

## MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: David J. Deutsch  
City Manager

SUBJECT: **Status Report**

DATE: August 16, 2012

### **Status Report**

#### 1. Community Forum

The Prince George's County Board of Education will be conducting community forums on the search for a new school superintendent for Prince George's County Public Schools. The current Superintendent, Dr. William Hite, resigned to take the position of superintendent for the City of Philadelphia schools. His last day is officially September 30, 2012.

The School Board is holding the Bowie area forum at Bowie High School on Tuesday, August 21 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. All interested principals, parents and community members are invited to attend and will need to RSVP by today, August 16, to 301-952-6115.

The Board has hired a national firm, Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates, to search for potential candidates. HYA will use information from forums to develop a community profile of the next superintendent. Expectation is that the new superintendent will be hired by July 2013. In the meantime, the School Board will name an interim superintendent by mid-August for the current school year.

#### 2. Public Service Commission Hearing

On August 6<sup>th</sup>, the Public Service Commission (PSC) held the third of eight scheduled public hearings concerning the electric utility companies' response to the June 29<sup>th</sup> derecho. This meeting was the first of four designed to hear from BGE customers. The meeting was held in Annapolis, and was attended by about 60 people, about 25 of whom testified. Although Council has already communicated with the PSC via a July 12, 2012 letter, it seemed appropriate to address the Commission last night, so I presented the following remarks, which had been hastily scribbled on the back of the proverbial envelope:

*"Good evening Mr. Nazarian and Commission Members. I am here representing the Bowie City Council. Although City Council has already sent a letter on this matter, it may be useful to have additional comments on the record tonight. We appreciate the PSC's letter acknowledging our communication and advising us of this meeting. Now, on to the derecho aftermath with BGE. It is worth noting that 85% of our 21,000 households in Bowie lost power on June 29<sup>th</sup>, compared with 60% of the households losing power in Hurricane Irene. The lack of information from BGE following the derecho was frustrating not just for our residents, but also in terms of managing critical public infrastructure, such as water wells and wastewater pump stations. Staff had to call BGE from our Emergency Operations Center on June 30 when we were told there were no high priority locations in Bowie. In the call to BGE we then proceeded to provide the street addresses for a dozen of these*

*local water/wastewater facilities. BGE is supposed to know these priority locations.*

*The lack of a sense of urgency by BGE in situations with downed wires was also very frustrating. An example--lines down on MD 197 near MD 450 for at least four days, causing 25,000 cars to be rerouted through adjacent residential neighborhoods, and placing a significant drain on police resources to maintain traffic safety.*

*The City is served by three BGE substations; we were told by BGE that all three substations suffered damage during the derecho. I urge the PSC to force BGE to assess these substations and immediately take corrective action."*

3. Document Shredding Available at Back to School Bash

The City Gymnasium staff have arranged to have a document shredding truck at the Back to School Bash this Saturday, August 18. The event runs from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The truck will be in the Gymnasium parking lot (4100 Northview Drive) from 10 a.m. to noon. The truck is being provided by a company called *Office Shredding* at no cost to the City. The Back to School Bash is a popular event featuring games, prizes, a moon bounce and free backpacks filled with school supplies for the first 250 children who arrive at the Gymnasium.

Public Works is working to schedule two more shredding events at Bowie High. One will be this fall and the other next spring. When all of the details have been confirmed we will share the information with you and publicize it through our normal channels.

DJD/adf