

MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: David J. Deutsch
City Manager

SUBJECT: *Status Report*

DATE: May 21, 2015

1. Stakeholders Meeting – Proposed AutoZone Store

A Stakeholders Meeting was held on Thursday, May 7th at 7:00 p.m. in City Hall for a proposed AutoZone retail store. The application is for a Preliminary Subdivision Plan to create a new 1.49-acre lot on the existing Home Depot property (12.4 acres), located in the northeastern quadrant of the U.S. Route 301/Ballpark Road intersection. A new one-story/6,816 sq. ft. retail building is proposed. The entire property is zoned C-M (Commercial Miscellaneous), where the proposed use is permitted by right, and the submission of a Detailed Site Plan is not required. The meeting was attended by: Mr. Dan Lynch, the applicant's attorney; Ms. Lisa Betz, P.E. and Project Manager with Dewberry Consultants; and, City staff. Although 25 notices were distributed announcing the Stakeholders Meeting, and two signs were posted on the property, no one from the public was in attendance. City public hearings have been scheduled as follows: Bowie Advisory Planning Board, Tuesday, June 9th at 7:00 p.m., and City Council, Monday, June 15th at 8:00 p.m.

2. Bike to Work Day – Friday, May 15th

Last Friday was Bike to Work Day in the Washington, DC metropolitan region. This year, the City again was the home of two of the 79 pit stops in the area: outside of the Food Court at the Bowie Town Center, where 48 participants preregistered; and, in Old Bowie, at the Huntington Fire Station, where 18 folks had preregistered. Attendance at the Town Center pit stop totaled 29 participants, including two "walk-ups". Eleven registrants attended the Old Town pit stop. Special thanks and appreciation are extended to the Simon Property Group/Bowie Town Center Mall management staff, and to the firefighters at the Huntington Station for their participation at the respective pit stops. Region-wide, 17,500 riders participated in this year's event, a 4% increase over last year.

3. Bowie EDC Gives 8th Annual Business Recognition Awards

During a breakfast ceremony on Wednesday, May 13, the City's Economic Development Committee, in partnership with the Greater Bowie Chamber of Commerce, conducted their 8th Annual Business Recognition Awards Breakfast. Brien Poffenberger, the CEO of the Maryland Chamber of Commerce provided the keynote remarks. The following six Bowie businesses were recognized:

Incubator Business of the Year – 2015 Honoree: Avant Garde Engineering Technology, Marcellus Major

An information technology services company that provides technical solutions and personnel to the private and public sector, Avant Garde Engineering has demonstrated a commitment to increasing company revenues through new contracts and the launch of a new cloud computing product, as well as engaging additional staff over the previous 12 months. The company is already upgrading its current IT infrastructure to support large federal contracts and developing a sales and technical training program to support cloud computing offerings. Over the last year, company founder and CEO, Marcellus Major, was admitted into the U.S. Small Business Administration's 8A program, awarded a county-based business certification, and was included under a \$50 million contract as a subcontractor to G2, supporting the Intelligence Community. Avant Garde Engineering is truly a new leader in the business community.

Entrepreneur of the Year – 2015 Honoree: Christina Garvey Berman of Gateway Title Company

With more than 20 years of leadership in the title insurance industry, Gateway Title has been providing residential and commercial title services for realtors, lenders, developers and investors. They have been praised for providing customers with the best choice and industry expertise for title searches and insurance, escrow and settlement services. With innovative technology and a leading edge title insurance, and with business leaders such as Garvey making it all happen, she and her organization work hard to help you keep up and succeed in an ever-increasing, fast-paced business world.

Small Business of the Year – 2015 Honoree: Diplomat Cleaners

Fred and Erika Policelli started Diplomat Cleaners in 1970 at Free State Mall. When the shopping center was redeveloped, he stayed and thrived and relocated to the front section of the new center. Why did Diplomat Cleaners survive? As generations of customers will tell you, it's their professionalism, friendliness and commitment to service. For 45 years, this small, family-owned business has grown and has been successful through economic downturns and center redevelopment. Along with his wife Erika, and two of their sons, Tony and Danny, Fred continues to serve the Bowie community with excellent customer service and family pride.

Community Service Award – 2015 Honoree: Byrd & Byrd LLC, Jackie and Toby Byrd

The law firm of Byrd & Byrd LLC is a six-attorney firm combined with unique legal experience of more than 50 years. In addition to a significant focus on elder law issues, the firm is also an effective general practice office that manages issues of personal injury, family law, real estate, construction, wrongful death and medical malpractice. Byrd & Byrd has been known for building strong, long-term relationships with its clients, as well as the community at large. For example, for more than 20 years, Jackie Byrd wrote "Senior Moments," an award-winning, weekly column for the Bowie Blade-News. She has also published two books based on those columns. To name just a few of her honors, Jackie is the recipient of the President's Award from the Prince George's County Bar Association for outstanding contributions to the Bar and to the community, and has been named four times in Washingtonian Magazine's list of Top Washington Elder Law attorneys. Byrd was recently appointed by Prince George's County Executive Rushern

Baker to the Advisory Commission on Aging, and also serves on the Bowie Health Center's institutional Board of Directors, all while serving various local organizations as a guest speaker. We are so pleased to present this award to Byrd & Byrd LLC.

Green Business of the Year – 2015 Honoree: The Pink Orchid, Carmina Reynolds

Carmina Reynolds, owner and operator of The Pink Orchid in Old Town Bowie, certainly knows how important it is to be green. Customers say over and over again that her business exemplifies green because she is a total “green advocate.” Her appreciation and dedication to caring for nature was born early in her childhood as she worked and learned from her father as he grew food and flowers for the family. Some of her Pink Orchid examples of carrying on this green tradition include: her unique use of compost, left over from her meticulously prepared and esthetically designed floral arrangements; continually recycles vases that people give her, and in turn, uses them to help others with their floral needs, volunteers to do hands-on demonstrations at schools to show children how all living things are connected and need to be cared for, and above all, she never uses herbicides or pesticides. Baking soda is her secret weapon! Carmina's passion for protecting and caring for the earth is contagious, inspiring customers and visitors to go green.

Business of the Year – 2015 Honoree: Power Solutions, Jon Eugenio

Power Solutions is a full service, 24/7 electrical contractor headquartered in Bowie. Since 1998, Power Solutions has been providing, among other services, electrical construction and maintenance, mission critical facility maintenance, emergency power systems, life system systems, and data communications to name just a few. Their Life Safety Division has been hailed for their high professionalism and dedication to providing clients with unsurpassed quality and service to meet their fire alarm safety needs. Power Solutions is known for its quality and consistency, and ability to work successfully in the most sensitive construction settings, such as hospitals, laboratories and secure government facilities. And they do their job in the safest, most timely manner possible. Over the past several years, Power Solutions has successfully completed thousands of projects from basic electrical maintenance work to the construction of multimillion dollar hospitals and data centers. While they work they do may be extremely difficult, their mission and goal on every project is simple: to deliver work of the highest quality, on time, and to the complete satisfaction of their customers.

4. **2016 Ford Truck Acquisition – Parks and Grounds**

The adopted FY16 Budget allocates \$31,800 for the replacement of truck #316, a 2003 Chevrolet pickup truck in the Parks and Grounds Division of Community Services. Staff has reviewed the bids for this item and found a current Maryland State Bid BOP contract #001B5400299, which will be honored by Hertrick Fleet Services in Denton, MD for the purchase of a Ford ¾ Ton Truck for \$27,432. The City will not accept delivery of the vehicle prior to July 1, 2015. As provided by Section 62 of the City Charter, this will serve as the required seven (7) day notice of intent to issue a purchase order to Hertrick for a total amount of \$27,432.

5. Acquisition of Toro Groundsmaster 4000-D

The adopted FY16 Budget allocates \$63,000 for the replacement of mower #341, a 2004 Toro Groundsmaster 580-D in the Parks and Grounds Division. Staff has reviewed bids for this item and found the National Intergovernmental Purchasing Alliance (IPA) has a contract RFP #120535 which will be honored by Turf Equipment and Supply for the purchase of a Toro Groundsmaster 4000-D for \$62,000. The City will not accept delivery of the vehicle prior to July 1, 2015. As provided by Section 62 of the City Charter, this will serve as the required seven-day notice of intent to issue a purchase order to Turf Equipment and Supply for a total amount of \$62,000.

6. PZED Committee Results, CB-27-2015

The County Council's Planning, Zoning and Economic Development (PZED) Committee met on Wednesday, May 20th, to review CB-27-2015, a bill sponsored by Council Chair Mel Franklin and Council Member Todd Turner to remove the existing 20% cap on townhouse units in the M-X-T (Mixed Use Transportation Oriented) Zone. At Monday's City Council Meeting, Council recommended that CB-27 be held in Committee for further study. The Committee convened with only three members present (Harrison, Glaros and Tavares), since Council Members Davis and Toles were attending the ICSC Conference in Las Vegas. Council Member Glaros had to depart early to attend the Duvall High School graduation ceremony prior to the Committee's consideration of CB-27, leaving only two Committee members and no quorum. Council Member Turner recognized the absence of a quorum but requested that the Committee hear from interested parties. Attorney Matthew Tedesco, representing The Rappaport Companies, explained the need for the legislation and noted that his client has been unable to find builders for their Amber Ridge site. They now have a builder interested in constructing townhouses on the property. Several other land use attorneys, including Robert Antonetti (Melford), Arthur Horne (Karrington), Ed Gibbs and Tom Haller, were present and indicated their support for removing the 20% cap on townhouses. The City's Planning Director presented the City Council position and requested that CB-27 be held in Committee until facts and information could be provided to justify elimination of the cap. The County Planning Board did not have a position as they did not have a chance to review the legislation. Since there were not enough members to vote on the bill, it was held in Committee by default. The next opportunity for the PZED Committee to review the legislation is their meeting of June 9th.