



## May 2013 Policy Update

A lot has happened so far this legislative session. Montgomery County just passed their FY14 budget, the State wrapped up its legislative session last month, and Congress is set to take up the President's proposed FY14 budget and tax reform.

### ***WHAT WE'RE WATCHING***

#### ***MONTGOMERY COUNTY***

- The Council passed a \$4.8B budget for the County on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. The budget reflects a 4.1 increase in spending over the FY13 budget. The budget includes \$2.4 million in the Department of Housing and Community Affairs' Housing Initiative Fund to support long-term affordable housing development.
- The County Council's PHED Committee is scheduled to take back up the County's [Housing Policy](#) in late summer/early fall.
- The Planning Board approved a final draft of the [Long Branch Sector Plan](#) and the [Glenmont Sector Plan](#) to forward to the County Executive and Council for review. Committee and hearing dates are not yet scheduled.
- The County is moving forward with the zoning rewrite process. The Planning Board has forwarded the [revised zoning code](#) to the Council for review. A public hearing is scheduled for June 11<sup>th</sup>.

#### ***STATE***

- The [Community Investment Tax Credit](#) program was expanded to provide an additional \$750,000 in credits to qualifying donations to nonprofits.
- [Rental Housing Works Program](#) was renewed for a second year and increased to \$20 million. The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has already released almost \$8 million of the initial \$17.5 million in funds.

- DHCD is currently revising their [Qualified Allocation Plan](#) (QAP), which governs the administration of the State's Low Income Housing Tax Credits. The final draft is expected out this week, and a public hearing is scheduled for June 19<sup>th</sup>.

## **FEDERAL**

- Congress is beginning to evaluate the President's proposed FY14 budget. There is a lot of ground to bridge, as the budget caps for the House and Senate differ vastly. The House has set a budget cap of only \$973 billion, compared to the Senate cap of \$1.058 trillion. In terms of housing funds, the House has proposed a committee allocation of \$44.1 billion for Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD). This is \$4 billion less than the post-sequestration FY13 level. The Senate has not announced an allocation.
- 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](http://www.taxreform.gov) or via twitter @simplertaxes.

## **WHAT'S UP NEXT**

### **JUNE**

- 10<sup>th</sup> – [MHP 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Norman Christeller Golf Classic](#)
- 11<sup>th</sup> – [HAND Annual Meeting](#)
- 11<sup>th</sup> – County Council public hearing on the zoning rewrite (linked above)
- 19<sup>th</sup> – DHCD Public Hearing on the QAP (linked above)
- 21<sup>st</sup> – [NHC Annual Policy Symposium](#)
- 24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> – [ULI Place Making 2013](#)