

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND
Legislative Session 2016, Legislative Day No. 19

Resolution No. 124-16

Councilmembers Quirk & Jones

By the County Council, November 7, 2016

A RESOLUTION of the County Council requesting the Planning Board to develop a strategy to assist Baltimore County communities to investigate the possibility of creating Community Development Corporations.

WHEREAS, community development corporations, or CDCs, are locally based tax-exempt, non-profit corporations that promote physical and social improvements in communities; and

WHEREAS, CDCs can be established by community residents, local small business owners, religious congregations and leadership, members of civic associations, and others to promote the revitalization of their community; and

WHEREAS, CDCs can perform a wide variety of roles, such as housing, commercial and retail development, community planning, providing social services, health education, workforce development, and assisting with community improvement programs such as improved lighting and streets; and

WHEREAS, there are programs, private and governmental, that can assist CDCs in achieving their stated goals; and

WHEREAS, there are currently only a few community development corporations in the County, but there are more communities that might benefit from the programs that are available to them from these sources; and

WHEREAS, a CDC may be formed as a Maryland non-stock corporation and may apply for federal tax-exempt status; and

WHEREAS, the County Council believes that the County can play a role in assisting communities to investigate the establishment of additional CDCs in Baltimore County so that these organizations can avail themselves of the programs that are available from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development to benefit the neighborhoods that are within the CDC; and

WHEREAS, the Baltimore Regional Neighborhood Initiative is one such State program that aims to demonstrate how strategic investment in local housing and businesses can lead to healthy, sustainable communities with a growing tax base and enhanced quality-of-life. The program attempts to focus on areas where modest investment and a coordinated strategy will have an appreciable neighborhood revitalization impact; and

WHEREAS, the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development's Sustainable Communities Program is another program offering a comprehensive package of resources that support holistic strategies for community development, revitalization and sustainability; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by the County Council of Baltimore County, Maryland, that the Baltimore County Planning Board is hereby requested to develop a strategy to assist Baltimore County communities to investigate the possibility of creating CDCs and to assist CDCs in availing themselves of the benefits of the various programs offered by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Planning Board is requested to consult with the leadership of all CDCs that currently operate in the county, as well as other organizations that can assist in developing such a strategy for the County.

