

MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: David J. Deutsch
City Manager

SUBJECT: *Status Report*

DATE: October 1, 2015

1. Drug Take Back Program

On Saturday, September 26th, the Bowie Police Department, in partnership with the US Drug Enforcement Administration, collected 368 pounds of prescription and non-prescription drugs.

2. Green Your Business Workshop Held at City Hall

On Sept. 25th from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., a Green Your Business Workshop was hosted by Bowie's Green Team and the Greater Bowie Chamber of Commerce. Including speakers and staff, there were about 15 attendees that learned how to save money by greening their businesses as well as how to receive recognition through the newly started Green Bowie Business Certification Program. Speakers included Laura Armstrong from the Maryland Green Registry, Abba Polangin from AIP Architects, and Mike Fowler from BGE.

3. Jericho Park Trail Stakeholders Meeting

On Tuesday, September 29th City staff conducted a Stakeholders Meeting for the Jericho Park Trail segment of The Bowie Heritage Trail at the Huntington Community Center. The Jericho Park Trail is a City Capital Improvements Program project, fully funded for design and construction this fiscal year, that will provide a hiker-biker trail connection from Falling Water Court in the Adnell subdivision (not located within the City) and Jericho Park. The trail segment is a part of the larger Bowie Heritage Trail system that Council endorsed in its approval of the City's Trails Master Plan which will eventually link Old Town Bowie to the planned mixed-use development adjacent to the Bowie State MARC Station. The CIP project includes construction of a 2,200 foot long, 8-10 foot wide asphalt hiker-biker trail through the wooded portion of Jericho Park, connecting to the existing parking lot. The portion of the trail connecting to the Adnell subdivision will be located on property owned by The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC). The Commission will be reimbursing the City up to \$100,000 for the construction cost of the trail on their land. Also, as Council may recall, the City received a \$40,000 grant from the State of Maryland under the National Recreational Trails Program to be used for construction of the trail. Staff advertised the meeting two weeks in advance by mailing notices to 54 nearby addresses, as well as to the Greater Bowie Chamber of Commerce and *The Bowie Blade-News*. In addition, two signs were

erected advertising the meeting date: one at the intersection of Crutchfield Lane and Falling Water Court and the other at Jericho Park. Two residents of the Adnell subdivision attended the meeting, along with several staff members from the M-NCPPC Parks Department. Concerns were expressed about a possible increase in crime and all-terrain vehicle (ATV) traffic. A resident of Falling Water Court gave numerous examples of how his house has been broken into and he stressed that this trail will only exacerbate the problem, unless something is done to protect his property. He was not against the idea of having a trail for recreational purposes or connecting to regional trails. The other resident felt the trail would increase crime and people coming through the neighborhood who don't belong there now. (Staff also received a phone call from another resident who lives on Falling Water Court who had similar security concerns.) In response to these issues, staff will attempt to address security and buffering in the design plan as it evolves.

4. MD Route 3/Forest Drive Community Informational Meeting

On Tuesday, September 29th, the State Highway Administration (SHA) conducted a community informational meeting at the Kenhill Center regarding the roadway improvements proposed at the MD Route 3 (southbound)/Forest Drive intersection. The project, which runs from Whitmarsh Park Drive to approximately ¼ mile south of the Forest Drive intersection, proposes to: install a “pork chop island” at the Forest Drive intersection to restrict turning movements to right-in and right-out, preventing a straight movement from exiting Forest Drive to use the existing median crossover; and, restrict access into the crossover from southbound MD Route 3 to a left turn in only. (Left turns from the crossover to MD Route 3 southbound would be prohibited. Two-way access to the crossover from northbound MD Route 3 would still be possible to access the motel and SHA maintenance yard.) Attendees at the meeting included: Senator Doug Peters; County Council Member Todd Turner; City Councilmembers Diane Polangin and Dufour Woolfley; six representatives from SHA and their consultants; and, approximately 25 residents. While there was no formal presentation at this meeting, there were several information boards displayed, including an aerial map of the project corridor. Residents in attendance expressed the following concerns:

- The increased traffic speed downhill toward Forest Drive, after passing Whitmarsh Park Drive.
- Motorists driving on the right shoulder to Belair Drive, preventing residents living along MD Route 3 from exiting their driveways.
- The increased difficulty in being forced to weave into southbound traffic to the next crossover to make a U-turn.
- The wisdom of encouraging bicycles on MD Route 3 southbound within the project area.
- The lack of any technique or improvement to slow-down the speed of existing traffic.

- The need for a traffic signal at Sylvan Drive, Whitemarsh Park Drive or Forest Drive. (A SHA representative explained the warrants that need to be met in order for a traffic signal to be installed. The warrants are not met for traffic generated from any of the above side streets.)
- The present difficulty residents, with direct vehicular access onto MD Route 3 southbound, have entering and exiting their properties.
- The need to install noise walls within the corridor.

The current project schedule is as follows:

- Design of Preliminary Plans – Summer 2015;
- Design of Final Plans – Summer 2016;
- Project Advertisement – Spring 2018; and,
- Initiate Construction – Summer 2018.

5. County Legislation CB-60-2015

On Wednesday, September 30th, the Prince George's County Council's Planning, Zoning and Economic Development (PZED) Committee reviewed CB-60-2015, a bill proposing multi-family residential as a permitted land use in the C-S-C (Commercial Shopping Center) zone, subject to approval of a Detailed Site Plan, where property is within a Mixed-Use Activity Center designated within the Bowie Area Master Plan. This bill was proposed by Council Member Todd Turner at the request of Berman Enterprises to facilitate the development of residential units, including at least 20% age-restricted units, on the rear portion of the Bowie Marketplace site. On May 18th, City Council reviewed a presentation by Mr. Brian Berman and agreed to support a legislative effort. At Wednesday's PZED meeting, a concern identified by the Zoning Hearing Examiner (ZHE) related to the bill's requirement for a minimum of 20% age-restricted units and the Fair Housing Act was discussed. To address this issue and move the bill forward, Council Member Derrick Davis made a motion to delete the language requiring a minimum of 20% age-restricted units from the bill. (It should be noted that the City's Development Agreement with Berman Enterprises still guarantees that a minimum of 20% of the units will be age-restricted units. Brian Berman assured City staff that his company will build the project per the Agreement.) Council Member Davis's amendment was seconded by Council Member Karen Toles and passed unanimously. The PZED Committee then unanimously approved a FAVORABLE recommendation for CB-60-2015, as amended, with Council Member Davis making the motion and Council Member Toles seconding. A public hearing and final vote is expected later this month.