

MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: David J. Deutsch
City Manager

SUBJECT: ***Status Report***

DATE: July 19, 2012

Status Report

1. Purchase of Laptops for Police Officers

The Police Department has been authorized to purchase twelve (12) Panasonic laptop computers to replace existing units and to equip two new officers. Staff obtained a quote of \$49,200 (\$4,100 each) from Brekford in Hanover, MD, the sole local authorized dealer of Panasonic laptops manufactured for the public safety industry; this is a “piggyback” onto the Brekford/Panasonic contract (DoIT contract #060B9800015) currently in place with the State of Maryland. Funds to purchase these units will come from the Department’s Material, Supplies & Minor Equipment account (\$12,300) and the Equipment Acquisition and Replacement Fund, Public Safety account (\$36,900). As provided by Section 62 of the City Charter, this will serve as the required seven-day notice of intent to purchase 12 Panasonic laptops from Brekford.

2. Stakeholders Meeting for Former Tia's Restaurant Property

A Stakeholders Meeting was held on Tuesday, July 17th for the purpose of discussing a proposed new, two-story/15,000 sq. ft. medical office building on the site of the existing Tia’s restaurant, located at US 301/Excalibur Road adjacent to Ruby Tuesday. The applicant, Frederick Road Realty II, LLC and represented by Mr. Dan Lynch, has filed a Detailed Site Plan application for this new development. More than 40 letters were mailed advising nearby property owners, businesses, residents and interested parties of this meeting. Other than the applicant’s representative, no one attended the meeting.

Staff will send new letters informing area businesses, residents, etc. of the City’s public hearing dates for the Bowie Advisory Planning Board and City Council, when they have been determined.

3. Bowie Businesses - 2012 Updated Analysis of Census Data

According to the US Census Bureau's latest data (for 2010), there are 1,494 businesses employing a total of 20,621 people in the seven Zip Codes that comprise the Bowie area. Bowie's business base represents 10.5% of the total Prince George's County business base (14,250) and 8.7% of the total employees (237,908) in the County. Small businesses abound in Bowie with 824 or 55.2% having four or fewer employees. Compare that with the County total with 7,133 or 50% having four or fewer employees and the State total with 72,250 or 53.7%

having four or fewer employees. Roughly 11.6% of all of County businesses, and 1% of all Maryland businesses with four or fewer employees are in the Bowie area. Businesses are almost equally distributed north and south of US Highway 50 - 50.7% are north and 49.3% are south. Note that "north" includes Zip Code 20720 which has seen commercial growth outside of the City limits; and "south" includes Zip Code 20721 which has more commercial outside of the City than inside the City limits.

4. City TLC Grant Application

The City received word yesterday that our application for funding through the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' Transportation and Land Use Connections (TLC) Program was not approved. The City had requested funding to complete 30% design and engineering plans for the Railroad Museum property and proposed 10th Street Park, which are related to The Bowie Heritage Trail, Phase 1 concept (that has preliminary engineering already completed). The City applied for the new grant category intended to help projects address the need for engineering plans in order to pursue construction funding. The City was advised that the amount of available funding in this cycle was limited and that the submitted project did not directly provide a transportation or land use connection. The COG review panel felt that this project would not send the appropriate message for what the TLC Program is looking to fund in this new pilot category and future rounds of the design component of the TLC Program. The panel felt that a project that provides design work for a site that truly strives to connect development and the built environment with infrastructure would be more appropriate for a pilot. The City was encouraged to work with COG staff to formulate a project that better meets the objectives of the TLC Program and submit an application for the next round, which opens in March 2013.

5. Yard Waste/Tree Debris

Tomorrow marks the end of three full weeks that staff has been picking up tree limbs and debris from the June 29th derecho. Our plan is to reinstate the "normal" yard waste rules regarding Wednesday pickup and size requirements. If an occasional pile appears that doesn't meet the requirements, we will get it, but the message we will put out is one of a "return to normalcy," with all due respect to Warren G. Harding.

DJD/asf