

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND
Legislative Session 2013, Legislative Day No. 13

Resolution No. 72-13

Councilmembers Marks, Bevins, Quirk & Almond

By the County Council, August 5, 2013

A RESOLUTION of the County Council requesting the Baltimore County Commission on Environmental Quality to make recommendations for the County's tree canopy program.

WHEREAS, the County Council created the Commission on Environmental Quality in 2003 (Bill No. 86-03); and

WHEREAS, the Commission is required to make recommendations concerning any environmental issue referred to it by the County Council; and

WHEREAS, the County Council commends the County Administration for identifying a County goal of increasing the amount of tree canopy coverage in the County, specifically targeting sensitive watershed areas and locations determined to have a tree canopy deficiency; and

WHEREAS, the benefits of an adequate tree canopy program include the improvement of water quality by reducing storm water runoff, intercepting and storing rain water, increasing infiltration through root systems and reducing soil erosion and filtering pollutants; the improvement of air quality by absorbing air pollutants, intercepting particulate matter, producing oxygen and lowering air temperature by turning liquid water into vapor; and an increase in property value by improving curb appeal and reducing heating and cooling costs by shading buildings and blocking winds; and

WHEREAS, the Commission is the appropriate body to evaluate tree canopy programs in other jurisdictions, and to make recommendations to the County government on the means to achieve the goal identified by the County Administration; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, by the County Council of Baltimore County, Maryland, that the Commission on Environmental Quality is requested to review the County's current requirements and standards for tree planting and preservation and to evaluate tree canopy programs in neighboring jurisdictions; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Commission is requested to consult with the County Administration, particularly the Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability and the Department of Public Works, as well as stakeholder groups from the development industry and conservation organizations, as it considers incentives and requirements for participation in the tree canopy program; and be it further

~~RESOLVED, that the Commission shall give particular attention to (1) the County's watershed areas, (2) the MD43 Overlay District, (3) the Honeygo Area, and (4) the BM-CT District of Towson as fertile areas for the tree canopy program, by examining tree preservation and planting initiatives in comparable areas, such as Bethesda, Rockville, Columbia and Frederick; and be it further~~

RESOLVED, that the Commission shall give particular attention to the County's older communities, such as Towson and Catonsville, and to the County's growth areas, such as White Marsh, by examining tree preservation and planting initiatives in comparable areas, such as Baltimore City and Montgomery County; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Commission shall report its findings and recommendations for the County's tree canopy program to the County Executive and County Council on or before December 31, 2013.

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