

MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: David J. Deutsch
City Manager

SUBJECT: *Status Report*

DATE: December 18, 2014

1. Animal Hospital Annexation

Bowie Veterinary Properties, LLC, the owners of the animal hospital located at 6700 Laurel-Bowie Road, recently contacted staff about annexation into the City. In October, the Prince George's County Health Department issued an abatement order to the property owner relating to their failing septic system. The order requires that the business connect to a public sewer system. Bowie Veterinary Properties, LLC is willing to pay all costs of installing a sewer system on their property and will bear all costs of connecting into the City's system, which has available capacity. The connection will require tunneling under MD 197 in the vicinity of Millstream Drive, and a City Water and Sewer Plan category change will have to be approved by City Council. An annexation agreement and petition have been received; therefore, staff will schedule the required annexation resolutions on an upcoming City Council agenda.

2. Green Bowie School Outreach

As a result of the Green Principals Forum held in September, the City's Watershed Manager was asked to talk to about 150 students in six classes (Grades 3 and 4) at Whitehall Elementary School on Friday, December 12 and Monday, December 15. The students learned how water pollution happens and about the connection between storm drains and streams using the EnviroScape® model. This model is a city landscape that uses various foods like cocoa (soil), sprinkles (fertilizer, animal waste), and salt to illustrate how pollutants leave neighborhoods and enter streams and waterways. Students were able to list a variety of ways they can each prevent water pollution. EnviroScape® presentations have been held at several other schools over the past five years, and working with the Green Team, the goal is to present the model at additional schools throughout Bowie.

3. Prince George's County House Delegation Hearing

On Tuesday, December 16, 2014 the Prince George's County House Delegation held its local hearing on proposed bills for this year's General Assembly at the Sports and Learning Complex in Landover. A Zoning Authority bill (MC/PG 111-15) sponsored by the Delegation's Vice-Chair, Geraldine Valentino-Smith, was included on the docket.

The bill proposes to add Conceptual Site Plans, Detailed Site Plans and Specific Design Plans to the current list of development applications that may be reviewed by municipalities. The legislation also removes the requirement that the Prince George's County Council delegate specific authority for municipalities to review these types of cases. The City's Planning Director, Lobbyist and I attended the hearing, and staff spoke in favor of the bill. Counsel for The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Adrian Gardner, addressed the Delegation stating that, although the Planning Board had not yet taken a position, there were numerous concerns evident in the legislation. Mr. Gardner's primary objections were fragmenting decision making and the need to carefully coordinate regional development issues, such as growth around Metro stations, at a countywide level. Another speaker on MC/PG 111-15 was Ken Dunn, representing the building industry. Mr. Dunn stated that the building industry's current position is one of "sitting on the fence". The building industry's main issues appear to be the potential diffusion of the approval processes to multiple jurisdictions and changing from the status quo, which currently works very well for builders and developers. Additional Delegation committee meetings on MC/PG 111-15 will be scheduled in the next several months.

4. City Council Vacancy

As of Wednesday, December 17th, we have received five letters of interest for the At-Large Councilmember position that is currently vacant. They are:

- Bruce D. Edwards – Westview
- James A. Golato – Kenilworth
- Brenda Thompson – Somerset
- Karl H. Stehmer – Overbrook
- Joseph Edward Lim – Saddlebrook East

Deadline for submission is close of business on December 31st. The information has been placed in the Bowie Blade-News, Capital Gazette as well as on the City's website.

5. Electronics Recycling

An electronics recycling event was held on Saturday, December 6th at Public Works. Over 200 vehicles arrived at Public Works and approximately 6.25 tons of electronic equipment was collected and recycled.

6. Harmony Place

Berman Enterprises has purchased the Health Center Drive apartment development from Questar.