

## MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

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

SUBJECT: *Status Report* DATE: November 16, 2017

### *Status Report*

1. County Legislation (CB-103-2017)

On Tuesday, the Prince George's County Council held a public hearing on CB-103-2017, a bill proposing to reduce the minimum setback for a medical cannabis dispensary from 500 feet to 300 feet from certain residential zones and specific uses. City Council opposed the legislation. More than a dozen people addressed the County Council during the public hearing, most of them opposed. An amendment was offered that reinstated the 500 setback from Park and Planning property, as well as from day care and school uses, including summer day camps. At the conclusion of the hearing, the County Council voted 5-3 to approve CB-103-2017, as amended with the increase in setback distances noted above. Council Members Turner, Toles and Patterson voted against. Council Member Glaros absent for vote.

2. Clergy Roundtable Discussion

Mayor Robinson hosted a clergy roundtable discussion on November 7, 2017 at City Hall. Leaders from Community Christian Presbyterian Church, Goodloe Memorial Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Mt. Nebo African Methodist Episcopal Church, St. Matthews United Methodist Church, Temple Solel, United Parish of Bowie, Councilmembers Polangin and Truth, and staff were present.

The purpose of the gathering was to begin a dialogue with representatives of local houses of worship about how the City can better serve its residents. Attendees talked about the demographic trends they see in Bowie, the challenges they face as community leaders, and the needs of their congregations. They also spoke of the value of sharing information about their activities (i.e. disaster response, supporting the needy) among congregations and within their worship communities and suggested using their local houses of worship to help disseminate important information to residents.

The consensus of those present was that there was value in continuing the meetings, especially if future meetings focused on a specific topic of importance to both the

congregations and the City, such as homelessness, emergency preparedness, the opioid crisis, public safety, or addressing the needs of seniors.

The next meeting is tentatively planned for January.

ADL/lfr