# BALTIMORE COUNTY COUNCIL NOTES TO THE AGENDA LEGISLATIVE SESSION 2024

Issued: September 26, 2024

Reissued: October 1, 2024
Work Session: October 1, 2024
Legislative Day No. 18: October 7, 2024

The accompanying notes are compiled from unaudited information provided by the Administration and other sources.



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY AUDITOR

# October 7, 2024 NOTES TO THE AGENDA

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# BALTIMORE COUNTY COUNCIL AGENDA LEGISLATIVE SESSION 2024, LEGISLATIVE DAY NO. <u>18</u> OCTOBER 7, 2024 6:00 P.M.

CEB = CURRENT EXPENSE BUDGET BY REQ. = AT REQUEST OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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#### CALL OF BILLS FOR FINAL READING AND VOTE

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- 2 Bill 70-24 Councilmembers Young, Jones & Patoka Bill 47-24 Repeal of Redistricting and School Board Sections
- 4 Bill 71-24 All Councilmembers Boards, Commissions, Panels, and Foundations Standardization of Member Compensation and Expense Reimbursement
- 7 Bill 74-24 All Councilmembers Zoning Regs. Uses Permitted in the Manufacturing, Light (M.L.) Zone School

#### **BILLS FOR FIRST CONSIDERATION**

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#### APPROVAL OF FISCAL MATTERS/CONTRACTS

#### COLONEL CHRISTOPHER KELLY, POLICE DEPARTMENT

Contract – The Marriott of Owings Mills Metro Centre – Accommodations, facility rental, food/beverages –
 Annual Hostage Negotiation Seminar

#### FAITH THOMAS, CHIEF, REAL ESTATE COMPLIANCE

 Contract of Sale – Van Doan – Drainage/utility easement – Harford Road, Parkville 21234–Jennifer Branch Relief Sewer Project

#### HORACIO TABLADA, DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION & SUSTAINABILITY

Amendment to Contract – Level Landscape, LLC – Urban tree planting services

# LAUREN BUCKLER, ACTING DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION LISA EICHOLTZ, ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION

30 4. Contract – Micro-Tech Designs, Inc. – Repair/maintenance – Sewage Pumping and Treatment Stations

#### MATT CARPENTER, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF BUDGET AND FINANCE

5. Contract – ABL Technologies, LLC – Death audit services – Baltimore County Retirement System

BALTIMORE COUNTY COUNCIL AGENDA (cont'd)
LEGISLATIVE SESSION 2024 LEGISLATIVE DAY NO. 18
October 7, 2024 6:00 P.M.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

#### COUNCIL

42 1. Correspondence - (a) (1) - Non-Competitive Awards (September 4, 2024)

# JONATHAN SACHS, DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

2. Res. 42-24 – Mr. Patoka(By Req.) – Application to State of MD – Redesignation of the Chesapeake Enterprise Zone

#### COUNCIL

- 3. Appointment Mr. Patoka(By Req.) Chief Fire Department Joseph Dixon
- 4. Appointment Mr. Patoka(By Req.) Chair Baltimore County Planning Board C. Scott Holupka
- 5. Appointment Mr. Patoka(By Req.) Vice Chair Baltimore County Planning Board Emily Brophy

Council District(s) 2

#### Mr. Patoka

# Zoning Regs. – Uses Permitted in the Residential-Office (R-O) Zone – Uses in the Pikesville Design Review Area

Bill 69-24 permits several additional by-right uses and one additional special exception use in the Residential Office (R-O) Zone, if located along Church Lane in the Pikesville Design Review Area. Specifically, the bill permits the following additional by-right uses:

- personal service establishments, including barber shops and beauty shops, with accessory retail sales;
- accessory showroom and sales, including accessory storage; and
- accessory day and overnight parking for passenger or business vehicles, including cars, vans, and pick-up trucks, subject to reasonable screening with landscaping or fencing from a public street or abutting residentially zoned property.

The bill also permits the expansion, renovation, or reconstruction of a Class A or Class B office building by special exception, if located along Church Lane in the Pikesville Design Review Area. However, this use must have an approved County Review Group plan prior to the granting of a special exception.

With the affirmative vote of five members of the County Council, Bill 69-24 will take effect 14 days after its enactment.

# Councilmembers Young, Jones & Patoka

#### Bill 47-24 - Repeal of Redistricting and School Board Sections

Bill 70-24 repeals several uncodified sections of Bill 47-24 that implemented a councilmanic redistricting map and required a written notification be sent by the County Executive and Council to the County's General Assembly delegation regarding the County School Board. As stated in Bill 47-24, the effectiveness of the redistricting map and the notification requirement are both contingent upon the approval of the 2024 ballot question amending the County Charter to increase the number of Councilmembers and Council districts.

#### Bill 47-24

As enacted, Bill 47-24 had nine sections. The first two sections are "codified," meaning they amend a section of the County Charter or County Code. The remaining seven sections are "uncodified," meaning they have the same force of law, but do not specifically amend a section of the Charter or Code. A description of each section in Bill 47-24 is as follows.

- Section 1 Amend Charter Sections 201, 204, 206, and 207 (all regarding the Council size and Council districts);
- Section 2 Amend Charter Sections 522 (Planning Board membership), 601 (Board of Appeals membership), and 1201 (Charter termination) for consistency with the increase in Council size in Section 1;
- **Section 3** Revise and reconstitute the Council districts into nine districts, stated in terms of election districts and precincts (i.e., the redistricting plan);
- **Section 4** Attach and incorporate a map and population summary of the nine districts, as stated in the redistricting plan, as Exhibits A and B;
- Section 5 Require the County Executive and Council to send written notification to Baltimore
  County's General Assembly delegation 30 days after the 2024 election regarding the
  composition of the County School Board;
- Section 6 Require that a ballot question regarding Sections 1 and 2 be submitted to the voters of Baltimore County at the 2024 election;
- Section 7 Upon the approval of the 2024 ballot question, set the effective date for Section 1 as 30 days after the 2024 election and the effective date for Section 2 as 30 days after the 2026 general election;

Bill 70-24 October 7, 2024

• **Section 8** – States that Sections 3, 4, and 5 are contingent on the passage of Sections 1 and 2 and approval of the 2024 ballot question (meaning if passage and ratification do not occur, Sections 3, 4, and 5 will be null and void with no further action required by the Council); and

• **Section 9** – Subject to Section 8, sets the effective date for Sections 3, 4, and 5 as 30 days after the 2024 election and applicable to the 2026 election.

#### Bill 70-24

Bill 70-24 repeals Sections 3, 4, 5, 8, and 9 of Bill 47-24 as described above. The bill also repeals Exhibits A and B attached to Bill 47-24. Last, the bill re-numbers Sections 6 and 7 to be Sections 3 and 4.

Bill 70-24 will take effect 45 days after its enactment unless it is passed by the affirmative vote of at least five members of the County Council, in which case Bill 70-24 shall take effect on October 21, 2024.

#### All Councilmembers

# Boards, Commissions, Panels, and Foundations – Standardization of Member Compensation and Expense Reimbursement

Bill 71-24 updates and standardizes the compensation and expense reimbursement rules for members of most Baltimore County boards, commissions, committees, panels, and foundations (generally "boards and commissions").

Baltimore County currently has over 50 boards and commissions with over 600 individual appointments. These boards and commissions cover a wide range of topics, including: environmental protection; adult guardianship; arts and sciences; plumbing and gasfitting; human relations; police accountability; animal welfare; and veterans' affairs.

Generally, boards and commissions are "standing" bodies, meaning they are intended to be permanent and were not established only to produce a report and recommendations or for another temporary purpose, such as a work group or task force. Boards and commissions are generally established under one or more of the following authorities:

- State authorities, meaning the Maryland Code, legislation enacted by the General Assembly, or an executive order of the Governor;
- The County Charter;
- The County Code; or
- An executive order of the County Executive.

Of the County's over 50 boards and commissions, 28 are governed by or established in Article 3, Title 3 of the County Code. Each subtitle in Title 3 sets forth the provisions for a particular board or commission. These provisions generally cover the same topics, including the number of members and their appointment process; term lengths and, if applicable, term limits; mandatory and discretionary powers and duties; frequency of meetings; quorum and rules of procedure for meetings; selection of a chair and vice-chair; filling a vacancy; and staffing by an agency or department. While many boards and commissions in Article 3, Title 3 contain some individualized provisions, most of these provisions are broadly similar, with small variations in wording. This is

Bill 71-24 October 7, 2024

most common with provisions detailing procedure and is least common with rules regarding membership size, qualifications, and appointment.

The category in which the variations in Article 3, Title 3 have made the most negative impact is member compensation and reimbursement for expenses. Of the 28 boards and commissions: 8 make no mention of either compensation or reimbursement; 10 use the same language to bar compensation but permit reimbursement; 3 use non-standard language for barring compensation (meaning each one uses a different wording), of which, 1 does not mention reimbursement; 3 permit compensation and reimbursement of members generally; 3 permit compensation for the members and separate compensation for the chair; and 1 bars both compensation and reimbursement.

Bill 71-24 seeks to standardize the provisions for compensation and reimbursement across all boards and commissions in Article 3, Title 3. First, the bill amends Subtitle 1 of Article 3, Title 3 to clarify that all provisions that are generally applicable to all boards and commissions should be stated there (this does not affect the current removal provisions in Subtitle 1, which remain applicable to all Article 3, Title 3 boards and commissions).

Next, the bill sets forth a new section in Subtitle 1 that states that, unless specifically listed in that section, no member of a board or commission may receive compensation for their service as a member, but is entitled to reimbursement for expenses necessarily incurred, if approved by the body to which the member is appointed and provided for in the County operating budget. This will entitle all members of boards and commissions to reimbursement for expenses necessarily incurred, including members of boards or commissions that, under current law, either have no express authorization for reimbursement or expressly bar reimbursement (such as the Commission on Veterans' Affairs).

The section then sets forth a list of boards and commissions whose members may receive compensation from time to time as specified in Article 3, Title 3 or the County's executive compensation plan in § 4-6-101 of the Code. Only boards and commissions whose members are entitled to compensation under current law are included in the list. Under this update, for the members of a board or commission to begin receiving compensation, the board or commission must be added to the list and the compensation amount specified in the executive compensation plan § 4-6-101 of the County Code.

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Finally, the bill repeals all compensation or reimbursement provisions in Article 3, Title 3 outside of Subtitle 1, except for a unique provision for the Plumbing and Gasfitting Board that mandates that their compensation and reimbursement be paid from the fees for examinations and certificates.

The fiscal impact of Bill 71-24 is dependent upon future compensation decisions but according to County Council staff is expected to be minimal.

With the affirmative vote of a majority of the County Council, Bill 71-24 will take effect 45 days after its enactment.

#### All Councilmembers

# Zoning Regs. - Uses Permitted in the Manufacturing, Light (M.L.) Zone - School

Bill 74-24 expands the permitted use of schools, including business or trade schools, in the Manufacturing, Light (M.L.) Zone.

Currently, schools, including business or trade schools, are only permitted in the M.L. Zone as an auxiliary retail or service use or semi-industrial use, which must be located in a planned industrial park at least 25 acres in net area, in an Industrial, Major (I.M.) District, or in combination of an Automotive Service (A.S.) and I.M. District. The bill removes these restrictions, permitting schools, including business or trade schools, generally in the M.L. Zone as a transportation, storage, or quasi-public use or utility.

With the affirmative vote of five members of the County Council, Bill 74-24 will take effect 14 days after its enactment.

# **Bill 75-24 (Supplemental Appropriation)**

Council District(s) All

Mr. Patoka (By Req.)

# **Department of Aging**

#### **Long-Term & Dementia Care Program**

The Administration is requesting a supplemental appropriation of State funds totaling \$94,868 to the Long-Term & Dementia Care Program Gifts and Grants Fund program. The funds will be used primarily toward the salary and benefits of a new 34-hours-per-week Specialist Officer I (Dementia Navigator) to provide navigation services that enhance the abilities of persons with cognitive decline and dementia and their caregivers to access information, assistance, and long-term services and supports. See Exhibit A.

# Fiscal Summary

Funding Source	•	plemental ropriation_	Current Appropriation	<b>A</b> pp	Total propriation
County					
State (1)	\$	94,868		\$	94,868
Federal					
Other					
Total	\$	94,868		\$	94,868

<sup>(1)</sup> Maryland Department of Aging. No County matching funds are required.

#### **Analysis**

The Department's new Long-Term and Dementia Care Navigation program will provide navigation services that enhance the abilities of persons with cognitive decline and dementia and their

caregivers to access information, assistance, and long-term services and supports. The Department advised that it plans to use the proposed supplemental appropriation primarily toward the salary and benefits (\$88,275) of a new 34-hours-per-week Specialist Officer I (Dementia Navigator) to provide counseling, application assistance, and short-term case management to connect clients to long-term care options and report data to the Maryland Department of Aging. The Department also advised that its goal is to have the position filled by mid-November. The Department further advised that the remaining grant funds (\$6,593) will be used for mileage, supplies, and computer and phone expenses. The Department expects the program will serve 50 individuals and/or caregivers in FY 2025.

The grant period is July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. No County matching funds are required.

With the affirmative vote of five members of the County Council, Bill 75-24 will take effect November 3, 2024.

#### **Executive Summary**

The Baltimore County Department of Aging is requesting approval of a supplemental appropriation of \$94,868 for the *Long-Term & Dementia Care Navigation* program.

The Long-Term & Dementia Care Navigation program is funded by the Maryland Department of Aging to provide navigation services that enhance the ability of persons with cognitive decline and dementia and their caregivers to access information, assistance, and long-term services and supports.

This is a new program for FY2025 and will be an ongoing endeavor in future years.

Prepared by: Department of Aging

# **Bill 76-24 (Supplemental Appropriations)**

Council District(s) \_All \_

Mr. Patoka (By Req.)

# Office of Budget and Finance

# Amending the 2024-2025 Capital Budget

The Administration is requesting 10 supplemental capital budget appropriations of bond premium funds generated from the County's July 9, 2024 bond sale totaling \$14,425,197, as follows and as amended: Curbs, Gutters, and Sidewalks (\$1,500,000); Roadway Resurfacing (\$1,500,000); Traffic Calming (\$400,000); Traffic Signals (\$400,000); Community/Neighborhood Park Development (\$5,375,197); Recreation Facility Renovations (\$2,800,000); Athletic Field Construction/Renovation (\$750,000); Park and Recreation Center Accessibility (\$700,000); Park and Recreation Facility Acquisition (\$500,000); and Greenways, Stream Valleys, and Trails (\$500,000). (The Office advised that it will be submitting amendments to the introduced bill to remove references to the appropriation of \$250,000 in State funds to Countywide Improvements and to correct the appropriations to Athletic Field Construction/Renovation and Community/Neighborhood Park Development.) See Exhibits A and B.

# **Fiscal Summary**

Capital Project	Ap	oplemental propriation amended) (1)	Ur	Current nobligated ropriation <sup>(2)</sup>	Total nobligated propriation
Streets and Highways:					
Curbs, Gutters, and Sidewalks	\$	1,500,000	\$	8,447,313	\$ 9,947,313
Roadway Resurfacing		1,500,000		1,066,618	2,566,618
Traffic Calming		400,000		1,961,897	2,361,897
Traffic Signals		400,000		18,188,108	18,588,108
Streets and Highways Total	\$	3,800,000	\$	29,663,936	\$ 33,463,936
Parks and Playgrounds					
Community/Neighborhood Park	\$	5,375,197	\$	34,388,385	\$ 39,763,582
Development					
Recreation Facility Renovations		2,800,000		4,513,619	7,313,619
Athletic Field Construction/Renovation		750,000		3,523,117	4,273,117
Park and Recreation Center		700,000		1,992,628	2,692,628
Accessibility					
Park and Recreation Facility		500,000		11,016,853	11,516,853
Acquisition					
Greenways, Stream Valleys, and		500,000		1,811,763	2,311,763
Trails					
Parks and Playgrounds Total	\$	10,625,197	\$	57,246,365	\$ 67,871,562
Total	\$	14,425,197	\$	86,910,301	\$ 101,335,498

<sup>(1)</sup> Bond Premium Funds.

# **Analysis**

The Office advised that on July 9, 2024, the County executed a bond sale of Consolidated Public Improvement and Metropolitan District bonds; as a result of the sale, the County obtained debt premium in the amounts of \$14,425,197 and \$4,877,866, respectively.

The Office advised that the distribution of the proposed \$14,425,197 supplemental Capital Budget appropriations is as follows:

<sup>(2)</sup> As reflected on the County's financial system as of September 16, 2024.

**Total Bond Premium Funds** 

\$14,425,197

Streets and Highways Curbs, gutters, and sidewalks	Roadway Improvements - Concre	ete		\$ 1,500,000	\$ 3,800,000
Roadway Resurfacing	General Resurfacing			1,500,000	
Traffic Signals	Campbell Blvd at Bird River Road	I		400,000	
Traffic Calming	Campbell Blvd near Windless Ru	n Co	mmunity	400,000	
Parks and Playgrounds					10,625,197
Community/Neighborhoo	d Park Development			5,375,197	
	Oregon Ridge Park Renovations and Enhancements	\$	2,500,000		
	Local Park Comprehensive Enhancement Program		1,475,197		
	Cheverly Avenue Park Design and Development		500,000		
	Community and Neighborhood Park Development - General		500,000		
	(contingency) Gerst Road Park Site Development		400,000		
Recreation Facility Renovations	Playground Renovation and Repl Program	acen	nent	2,800,000	
Athletic Field Construction	on/ Renovation			750,000	
	Backstop, Safety Fencing and Player Bench Replacement Program		150,000		
	Ball Diamond Delipping Program		150,000		
	LED Lighting Conversion Program		450,000		
Park and Recreation Center Accessibility	Park and Recreation Facility Ren Enhancements - General (conting			700,000	
Park and Recreation Facility Acquisition	Park and Recreation Facility Acquicontingency)	uisitio	on - General	500,000	
Greenways, Stream Valleys, and Trails	Trail Renovations and Enhancem (contingency)	ents	- General	500,000	

The Office noted that the \$400,000 for Traffic Signals and the \$400,000 for Traffic Calming are to be "programmed with this intention" but that "projects will be required to be in compliance with

Federal Traffic Safety Signal Guidelines and County Traffic Calming Regulations to proceed forward."

The Office advised that the premium associated with the Metropolitan District bonds is not required to be appropriated and is being presented as a matter of transparency as follows: \$2,377,866 – City and County Jointly Used Facilities – Contingency; \$500,000 – Construction at Highway Sites – Water – Contingency; and \$2,000,000 – Miscellaneous Pumping Station & System Improvements - Contingency.

With the affirmative vote of five members of the County Council, Bill 76-24 will take effect November 3, 2024.

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Office of Budget and Finance is requesting a supplemental appropriation to add an additional appropriation of \$14,425,197 into the County's FY 2025 Capital Budget Program resulting from Debt Premium obtained from the most recent sale of County bonds.

On July 9, 2024 the County executed a bond sale of Consolidated Improvement and Metropolitan District Bonds. As result of this sale the County obtained Debt Premium on the sale of these bonds in the amounts of \$14,425,197 and \$4,877,866, respectively. The Exhibit attached will detail the anticipated programming of these funds. Although the premium associated with the Metropolitan District Bonds is not required to be appropriated, it is being presented as a matter of transparency.

Prepared by: Office of Budget and Finance

	F	Y 2025 Capital		
Pro	gramming of June 2024 Bond Sale CP	I & Metro Bond Premium into FY 2025 Capital	Budget	
CPI Premium = \$	\$14,425,197.18			
Metro Premiun	n = \$4,877,866.06			
<u>CPI</u>				
Cost Center #	Cost Center Name	Job Name	Amount	
CC205458	Traffic Signals	Campbell Blvd at Bird River Road	\$ 400,000.00	(*)
CC205133	Roadway Resurfacing	General Resurfacing	\$ 1,500,000.00	
CC205301	Curbs, gutters, and sidewalks	Roadway Improvements - Concrete	\$ 1,500,000.00	
CC205018	Traffic Calming	Campbell Blvd near Windless Run		(*)
		Community	\$ 400,000.00	
CC212301	Recreation Facility Renovations	Playground Renovation and Replacement		
		Program	\$ 2,800,000.18	
CC212302	Athletic Field Construction/	Backstop, Safety Fencing and Player Bench		1
	Renovation	Replacement Program	\$ 150,000.00	
CC212307	Community/ Neighborhood Park	Local Park Comprehensive Enhancement		1
	Development	Program	\$ 1,475,197.00	
CC212302	Athletic Field Construction/	Ball Diamond Delipping Program	, , , , ,	1
	Renovation	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	\$ 150,000.00	
CC212302	Athletic Field Construction/	LED Lighting Conversion Program	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	
	Renovation		\$ 450,000.00	
CC212755	Park and Recreation Center	Park and Recreation Facility Renovations	1 100,000.00	
00222700	Accessibility	and Enhancements - General (contingency)	\$ 700,000.00	
CC212309	Greenways, Stream Valleys, and	Trail Renovations and Enhancements -	7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7	
CCZIZJOJ	Trails	General (contingency)	\$ 500,000.00	
CC212307	Community/ Neighborhood Park	Community and Neighborhood Park	3 300,000.00	
CC212307	Development	Development - General (contingency)	\$ 500,000.00	
CC212601	Park and Recreation Facility	Park and Recreation Facility Acquisition -	3 300,000.00	
CC212001	Acquisition	General (contingency)	\$ 500,000.00	
CC212307	Community/ Neighborhood Park	Oregon Ridge Park Renovations and	3 300,000.00	
CC212307	Development	Enhancements	\$ 2,500,000.00	
CC212307	Community/ Neighborhood Park	Cheverly Avenue Park Design and	3 2,300,000.00	
CC212307	· -	_	\$ 500,000.00	
CC212307	Development  Community/ Neighborhood Park	Development  Gerst Road Park Site Development	\$ 500,000.00	1
CC2123U/	,,	Gerst Road Park Site Development	\$ 400,000,00	
	Development	<del></del>	\$ 400,000.00	-
		Total	\$ 14,425,197.18	<u> </u>
	uiring appropriation)			
Cost Center #	Cost Center Name	Job Name	Amount	
CC203071	City and County Jointly Used Facilities	General Contingency	\$ 2,377,866.06	
CC203050	Construction at Highway Sites -	General Contingency	\$ 500,000.00	
	Water	General Contingency	0.000,000	
CC201000	Miscellaneous Pumping Station &	Conoral Contingonou	\$ 2,000,000,00	
CC201090	System Improvements	General Contingency	\$ 2,000,000.00	
		Total	\$ 4,877,866.06	
		ever projects will be required to be in complianc	e	
with Federal Tra	ffic Signal Guidelines and County Traffi	c Calming Regulations to proceed forward.		

Prepared by: Office of Budget and Finance

Bill 77-24 Council District(s) 4

#### Mr. Jones

# Zoning Regulations – Uses Permitted and Bulk Regulations in the O.T. (Office and Technology) Zone

Bill 77-24 amends certain permitted uses and bulk regulations in the Office and Technology (O.T.) Zone under certain circumstances in the Owings Mills Town Center and adds certain permitted uses in the O.T. Zone, if located in the Owings Mills Town Center.

Currently, warehouses are permitted in the O.T. Zone in combination with and physically attached to any other principal use permitted in the O.T. Zone, provided the warehouse accounts for no more than 30 percent of the total gross floor area. However, in no case shall a freestanding warehouse be permitted. The bill adds an exception that permits a freestanding warehouse in the Owings Mill Town Center, as identified in the Baltimore County Master Plan 2020, without restriction. The bill also removes a prohibition against residential uses in the O.T. Zone that are in the Owings Mills Town Center.

The bill also adds four permitted uses to the O.T. Zone, so long as they are in the Owings Mills Town Center, as identified in the Baltimore County Master Plan 2020. Those uses are: assisted living facility III; health care and surgery center; medical clinic; and State-licensed medical clinic. Finally, the bill removes the minimum height requirement of 52 feet for residential uses in the O.T. Zone if the use is in the Owings Mills Town Center, as identified in the Baltimore County Master Plan 2020.

With the affirmative vote of five members of the County Council, Bill 77-24 will take effect 14 days after its enactment.

# FM-1 (Contract)

Council District(s) 4

# **Police Department**

# Accommodations, Facility Rental, Food/Beverages – Annual Hostage Negotiation Seminar

The Administration is requesting approval of a contract with OMTC Land Unit 9, LLC d/b/a Marriott Owings Mills Metro Centre to provide hotel accommodations, facility rental, and food and beverages for the annual Police Hostage Negotiation seminar. The contract commences upon Council approval, continues through March 31, 2025, and may be renewed for four additional 1-year periods. The contract provides that the maximum liability to the County for cancellation is \$156,076 for the initial approximate 6-month term and \$824,324 for the entire approximate 4-year and 6-month term, including the renewal periods. The Department advised that the Baltimore County Police Foundation will reimburse the County for costs associated with the seminar, including any liquidated damages. See Exhibit A.

# **Fiscal Summary**

Source Commitment Commitment Notes	
County (1) Police Foundation Grant.	
State Canceling (2) Maximum liability for canceling initial approximate 6-month	
Federal (3) Maximum liability for cance	
<b>Other</b> (1) \$ 156,076 \$ 824,324 entire approximate 4-year term.	and 6-month
<b>Total</b> \$ 156,076 (2) \$ 824,324 (3)	

#### **Analysis**

The Department advised that the Baltimore County Police Foundation and the Baltimore Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation have sponsored the annual Police Hostage Negotiation seminar for 43 years. The Department further advised that for approximately 30 of

FM-1 (Contract) October 7, 2024

the past 43 years, the seminar was held at the Delta Hotels in Hunt Valley; however, the hotel ceased operations on October 31, 2023. On November 20, 2023, the Council approved an approximate 1-year and 4-month contract with OMTC Land Unit 9, LLC d/b/a Marriott Owings Mills Metro Centre to host the seminar in 2024 with a maximum liability of \$157,255 and an option for 2025. The Department advised that the County expended \$121,103 under the contract for the 2024 seminar and was fully reimbursed by the Police Foundation.

The Department advised that subsequent to the 2024 seminar, the County renegotiated the contract with Marriott Owings Mills Metro Centre in order to include additional and more favorable requirements (e.g., lower 2025 guest room commitment and pricing, complimentary guest and meeting room wi-fi). Under the proposed contract, Marriott Owings Mills Metro Centre will continue to provide hotel accommodations, facility rental, and food and beverages for the annual Police Hostage Negotiation seminar. The County will pay the costs related to the seminar, and the Foundation will collect a \$275 registration fee from each participant (includes certain meals). The Department estimates that over 700 participants will attend the seminar each year, including approximately 25-40 County employees (e.g., law enforcement, Corrections).

The contract commences upon Council approval and continues through March 31, 2025. The County may renew the agreement for four additional 1-year periods. The contract provides that renewal will be based upon availability at the time the request is received. The contract provides that the maximum liability to the County is \$156,076 for the initial approximate 6-month term (2025 conference) and \$824,324 for the entire approximate 4-year and 6-month term, including the renewal periods. The contract also provides that the County may terminate the agreement without penalty if funds are not appropriated or otherwise made available to support the continuation of the contract.

The Department advised that the Baltimore County Police Foundation will reimburse the County for costs associated with the seminar, including any liquidated damages. The contract provides that liquidated damages and other costs will be incurred if certain stipulated commitments are not met as follows:

<u>Guest Room Commitment:</u> The hotel will hold a guest room block for attendees at the rate of \$139 per night until 30 days prior to guests' arrival. The County has guaranteed 684 rooms. In the event that at least 80%, or \$76,061, of guest room revenue is not achieved, the hotel will allow for a 20% reduction in the nightly room commitment (to 547 rooms); the County will be charged \$139 for each room short of the 547-room commitment.

FM-1 (Contract) October 7, 2024

<u>Food and Beverage Commitment:</u> The hotel will provide food and/or beverages at certain seminar functions. In the event that the food and beverage revenue does not total at least \$61,000, the County will be responsible for the balance (exclusive of tax, gratuity, and service charge).

If the County cancels the event for any reason, it will be responsible for liquidated damages as follows: 80% of the Minimum Revenue, or \$124,861, if cancelled between the contract signing and 91 days prior to arrival; or 100% of the Minimum Revenue, or \$156,076, if cancelled between 90 days prior to arrival and March 7, 2025.

	Ann	ual Liability
Room Revenue	\$	95,076
Food and Beverage Revenue		61,000
Total Minimum Revenue	\$	156,076
80% of Total Minimum Revenue	\$	124,861

The contract provides that the minimum hotel revenues for the renewal periods are as follows:

Year of	Gue	est Room	Foo	d & Beverage	Tota	al Minimum
Conference	Block	Block Revenue		Revenue	F	Revenue
2026	\$	95,076	\$	66,500	\$	161,576
2027		97,812		66,500		164,312
2028		97,812		72,000		169,812
2029		100,548		72,000		172,548

The contract provides that if the County achieves at least 80% of the required Minimum Revenue, the County will receive additional concessions (e.g., waived meeting room rental costs). The Department advised that it has always met the guest room and food and beverage commitments for past seminars and expects to meet the commitments in 2025. The Department further advised that it expects the cost of the 2025 seminar to total approximately \$130,000 based on prior years' experience.

The Department requested that the proposed contract be designated as a noncompetitive 902(f) award secured in the best interest of the County. The Department advised that, with the closure of Delta Hotels Hunt Valley, Marriott Owings Mills Metro Centre is the only hotel in Baltimore County that is able to accommodate the expected number of participants.

FM-1 (Contract) October 7, 2024

County Charter, Section 902(f), states that "when... [competitive] bidding is not appropriate, a contract shall be awarded only by competitive negotiations, unless such negotiations are not feasible. When neither competitive bidding nor competitive negotiations are feasible, contracts may be awarded by noncompetitive negotiations."

County Charter, Section 715, requires that "any contract must be approved by the County Council before it is executed if the contract is...for services for a term in excess of two years or involving the expenditure of more than \$25,000 per year...."

#### **Executive Summary**

The scope of services under the contract is to provide hotel accommodations, facility rental and food and beverages for the annual Hostage Negotiation Seminar. The agreement was awarded through 902(f) Justification because the DOF IV Hunt Valley Master Tenant LLC dba Delta Hunt Valley contract agreement (approved by County Council 12/05/2022) ended abruptly. The hotel ceased operations October 31, 2023.

The only other location in Baltimore County that can accommodate the number of people attending the seminar, is the Owings Mills Marriott, owned by OMTC Land Unit 9. The initial term is for one (1) year with four (4) additional one year renewal options. Seminar costs are billed to Baltimore County by the hotel and are reimbursed to the County by the Police Foundation.

Prepared by: Police Department

# FM-2 (Contract)

Council District(s) 5

# Office of Law – Real Estate Compliance Division

# Drainage/Utility Easement – Harford Road, Parkville, 21234 – Jennifer Branch Relief Sewer Project

The Administration is requesting approval of a contract to acquire easement access spanning approximately 0.111 acre for \$5,895 for the Jennifer Branch Relief Sewer project east of Harford Road and south of Northwind Road in Parkville. Van Doan currently owns the property, which is located at 9807 Harford Road and zoned DR-5.5 (Density Residential – 5.5 units per acre). The easements will be used for drainage and utility easements and temporary construction areas. See Exhibit A.

# **Fiscal Summary**

Funding Source	_	ırchase Price	Notes
County (1)	\$	5,895	<sup>(1)</sup> Capital Projects Fund – Metropolitan District.
State			
Federal			
Other			
Total	\$	5,895	

#### **Analysis**

The Office advised that the County's engineering contractor, Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson (JMT), utilized the valuation formula and price per square foot for a similar, nearby property (3110B Summit Avenue in Parkville) to determine the value of the proposed acquisition. (The Office advised that the County's appraisal consultant, Everett Benfield Advisors, completed an appraisal of 3110B Summit Avenue effective February 14, 2024; JMT completed the appraisal review.) The Office further advised that JMT offered the property owner \$5,895 on behalf of the County, which was accepted.

FM-2 (Contract) October 7, 2024

The total 0.111-acre property to be acquired, including the drainage and utility easements (0.063 acre) and the temporary construction area (0.048 acre), is part of a larger 1.023-acre parcel that is improved with a residential dwelling.

The Office advised that the Jennifer Branch Relief Sewer project includes the construction of approximately 6,000 feet of relief sewer along Jennifer Branch stream between Harford Road and Northwind Road. The Office further advised that a total of 24 acquisitions are needed for this project, and following approval of the proposed acquisition, 6 additional acquisitions will require Council approval; the proposed contract is the second item requiring Council approval. As of the adoption of the FY 2025 Capital Budget, appropriations earmarked for the project total \$6.0 million. The Department of Public Works and Transportation advised that as of August 19, 2024, the County had expended/encumbered approximately \$1.0 million for design, permitting, and property acquisition.

County Charter, Section 715, requires Council approval of real property acquisitions where the purchase price exceeds \$5,000.

# **Executive Summary**

PROGRAM TITLE: Jennifer Branch Relief Sewer Project

PROJECT NO.: 010777250

FISCAL MATTER: Contract of Sale

PROPERTY OWNERS: Van Doan

LOCATION: 9807 Harford Road

Parkville, MD 21234

CONSIDERATION: \$5,895.38

PURPOSE OF PROJECT: This contract is for the purchase of 2,724 sq. ft. of

Drainage and Utility Easement and 2,101 sq. ft. of

Temporary Construction Area.

LIMITS OF PROJECT: Jennifer Branch Relief Sewer Project

Prepared by: Office of Law – Real Estate Compliance Division

# **FM-3 (Contract Amendment)**

Council District(s) All

# Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability

# **Urban Tree Planting Services**

The Administration is requesting approval of an amendment to a contract with Level Land, Inc. for on-call site preparation, tree planting, monitoring, and maintenance for "urban" (landscape-style) tree planting projects in support of the County's efforts to meet its reforestation requirements under the Maryland Forest Conservation Act (FCA) and its Phase II Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP). The proposed amendment formally assigns the contractor's rights and obligations under the original agreement to Level Landscape, LLC (the entities share common ownership) and extends the contract term an additional 8 years to align more closely with the terms of two other contracts for these services. The contract continues to provide that compensation may not exceed the amount appropriated for these services. The Department advised that the proposed amendment increases the estimated compensation of the contract by \$2,821,660, from \$1,313,876 to \$4,135,536 for the entire amended 15-year and 3-month term. The contract commenced March 16, 2020. See Exhibit A.

Funding Source	Contract mendment	_	_	rent Total pensation	_	nended Total ompensation	_
County	*	(1)		*	(1)	*	
State	*	(2)		*	(2)	*	
Federal	*			*	(3)	*	
Other							
Total	\$ 2,821,660	(4)	\$	1,313,876	(5)	\$ 4,135,536	(6)

<sup>\*</sup> The Department could not provide a breakout of funds by source.

<sup>(1)</sup> General Fund Operating Budget and Capital Projects Fund.

<sup>(2)</sup> Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT) funds.

<sup>(3)</sup> U.S. Department of the Treasury, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

<sup>(4)</sup> Additional estimated compensation for the entire amended 15-year and 3-month term.

<sup>(5)</sup> Expenditures as of September 12, 2024 per the County's financial system.

<sup>(6)</sup> Estimate for the entire amended 15-year and 3-month term.

#### **Analysis**

The Department advised that it is responsible for the County's reforestation requirements under the Maryland Forest Conservation Act (FCA) and the County's Phase II Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) in support of the County's Municipal Stormwater Discharge (MS4) permit. The Department further advised that contractors are needed to provide urban tree planting (landscape style tree) services, including site preparation, tree planting, and tree maintenance for one year after planting; the trees planted are credited toward the County's progress in meeting MS4 requirements.

On March 16, 2020, the Council approved the original 7-year and 3-month contract with Level Land, Inc. and a second contract with Wright Environmental & Land Services, LLC for these services. The Department advised that in January 2024, the County terminated the contract with Wright Environmental & Land Services in order to commence a new contract (see below) for these services; the County also assigned its contract with Level Land, Inc. to Level Landscape, LLC, at the contractor's request (the entities share common ownership), and Level Landscape, LLC continued to provide services. The County's financial system indicates that as of September 11, 2024, expenditures/encumbrances under the contracts totaled \$3,315,562: \$1,127,657 to Level Land, Inc., \$567,244 to Level Landscape, LLC, and \$1,620,661 to Wright Environmental & Land Services Inc.

On January 16, 2024, the Council approved two 11-year and 4-month contracts, with Wright Environmental & Land Services, LLC and Y&L Landscaping, Inc. dba Y&L Landscaping and Tree Service, for similar services. The County's financial system indicates that as of September 17, 2024, expenditures/encumbrances under the contracts totaled \$781,086: \$309,603 to Wright Environmental and Land Services, LLC and \$471,483 to Y&L Landscaping, Inc. dba Y&L Landscaping and Tree Service.

The Department advised that the proposed contract amendment is necessary in order to have three contractors providing these services; the assignment of work among the three contractors will be at the County's sole discretion and will be based on price, location, labor specialty, size and scope, and project logistics. The proposed amendment formally assigns Level Land, Inc.'s rights and obligations under the original agreement to Level Landscape, LLC and extends the current contract term an additional 8 years to align more closely with the terms of the two other existing contracts for these services. The contract continues to provide that compensation may

not exceed the amount appropriated for these services. The Department advised that the proposed amendment increases the estimated compensation of the contract by \$2,821,660, from \$1,313,876 to \$4,135,536 for the entire amended 15-year and 3-month term. All other terms and conditions remain the same.

Hourly labor rates range from \$39 to \$115, depending on the skill level (i.e., supervisor, skilled or unskilled labor, certified pest control applicator). The markup for plants, trees, planting materials (e.g., stakes, mulch, fertilizer) and herbicides range from 11% to 20%. Equipment (e.g., auger, subsoiler) costs for site preparation, planting, and maintenance are \$20 per hour and \$500 per day for a water truck.

Prior to the commencement of the second year of the initial term and each renewal period, the County may entertain a request for an escalation in unit prices in accordance with the Consumer Price Index – All Urban Consumers – United States Average – All Items (CPI-U), as published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics at the time of the request, or up to a maximum 5% increase on the current pricing, whichever is lower. The County may terminate the agreement by providing 30 days prior written notice.

The Department advised that the County has planted approximately 450 acres of traditional trees and 8,785 landscape-style trees under these programs since 2011. The Department further advised that Level Landscape will continue to be the main contractor for the Operation ReTree program and will be requested to provide services for the Street Tree Replacement program and other future urban tree programs.

The Department advised that the County awarded the original contract through a competitive procurement process based on low bid from six bids received, and there is a 20% M/WBE participation requirement.

The Department advised that currently there are no other contracts with Level Land, Inc. nor Level Landscape, LLC.

County Charter, Section 715, requires that "any contract must be approved by the County Council before it is executed if the contract is...for services for a term in excess of two years or involving the expenditure of more than \$25,000 per year...."

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

#### On Call Contract for Urban Reforestation Services

Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability (EPS) is responsible for the County's reforestation requirements under Maryland's 1991 Forest Conservation ACT (FCA) and the County's Chesapeake Bay TMDL program in support of Baltimore County's MS4 Permit. The trees planted by Forest Management are credited towards this permit.

The purpose of this contract is to provide urban tree planting (landscape style tree) services, including site preparation, tree planting, and tree maintenance for one year after planting. Trees will be credited under the County's MS4 permit. Landscape style trees are balled and burlapped or containerized trees with a 1.5-2" diameter at breast height (dbh). These trees will be planted in the public rights-of-ways along the streets of Baltimore County. Each tree is typically equipped with stakes, a mower guard, bark protector, water bag, and mulch.

The Contractor and EPS will consult together on a project-by-project basis on the Scope of Work for the Contractor's duties. EPS will provide planting plans including the tree locations and desired species. The Contractor will provide EPS with a written proposal for each project.

Level Landscape LLC is currently one of three contractors performing plantings under this contract. For the past 2 years they have been the main contractor doing plantings for the Operation ReTree program, which is the County's equity tree program. Level Landscape will continue to be the main contractor for the Operation ReTree program, but will also be asked to service The Street Tree Replacement Program which is the other program covered under this Urban Reforestation contract. All three contractors are necessary to meet the planting goals of the Urban Reforestation division.

Expenditures will not exceed the County Council approved appropriation for this service. Projects will be funded by EPS Capital Improvement Program. Approximately \$500,000 will be spent on a yearly basis on the Operation ReTree Program.

Prepared by: Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability

# FM-4 (Contract)

Council District(s) All

# **Department of Public Works & Transportation**

# Repair/Maintenance – Sewage Pumping and Treatment Stations

The Administration is requesting approval of a contract with Micro-Tech Designs, Inc. to provide repair and maintenance services for instrumentation and controls installed at the County's sewage pumping and treatment stations. The contract commences upon Council approval, continues for 1 year, and will renew automatically for four additional 1-year periods with the option to extend the initial term or any renewal term an additional 120 days. The contract provides that compensation may not exceed the amount appropriated for these services for the entire contract term. The Department advised that estimated compensation totals \$170,000 for the entire 5-year and 4-month term, including the renewal and extension periods. See Exhibit A.

# **Fiscal Summary**

Funding Source	Con	Total npensation	Notes
County (1)	\$	170,000	(1) Capital Projects Fund – Metropolitan District.
State			(2) Estimate for the entire 5-year and 4-month term.
Federal			
Other			
Total	\$	170,000	(2)

#### **Analysis**

The contractor will provide all labor, materials, tools, equipment, and supervision for repair and maintenance of instrumentation and controls installed at the County's 120 sewage pumping stations, 1 community wastewater treatment plant, and 4 freshwater treatment plants. The contract provides that, upon completion of repairs, the contractor shall test the equipment for proper functionality pursuant to contract requirements and industry standards. The Department

FM-4 (Contract) October 7, 2024

advised that it will utilize this contract for work beyond the capabilities of its current Bureau of Utilities' employees.

Hourly rates are \$169 for work performed Monday through Friday, 5:30 a.m. through 3:30 p.m. The Office of Budget and Finance, Purchasing Division advised that the County will pay the contractor \$253.50 (time and one-half) for work performed outside of normal business hours (excluding Sundays, holidays, and emergencies) and \$338 (double time) for work performed on Sundays, holidays, and emergencies; travel time will be paid at the applicable hourly rates. The contract provides that the contractor will respond to emergencies within four hours.

The contract commences upon Council approval, continues for 1 year, and will renew automatically for four additional 1-year periods with the option to extend the initial term or any renewal term an additional 120 days on the same terms and conditions, unless the County provides notice of non-renewal. The contract provides that compensation may not exceed the amount appropriated for these services for the entire contract term. The Department advised that estimated compensation totals \$170,000 for the entire 5-year and 4-month term, including the renewal and extension periods.

Prior to the commencement of each renewal period, the County may entertain a request for an escalation in unit prices in accordance with the Consumer Price Index – All Urban Consumers – United States Average – All Items (CPI-U), as published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics at the time of the request, or up to a maximum 5% increase on the current pricing, whichever is lower. The County may terminate the agreement by providing 30 days prior written notice.

The Department advised that the County awarded the contract through a competitive procurement process from two bids received, and the other bid was deemed non-responsive. According to the bid documents, there is not an M/WBE participation requirement.

The Department advised that the contractor has provided previous parts/work for the County via three purchase orders: \$57,871 in September 2023 and \$4,690 in December 2022 for parts/work at the Texas Sewage Pumping Station and \$1,690 in September 2023 for parts/work at the Duck Creek Pumping Station. (The Administration notified the Council of the September 2023 purchase order via Correspondence at the November 20, 2023 legislative session.)

FM-4 (Contract) October 7, 2024

County Charter, Section 715, requires that "any contract must be approved by the County Council before it is executed if the contract is...for services for a term in excess of two years or involving the expenditure of more than \$25,000 per year...."

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Vendor Name: Micro Tech Designs, Inc.

Scope of Contract: Shall be to furnish all labor, materials, tools, equipment and supervision for repair and maintenance of instrumentation and controls installed at the Sewage Pumping and Treatment Stations within The Bureau of Utilities. Shall provide support for the hardware and software for the physical instrumentation, monitoring, and controls associated with the Sewage Pumping and Treatment Stations within The Bureau of Utilities. This will be supplemental specialized support for work beyond the scope of what pumping and Treatment employees can perform. These controls, instrumentation, and programming assist with the operation of the Sewage Pumping and Treatment Stations and represent the physical equipment that reports information to SCADA, which is the alarm monitoring system utilized by the Bureau of Utilities Pumping and Treatment Division. All work will be performed in the Sewage Pumping and Treatment Stations. The County will pay time and a half for overtime hours and double time for emergency, holiday, and Sunday hours. The County will also pay for drive time, port to port at the appropriate hourly rate

**Purpose:** This contract shall provide all labor, materials, tools, equipment and supervision for repair, maintenance and support for instrumentation, monitoring, and controls associated with the operations of the Sewage Pumping and Treatment Stations.

Contract value: \$170,000

**Term:** Initial contract is for one (1) year. The County reserves the right to renew this contract for up to four (4) additional one-year renewal options under the same terms and conditions.

#### **Previous Contracts:**

- PO-10011459... \$57,871... 9/26/23... for Installation, programming, and integration of new Programmable Logic Controllers for the Texas Sewage Pumping Station.
- PO-10010955... \$1690... 9/5/23... for three (3) days of service for diagnosis of issues related with the Duck Creek ATO.
- PO-10005002... \$4689.75... 12/29/22... for Investigate and correct PLC programming issues related to the availability and alternation of the pump sequence/assignments

Vendor Selection Method: Best qualified, Competitive bid, Experience

MBE/WBE: N/A

Prepared by: Department of Public Works & Transportation

# FM-5 (Contract)

Council District(s) All

# Office of Budget and Finance

# **Death Audit Services – Baltimore County Retirement System**

The Administration is requesting approval of a contract with ABL Technologies, LLC to provide death audit services to identify deceased payees of the Employees' Retirement System of Baltimore County in order to detect and prevent improper benefit payments. The contract commences November 22, 2024, continues for 3 years, and will renew automatically for two additional 1-year periods with the option to extend the initial term or any renewal term an additional 180 days. The contract provides that compensation may not exceed \$65,000 for the entire 5-year and 6-month term, including the renewal and extension periods. See Exhibit A.

# **Fiscal Summary**

Funding Source	Maximum Compensation		Notes	
County (1)	\$	65,000	(1) Employees' Retirement System.	
State			(2) For the entire 5-year and 6-month term.	
Federal				
Other				
Total	\$	65,000 (2	2)	

#### **Analysis**

The contractor will provide death audit services to ensure that no benefit payments are made to deceased payees of the Employees' Retirement System of Baltimore County. The Office of Budget and Finance advised that services include matching the County's files of retirement system payees to an extensive database of death records from various sources, including governmental records and proprietary sources. The Office of Budget and Finance, Purchasing Division advised that the current number of retirement system payees is 9,040, including retirees,

FM-5 (Contract) October 7, 2024

beneficiaries, and qualified domestic relations order payees. According to the contract, the County will submit its files to the contractor quarterly, and the contractor must provide its report within 2 weeks of receipt of the file; thereafter, the contractor will provide monthly reports. The contractor will also provide constant monitoring with real-time access to information. The contractor will charge \$2,375 per quarter for death audit services and \$70 for each death certificate it obtains.

The contract commences November 22, 2024, continues for 3 years, and will renew automatically for two additional 1-year periods with the option to extend the initial term or any renewal term an additional 180 days on the same terms and conditions, unless the County provides notice of non-renewal. The contract provides that compensation may not exceed \$65,000 for the entire 5-year and 6-month term, including the renewal and extension periods.

Prior to year three of the initial term and the commencement of each renewal period, the County may entertain a request for an escalation in unit prices in accordance with the Consumer Price Index – All Urban Consumers – United States Average – All Items (CPI-U), as published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics at the time of the request, or up to a maximum 5% increase on the current pricing, whichever is lower. The County may terminate the agreement by providing 30 days prior written notice.

The Office advised that the County awarded the contract through a competitive procurement process based on low bid from three bids received, and that there is not an M/WBE participation requirement.

On February 18, 2020, the Council approved a 5-year and 3-month contract (which commenced August 22, 2019) not to exceed \$75,000 with Pension Benefit Information, LLC for similar services. The County's financial system indicates that as of September 9, 2024, expenditures/encumbrances under the contract totaled \$50,371.

County Charter, Section 715, requires that "any contract must be approved by the County Council before it is executed if the contract is...for services for a term in excess of two years or involving the expenditure of more than \$25,000 per year...."

# **Executive Summary**

The Office of Budget and Finance is requesting approval of a contract with ABL Technologies, LLC to death audit services for the Employees Retirement System.

This contract will be effective November 22, 2024 and will continue for three years. It contains two one-year renewal options.

The Contractor will match the County's file to an extensive database of death records, from a variety of sources, including governmental records and their own proprietary sources.

The Contractor shall provide quarterly reports of death matches, which shall include identifying information as well immediate notification of deaths.

This contract was selected via a competitive bid with three total proposals received.

Prepared by: Office of Budget and Finance

MB-2 (Res. 42-24)

Council District(s) \_\_7\_\_

# Mr. Patoka (By Req.)

# **Department of Economic & Workforce Development**

# Application to State of MD – Redesignation of the Chesapeake Enterprise Zone

Resolution 42-24 endorses the County's application to the State of Maryland for the redesignation of the Chesapeake Enterprise Zone, with modified boundaries totaling approximately 5,790 acres. See Exhibit A.

The process for designating and redesignating an enterprise zone is governed by Title 5, Subtitle 7 of the Economic Development Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. That process requires the consent of the local governing body.

In December 1995, the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development approved the County's request for designation of approximately 2,400 acres in the southeastern part of Baltimore County as the North Point Enterprise Zone. In 2005, when the original North Point Enterprise Zone expired, a new application to designate the North Point Enterprise Zone was approved. In 2015, the Maryland Department of Commerce approved the County's request for the designation of a revised, 7,051-acre area known as the Chesapeake Enterprise Zone. This designation will expire in June 2025.

Designation of this area as an enterprise zone has resulted in increased business investment and the addition of new jobs in southeastern Baltimore County. The condition of some existing buildings in the southeast area are still below standard for occupancy by Class "A" office, flex, and industrial tenants. The Francis Scott Key Bridge provided critical infrastructure and supported thousands of businesses across the State of Maryland, including those directly located within the currently designated zone.

Redesignation of the qualifying area as an enterprise zone would allow property owners and businesses currently located, or considering a location, within the proposed boundary to qualify for tax credits, making the area more competitive with similar areas in the region. The Department of Economic and Workforce Development considers enterprise zone designation a critical tool in

MB-2 (Res. 42-24) October 7, 2024

the effort to retain and attract businesses, create jobs, redevelop underutilized property, and support the recovery efforts following the Francis Scott Key Bridge collapse for businesses within eastern Baltimore County.

Baltimore County is supportive of the application to redesignate eligible portions of the Chesapeake Enterprise Zone, thereby making certain tax credits available to qualified businesses and commercial properties located in the designated area. However, businesses deemed as retail, restaurants, or bars are not eligible for the use of enterprise zone incentives.

Resolution 42-24 shall take effect from the date of its passage by the County Council and copies of the resolution shall be sent to the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Commerce.

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

#### **Enterprise Zone Program Background and Benefits**

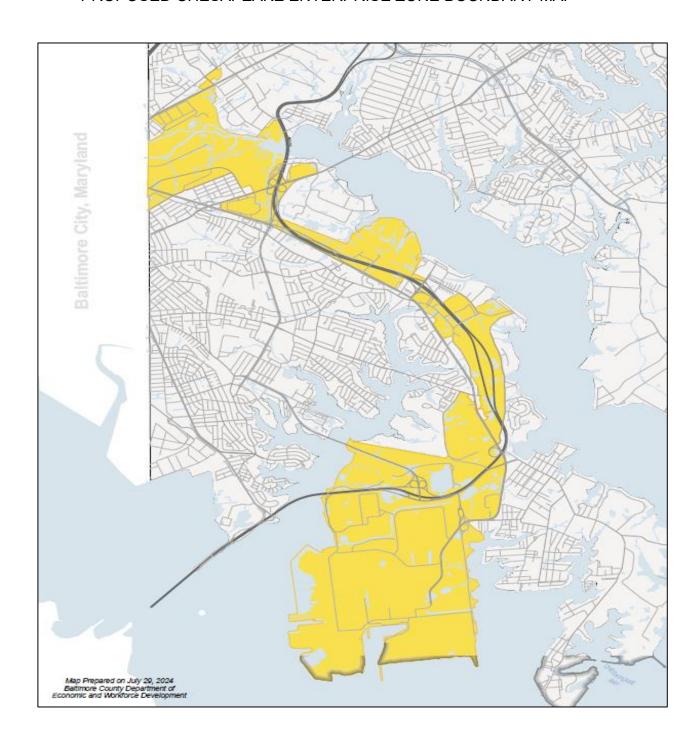
The Maryland Enterprise Zone Program was established by the Maryland General Assembly, and gives local governments the legal authority to offer economic incentives, including real property and income tax credits. The Department of Commerce is designated as the State agency responsible for coordinating the program, however, each zone is the creation and the responsibility of municipal and county governments. As a part of the application, a resolution from the local jurisdiction must also be included.

Enterprise Zones create specific geographic boundaries encompassing census tracts meeting income, poverty, unemployment, and/or decreased population qualifications (see map below). The zones provide businesses and property owners added incentives to locate or remain in the area, invest in physical property improvements and create jobs within the zone.

The two main benefits for a business located in an enterprise zone are eligibility for real property tax credits and State income tax credits. The State reimburses the local jurisdiction 50 percent of the revenue lost as a result of offering businesses the property tax credit, subject to approval in the annual budget.

#### Chesapeake Enterprise Zone Purpose and Background

- The North Point Enterprise Zone was formally designated in 1995, covering an area of approximately 2,400 acres as part of a comprehensive revitalization strategy for Southeastern Baltimore County. The Council approved a resolution to accompany the original application in 1995, and another resolution for a redesignation application with boundary modifications in 2005. In 2015, Council approved a resolution for a recertification and boundary modification as the Chesapeake Enterprise Zone, encompassing approximately 7,000 acres.
- The zone redesignation is one element of a continuing business retention and development strategy to support existing businesses and attract new businesses to the zone; promote development of vacant, underutilized land; encourage the creation of well-paying new jobs; and support the County's commitment to revitalizing Southeastern Baltimore County.
- Redesignation of the Chesapeake Zone supports the identified goals of the 2020 and 2030 Master Plans, specifically the promotion of responsible economic development, with an emphasis on advancing a high-quality labor force supported by thoughtful redevelopment and investment.
- This redesignation provides an important tool for the County to assist property owners in the development and redevelopment of underutilized industrial/flex/office property in the Southeast area. Enterprise zone designation brings benefits to the area by encouraging business growth, property revitalization and improvement, thereby ultimately increasing the tax base and employment opportunities.



Prepared by: Department of Economic & Workforce Development

# BALTIMORE COUNTY COUNCIL NOTES TO THE AGENDA APPENDIX A

# BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

TO: County Administrative Officer

**DATE:** 9/4/24

FROM:

Kevin D. Reed, Director
Office of Budget & Finance

COUNCIL MEETING

**DATE:** 10/7/24

SUBJECT:

Public Recordation of Announcement

of Non-Competitive Commodity Awards Charter Sec. 902(f)

Whenever a commodity Supplier Contract / Purchase Order over \$25,000 is awarded by a process other than a formal competitive bid, a copy of the Supplier Contract / Purchase Order must be provided to the Administrative Office for placement on the County Council agenda for announcement at the next session following the award of the Supplier Contract / Purchase Order. The announcement shall be recorded in the minutes of the County Council meeting, and shall be available for inspection by the public. In compliance with this procedure, supporting documentation of the awards are included and will be forwarded to the County Council.

#### **Award Document**

PO 10019317

**MWCOG** 

This Purchase Order is for the purchase of NCR MD RAPID law enforcement records database sponsored by the federal government from MWCOG.

The NCR MD RAPID Program is a collaborative effort between the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG), NCR Law Enforcement Information Exchange (NCR-LinX) and Maryland State Police. This database provides users access to nationwide data from more than 20,000 pawn and secondhand property dealers, enhancing the investigating capabilities of the region. It is a government system and no other vendors provide a comparable service.

NCR MD RAPID is a law enforcement records database sponsored by the federal government. As such, this data is not available from other sources and has strict compliance and privacy rules to maintain the data's security.

Members of the Baltimore County Police Department rely on this inter-agency sharing database. In addition, the failure of Baltimore County to participate would mean our records would be removed from the system. This would effectively prevent other agencies from accessing our records and collaborating with us to solve open cases.

This fee is set by the vendor, LeadsOnline, and is based on the agency strength at the time of the contractThe vendor manages the only platform that meets the State of Maryland's reporting requirements required under State law. In addition, LeadsOnline provides this service to over 5,000 law enforcement agencies across the country and fee structures are consistent.

c: J. Benjamin Jr., T. Bostwick L. Smelkinson Award Total: \$141,499.00 Award Date: 8/28/24