

MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: David J. Deutsch
City Manager

SUBJECT: *Status Report*

DATE: June 11, 2015

1. City Election

Councilmember Trowth filed his candidacy paperwork on May 26 for the District 4 Council Seat.

Mr. Kelly P. Rowe filed his candidacy paperwork on June 9 for the District 2 Council seat.

2. Weed Warriors Program Update for FY15

In FY15, seven Weed Warrior Work Days were held in Whitemarsh Park by staff and the Green Team Executive Committee. English ivy was removed from over 120 trees. This would not have been possible without the help of 83 volunteers, who donated over 250 hours of their time. In FY14, there were 11 Weed Warrior Work Days held, 82 volunteers who participated, and English ivy was removed from over 100 trees. The average number of volunteers per event increased by about four volunteers in FY15 because an effort was made to target more students, businesses, and service organizations. Weed Warrior Work Days will continue into FY16 on a periodic basis, and more outreach will be provided to educate residents about the environmental issues associated with invasive species.

3. MEA Smart Energy Communities Grant

The City has been informed by the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) that we will be receiving a Maryland Smart Energy Communities grant of \$33,840 to retrofit LED lights at the Bowie Senior Center. This project will be implemented in FY 2016 and must be completed by May 2016. At the appropriate time, the FY 2016 Budget will need to be amended to reflect this funding and project.

4. Economic Development Committee (EDC)

The Bowie EDC held their regular meeting Wednesday and drafted a list of the FY 2016 Topics the EDC will explore. Preeminent among those topics is a review of the 2006 Economic Development Vision and Strategy and an update thereof. Many other subtopics will fill out the year's calendar, including a look at commercial signage as requested by Council. A final determination of topics and meeting dates will occur during the next EDC meeting on July 8, 2015 at 7:30 a.m.

Phyllis Thompson was elected to serve as EDC Vice Chair; she will replace Kelly Pierce who completes her EDC service June 30.

5. County M-X-T Townhouse Legislation Update (CB-27-2015)

On Tuesday, June 9th, the Prince George's County Council's Planning, Zoning and Economic Development (PZED) Committee voted unanimously, 5-0, to give a FAVORABLE recommendation for Draft #2 of CB-27-2015, proposed by Council Chair Mel Franklin and Council Member Todd Turner for the M-X-T (Mixed Use Transportation Oriented) zone. The changes to the bill are minor, with Draft #2 stating that the design standards shown on the Conceptual Site Plan (CSP) are for guidance, as opposed to being regulations, and that both the maximum number and type of dwelling units shall be determined with the CSP approval, rather than just the number. The deletion of the 20% cap on the number of townhouse units remains in the bill. Council Member Davis made the motion to send CB-27-2015 out of Committee with a positive recommendation. The motion was seconded by Council Member Glaros. A public hearing on the bill is expected by late July.

6. District Council Decision on Wal-Mart (Special Exception 4734)

On Monday, June 8th, the Prince George's County District Council voted unanimously to prepare an Order of Approval with Conditions for Special Exception 4734. Wal-Mart is required to obtain approval of a Special Exception for a department or variety store over 125,000 square feet in the C-S-C (Commercial Shopping Center) zone. The proposed Special Exception area includes 24.9 acres located in the northeast quadrant of US 301 and Mill Branch Road. On May 11, 2015, the District Council held an oral argument hearing and took the case under advisement. At this Monday's meeting, Council Member Todd Turner made the motion to prepare the Order of Approval; Council Member Derrick Davis seconded the motion. Under the Prince George's County Zoning Ordinance, the District Council must take final action on the Order by June 22nd, or the application is automatically denied. Any appeal of the District Council decision must be filed in the Circuit Court within 30 days of the date of written notice of the final decision.