

MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: David J. Deutsch
City Manager

SUBJECT: *Status Report*

DATE: January 10, 2013

Status Report

1. Encouraging Support for a Trader Joe's in Bowie

At Council's direction, the letter encouraging Trader Joe's to locate a store in Bowie has been sent. Letters have also been sent to local elected officials asking them to contact Trader Joe's and support our request. Residents have been encouraged through the News Flash, the City Facebook page and City Twitter feed to go to our website to follow the link to the Trader Joe's site and register their support for locating a Trader Joe's in Bowie. So far on Facebook, more than 90 people have "liked" the idea of bringing a Trader Joe's to Bowie and another 20+ have left comments on our Facebook page. Anyone can visit the City's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/bowiemd) to view the discussion, but only Facebook account holders can "like" or leave a comment. By directing residents to use the link to Trader Joe's on our website we can get an idea of the number of Bowie people contacting Trader Joe's. If you haven't already done so yet, please encourage your constituents to follow the link on our website (www.cityofbowie.org) to Trader Joe's, so that they can support the idea of bringing a Trader Joe's to Bowie.

2. Economic Development Committee (EDC)

The EDC held their regular monthly meeting Wednesday. EDC unanimously supports the City's effort to recruit Trader Joe's. Additionally the EDC continued to prepare their findings, recommendations, comments, and letter to the Council on Mixed Use Development. The EDC is prepared to participate in the City Committee meeting on Melford.

3. Bowie's Sixth Annual Business Recognition Awards Nominations

Nominations are now open for the Sixth Annual Bowie Business Recognition Awards, sponsored by the City of Bowie in partnership with the Greater Bowie Chamber of Commerce.

Nominations are sought in the following categories:

Green Business of the Year – This award is for a company that has one or more Bowie locations who has demonstrated their commitment to environmentally sustainable practices such as energy and water savings, recycling, renewable energy, reduced chemicals or packaging, or employee carpooling/telework. (2012 Honoree – MOM’s Organic Market)

Small Business of the Year – This award is for a small business that has demonstrated the qualities that make for a prosperous and growing organization in Bowie. (2012 Honoree – Mama Cocoa’s Delights)

Entrepreneur of the Year – This award is for the Bowie business entrepreneur who has demonstrated outstanding leadership and tenacity in managing all facets of business to include growth in profit and employee numbers coupled with such factors as degree of innovation, development of a creative and ingenious product or service, exceptional selling techniques, and extent of expansion into local markets. (2012 Honoree – Mark Torsani)

Business of the Year – This award is for a Bowie company that has demonstrated high-level accomplishments that are a benchmark for other businesses that include financial success, visible community involvement, professional employee work environment, and will excel in customer satisfaction, strategic planning, and business development. (2012 Honoree – Grace’s Fortune)

Community Service Award – This award is for the Bowie or vicinity business that has demonstrated a strong record of involvement in the Bowie community. (2012 Honoree – Best Buy)

Members of the community are encouraged to submit the name of a local business, along with a one page narrative describing why the business is being nominated. Nominations may be submitted in a letter or on a form obtained from one of the contacts below. Nominations must be received no later than Friday, March 15, 2013 and should be sent to City of Bowie, Department of Economic Development, 15901 Excalibur Road, Bowie, MD 20716. Inquiries may be directed to the Economic Development Director, John Henry King, at jhking@cityofbowie.org or to the Greater Bowie Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, Kelly Pierce, at kelly@bowiechamber.org. Businesses selected will be honored at a breakfast on Wednesday, May 8, 2013. Tickets for the event will be available from the Greater Bowie Chamber of Commerce.

4. **Smart Meter Opt Out Choice**

On Monday, January 7th, the Public Service Commission (PSC), by a 3 -2 vote, voted to allow customers a choice concerning the type of meter they want. However, more hearings by the PSC will need to be scheduled to determine how to implement the plan. The Commissioners will discuss two possible options. The first option will let customers keep analog meters. The second option would have customers receive smart

meters that are radio frequency free or have a reduced radio frequency. Whatever option is chosen, customers would have to pay a fee to cover the appropriate costs according to the PSC ruling. Utility companies have until July 2013 to submit plans to the PSC that would outline costs associated with allowing customers to opt out of smart meter installation. In the interim, the temporary opt out plan will remain in place.

5. Fuel System Upgrade

The Capital Projects Fund allows for the replacement of fuel pumps, and the upgrade of management software, at Public Works which are used by all City vehicles.

M-NCPPC recently awarded a contract, on which the City can piggyback, to L.A. Fritter & Son, Inc. for upgrading their fueling stations. The extended contract period is from September 1, 2012 to July 31, 2013. The budget for the replacement work is \$56,000 and the contract amount is \$51,687.98. The \$4,312.02 amount under budget will be used to offset any permit fees.

As provided by Section 62 of the City Charter, this will serve as the required seven (7) day notice of intent to sign a contract with L.A. Fritter & Son, Inc., for a total amount of \$51,687.98.



The City of Bowie, Maryland and the Greater Bowie Chamber of Commerce are celebrating the **Sixth Annual Business Recognition Awards program on Wednesday, May 8, 2013**. The Awards program was created to recognize and celebrate those businesses in the Bowie community that exhibit exemplary efforts to provide outstanding services, products and facilities to all its customers.

NOMINATION INFORMATION

BUSINESS NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE: _____

BUSINESS PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

CONTACT NAME: _____

CATEGORY (choose one):

Business of the Year – This award is for a Bowie company that has demonstrated high-level accomplishments that are a benchmark for other businesses that include financial success, visible community involvement, professional employee work environment, and will excel in customer satisfaction, strategic planning, and business development.

Entrepreneur of the Year – This award is for the Bowie business entrepreneur who has demonstrated outstanding leadership and tenacity in managing all facets of business to include growth in profit and employee numbers coupled with such factors as degree of innovation, development of a creative and ingenious product or service, exceptional selling techniques, and extent of expansion into local markets.

Small Business of the Year -- This award is for a Bowie-based small business that has demonstrated the qualities that make for a prosperous and growing organization in Bowie.

Community Service Award – This award is for the Bowie or vicinity business that has demonstrated throughout the year a strong record of involvement in the Bowie community.

Green Business of the Year – This award is for a company with a Bowie presence who has demonstrated their commitment to environmentally sustainable practices such as energy and water savings, recycling, renewable energy, reduced chemicals or packaging, or employee carpooling/telework.

NOMINATION INFORMATION:

Why do you feel this business should be considered for the Business Recognition Award? (Please feel free to attach additional pages to this nomination.)

NOMINATOR INFORMATION:

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

DATE: _____

EMAIL: _____

NOMINATION DEADLINE FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2013. Please mail nomination to City of Bowie, Attention: John Henry King, Economic Development Director, 15901 Excalibur Road, Bowie, MD 20716 or fax to 301/809-2315 or email jhking@cityofbowie.org