

AGENDA ITEM #11-12  
November 8, 2011

Action

MEMORANDUM

November 4, 2011

TO: County Council

FROM: Amanda Mihill, Legislative Attorney *A. Mihill*

SUBJECT: Action: Bill 29-11, Boards, Committees, and Commissions – Sunset, Consolidation and Resolution to sunset or repeal certain boards, committees, and commissions

**Government Operations and Fiscal Policy Committee recommendation (3-0): do not enact Bill 29-11 or the Resolution.**

Bill 29-11, Boards, Committees, and Commissions – Sunset, Consolidation and Resolution to sunset or repeal certain boards, committees, and commissions, sponsored by Councilmember Leventhal, was introduced on September 27, 2011. A Government Operations and Fiscal Policy Committee worksession was held on October 24.

**Background**

This proposal arose from a September 12 Government Operations and Fiscal Policy Committee meeting in which Executive staff presented information indicating that staff time associated with the various boards, committees, and commissions totaled more than \$1.4 million in Fiscal Year 2011. Code §2-146 requires the Executive to appoint a citizens review committee to review the committee structure as a whole and the individual committees (the Committee Evaluation and Review Board). CERB issued its latest report in 2004. CERB noted in its 2004 report that the County had more boards, committees, and commissions than any of the neighboring jurisdictions that it surveyed. Excerpts of the CERB report for specific consolidations proposed in Bill 29-11 begin on ©26-34.<sup>1</sup> In its January 31, 2011 report, the Organizational Reform Commission recommended that the Executive accelerate the appointment of the CERB and to require the CERB to complete its work in 6 months (see excerpt on ©35-37).<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> A copy of the CERB report is at [http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/EXEC/boards/cerb\\_final%20report\\_7-20-2004.pdf](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/EXEC/boards/cerb_final%20report_7-20-2004.pdf). CERB did not review the Cable Compliance Commission.

<sup>2</sup> A copy of the ORC report is at [http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/council/PDF/REPORTS/ORC/ORC\\_FinalReport.pdf](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/council/PDF/REPORTS/ORC/ORC_FinalReport.pdf)

(Attachment D.)

**Criss, Jeremy**

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**From:** Criss, Jeremy  
**Sent:** Friday, October 28, 2011 11:41 AM  
**To:** Ervin, Valerie; Leventhal, George; Rice's Office, Councilmember; Berliner, Roger; Navarro, Nancy; Floreen, Nancy; Andrews, Phil; Elrich, Marc; Riemer, Hans  
**Cc:** weitzer@erols.com  
**Subject:** Agricultural Advisory Committee comments surrounding Bill 29-11 Boards, Committees, and Commissions-Sunset and Consolidation

Hello Members of the Montgomery County Council,  
Attached, you will find the comments from the Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee surrounding Bill 29-11.  
Please let us know if you have any questions.  
Thanks Jeremy

Jeremy V. Criss  
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Agricultural Services Division  
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10/28/2011

(Attachment D.)



AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

October 27, 2011

The Honorable Valerie Ervin,  
Montgomery County Council President  
100 Maryland Avenue  
Rockville Maryland 20850

Dear Council President Ervin:

Re: Bill 29-11 Boards, Committees, and  
Commissions-Sunset, Consolidation

On behalf of the Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC), please accept this letter as our comments regarding Bill 29-11 Boards, Committees, and Commissions-Sunset and Consolidation.

The ACC met in the evening of Tuesday October 18, 2011 to discuss this Bill 29-11 and for this reason we did not provide comments in time for the public hearing that was scheduled at 1:30 pm the same day.

The ACC understands that our committee is identified on line 353 on circle 16 and our committee is proposed to sunset on December 1, 2012. It is our understanding this means the AAC would no longer exist as an approved County Committee unless the County Executive and County Council would reauthorize the AAC prior to this effective date. The AAC is authorized today under Chapter 2B-21 of the County Code.

It may be helpful to understand that the Agricultural Advisory Committee was first established by the County Council through Resolution No. 7-1138 on April 3, 1973 and Thompson Butz was our first Chairman. The County Council restructured the Agricultural Advisory Committee through Resolution No. 8-705 on March 16, 1976. The AAC has been in place for almost 40 years and it continues to be the primary organization in County Government to voice the views of the agricultural community at the table of Government in Rockville.

The Agricultural Reserve represents almost one third of the County totaling 93,000 acres and agriculture is the preferred use with 561 working farms. The agricultural community contributes almost \$243 million in economic activity to the County and we remain a very important component of Montgomery County. The Agricultural Advisory Committee is the vehicle for

(Attachment D.)

Montgomery County farmers to understand the impact of Montgomery County Government activities and legislation.

We are encouraged that the AAC is not listed as a committee that should be terminated as we understand several committees have been identified for termination.

Thank you for providing this opportunity to understand the views of the Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee surrounding Bill 29-11.

Sincerely,

David Weitzer

David Weitzer, Chairman