

MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: David J. Deutsch
City Manager

SUBJECT: *Status Report*

DATE: June 27, 2013

1. District Council Decision re: Six Flags Amendment to Conditions

On June 18, 2013 the Prince George's County Council, sitting as the District Council, voted unanimously to approve amended conditions for Special Exception 2635 and 3400 for Six Flags America, L.P., in accordance with the recommendation of the Zoning Hearing Examiner. City Council conducted a public hearing on certain aspects of the proposal on January 7, 2013. The City limited its review to commenting on the proposals to expand the number of fireworks displays and the extension of operating hours after 10:30 p.m. under certain circumstances. In approving the amended conditions, the District Council has allowed fireworks displays up to six evenings per season (versus only on the Fourth of July and Labor Day) and, further, has allowed operation of the park until midnight for a total of eight nights on Fridays and Saturdays around Halloween and a total of six additional nights between May 1st and June 15th to accommodate after-prom and graduation events for high school students. One other noteworthy aspect of the County's approval included an amendment to revise the noise level maximum at the property line from 55 dBA to 65 dBA. It is our understanding that the 65 dBA limit is the maximum allowed under State law.

2. Police Department Training Exercise

The Bowie Police Department will conduct a full scale training exercise on Sunday, June 30, 2013 at 8 p.m. at Bowie Town Center. Councilmembers, Public Safety Committee members, and the media are invited to observe the exercise as it unfolds and observe some aspects of the officers' response to the scene, although only exercise participants will be permitted inside where the incident is taking place. The Prince George's Fire Department and Simon Properties will also be involved in this exercise.

3. Nature Center Information on the Web

During Budget deliberations it was suggested that more information about local nature centers could be included on our website. Staff has created a page on the City's website entitled "Discovering Nature in Bowie and Beyond" to encourage residents to get outdoors and enjoy nature, in all its various forms. The page also highlights several nearby nature centers, wildlife areas, and other places where one can learn about nature. The page can be viewed at www.cityofbowie.org/nature.

4. Backhoe #275 Replacement

The Public Works Department has identified a replacement for backhoe #275. The FY 2014 amount allocated is \$95,000. The cost of the replacement is \$103,281.28, with a trade-in allowance of \$18,000 for a total purchase price of \$85,281.28. This unit is available on a bid from Montgomery County (Contract #9367000254-AS). As provided in Section 62 of the City Charter, this will serve as the required seven (7) day notice of intent to purchase this equipment.

5. Purchase of Laptop Computers for the Police Department

The Adopted Fiscal Year 2014 Budget has allocated \$949,400 to purchase replacement Police vehicles. Included in this Capital Outlay allocation are funds for the procurement of nineteen (19) Panasonic CF-31 Laptop Computers. Staff has reviewed bids for this item and found a current Montgomery County Tech Contract for Hardware/Software (#DOIT2013) which will be honored by Harford Computer Group, Inc. (HCGI), located in Columbia, MD, for \$81,985. It should be noted that the price quoted by HCGI is approximately \$10,000 less than the previous vendor's price. Section 62 of the City Charter allows for cooperative bidding between COG members. This will serve as the required seven-day notice to City Council of the intention to make such a purchase.