

**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL  
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

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**Meeting Date:** 7/29/2003

**Reference No.:** CB-56-2003

**Proposer:** Peters

**Draft No.:** 1

**Sponsors:** Peters, Hendershot, Dean, Knotts

**Item Title:** An Ordinance extending the amortization period for certain vehicle sales lots which are less than 25,000 square feet.

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**Drafter:** Jackie Brown, Director  
PZED Committee

**Resource** Ric Santos  
**Personnel:** Legislative Aide

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**LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:**

**Date Presented:** \_\_/\_\_/\_\_

**Executive Action:** \_\_/\_\_/\_\_

**Committee Referral:** 7/8/2003 PZED

**Effective Date:** \_\_/\_\_/\_\_

**Committee Action:** 7/23/2003 UNFAV

**Date Introduced:** 7/8/2003

**Public Hearing:** 7/29/2003 10:00 A.M.

**Council Action:** 7/29/2003 POSTPONE INDEFINITELY

**Council Votes:** PS:A, MB:A, SHD:A, TD:A, CE:-, DCH:A; TH:N, TK:A, DP:N

**Pass/Fail:** P

**Remarks:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**PLANNING, ZONING & ECON. DEV. COMMITTEE REPORT**

**7/23/03**

Committee Vote: Unfavorable, 4-0 (In favor: Council Members Harrington, Dean, Dernoga and Exum)

Staff gave an overview of the legislation and summarized referral comments that were received. CB-87-2000 prohibited used vehicle sales on lots of less than 25,000 square feet. It also provided for amortization of those uses that did not meet this requirement by August 31, 2003. CB-56-2003 extends the amortization period for three months, from August 31 to November 30, 2003. The bill was introduced on July 8 and is scheduled for a public hearing on July 29.

The Planning Board supports CB-56. The legal staff found the bill to be in proper legislative form. The Office of Audits and Investigations determined there should be no negative fiscal impact on the County as a result of enacting CB-56. Aisha Braveboy, representing the County

Executive, indicated that the Executive supports the original intent of CB-87-2000 to limit the proliferation of small used car sales lots in the County.

Council Member Peters, the bill's sponsor, provided a copy of a letter from the Prince George's Chamber of Commerce stating that over 50 used car dealerships in the County will be closed on September 1, 2003 as a result of CB-87-2000. The Chamber requests an amendment to the current law which grandfathers legally existing dealers or affords them the opportunity to seek certification as a non-conforming use. Mr. Peters explained that because the effect of CB-87 is occurring during this Council's term, he introduced the legislation to provide additional time for his colleagues to determine what businesses in their districts are affected and if grandfathering language may be warranted.

Council Member Hendershot commented that these dealers provide a service to a particular customer base and expressed concern about the previous legislation requiring them to close their businesses. Council Chairman Shapiro, the original sponsor of CB-87-2000, commented that the bill was introduced to address the proliferation of small used car sales lots in his district, especially along the US 1 corridor, where revitalization efforts are currently underway. The Chairman explained that he did not see the benefit of extending the amortization period at this point because these businesses have known about the August 31 date for three years. Mr. Shapiro encouraged the committee members to provide an unfavorable recommendation to the full Council.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION/FISCAL IMPACT**

**(Includes reason for proposal, as well as any unique statutory requirements)**

CB-87-2000(DR 3) required that used vehicle sales lots be a minimum of 25, 000 square feet and provided for amortization of those uses that did not meet this requirement by August 31, 2003. This bill extends the amortization period to November 30, 2003.

#### **CODE INDEX TOPICS:**