

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND**  
**2006 Legislative Session**

Resolution No. CR-87-2006  
Proposed by Council Members Dernoga and Bland  
Introduced by Council Members Dernoga, Bland, Exum, and Harrington  
Co-Sponsors \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Introduction November 28, 2006

**RESOLUTION**

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 Agricultural Preservation Work Group

3 For the purpose of establishing the Agricultural Preservation Work Group to review and evaluate  
4 present agricultural preservation policies and recommend to the County Council appropriate  
5 revisions to existing policies and laws.

6 WHEREAS, the Rural Tier of Prince George's County, as designated in the 2002  
7 *Approved General Plan*, as amended, encompasses the eastern and southern portions of the  
8 County, in the Patuxent River, Potomac River, and Mattawoman Creek watersheds, including  
9 171 square miles, approximately 35 percent of the County's land area; and

10 WHEREAS, the Rural Tier is the most scenic part of the County, characterized by fine  
11 and diverse landscapes, many of the County's remaining farmlands, extensive woodlands and  
12 wetland areas, numerous streams and stream valleys, and diverse wildlife habitat; and

13 WHEREAS, the main features of the Rural Tier, forests and agricultural lands, present  
14 unique planning, land use, and development issues and policy problems; and

15 WHEREAS, during the 2006 Legislative Year, the County Council proposed various  
16 legislation for the purpose of establishing a comprehensive policy on agricultural preservation in  
17 the Rural Tier; and

18 WHEREAS, CB-5-2006, presented on February 14, 2006 and held in committee for  
19 further review, established a Transfer of Development Rights Program in the County; and

20 WHEREAS, on June 6, 2006, the County Council adopted CR-47-2006, initiating zoning  
21 map revisions, by Sectional Map Amendment pursuant to the 2002 *Approved General Plan*, for  
22 the Rural Tier; and

1 WHEREAS, CB-4-2006 and CB-6-2006, enacted on July 18, 2006, established  
 2 requirements, procedures, and regulations for conservation subdivision design for residentially  
 3 zoned land located in the Rural Tier; and

4 WHEREAS, CB-47-2006, enacted on July 18, 2006, established a Purchase of  
 5 Development Rights (PDR) program to permit the acquisition of conservation easements to  
 6 extinguish development rights and preserve sensitive natural resources; and

7 WHEREAS, CB-75-2006, a Zoning Bill for the purpose of establishing an Agricultural  
 8 Open Space Zone, was presented on August 10, 2006 and later held in committee for further  
 9 review,

10 WHEREAS, CR-82-2006, adopted on November 14, 2006, approved the program  
 11 regulations and procedures for the PDR program; and

12 WHEREAS, the County Council desires to continue working on a comprehensive policy  
 13 on agricultural preservation with participation by affected stakeholders; and

14 WHEREAS, Section 506 of the County Charter provides that the County Council may  
 15 appoint, for designated periods, temporary citizen advisory boards to assist in the consideration  
 16 of County policies and programs.

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's  
 18 County, Maryland, that the Agricultural Preservation Work Group is hereby established to  
 19 review and evaluate present agricultural preservation policies and recommend to the County  
 20 Council appropriate revisions to existing policies and laws.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Agricultural Preservation Work Group shall be  
 22 composed of 13 members appointed by the Chairman in consultation with the Council.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Agricultural Preservation Work Group shall  
 24 review policies concerning (1) Purchase of Development Rights; (2) Transfer of Development  
 25 Rights; (3) zoning and development consistent with Rural Tier Preservation; (4) better utilization  
 26 of Agricultural Preservation Easements and the Rural Legacy Program; and (5) such other  
 27 preservation measures as the Work Group decides to review and analyze.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Agricultural Preservation Work Group shall  
 29 present its report and recommendations to the County Council on or before March 15, 2007.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council Administrator shall assign appropriate  
 31 technical and administrative support personnel to assist the Agricultural Preservation Work

1 Group in its work, and additional support shall be provided by the Prince George's County  
2 Planning Director (or the Planning Director's designee), and the County Attorney (or the County  
3 Attorney's representative).

Adopted this 28th day of November, 2006.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE  
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas E. Dernoga  
Chairman

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Redis C. Floyd  
Clerk of the Council