



Happy New Year!

2014 will be filled with important policy conversations on the local, state and federal level. These newsletters will make sure you are up to date on the issues impacting the affordable housing community.

Montgomery County

Zoning Ordinance Rewrite

Montgomery County has been working to rewrite the County's zoning ordinance. This month the full Council held a number of worksessions and took a straw vote of 7-1 to approve the new zoning code. A final vote is expected by mid-February. Through advocacy efforts of the affordable housing community, modifications to the CR zone were proposed that work to incentive moderately priced dwelling units (MPDUs) above the required 12.5 percent.

District 5 Vacancy

Last month Valerie Ervin announced her resignation from the Council to serve as the executive director of Center for Working Families in NY. The Council is currently conducting interviews with prospective applicants to serve as Councilmember for District 5 in a caretaker capacity. 13 applicants applied, and the Council is expected to vote on January 28th.

Housing in the CIP Budget

County Executive Ike Leggett released his six-year Capital Improvements Program (CIP) on January 15th. The budget includes over \$24 million to support affordable housing in FY15 and FY16. The \$15.9 million for FY15 includes the remaining \$7 million in previously unallocated housing bonds. A number of housing advocacy groups, including MHP, AIM, Victory Housing, and Habitat for Humanity Metro Washington, led a campaign to encourage the allocation of these \$7 million in bonds, and continue to request \$45 million total for HIF.

State of Maryland

DHCD Efficiency Act

The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development has submitted a bill request that would support additional efficiencies in the functioning of the multi-family housing programs. The bill intends to streamline language and consolidate four housing programs (Elderly Rental, Multifamily Rehab, Nonprofit Rehab, and Rental Housing production). Additionally, the bill would further align DHCD's programs to model the Federal Low-Income Housing Tax Credit program, including its interpretation of local government consent.

Housing and Community Development Funding

Governor O'Malley released his FY15 budget on January 15th. Included in this budget is:

- \$6 Million for Community Legacy (level funding from FY14)
- \$3.3 Million for Neighborhood Business Development Program (increase from FY14 of almost \$1 Million)
- \$10 Million for Strategic Demolition and Smart Growth Impact Project Fund (increase of \$5 Million from FY14)
- \$18.05 Million for Rental Housing Works (decrease from FY14 of almost \$2 Million)

Federal

FY14 Omnibus Appropriations Bill

On January 17th President Obama signed into law the FY14 Budget bill. The bill includes a total of \$45.46 Billion of funding for the Department of Housing and Urban Development - an increase of almost \$4 billion than the FY13 post-sequestration funding levels. Enterprise has created a [chart](#) detailing each programs funding level.

Upcoming Events

January

- 29 - Community Development Network of Maryland's [Legislative Luncheon](#), Annapolis
- 30 - HAND's member meeting [Local Real Estate Trends and Market Conditions](#), Silver Spring
- 30 - Montgomery County Park and Planning [Lecture Series](#) featuring Lisa Sturtevant
- 30 - [Housing and the Economy: A Forecast for 2014](#), Bipartisan Policy Center

Feburary

- 5 - [Twitter Chat](#) on "Bending the Cost Curve: Solutions to Expand the Supply of Affordable Housing", Enterprise Community Partners
- 13 - [MAHC Housing Day](#), Annapolis

March

11 - Montgomery Housing Partnership's Spring Policy Breakfast, "Affordable Net-Zero Capable Housing" contact ibranda@mhpartners.org for more info

29 - The National Conference on Ending Poverty, presented by A Wider Circle

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