

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORT

2014 Legislative Session

Reference No.: CR-24-2014

Draft No.: 2

Committee: **Planning, Zoning and Economic Development Committee**

Date: 7/02/2014

Action: FAV (A)

REPORT:

Committee Vote: Favorable as amended, 4-0 (In favor: Council Members Turner, Franklin, Harrison, and Olson)

Staff gave an overview of the legislation and informed the committee of written referral comments and correspondence that were received. Council Chair Franklin, the resolution sponsor, informed the committee that CR-24-2014 is a tool to consider establishing a voluntary program with a dual purpose of ensuring equity in the Rural Tier and directing development in areas of the County where it is encouraged. Chair Franklin explained that the resolution provides the opportunity to bring stakeholders together to develop and agree on the voluntary program prior to any Council action on a Transfer of Development Rights program.

Steven Darcey, representing Prince George's Soil Conservation District (SCD), testified in support of CR-24-2014. Mr. Darcey noted the timeframe in the resolution for the Work Group's final recommendation was ambitious and suggested that a regular meeting schedule is necessary once the Work Group commences its work. He also indicated that SCD cannot attest to any fiscal impacts at this time; however, the agency does expect that their involvement may necessitate extra staff time to support this Work Group. Phil Hutton, Chair of the Legislative Committee for the Prince George's County Farm Bureau, also testified in support of the resolution.

The Office of Law reviewed CR-24-2014 and determined that it is in proper legislative form with no legal impediments to its adoption. The Prince George's County Association of Realtors submitted a letter dated July 1, 2014 to Committee Chair Turner expressing support for the resolution.

Council Chair Franklin suggested amendments to the dates for receipt of the Work Group's final recommendation to the Council as follows: on page 3, line 11, change "October 1, 2014" to "February 1, 2015", and on lines 13 and 16, change "February 1, 2015" to "May 1, 2015"

The committee voted favorable including the amendments offered by Council Chair Franklin.