

MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: David J. Deutsch
City Manager

SUBJECT: ***Status Report***

DATE: November 8, 2012

Status Report

1. County Legislation (CB-110-2012)

On Wednesday, November 7th, the Prince George's County Council's Planning, Zoning and Economic Development (PZED) Committee voted unanimously to give a FAVORABLE recommendation for CB-110-2012. The bill will permit health clubs and exercise salons in the M-A-C (Major Activity Center) zone. City Council recommended approval of the legislation. Staff will prepare a position letter reiterating the City's support for the County Council public hearing, which is scheduled for November 20, 2012.

2. Fiber Network

Included in your package is a memo notifying Council of a proposal to piggyback on a Howard County contract to construct a City-owned fiber connection to the Inter-County Broadband Network (ICBN). Additional information concerning the ICBN is also included in your package. As provided by Section 62 of the City Charter, this will serve as the required seven-day notice of intent to award a contract to Southern Maryland Cable, Inc. for a total price of \$91,451.30 to install fiber from City Hall to the ICBN on US 301. All funding for this project will be from a capital grant the City receives from the cable companies.

3. Planning Board Results – November 8, 2012

At today's Planning Board meeting, two (2) cases were heard that were recently the subject of public hearings by the City Council: (1) Detailed Site Plan #DSP-12008 for a day care center at the site of the New Life Community Church on Old Annapolis Road; and, (2) Detailed Site Plan #DSP-94011/06 for a proposed medical office building on the site of the existing vacant Tia's restaurant, located on Excalibur Road.

The City Council conducted a public hearing on #DSP-12008 on October 15, 2012, recommending approval of this application with four (4) conditions, all of which were included in or addressed by the Park and Planning staff report. At the conclusion of the

Planning Board hearing, Commissioner Washington moved for approval of #DSP-12008. Her motion, seconded by Commissioner Bailey, passed unanimously.

Detailed Site Plan #DSP-94011/06 was heard by the City Council on October 1, 2012, when the Council recommended approval with several conditions. All of the City's conditions were included as conditions of approval recommended in the Park and Planning staff report. Upon completion of the Planning Board's public hearing today, Commissioner Washington moved for approval. After Commissioner Shoaff seconded the motion, the Board voted unanimously to approve #DSP-94011/06.



City of Bowie

15901 Excalibur Road
Bowie, Maryland 20716

MEMORANDUM

To: City Council

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City Manager 

Subject: Fiber Network

Date: November 7, 2012

The FY13 Public Information budget includes funding for a fiber connection to the Public Safety Tower on Route 3 and for equipment necessary to provide redundancy for the City's intranet. A consortium of 10 central Maryland counties and cities (Anne Arundel County, Baltimore County, City of Baltimore, City of Annapolis, Carroll County, Frederick County, Harford County, Howard County, Montgomery County and Prince George's County) is in the process of constructing an ICBN (Inter-County Broadband Network) financed with funds obtained by the State of Maryland as part of the federal stimulus program. Obtaining connectivity to this ICBN will provide the City a direct fiber connection to the participating counties and cities, the Public Safety Tower located on the Nash property, as well as Network Maryland and the NCR (National Capital Region) network. Having the ability to communicate with these networks will allow the City to share voice, video and data on a secure network both during normal operations and during emergencies.

Columbia Telecommunications Corporation (CTC) of Kensington, Maryland designed the ICBN for the counties involved in the project and, at the request of the City, has designed a connection from City Hall to the new ICBN at the intersection of US 301 and MD 197. Howard County is the lead jurisdiction for the ICBN project and both Anne Arundel County and Prince George's County are currently installing fiber along 3/301 for this new network, under the Howard County contract.

The City received proposals from two of the contractors included in the Howard County contract. The proposals are for installing fiber from City Hall to US 301. S&N Communications of Columbia, MD offered a price of \$94,454.75 and Southern Maryland Cable, Inc. (SMC) of Tracey's Landing, MD proposed a project cost of \$91,451.30.

To complete the redundant path the City is seeking, Anne Arundel County is planning to install fiber from the Public Safety Tower to the Kenhill Center and has agreed to include

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fiber for the City in that contract. This second project will give the City a redundant path between the Kenhill Center and City Hall. Should our current I-Net go down for any reason, we will be able to switch to the ICBN network and continue normal City operations at City Hall. In the future, we hope to make a similar connection from our Public Works facility to the ICBN, providing that facility with a secondary path to City Hall by way of the ICBN.

We believe both contractors are reliable and have first-hand knowledge of the project. CTC has reviewed the two proposals and has indicated that both S&N and SMC have offered fair pricing and that both companies are qualified to complete the work. Seeking additional proposals from companies unfamiliar with the ICBN project, and the complicated infrastructure related to the other networks, would cause a significant delay and most likely require additional man-hours and additional costs.

The City Charter requires the City Council be given seven days notice prior to entering into a purchase agreement of this type. Should Council agree, staff will proceed with awarding a contract to SMC for a total price of \$91,451.30 to install fiber from City Hall to the ICBN on US 301. All funding for this project will be from a capital grant the City receives from the cable companies. The City's current franchise agreements restrict use of these funds to capital expenditures for the City's I-Net and for our Public, Education, and Government access channels.

DJD/DM