

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2010 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-8-2010
Proposed by Council Members Dernoga and Bland
Introduced by Council Members Dernoga, Bland and Olson
Co-Sponsors _____
Date of Introduction February 2, 2010

RESOLUTION

5 A RESOLUTION concerning

6 Agricultural Preservation Work Group

7 For the purpose of reconvening the Agricultural Preservation Work Group to review and
8 evaluate present agricultural preservation policies and recommend to the County Council
9 appropriate revisions to existing policies and laws.

10 WHEREAS, the Rural Tier of Prince George's County, as designated in the 2002
11 *Approved General Plan*, as amended, encompasses the eastern and southern portions of the
12 County, in the Patuxent River, Potomac River, and Mattawoman Creek watersheds, including
13 171 square miles, approximately 35 percent of the County's land area; and

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

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

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

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

25 WHEREAS, CB-47-2006, enacted on July 18, 2006, established a Purchase of
26 Development Rights (PDR) program to permit the acquisition of conservation easements to

1 extinguish development rights and preserve sensitive natural resources; and

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

4 WHEREAS, CR-87-2006, adopted on November 28, 2006, established the Agricultural
5 Preservation Work Group to review and evaluate agricultural preservation policies and
6 recommend to the County Council appropriate revisions to existing policies and laws; and

7 WHEREAS, the Agricultural Preservation Work Group held 25 meetings over an 18-month
8 period and conducted a comprehensive review of all preservation mechanisms and all County
9 policies including MALPF, Rural Legacy, Tree Conservation, PDRs, Transfer of Development
10 Rights, Right to Farm, Property Tax Exemptions, and State of the Agricultural Industry and
11 Potential Marketing Options; and

12 WHEREAS, the Agricultural Preservation Work Group provided a briefing on their efforts
13 and recommendations to the Planning, Zoning, and Economic Development Committee on
14 October 1, 2008; and

15 WHEREAS, after the term of the Agricultural Preservation Work Group expired, there
16 was no forum to discuss agricultural policy issues affecting the county; and

17 WHEREAS, the County Council desires to evaluate the success of existing agricultural
18 preservation programs to continue working on a comprehensive policy on agricultural
19 preservation with participation by affected stakeholders, and to consider other policies and laws
20 that would benefit agriculture in the County; and

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

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's
25 County, Maryland, that the Agricultural Preservation Work Group is hereby reconvened to
26 review and evaluate present agricultural preservation policies and recommend to the County
27 Council appropriate revisions to existing policies and laws.

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

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Agricultural Preservation Work Group shall
31 review existing agricultural preservation programs and recommend policies and such other

1 | measures that would enhance or preserve agriculture in the County as the Work Group decides to
2 | review and analyze.

3 | BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council Administrator shall assign appropriate
4 | technical and administrative support personnel to assist the Agricultural Preservation Work
5 | Group in its work, and additional support shall be provided by the Prince George's County
6 | Planning Director (or the Planning Director's designee), and the County Attorney (or the County
7 | Attorney's representative).

8 | BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Agricultural Preservation Work Group shall
9 | periodically present its recommendations to the County Council when deemed appropriate by the
10 | Work Group Chairman.

11 | BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Agricultural Preservation Work Group shall cease
12 | to exist at such time as the County Council confirms the members of the Agricultural Resources
13 | Advisory Board.

Adopted this 2nd day of February, 2010.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Thomas E. Dernoga
Chair

ATTEST:

Redis C. Floyd
Clerk of the Council