



July 2013 Policy Update

While the State is in recess, there is still a lot of activity happening on the County and Federal levels. Here are some of the highlights.

WHAT WE'RE WATCHING

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

- The Council held a public hearing on the [Long Branch Sector Plan](#) on July 9th, and heard testimony from many stakeholders, including MHP, concerned with the preservation of affordable housing in the community. The Plan is now with the PHED Committee for review. Additionally, the Planning Board has forwarded the [Glenmont Sector Plan](#) to the Council for review. A public hearing is scheduled for July 30th, with work sessions to follow.
- The County is continuing to move forward with the zoning rewrite process. The PHED Committee has been meeting weekly to analyze the proposed code. Additional work sessions are scheduled for September. The Council has set up a web page where you can follow their progress, accessible [here](#). Public comment can still be provided to Council President Navarro.

STATE

- DHCD released a final [Qualified Allocation Plan](#) (QAP), which governs the administration of the State's Low Income Housing Tax Credits, to the Governor for signature. The next competitive round deadline will not be before October 15, 2013.

FEDERAL

- The Senate is scheduled to vote this week on the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) appropriation bill, Bill number 1243. The Senate's bill provides approximately \$10 billion more for THUD activities than the House Appropriations Committee approved. The House has not yet scheduled a date for the committee bill to go to the floor, but if passed will require a conference session between the House and Senate to bridge the

funding gap. NLIHC has produced a budget chart highlighting the different funding recommendations, available [here](#).

- Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus (D-Montana) and Ranking Member Orrin Hatch (R-UT) announced plans to pursue a “blank slate” approach to tax reform, meaning that all credits and deductions would be removed from the code "unless there is clear evidence that they: (1) help grow the economy, (2) make the tax code fairer, or (3) effectively promote other important policy objectives." They have asked their colleagues to weigh in on which provisions should be retained. All recommendations must be forwarded by July 26th.
- Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus (D-Montana) and House Ways and means Committee Chairman Dave Camp (R-Michigan) have set up a website to solicit grassroots input on tax reform. You can share your thoughts and ideas at www.taxreform.gov or via twitter @simplertaxes.

WHAT'S UP NEXT

July

29th – [PHED Committee Long Branch work session](#)

30th - [Glenmont sector plan public hearing](#)