

MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: David J. Deutsch
City Manager

SUBJECT: *Status Report*

DATE: September 25, 2014

1. Pole Mounted Speed Signs

Public Works will be moving these speed signs to the following locations: **Penfield Lane** (fr. Jennings Lane); **Elder Oaks Boulevard** (fr. Daliah Drive); **Hemming Lane** (fr. Evergreen Parkway); **Beechtree Lane** (fr. Maureen Lane); **Quilt Patch Lane** (fr. Dunwood Crossing Drive); and **Ovalstone Lane** (fr. Yorktown Drive).

2. Ethics Training

Betsy Dawson, attorney for the City's Ethics Commission and also Executive Director of the Anne Arundel County Ethics Commission, conducted an ethics training session for department heads, assistant department heads and other senior staff on September 2nd. The session explored real world ethical scenarios and compared these against the City's Ethics Code in terms of appropriate responses. The session was stimulating and educational for City staff. A second ethics training session for other City staff members is scheduled for October 23rd. Additional trainings are also planned. Ms. Dawson is providing these training sessions pro bono.

3. City Savings as a Result of BRCPC Electric Purchases

The City has received information showing the savings for the City of Bowie over the last eight fiscal years as a result of participating in the Baltimore Regional Cooperative Purchasing Committee (BRCPC) for the purchase of electricity. The savings is calculated by comparing the BRCPC portfolio actual rate/cost with the BGE provider of last resort rate, which is the rate BGE customers pay who do not purchase their electricity from a third party supplier. From FY 2007 through FY 2014, the City of Bowie has saved a total of \$1,153,646 by paying the BRCPC rate as opposed to the BGE provider of last resort rate. For FY 2013, this saving amounted to \$117,189 for the City of Bowie. For BRCPC members as a whole, \$95,115,473 was saved from FY 2007 through FY 2013, and \$10,263,092 was saved in FY 2013 alone by all BRCPC members.

4. Draft Land Use Article Amendments

Staff has been working with the City Lobbyist to draft amendments to the State of Maryland's Land Use Article that will provide additional options for municipalities that

want to take on more of a decision making role in the development review process. The amendments include defining a Municipal Planning Board and its potential responsibilities as well as an additional alternative providing an expanded level of decision making authority under the existing delegated arrangement with the District Council. During the County General Plan update, when the City raised the concept of the governing body of a municipal corporation acting in lieu of the County Planning Board for preparation of master plans and review of zoning cases, the official response given by the Planning Board was that changes could not be made without revisions to the State enabling statute (Land Use Article). The draft amendment language will be presented to Council at the October 6th Regular Meeting for your concurrence.

5. Planning Board Results – Mills Car Wash Detailed Site Plan (DSP-12032)

Today the Prince George's County Planning Board conducted a public hearing on the above-referenced case, which also included action on a Tree Conservation Plan, Type II (TCP-II), Alternative Compliance and a Departure from Parking and Loading Spaces (DPLS). The property, located on U.S. Route 301 southbound, immediately north of the Mitchellville Road intersection, is zoned C-M (Commercial Miscellaneous), where the use is permitted by right under the County Zoning Ordinance. (The City conducted a public hearing on the DSP in December 2013. The subject site was only recently annexed, and the City did not have jurisdiction over the Alternative Compliance and DPLS components of this development at the time of our review.) At the City's public hearing in December, the Council recommended approval with conditions. Those conditions were either included in revised plans or in the County's staff report. At the conclusion of today's hearing, the Planning Board voted unanimously to approve the DSP, TCP-II, Alternative Compliance and the DPLS. Commissioner Shoaff moved for approval of the application; his motion was seconded by Commissioner Geraldo. Commissioners Bailey and Washington were absent.

6. Recognition for City

Earlier this week, we were notified by *Money Magazine* that they had selected the City of Bowie as one of the "Top 50 Best Places to Live" in the United States for 2014. This year's contest focused on 781 small cities throughout the United States in the 50,000-300,000 population range. Bowie was ranked 28th. The only other Maryland cities to make the list were Rockville (at #24) and the Columbia/Ellicott City area (at #6).

The rankings were based on economic opportunity and jobs, housing affordability, education, crime, health, arts and leisure, ease of living, and diversity. The write-up about Bowie appears online at the following link: <http://time.com/money/3312338/bowie-md-best-places-to-live/>. The print edition of the magazine includes Bowie on the Top 50 chart accompanying the article, but does not include the write-up on Bowie.