

June 16, 2008

The Honorable Ingrid Turner
Prince George's County Council
County Administration Building
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772

Dear Councilmember Turner:

On June 2, 2008 the Bowie City Council reviewed a code enforcement issue at the request of a Bowie resident. The resident had been cited by the city for parking a cargo trailer on their property. Zoning ordinances sections of both Bowie City Code (Sections 26-4 and 26-9) and County Code (27-441) prohibit the parking of cargo trailers on residential lots.

Both County and City Codes permit the parking of one unoccupied camping trailer and one boat on a trailer on a residential lot. The resident argued that since their family uses the cargo trailer for recreational purposes, to transport their motorcycles for recreational pursuits, their trailer should be included in permitted uses. They feel the ordinances and definitions, as written, are antiquated.

Since the City Code cannot be weaker than the County Code any change to the Bowie City Code would need to be precipitated by a change in the County Code. Specifically, we would like to inquire if there is any County interest in modifying its current zoning law to include some cargo trailers as recreational vehicles. The goal would be to permit a cargo trailer that is used to transport motorcycles, race cars, etc. to be defined as a permitted use.

As always, we are quite prepared to meet with you or with other county officials you might determine to be helpful in resolving this question. Thanking you in advance, I remain,

Sincerely,

Bowie City Council
G. Frederick Robinson
Mayor