

## MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: David J. Deutsch  
City Manager

SUBJECT: **Status Report**

DATE: September 6, 2012

### **Status Report**

#### 1. Rockledge Traffic Concerns

On August 30th a meeting was held regarding traffic and school bus complaints in Rockledge. In an effort to bring this to a closure a more holistic approach was taken and various departments were invited to attend. Representatives included the Police Department, Public Works, Rockledge Elementary, County Transportation, County Crossing Guards, and three Rockledge residents, as well as Councilman Marcos. The main focus of the meeting was the change in bus routes that has buses travelling from Old Bowie making a left onto Rustic Hill Drive and circling back to Rockledge School instead of trying to make a left directly into the school. The residents do not like the buses travelling through the neighborhood and feel that it is unsafe. The school, however, has seen a dramatic improvement in traffic flow and a reduction in congestion. The below action points were agreed upon and we will reconvene as a group after they have been completed.

- Tom Bishop from the Board of Education Transportation staff will review the routes to ensure both efficiency and safety to see if the current route is the best answer or if there are other options.
- Public Works will conduct a feasibility study to determine if a stop sign is warranted at the intersection of Rustic Hill and Rocky Springs.
- Bowie Police will conduct traffic enforcement on Rustic Hill Drive during the hours that the previous survey showed the highest number of speeders.
- Public Works will review the feasibility of area intersections for possible crosswalks.

#### 2. Shredding Event

The Public Works Department has arranged to host another free shredding event in October. It is scheduled for Saturday, October 20 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at City Hall. In the past we've held these events at Bowie High School, but it was difficult to find a Saturday this fall that didn't compete with home football games. This event will be publicized through all of our regular communication channels.

#### 3. Bowie License Plates

In the September issue of the Bowie News Flash, released today, staff began publicizing the City of Bowie license plate program. Within the first hour of the News Flash release, we received responses from 5 residents interested in the program.

In addition to the News Flash, we will be advertising the program on the City's website, the Bowie Spotlight, the Bowie cable channels and local papers. Given the initial response to the program, we hope to have the required 25 residents signed up very shortly.

If you'd like to share this information with your constituents, please use the language in the News Flash.

4. County Planning Board Results - Hall Station

Today, the Prince George's County Planning Board conducted a public hearing on the Revision to Specific Design Plan #SDP-0801/01 for the Hall Station Village Center. The nature of the revision requested is to: review an amended fence design that exists along the residential portion of the site fronting on MD Route 214 (Central Avenue); install additional building-mounted signage to the Prince George's Community Federal Credit Union building; review the footprint and building architecture for a free-standing coffee house, located adjacent to the County Library building; and, review the footprint and building architecture of a new 13,240 sq. ft. multi-tenant retail building to replace the 14,726 sq. ft. pharmacy building approved as part of the original Hall Station SDP. The City Council reviewed this SDP revision at a public hearing on July 9<sup>th</sup>, recommending approval with conditions.

At today's hearing, the County Planning Board voted to approve the revisions requested by the applicant (Cenhall, LLC). The Park and Planning staff recommendation included all of the City's recommended conditions. One condition, regarding the use of raceway signage on the retail building, was modified; however, the modification included location and color restrictions, which were acceptable to the staff, applicant and Planning Board. No members of the public or Hall Station Village residents attended the meeting.

At the conclusion of the public hearing, the Planning Board voted to approve the Revision to Specific Design Plan #SDP-0801/01. The motion for approval, offered by Commissioner Shoaff and seconded by Commissioner Geraldo, passed unanimously. (Commissioners Washington and Bailey were absent)

DJD/adf