Resolution No.: 18-1176

Introduced: June 12, 2018
Adopted: July 10, 2018

## COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

Lead Sponsor: County President at the Request of the County Executive

SUBJECT: Consent to Application by Montgomery County, Maryland to create the Montgomery College Germantown Campus Regional Institution Strategic Enterprise ("RISE") Zone.

## **Background**

- 1. The purpose of the RISE Zone Program is to access institutional assets that have a strong and demonstrated history of commitment to economic development and revitalization in the communities in which they are located. Qualified institutions and local governments develop a targeted strategy to use the institutional assets and financial incentives to attract businesses and create jobs within the zone.
- 2. Pursuant to MD CODE ANN., Tax Property Article, § 9-103.1 and COMAR, § 24.05.21.08, the State of Maryland has established the application process for the designation of Regional Institution Strategic Enterprise ("RISE") Zone.
- 3. Montgomery County held a public hearing, as required by the State of Maryland RISE Zone application process, on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018 at the Upcounty Regional Services Center.
- 4. The proposed RISE Zone is entirely within the 2009 Germantown Employment Area Sector Plan. The entire land area of the proposed RISE Zone is owned by Montgomery College and zoned technology and business park or life sciences center per Council Resolution No. 16-1126.
- 5. The Germantown Employment Area Sector Plan identified the following items as key components of the Plan: connections to cultural, historic, and civic facilities such as Montgomery College, a vibrant economic core, and employment centers. The Germantown Employment Area Sector Plan focuses on Germantown becoming the center of business and community life in upper Montgomery County.
- 6. The designation of the Germantown RISE Zone will support this Sector Plan by enabling several key recommendations. These include creating Germantown as a strategic location

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- for employment and up to one million square feet for a technology park linking business and academic communities in the Montgomery College District.
- 7. Qualified institutions include institutions of higher education as defined under § 10-101 of the Education Article.
- 8. On September 11, 2017, the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Commerce approved Montgomery College as a Qualified Institution.
- 9. The proposed Germantown RISE Zone will encompass the Montgomery College Germantown campus, known as the Pinkney Innovation Complex for Science and Technology at Montgomery College ("PIC MC"). The acreage includes 40 acres on the Montgomery College Germantown campus, with activity concentrated in an 18-acre area set aside for commercial development.

## **Objectives**

- 1. Designation of Montgomery College Germantown Campus Regional Institution Strategic Enterprise ("RISE") Zone will help the County achieve the vision for Germantown as highlighted in the Germantown Employment Area Sector Plan.
- 2. Designation of Montgomery College Germantown Campus RISE Zone will encourage the development of commercial space for targeted industries: biohealth, info technology and cyber security, corporate and regional headquarters, and entrepreneurs and innovators.
- 3. Designation of Montgomery College Germantown Campus RISE Zone will facilitate employment opportunities for Montgomery College students in targeted industries.
- 4. Designation of the Montgomery College Germantown Campus RISE Zone will encourage the creation of wet lab space. A type of space crucial for entrepreneurship and job creation in the County, in high demand, but difficult to create through conventional development.

## Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following resolution:

- 1. The County Council hereby supports and approves the application to designate certain sections of Montgomery College Germantown Campus as a Regional Institution Strategic Enterprise Zone.
- 2. The County Council hereby supports and approves the minimum required real property tax credit of fifty percent (50%) in the first taxable year, and ten percent (10%) in the second through fifth taxable years.

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3. The County Council hereby supports and gives its consent to the real property tax credit of seventy five percent (75%) for years one through five specifically for Montgomery County targeted industries: biohealth, info technology and cyber security, emerging technologies, corporate and regional headquarters, and entrepreneurs and innovators.

4. The local prequalification standards which will determine eligibility to participate, and rules and regulations for the administration of the Zone, will be established in an Executive Regulation

This is a correct copy of Council action.

Megan Davey Limarzi, Esq.

Clerk of the Council