

## MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: Alfred D. Lott, ICMA-CM, CPM  
City Manager

SUBJECT: *Status Report* DATE: March 18, 2021

### *Status Report*

1. Bowie Water Plant Contaminant Testing Omission

Sampling and testing of drinking water for contaminants is required by EPA to be done at varying frequencies. For nitrate, an annual test was required to be completed by the end of calendar year 2020. Although the City of Bowie Water Plant completed other required testing in 2020, the nitrate test was inadvertently omitted. This test omission was identified by plant staff in February 2021 at which time the nitrate test was completed and the omission of the 2020 test was reported to the Maryland Department of Environment. The plant has reviewed the testing compliance process and is implementing changes to the compliance review process to prevent it from happening again.

Sources of nitrate contamination in drinking water include runoff from fertilizer, sewage leaks and erosion from natural deposits. As such, nitrate is not common in the underground aquifers such as those that Bowie water wells draw from. However, annual testing is required to ensure nitrate contamination, if found, is within the safe limits established by EPA. The nitrate testing results for Bowie's water system for the past six years are shown below.

| Year | Nitrate (mg/L) | Year                 | Nitrate (mg/L) |
|------|----------------|----------------------|----------------|
| 2016 | Non-detectable | 2019                 | Non-detectable |
| 2017 | Non-detectable | 2020                 | -              |
| 2018 | Non-detectable | 2021 (makeup sample) | Non-detectable |

As required by Maryland Department of Environment, all Bowie Water customers will be made aware of this late nitrate test through the City's upcoming 2020 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report which is made available online at:

<https://www.cityofbowie.org/398/Water-Service>. The report will be posted by April, 2021.

2. Mill Branch Crossing - Planning Board Results

On Thursday, March 18th, the Prince George's County Planning Board conducted a public hearing on Preliminary Plan of Subdivision #4-19050 (Mill Branch Crossing). The subject site contains 70.1 acres, is zoned C-S-C (Commercial Shopping Center), and is located in the northeastern quadrant of the U.S. Route 301/Mill Branch Road intersection. The application proposes the creation of lots for the development of: 77,635 sq. ft. of retail/commercial uses; a 150-room hotel; 190 townhouse units; and, 408 multi-family units. The City Council conducted a public hearing on this case on January 4th, and did not offer a recommendation.

At the Planning Board hearing, one area property owner, Mr. Mike Terry, spoke in opposition to the application. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Planning Board voted to approve Preliminary Subdivision Plan #4-19050 in accordance with the staff recommendation. Commissioner Washington moved for approval. Her motion, seconded by Commissioner Geraldo, was unanimously approved.

ADL: lfr