

MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: David J. Deutsch
City Manager

SUBJECT: *Status Report*

DATE: August 13, 2015

1. MD 3 at Forest Drive Field Meeting

On Friday, August 7th, staff from the City and Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) met at the intersection of MD 3 and Forest Drive, where SHA is planning safety improvements. Councilmember Woolfley, County Council Member Todd Turner, and one resident of Forest Drive also attended the meeting. SHA officials explained that the project is a \$2.93 million safety improvement that will include installation of a right-turn in/right-turn out traffic island at Forest Drive and a concrete barrier within the median that will prevent left turns out of the median. The project is fully funded for design and construction and is listed as the Governor's Priority Project. The plans are approximately 30% designed at this point; construction advertisement is anticipated in early 2018. City staff requested that traffic from Whitmarsh Park be included in the evaluation of traffic movements. A community meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 29th at the Kenhill Center.

2. Compost Bin Program Update

The City's compost bin program just finished a very successful first week! During the week, 24 bins were sold at City Hall, and on Sunday, August 9, Planning Department staff attended the Bowie Farmers' Market and sold an additional 17 bins in just four hours. Staff will attend additional Farmers' Markets (August 23, September 20, October 11 and 25), and compost bins will continue to be available during all City Hall hours until the remaining bins are sold. Thanks are extended to Council for approving this program as it has been well received by residents. Additional thanks to the many staff in other departments for their help in making this program successful so far.

3. Election

Resident Nathan C. Johnson filed his candidacy paperwork on August 12th for Council District 1.

4. Animal Temporary Holding Rooms

The Animal Control Temporary Holding Rooms (THR) for dogs and cats has been operational for six months (since February 7, 2015). A total of 12 dogs and four cats have been housed. Twelve volunteers have assisted City staff with the care of the pets.

Animal Control staff has worked diligently toward the care of the pets and the performance of the facility.

Eleven pets (9 dogs, 2 cats) were released from the THR to their owners:

- One cat and six dogs were released on the day of pickup;
- Two dogs were housed for two days;
- One cat was housed for four days;
- One dog was housed for five days.

All owners of the 11 pets released from the THR were Bowie residents with one exception, that owner was from Mitchellville. Fees collected totaled \$280. Note that three Bowie residents discovered their dogs had been found and were being held in the THR after viewing Animal Control's Facebook page.

Five pets (3 dogs, 2 cats) were transported to the Prince George's County Animal Management Facility (PGAMD); all five were adopted or rescued:

- One dog and one cat were housed for three days;
- One dog was housed for four days;
- One dog and one cat were housed for five days.

5. US 301 Resurfacing Project

The Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) has issued a notice to proceed for the resurfacing of US 301, from 450 feet south of Excalibur Road to 1,700 feet north of the US 50 interchange. Work should begin by the end of August. Due to the amount of work required and fall already looming, SHA anticipates that final paving will not occur until next year. Orange advisory construction zone signs have already been erected north and south of the project limits. SHA is continuing design on another project to reduce congestion and add capacity to the lanes of US 301 between the Excalibur Road/Mill Branch Road intersection and US 50. A City Council position letter supporting that project was approved on the January 5, 2015 Consent Agenda. The larger project is intended to achieve a consistent, three through-lane cross section for this same portion of US 301, which will hopefully eliminate several existing bottlenecks that occur during the peak periods each day. SHA tried to coordinate the two projects to implement them at the same time but they could not make it work. They admitted to staff this week: "Due to the age and condition of the pavement, we had to resurface the roadway or else it would not have survived another one or more winters." Any questions regarding the resurfacing project should be referred to SHA District 3 Construction at 301-513-7300.