
John P Davey
John C. Fredrickson
Robert D. Lourie
Jill M. Shea
Kia Washington

Sally Presler McCash
Nancy L. Slepicka
Marilyn J. Brasier
Leonard L. Lucchi
Traci R. Scudder

Matthew D. Osnos
Lawrence N. Taub
Stanley J. Klos, Jr.
Michael G. Leahy
Jessica Snow Barnes

Of Counsel:
Peter F O'Malley

John D. Gilmore, Jr.
(1921 1999)

Consulting Land Planner:
Dean Armstrong, AICP

TO: David Deutsch, City Manager

FROM: Leonard Lucchi

DATE: February 13, 2008

RE: Legislative Update

Now that the first trimester of the 2008 Maryland General Assembly has elapsed and the bill filing deadlines have passed, the legislature is faced with consideration of 872 Senate Bills and 1,451 House Bills. The two budget committees are about to make decisions to identify \$200 million in cuts with the Senate going first, as it does in even-numbered years. Here is a rundown of recent developments on issues that are important to the City of Bowie:

1. SPEED IMAGING – Although there are Prince George's-specific bills regarding speed-monitoring cameras, all eyes are on the Governor's statewide bills – SB 269 and HB 364. These bills would allow municipalities to establish and operate their own speed imaging cameras with the fines directed back to the municipal governments. Both House and Senate committees will convene hearings on these bills next week.
2. PRINCE GEORGE'S HOSPITAL SYSTEM – As you know, the 2008 Special Session set aside \$50 million as a state contribution for the hospital system so long as the County and the State reached an agreement on how to save the ailing facilities or the General Assembly by itself enacted a comprehensive plan. Both the House and Senate Delegations from Prince George's County now seem poised to act on legislation creating an independent hospital authority if no county-state agreement is forthcoming.

David Deutsch
February 14, 2008
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- 3 BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSING (BRAC) – The Governor’s BRAC Community Enhancement Act (HB 366/SB 246) would allow municipalities in Prince George’s and other affected counties to apply for designation as a BRAC Revitalization and Investment Zone. Businesses locating in such zones would be eligible for a mix of tax incentives. The House Ways and Means Committee will hold a hearing on this proposal next week.

Last week, I met with the four members of the 23rd District Legislative Delegation and discussed the legislative positions taken by the City so far. All four pledged to assist the City with its legislative goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to work with you during the legislative session. I look forward to representing the City for the remaining two months of this year’s General Assembly and will continue to keep you apprised of legislative developments as they occur.