

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

Resolution No. CR-107-2010  
Proposed by Council Members Dean and Bland  
Introduced by Council Members Dean and Bland  
Co-Sponsors \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Introduction October 26, 2010

**RESOLUTION**

5 A RESOLUTION concerning

6 Agricultural Preservation Work Group

7 For the purpose of expanding the mission of the Agricultural Preservation Work Group to  
8 review, evaluate and recommend "low impact development" technologies and other measures to  
9 improve agricultural operations as recommended by the 2010 Equine Industry Task Force, and  
10 amending the composition of the Work Group.

11 WHEREAS, the Prince George's County Council adopted CR-8-2010 reconvening the  
12 Agricultural Preservation Work Group to review and evaluate present agricultural preservation  
13 policies and recommend to the County Council appropriate revisions to existing policies and  
14 laws; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

14           WHEREAS, with the adoption of CR-8-2010, the County Council reconvened the  
15 Agricultural Preservation Work Group to continue reviewing and evaluating the success of  
16 existing agricultural preservation programs and to continue working on a comprehensive policy  
17 on agricultural preservation with participation by affected stakeholders, and to consider other  
18 policies and laws that would benefit agriculture in the County; and

19           WHEREAS, the Prince George's County Council adopted CR-29-2010 and CR-47-2010  
20 establishing the Equine Industry Task Force to explore and facilitate the economic development  
21 potential of the equine industry in Prince George's County; and

22           WHEREAS, the Equine Industry Task Force presented its report to the County Council on  
23 September 21, 2010 and recommended an environmental impact study group to explore best  
24 management practices and methods to improve agricultural operations including equine  
25 activities; and

26           WHEREAS, the Equine Industry Task Force recommended collaboration between the  
27 Agricultural Preservation Work Group, the Maryland State and Prince George's County Farm  
28 Bureaus along with experts from the University of Maryland, including the University of  
29 Maryland Extension, Soil Conservation District, United States Natural Resources Conservation  
30 Service, Maryland Horse Industry Board, Maryland Horse Council, the Chesapeake Bay  
31 Foundation, animal control and nutrient management technicians and the Maryland State

1 Department of Agriculture and Department of Natural Resources; and

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

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's  
6 County, Maryland, that the mission of the Agricultural Preservation Work Group is hereby  
7 expanded and the composition is hereby amended to include two additional members.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Agricultural Preservation Work Group shall be  
9 composed of 15 members including two additional members representing the Equine Industry  
10 Task Force established pursuant to CR-29-2010 and CR-47-2010 and 13 other members  
11 appointed by the Council Chairman in consultation with the Council.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Agricultural Preservation Work Group shall review  
13 existing agricultural preservation programs and recommend policies and such other measures  
14 that would enhance or preserve agriculture in the County as the Work Group decides to review  
15 and analyze.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council Administrator shall assign appropriate  
17 technical and administrative support personnel to assist the Agricultural Preservation Work  
18 Group in its work, and additional support shall be provided by the Prince George's County  
19 Planning Director (or the Planning Director's designee).

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Agricultural Preservation Work Group shall  
21 prepare and deliver its recommendations on the expanded mission to the County Council on or  
22 before November 1, 2011 and shall periodically present its recommendations on other matters to  
23 the County Council when deemed appropriate by the Work Group Chairman.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Agricultural Preservation Work Group shall cease  
25 to exist at such time as the County Council confirms the members of the Agricultural Resources  
26 Advisory Board.

Adopted this 26th day of October, 2010.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE  
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

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

ATTEST:

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