

Committee: PHED

**Committee Review:** At a future date **Staff:** Livhu Ndou, Legislative Attorney

Purpose: To receive testimony – no vote expected

Keywords: #Biohealth #Density #Height

AGENDA ITEM #6
June 14, 2022
Public Hearing

#### **SUBJECT**

Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA) 22-02, Density and Height Limits, Parking – Biohealth

Lead Sponsor: Councilmember Friedson

Co-Sponsors: Councilmembers Hucker, Katz, Navarro, Council President Albornoz, Council Vice-

President Glass and Councilmember Riemer

#### **EXPECTED ATTENDEES**

None

#### **COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

N/A

# **DESCRIPTION/ISSUE**

ZTA 22-02 will allow additional height and increased flexibility in density for urban biohealth facilities in recognition of the unique mechanical challenges of biohealth buildings. ZTA 22-02 will also allow consolidation of certain facilities and provide parking provisions for Biohealth Priority Campuses.

#### **SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS**

- As introduced, ZTA 22-02 would amend the Biohealth Priority Campus provisions by allowing consolidation of facilities and simplified parking standards, as well as allow additional height and increased flexibility in density for urban biohealth facilities.
- Lead sponsor Councilmember Friedson has recommended revisions to the ZTA as introduced, that would remove the Biohealth Priority Campus provisions and provide a more modest increase in height for urban biohealth facilities in the CR, LSC, or EOF zones. A letter from Councilmember Friedson as well as the proposed revised ZTA are included in this packet.
- PHED Committee worksession will be scheduled for a later date.

#### **This report contains:**

Councilmember Friedson letter	© 1
ZTA 22-02, proposed revisions	© 2
ZTA 22-02, as introduced	© 16
Planning Board Draft Report	© 26
Racial Equity and Social Justice Impact Statement	© 46

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#### **MEMOR ANDUM**

TO: Tom, Sidney, Nancy, Gabe, Evan and Hans

FROM: Andrew /

SUBJECT: ZTA 22-02 Proposed Revisions

DATE: June 8, 2022

I am writing to inform you of some amendments I plan to put forward at the PHED Committee work session on ZTA 22-02 -Density & Height Limits – Biohealth. I introduced this ZTA in March with your support as co-sponsors, and I am told a work session is tentatively scheduled for early July.

While still recognizing that ZTA 22-02 will serve as an important economic development tool for attracting and retaining biohealth companies here in the county, particularly in transit-oriented locations, and that this ZTA closely aligns with our <u>county's economic development strategic plan</u> recently updated and approved by the Council in April, based upon preliminary feedback and further examination I have decided to propose the following provisions:

- Limit eligibility to properties mapped at 100 feet or less
- Remove all references to Biohealth Priority Campus use this includes the parking provision and the consolidation of public facilities provision
- Limit eligibility to properties abutting or confronting arterials and highways
- Prohibit/exclude properties abutting or confronting residential zones
- Limit additional height to a multiplier of 1.5
- Allow height averaging in certain circumstances
- Remove language referencing overlay zones
- Strengthen language to ensure Biohealth/Life Sciences R &D and/or manufacturing is primary use

I have attached a revised draft of the ZTA for your reference. Please let me or Cindy know if you have any questions.

Ordinance No.:

Zoning Text Amendment No.: 22-02 Concerning: Density and Height

Limits, Parking –

Biohealth

Draft No. & Date: 2 - 6/2/2022Introduced: March 15, 2022 Public Hearing: June 14, 2022

Adopted: Effective:

# COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND SITTING AS THE DISTRICT COUNCIL FOR THAT PORTION OF THE MARYLAND-WASHINGTON REGIONAL DISTRICT WITHIN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

Lead Sponsor: Councilmember Friedson Co-Sponsors: Councilmembers Hucker, Katz, Navarro, Council President Albornoz, Council Vice-President Glass, Councilmember Riemer

## **AN AMENDMENT** to the Montgomery County Zoning Ordinance to:

- allow additional height for certain scientific uses;
- allow greater flexibility in density <u>allocation</u> for certain scientific uses;
- [[amend the use standards for Biohealth Priority Campuses; ]]and
- generally amend the provisions for certain scientific uses.

By amending the following sections of the Montgomery County Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 59 of the Montgomery County Code:

[[Division 3.5. Section 3.5.8.	"Commercial Uses" "Office and Professional"
Division 4.5. Section 4.5.2.	"Commercial/Residential Zones" "Density and Height Allocation"
Division 4.6. Section 4.6.2.	"Employment Zones" "Density and Height Allocation"
Division 6.2. Section 6.2.4.	"Parking, Queuing, and Loading" "Parking Requirements"]]
Division 4.5. Section 4.5.4.	"Commercial/Residential Zones" "Optional Method Development"

<u>Division 4.6.</u> "Employment Zones"

Section 4.6.4. "Density and Height Allocation"

**EXPLANATION:** Boldface indicates a Heading or a defined term.

<u>Underlining</u> indicates text that is added to existing law by the original text amendment.

[Single boldface brackets] indicate text that is deleted from existing law by original text amendment.

<u>Double underlining</u> indicates text that is added to the text amendment by amendment.

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\* \* \* indicates existing law unaffected by the text amendment.

#### **ORDINANCE**

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland, sitting as the District Council for that portion of the Maryland-Washington Regional District in Montgomery County, Maryland, approves the following ordinance:

1			[[Sec	:. 1. D	ivision 3.5 is amended as follows:
2	Div	visio	on 3.	<b>5.</b> Co	mmercial Uses
3	*	*	*		
4	Sec	ctio	n 3.5	.8. Of	ffice and Professional
5	*	*	*		
6	Ε.	]	Bioh	ealth	Priority Campus
7	*	*	*		
8			3.	Use	Standards
9				a.	Residential FAR limits on the subject property may be
10					reallocated to commercial FAR if the total FAR does not
11					exceed the maximum total mapped FAR of the property and the
12					building height does not exceed the maximum mapped height,
13					including any increases in each allowed by this Chapter.
14				b.	A mechanical penthouse, and the roof structures listed in
15					Section 4.1.7.C.3, may occupy a maximum of 50% of the roof
16					area of any individual building.
17				c.	The subject property may utilize FAR averaging under Sections
18					4.5.2.B. and 4.6.2.B.
19				<u>d.</u>	Facilities serving a Biohealth Priority Campus may be
20					consolidated and located on one or more properties inside the
21					area subject to the Biohealth Priority Campus plan. Such
22					facilities may include utilities, open space, and parking.
23		4	<u>4.</u>	<u>Parl</u>	king
24				<u>a.</u>	In a Parking Lot District, an applicant may provide fewer
25					parking spaces than required, after all adjustments are made
26					under Section 6.2.3.I, only if a parking waiver under Section
27					3.5.8.E.4.c is approved.

28				<u>b.</u>	In a Parking Lot District, an applicant may provide more than
29					the maximum number of parking spaces allowed provided the
30					excess parking spaces are made available to the public and are
31					not reserved, or if a parking waiver under Section 3.5.8.E.4.c is
32					approved.
33				<u>c.</u>	The deciding body may waive any requirement of Section 6.2.5
34					if the alternative design satisfies Section 6.2.1.
35	*	*	*]]		
36		\$	Sec.	[[2]] <u>1</u> .	DIVISION 59-4 <u>.5</u> is amended as follows:
37	Div	visio	on 4.5	5. Con	nmercial/Residential Zones
38	*	*	*		
39	Sec	ction	n 4.5	.2. Dei	nsity and Height Allocation
40	A.	]	Dens	ity and	d Height Limits
41		1	1.	Dens	ity is calculated as an allowed floor area ratio (FAR).
42		2	2.	Each	CRN, CRT, and CR zone classification is followed by a number
43				and a	sequence of 3 additional symbols: C, R, and H, each followed
44				by an	other number where:
45				a.	The number following the classification is the maximum total
46					FAR allowed unless additional FAR is allowed under
47					Section 4.5.2.C or Section 4.5.2.D;
48				b.	The number following the C is the maximum nonresidential
49					FAR allowed, unless additional FAR is allowed under Section
50					3.5.8.D <u>or Section 4.5.4.B.5</u> ;
51				c.	The number following the R is the maximum residential FAR
52					allowed, unless additional residential FAR is allowed under
53					Section 3.5.8.D, Section 4.5.2.C, or Section 4.5.2.D; and

d. The number following the H is the maximum building height in feet allowed unless additional height is allowed under Section 3.5.8.D, Section 4.5.2.C, Section 4.5.2.D, [[or ]]Section 4.5.2.A.2.e. or Section 4.5.4.B.5.

- e. With Planning Board approval any Optional Method project in a CR zone that includes the provision of a major public facility under Section\_4.7.3.A may add the height of any floor mostly used for above grade parking to the maximum height otherwise allowed, when the major public facility diminishes the ability of the applicant to provide parking at or below grade.
- 3. The following limits apply unless additional total FAR, residential FAR, or height are allowed under Section 4.5.2.C, Section 4.5.2.D, [[or ]]Section 4.5.2.A.2.e, or Section 4.5.4.B.5.:

Zone	Total FAR (max)	C FAR (max)	R FAR (max)	Height (max)
CRN	0.25 to 1.5	0.00 to 1.5	0.00 to 1.5	25' to 65'
CRT	0.25 to 4.0	0.25 to 3.5	0.25 to 3.5	35' to 150'
CR	0.5 to 8.0	0.25 to 7.5	0.25 to 7.5	35' to 300'

- 4. Zones are established at density increments of 0.25 FAR and height increments of 5 feet up to the maximums in Section\_4.5.2.A.3.
- [[5. For a Life Sciences or Research and Development Use under Section 3.5.8 or a Medical/Scientific Manufacturing and Production Use under Section 3.6.4.D in the CR zone that is within a red policy area or opportunity zone, including contiguous properties separated from the red policy area or opportunity zone only by a public right-of-way; or within ½ mile of a planned or existing Bus Rapid Transit route including the Corridor Cities Transitway:

77				<u>a.</u>	with Planning Board approval, a property with a maximum
78					building height of 100 feet or less may exceed the maximum
79					building height allowed in the mapped zone by 2.0 times, and a
80					property with a maximum building height of 100 to 200 feet
81					may exceed the maximum building height allowed in the
82					mapped zone by 1.5 times; and
83				<u>b.</u>	nonresidential FAR may be increased above the number
84					following the C on the zoning map if the total FAR does not
85					exceed the maximum total mapped FAR of the property,
86					including any increases allowed under this Chapter, and the
87					building height does not exceed the height allowed under
88					Section 4.5.2.A.5.a.
89				<u>c.</u>	Where the provisions of any Overlay zone are contrary or more
90					restrictive, Section 4.5.2.A.5. applies.]]
91	*	*	*		
92	<u>Se</u>	<u>ctio</u> 1	<u>1 4.5</u>	5.4. Op	ptional Method Development
93	*	*	*		
94		]	<u>B.</u>	<u>Dev</u>	<u>elopment Standards</u>
95	*	*	*		
96				<u>5.</u>	<b>Development of Certain Biohealth Uses</b>
97					<u>a.</u> <u>Additional height is permitted for any application where</u>
98					the primary use is Research and Development under
99					Section 3.5.8 or Medical/Scientific Manufacturing and
100					Production under Section 3.6.4.D, if:
101					<u>1.</u> <u>the development site is located within a red policy</u>
102					area or opportunity zone, including contiguous
103					properties separated from the red policy area or

104			opportunity zone only by a public right-of-way; or
105			within ½ mile of a planned or existing Bus Rapid
106			Transit route including the Corridor Cities
107			<u>Transitway;</u>
108		<u>2.</u>	the development site fronts on a street classified as
109			an arterial roadway or higher classification;
110		<u>3.</u>	the development site does not abut or confront a
111			property in an Agricultural, Rural Residential,
112			Residential Detached, or Residential Townhouse
113			zone that is vacant or improved with an
114			agricultural or residential use; and
115		<u>5.</u>	the application achieves public benefit points for
116			Adaptive Buildings under Sec. 4.7.3.D.1.
117	<u>b.</u>	In ord	ler to achieve additional height under Section
118		<u>4.5.4.</u>	B.5.a, the following provisions apply:
119		<u>1.</u>	A development site that includes a property with a
120			mapped height of 100 feet or less may achieve 1.5
121			times the mapped height. A development site that
122			uses averaged height under Section 4.5.4.B.5.b.2
123			may achieve 1.5 times the resulting averaged
123 124			may achieve 1.5 times the resulting averaged height, provided the maximum building height
124		<u>2.</u>	height, provided the maximum building height
124 125		<u>2.</u>	height, provided the maximum building height does not exceed 150 feet.
124 125 126		<u>2.</u>	height, provided the maximum building height does not exceed 150 feet. Building height for a portion of a building or

130				<u>bui</u>	ldings is no greater than the maximum height
131				allo	owed by the mapped zone.
132				<u>i.</u>	Average building height is calculated as the
133					sum of each area of each section of roof
134					having a different height multiplied by that
135					height, divided by the total roof area. Height
136					is measured at the midpoint of each roof
137					section along each frontage.
138				<u>ii.</u>	If the development site has more than one
139					mapped height, the maximum height is
140					based on the proportion of the tract area
141					within each mapped zone. It is calculated as
142					the sum of the tract square footage within
143					each mapped zone multiplied by the mapped
144					height, divided by the total tract area.
145			<u>c.</u>	For prope	rties that satisfy the requirements of Section
146				<u>4.5.4.B.5.</u>	a., residential FAR may be reallocated to
147				nonreside	ntial FAR if the total FAR does not exceed the
148				maximum	total mapped FAR for the property.
149	* *	*			
150	Se	ec. [[3]] <u>2</u> .	DIVI	SION 59-4	.6 is amended as follows:
151	Division	4.6. Em	ploym	ent Zones	
152	* *	*			
153	Section 4	4.6.2. De	nsity a	nd Height	Allocation
154	A. De	ensity an	d Heig	ht Limits	
155	1.	Dens	ity is c	alculated a	s an allowed floor area ratio (FAR).

Each GR, NR, LSC, and EOF zone classification is followed by a
 number and symbol: H, which is followed by another number where:

- a. The number following the classification is the maximum total FAR allowed unless additional FAR is allowed under Section 4.6.2.C and Section 4.6.2.D; and
- b. The number following the H is the maximum building height in feet allowed unless additional height is allowed under Section 4.6.2.D or Section [[4.6.2.A.5.]]4.6.4.B.5.
- 3. The following limits apply unless additional total FAR, residential FAR, or height are allowed under [[Section 4.6.2.A.5, ]]Section 4.6.2.C<sub>2</sub>[[ and]]or Section 4.6.2.D.

Zone	Total FAR (max)	Height (max)
GR	0.5 to 2.5	25' to 120'
NR	0.25 to 1.5	25' to 50'
LSC	0.5 to 2.5	35' to 200'
EOF	0.5 to 4.0	35' to 200'

- 4. Zones are established at density increments of 0.25 FAR and height increments of 5 feet up to the maximums in Section 4.6.2.A.3.
  - [[5. For a Life Sciences or Research and Development Use under Section 3.5.8 or a Medical/Scientific Manufacturing and Production Use under Section 3.6.4.D in the LSC or EOF zone that is within a red policy area or opportunity zone, including contiguous properties separated from the red policy area or opportunity zone only by a public right-ofway; or within ½ mile of a planned or existing Bus Rapid Transit route including the Corridor Cities Transitway:

177				<u>a.</u>	with Planning Board approval, a property with a maximum
178					building height of 100 feet or less may exceed the maximum
179					building height allowed in the mapped zone by 2.0 times, and a
180					property with a maximum building height of 100 to 200 feet
181					may exceed the maximum building height allowed in the
182					mapped zone by 1.5 times; and
183				<u>b.</u>	nonresidential FAR may be increased above the number
184					following the C on the zoning map if the total FAR does not
185					exceed the maximum total mapped FAR of the property,
186					including any increases allowed under this Chapter, and the
187					building height does not exceed the height allowed under
188					Section 4.6.2.A.5.a.
189				<u>c.</u>	Where the provisions of any Overlay zone are contrary or more
190					restrictive, Section 4.6.2.A.5. applies.]]
191	*	*	*		
192	Se	<u>ctio</u>	n 4.6	5.4. Op	tional Method Development
193	*	*	*		
194		]	<u>B.</u>	<u>Deve</u>	elopment Standards
195	*	*	*		
196				<u>5.</u>	<b>Development of Certain Biohealth Uses</b>
197					a. Additional height is permitted for any application in the
198					LSC zone where the primary use is Research and
199					Development under Section 3.5.8 or Medical/Scientific
200					Manufacturing and Production under Section 3.6.4.D, if:
201					<u>1.</u> <u>the development site is located within a red policy</u>
202					area or opportunity zone, including contiguous
203					properties separated from the red policy area or

204			opportunity zone only by a public right-of-way; or
205			within ½ mile of a planned or existing Bus Rapid
206			Transit route including the Corridor Cities
207			<u>Transitway;</u>
208		<u>2.</u>	the development site fronts on a street classified as
209			an arterial roadway or higher classification;
210		<u>3.</u>	the development site does not abut or confront a
211			property in an Agricultural, Rural Residential,
212			Residential Detached, or Residential Townhouse
213			zone that is vacant or improved with an
214			agricultural or residential use; and
215		<u>5.</u>	the application achieves public benefit points for
216			Adaptive Buildings under Sec. 4.7.3.D.1.
217	<u>b.</u>	In or	der to achieve additional height under Section
217	<u>U.</u>	111 010	der to deme ve daditional height ander section
218	<u>v.</u>		.B.5.a, the following provisions apply:
	<u>U.</u>		<del>-</del>
218	<u>u.</u>	4.6.4	.B.5.a, the following provisions apply:
218 219	<u>u.</u>	4.6.4	.B.5.a, the following provisions apply:  A development site that includes a property with a
<ul><li>218</li><li>219</li><li>220</li></ul>	<u>u.</u>	4.6.4	.B.5.a, the following provisions apply:  A development site that includes a property with a mapped height of 100 feet or less may achieve 1.5
<ul><li>218</li><li>219</li><li>220</li><li>221</li></ul>	<u>u.</u>	4.6.4	.B.5.a, the following provisions apply:  A development site that includes a property with a mapped height of 100 feet or less may achieve 1.5 times the mapped height. A development site that
<ul><li>218</li><li>219</li><li>220</li><li>221</li><li>222</li></ul>	<u>u.</u>	4.6.4	.B.5.a, the following provisions apply:  A development site that includes a property with a mapped height of 100 feet or less may achieve 1.5 times the mapped height. A development site that uses averaged height under Section 4.5.4.B.5.b.2
<ul><li>218</li><li>219</li><li>220</li><li>221</li><li>222</li><li>223</li></ul>	<u>u.</u>	4.6.4	.B.5.a, the following provisions apply:  A development site that includes a property with a mapped height of 100 feet or less may achieve 1.5 times the mapped height. A development site that uses averaged height under Section 4.5.4.B.5.b.2 may achieve 1.5 times the resulting averaged
218 219 220 221 222 223 224	<u>u.                                    </u>	4.6.4	B.5.a, the following provisions apply:  A development site that includes a property with a mapped height of 100 feet or less may achieve 1.5 times the mapped height. A development site that uses averaged height under Section 4.5.4.B.5.b.2 may achieve 1.5 times the resulting averaged height, provided the maximum building height
218 219 220 221 222 223 224 225	<u>u.                                    </u>	4.6.4 1.	B.5.a, the following provisions apply:  A development site that includes a property with a mapped height of 100 feet or less may achieve 1.5 times the mapped height. A development site that uses averaged height under Section 4.5.4.B.5.b.2 may achieve 1.5 times the resulting averaged height, provided the maximum building height does not exceed 150 feet.
218 219 220 221 222 223 224 225 226	<u>u.                                    </u>	4.6.4 1.	A development site that includes a property with a mapped height of 100 feet or less may achieve 1.5 times the mapped height. A development site that uses averaged height under Section 4.5.4.B.5.b.2 may achieve 1.5 times the resulting averaged height, provided the maximum building height does not exceed 150 feet.  Building height for a portion of a building or

230				<u>build</u>	lings is no greater than the maximum height
231				<u>allov</u>	ved by the mapped zone.
232				<u>i.</u>	Average building height is calculated as the
233					sum of each area of each section of roof
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243					each mapped zone multiplied by the mapped
244					height, divided by the total tract area.
245	*	*	*		
246			[[Sec. 4. DIVISION	V 59-6.2 is	s amended as follows:
247	Di	visi	on 6.2. Parking, Qu	euing, an	d Loading
248	*	*	*		
249	Se	ctio	n 6.2.4. Parking Re	quiremen	its
250	*	*	*		
251	В.		Vehicle Parking Sp	aces	

USE or USE GROUP	Metric	Agricultural,	Commercial/Residential and Employment			
		Rural				
		Residential,	Within a Parkin	g Lot District	Outside a	
		Residential,	or Reduced Pa	or Reduced Parking Area		
		and Industrial				
		Zones			Reduced	
					Parking Area	
		Baseline	Baseline	Baseline	Baseline	
		Minimum	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	
* * *						
* * *						
Office and Professional						
Office	1,000 SF of GFA	2.80	2.00	3.00	2.25	
Life Sciences Research and Development	1,000 SF of GFA	1.50	1.00	3.00	1.50	
Biohealth Priority Campus	1,000 SF of GFA	==	1.00	3.00	1.50	

253 ]]\* \* \*

Sec. [[5]]3. Effective date. This ordinance becomes effective 20 days after the date of Council adoption.

Ordinance No.:

Zoning Text Amendment No.: 22-02 Concerning: Density and Height

Limits, Parking –

Biohealth

Draft No. & Date: 1 - 3/4/2022 Introduced: March 15, 2022

Public Hearing:

Adopted: Effective:

# COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND SITTING AS THE DISTRICT COUNCIL FOR THAT PORTION OF THE MARYLAND-WASHINGTON REGIONAL DISTRICT WITHIN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

Lead Sponsor: Councilmember Friedson Co-Sponsors: Councilmembers Hucker, Katz, Navarro, Council President Albornoz, Councilmember Glass

## AN AMENDMENT to the Montgomery County Zoning Ordinance to:

- allow additional height for certain scientific uses;
- allow greater flexibility in density for certain scientific uses;
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- generally amend the provisions for certain scientific uses.

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5	*	*	*		
6	Ε.	-	Bioh	ealth	Priority Campus
7	*	*	*		
8		,	3.	Use	Standards
9				a.	Residential FAR limits on the subject property may be
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20					consolidated and located on one or more properties inside the
21					area subject to the Biohealth Priority Campus plan. Such
22					facilities may include utilities, open space, and parking.
23		-	<u>4.</u>	<u>Parl</u>	<u>king</u>
24				<u>a.</u>	In a Parking Lot District, an applicant may provide fewer
25					parking spaces than required, after all adjustments are made
26					under Section 6.2.3.I, only if a parking waiver under Section
27					3.5.8.E.4.c is approved.

28			<u>b.</u>	In a Parking Lot District, an applicant may provide more than
29				the maximum number of parking spaces allowed provided the
30				excess parking spaces are made available to the public and are
31				not reserved, or if a parking waiver under Section 3.5.8.E.4.c is
32				approved.
33			<u>c.</u>	The deciding body may waive any requirement of Section 6.2.5
34				if the alternative design satisfies Section 6.2.1.
35	*	*	*	
36		Se	ec. 2. DI	VISION 59-4 is amended as follows:
37	Div	vision	4.5. Co	mmercial/Residential Zones
38	*	*	*	
39	Sec	ction 4	4.5.2. De	ensity and Height Allocation
40	A.	De	ensity an	nd Height Limits
41		1.	Den	sity is calculated as an allowed floor area ratio (FAR).
42		2.	Each	CRN, CRT, and CR zone classification is followed by a number
43			and	a sequence of 3 additional symbols: C, R, and H, each followed
44			by a	nother number where:
45			a.	The number following the classification is the maximum total
46				FAR allowed unless additional FAR is allowed under
47				Section 4.5.2.C or Section 4.5.2.D;
48			b.	The number following the C is the maximum nonresidential
49				FAR allowed, unless additional FAR is allowed under Section
50				3.5.8.D;
51			c.	The number following the R is the maximum residential FAR
52				allowed, unless additional residential FAR is allowed under
53				Section 3.5.8.D, Section 4.5.2.C, or Section 4.5.2.D; and

d. The number following the H is the maximum building height in feet allowed unless additional height is allowed under Section 3.5.8.D, Section 4.5.2.C, Section 4.5.2.D, or Section

4.5.2.A.2.e.

e. With Planning Board approval any Optional Method project in a CR zone that includes the provision of a major public facility under Section\_4.7.3.A may add the height of any floor mostly used for above grade parking to the maximum height otherwise allowed, when the major public facility diminishes the ability of the applicant to provide parking at or below grade.

3. The following limits apply unless additional total FAR, residential FAR, or height are allowed under Section\_4.5.2.C, Section 4.5.2.D, or Section 4.5.2.A.2.e:

Zone	Total FAR (max)	C FAR (max)	R FAR (max)	Height (max)
CRN	0.25 to 1.5	0.00 to 1.5	0.00 to 1.5	25' to 65'
CRT	0.25 to 4.0	0.25 to 3.5	0.25 to 3.5	35' to 150'
CR	0.5 to 8.0	0.25 to 7.5	0.25 to 7.5	35' to 300'

4. Zones are established at density increments of 0.25 FAR and height increments of 5 feet up to the maximums in Section\_4.5.2.A.3.

5. For a Life Sciences or Research and Development Use under Section 3.5.8 or a Medical/Scientific Manufacturing and Production Use under Section 3.6.4.D in the CR zone that is within a red policy area or opportunity zone, including contiguous properties separated from the red policy area or opportunity zone only by a public right-of-way; or within ½ mile of a planned or existing Bus Rapid Transit route including the Corridor Cities Transitway:

77				<u>a.</u>	with Planning Board approval, a property with a maximum
78					building height of 100 feet or less may exceed the maximum
79					building height allowed in the mapped zone by 2.0 times, and a
80					property with a maximum building height of 100 to 200 feet
81					may exceed the maximum building height allowed in the
82					mapped zone by 1.5 times; and
83				<u>b.</u>	nonresidential FAR may be increased above the number
84					following the C on the zoning map if the total FAR does not
85					exceed the maximum total mapped FAR of the property,
86					including any increases allowed under this Chapter, and the
87					building height does not exceed the height allowed under
88					Section 4.5.2.A.5.a.
89				<u>c.</u>	Where the provisions of any Overlay zone are contrary or more
90					restrictive, Section 4.5.2.A.5. applies.
91	*	*	*		
92			Sec.	3. DI	VISION 59-4.6 is amended as follows:
93	Di	visi	ion 4	.6. Em	ployment Zones
94	*	*	*		
95	Se	ctio	on 4.0	6.2. De	ensity and Height Allocation
96	A.		Den	sity ar	nd Height Limits
97			1.	Den	sity is calculated as an allowed floor area ratio (FAR).
98			2.	Eacl	h GR, NR, LSC, and EOF zone classification is followed by a
99				num	ber and symbol: H, which is followed by another number where:
100				a.	The number following the classification is the maximum total
101					FAR allowed unless additional FAR is allowed under Section
102					4.6.2.C and Section 4.6.2.D; and

b. The number following the H is the maximum building height in feet allowed unless additional height is allowed under Section 4.6.2.D or Section 4.6.2.A.5.
 The following limits apply unless additional total FAR, residential

3. The following limits apply unless additional total FAR, residential FAR, or height are allowed under <u>Section 4.6.2.A.5</u>, Section 4.6.2.C, and Section 4.6.2.D.

Zone	Total FAR (max)	Height (max)
GR	0.5 to 2.5	25' to 120'
NR	0.25 to 1.5	25' to 50'
LSC	0.5 to 2.5	35' to 200'
EOF	0.5 to 4.0	35' to 200'

- 4. Zones are established at density increments of 0.25 FAR and height increments of 5 feet up to the maximums in Section\_4.6.2.A.3.
- 5. For a Life Sciences or Research and Development Use under Section 3.5.8 or a Medical/Scientific Manufacturing and Production Use under Section 3.6.4.D in the LSC or EOF zone that is within a red policy area or opportunity zone, including contiguous properties separated from the red policy area or opportunity zone only by a public right-ofway; or within ½ mile of a planned or existing Bus Rapid Transit route including the Corridor Cities Transitway:
  - a. with Planning Board approval, a property with a maximum building height of 100 feet or less may exceed the maximum building height allowed in the mapped zone by 2.0 times, and a property with a maximum building height of 100 to 200 feet may exceed the maximum building height allowed in the mapped zone by 1.5 times; and

125				<u>b.</u>	nonresidential FAR may be increased above the number
126					following the C on the zoning map if the total FAR does not
127					exceed the maximum total mapped FAR of the property,
128					including any increases allowed under this Chapter, and the
129					building height does not exceed the height allowed under
130					Section 4.6.2.A.5.a.
131				<u>c.</u>	Where the provisions of any Overlay zone are contrary or more
132					restrictive, Section 4.6.2.A.5. applies.
133	*	*	*		
134		•	Sec.	4. DI	VISION 59-6.2 is amended as follows:
135	Di	visio	on 6	.2. Pa	rking, Queuing, and Loading
136	*	*	*		
137	Sec	ctio	n 6.2	2.4. Pa	arking Requirements
138	*	*	*		
139	В.	•	Veh	icle Pa	arking Spaces

USE or USE GROUP	Metric	Agricultural, Rural Residential, Residential, and Industrial Zones	Commercial/Residential and Employment Zones  Within a Parking Lot District Outside a or Reduced Parking Area Parking Lot District or Reduced Parking Area		
		Baseline Minimum	Baseline Minimum	Baseline Maximum	Baseline Minimum
* * *					
Office and Professional					
Office	1,000 SF of GFA	2.80	2.00	3.00	2.25
Life Sciences Research and Development	1,000 SF of GFA	1.50	1.00	3.00	1.50
Biohealth Priority Campus	1,000 SF of GFA	==	1.00	3.00	1.50

141 \* \* \*

Sec. 5. Effective date. This ordinance becomes effective 20 days after the

143 date of Council adoption.

# **™** Montgomery Planning

# ZTA 22-02, DENSITY AND HEIGHT LIMITS, PARKING -BIOHEALTH



# Description

ZTA 22-02 would amend provisions of Biohealth Priority Campuses to allow consolidation of utilities and facilities, and to create parking standards. The ZTA would also allow Life Science, R&D, and Medical and Scientific Manufacturing and Production uses within certain geographies in the CR, EOF and LSC zones to convert residential FAR into commercial FAR, and would allow for height increases 2 times the mapped height for properties less than 100 feet in height, and 1.5 times the mapped height for buildings over 100 feet with Board approval.

ZTA 22-10 COMPLETED: 04-29-2022 MCPB Item No. 10 05-05-2022 2425 Reedie Drive Floor 14 Wheaton, MD 20902

Montgomeryplanning.org

ZTA 22-02 Density and Height Limits, Parking - Biohealth



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#### **LEAD SPONSORS**

Councilmember Friedson

Cosponsored by Councilmembers:

Hucker, Katz, Navarro, Glass, Reimer, and Council President Albornoz

#### **INTRODUCTION DATE:**

March 15, 2022

#### **REVIEW BASIS:**

Chapter 59

# Summary

- Planning staff does not support this ZTA as introduced and recommends the Board transmit comments to deny the ZTA or approve it only with significant changes.
- The provisions for allowing significantly increased building height for certain Life Science, Research & Development, and Medical Manufacturing users is in conflict with the master planning process for determining appropriate building heights, compatibility with surrounding communities, and other land use controls.
- The new parking waivers for Biohealth Priority Campus uses in the Parking Lot Districts is contrary to the intent of these districts.

#### **SECTION ONE**

#### **BACKGROUND**

#### **Recommendation Summary**

Staff recommends the Planning Board transmit a recommendation to the District Council of denial of ZTA 22-02 or approval only with significant changes that respond to the comments contained within this staff report.

#### **Rationale for Zoning Text Amendment 22-02**

Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA) 22-02 was introduced on March 15, 2022 by Councilmember Friedson, with Councilmembers Hucker, Katz, Navarro, Glass, and Council President Albornoz as co-sponsors. The ZTA introduction packet (Attachment 1) states that the ZTA would allow additional height and increased flexibility in design for urban biohealth facilities in recognition of their unique mechanical challenges. The ZTA also adds parking requirements for Biohealth Priority Campuses where they were absent from the parking tables in the ordinance. The rapid growth of the life sciences industry has been an economic development success and this ZTA is one of multiple zoning or policy changes that have been considered by the Council in recent months to benefit additional life science growth.

#### **SECTION TWO**

#### **ANALYSIS**

#### ZTA 22-02 as introduced

#### **BPC STANDARDS**

ZTA 22-02, as introduced, proposes changes to the code for two similar but distinctly separate uses in the existing code. Some of the changes are specific to the new Biohealth Priority Campus (BPC) use, recently created through ZTA 21-09 and adopted by Ordinance 19-27. The first change to standards for BPCs is on lines 19-22 of the attached ZTA (Attachment 1) and is a new use standard under Section 3.5.8.E.3.d, clarifying that facilities including utilities, required open space, and parking may be located on one or more properties inside the boundary of a Biohealth Priority Campus. **This provision provides good direction for issues that arise in campus-like situations and staff supports it.** 

#### PARKING WAIVRES FOR BPCs

Next, a new subsection 3.5.8.E.4. Parking, on lines 23-34 of the attached ZTA, contains three subsections. Subsection a. would allow an application in a Parking Lot District (PLD) to provide fewer parking spaces than required after making adjustments allowed under Section 6.2.3.I if a waiver under

new subsection c. is approved. New subsection b. conversely would allow an applicant to provide more than the maximum number of spaces allowed in a PLD if the excess parking is available to the public or if a waiver under new subsection c. is approved. **Staff has concerns with both proposed parking waivers which are discussed in more detail in the concerns section of this report.** New subsection c. is the new waiver referenced in subsections a. and b. above. However, the waiver in subsection c. would allow a deciding body to waive Section 6.2.5 of the parking standards, which pertain to the parking design standards and not the amount of required parking or the standards of a PLD (which are under Section 6.2.3.H). Staff thinks this may be an error.

#### REWQUIRED VEHICLE PARKING FOR BPCs

The final BPC specific change proposed by the ZTA is a change to the Vehicle Parking Spaces table under Section 6.2.4.B. on line 140 of the ZTA. This adds Biohealth Priority Campus as a new use in the table and assigns corresponding values for the metric (1,000 SF of Gross Floor Area) and baseline minimums and maximums for vehicle parking. The proposed minimum and maximum parking proposed is consistent with parking requirements for the Life Sciences Research and Development use seen one row above in the table. **Staff supports this section of the ZTA.** 

#### BUILDING HEIGHT FOR LIFE SCIENCES IN CR/EOF/LSC ZONES

The other changes proposed by this ZTA do <u>not</u> directly impact the Biohealth Priority Campus as a use, but rather modify provisions for development in the Commercial/Residential and Employment zones for applications with a Life Science, Research and Development, or Medical/Scientific Manufacturing use. These are the same uses that pertain to a Biohealth Priority Campus, but this portion of the ZTA would apply to applicants that are unable to meet the BPC size criteria of 150,000 SF of new space or 50,000 SF of expanded space for a single dedicated user and would include a very large number of properties in the county. The changes proposed for both sets of zones are the same and would apply to any property in a CR, EOF, or LSC zone that is within a red policy area or an opportunity zone including land contiguous to these properties or properties opposite them if only separated by a right-of-way, or properties within ½ mile of a planned or existing BRT route including the Corridor Cities Transitway (or Corridor Connectors).

Properties that meet the use and location criteria that are in land zoned for building heights of 100 feet or less would be allowed to exceed the maximum mapped building height up to 200%, and properties with a building height over 100 feet but less than 200 feet may exceed the maximum mapped building height to 150%. These properties would also be able to increase the allowed amount of mapped C and reduce the amount of R, so long as the application stays within the mapped total FAR. The ZTA also adds a provision that if an overlay zone would enact contrary or more restrictive standards, that the overlay zone standards would not apply. This section of the ZTA is of most concern to staff because it would create situations that are inconsistent with carefully considered issues that have been worked out in master plans.

#### **Concerns with ZTA 22-02**

As noted above, Planning staff has a number of concerns with the ZTA as introduced, which fall into three major concerns: Master Planning, Building Form Based on Use, and Parking Waivers. There are additional minor technical considerations as well. Staff feels that these concerns warrant a denial of the ZTA or further consideration only if significant changes are made that will address the concerns noted. In this report, staff offers some potential modifications to improve the ZTA.

#### **MASTER PLANNING**

The deepest concern staff has with ZTA 22-02 is the conflict of the Density and Height Allocation changes with the current master planning process. The proposed changes to allow additional building height in both the Commercial/Residential and Employment Zones are in conflict with the importance and complexity that goes into recommending building height through the master planning process. Our concerns are furthered by specific provisions that explicitly nullify Overlay Zone requirements that may specifically and intentionally limit the ability to increase building heights or provide density flexibility.

Our master planning process is a deliberate, and engaging process that fundamentally relies on a shared vision between planners, elected officials, and the community that lives, works, and plays in the county. The recommendations that come from master plans are the result of months of coordinated outreach, education, listening and understanding. Building form elements – such as maximum building height, density, or building step-back requirements – are often some of the most controversial and critical determinations of the master plan process. Allowing certain applicants, notwithstanding the importance of the proposed use, to be exempt from these elements is a serious concern.

Further, by establishing a staggered provision where heights under 100 feet are given the option to double the mapped height, but buildings higher than 100 feet may only increase height 50% creates an odd situation where areas with mapped height in the 80-100 foot range may be approved for taller buildings than areas mapped in the 100-120 foot range. This further increases the impact of this ZTA on properties closer to the edge of our urban centers, most likely adjacent to residential or institutional uses, which warranted the intentionally lower mapped heights.

Getting building heights correct is something staff is particularly sensitive to because it has impact on many elements of a balanced plan, including density, compatibility, and community design. Adding to the uncertainty is the fact that any property in the CR, EOF or LSC zone could apply for this significant increase in height, making it impossible to implement a plan vision for sensitive transition areas in an unarbitrary way.

If the ZTA moves forward, staff would recommend, at a minimum, including language that prohibits the increased heights on properties that are adjacent to, confronting, or within a particular buffer of any residentially zoned property (including multi-family residential, and

**including properties in the CRN zone).** Otherwise, the only level of compatibility left is the standard height and setback compatibility standards already in the code, which are a poor stand-in for the more gradual height increases recommended by master plans and mapped in zoning.

#### BUILDING FORM BASED ON USE

Another concern staff has is that this ZTA would make the aforementioned building height modifications based on a presumed building occupant, without any long-term guarantee who the occupant of that building will be. The modification to building height in this ZTA is intended to specifically benefit the larger life sciences industry, but there are no assurances the building will ultimately be occupied by a life science user, or that the initial user doesn't vacate after a few years.

The only provisions in the code now that allows building height modification for a specific use is for Moderately Priced Dwelling Units (MPDUs), and a provision that allows extra building height in Silver Spring to support a grocery store. With the MPDUs, a building may exceed the mapped height only with a Planning Board finding that the additional height is needed to achieve the benefit, and when a 99-year agreement is established with the MPDUs guaranteeing the long-term continuation of the MPDU use. The consequence of allowing a taller building for a use without such a long-term agreement is already evident in Silver Spring where a mixed-use building was approved taller than the mapped height to accommodate a grocery store that has yet to commit to the space. Ultimately a decision will be needed to leave the space vacant only for a grocery store, or to fill the space with a non-grocery retailer. The introduced ZTA language has no safeguard or alternative mechanism to ensure the additional building height is going to the intended purpose and will not result in spec built, unoccupied construction that gets converted to a different use after construction.

#### **PARKING WAIVERS**

The new Section 3.5.8.4. Parking, on lines 23 – 34 of the introduced ZTA is problematic and redundant with other provisions within Chapter 59. As described earlier, the ZTA would establish provisions to provide less than the minimum parking required in a PLD without having to make a payment to the PLD, while also establishing provisions to provide more than the maximum parking. Both of these would be done by the deciding body approving a new parking waiver, also introduced within the section. Staff has major concerns in allowing so much flexibility to **provide either less parking than required or more parking than allowed, especially within the PLD which explicitly is not intended to have excess parking and relies on payments from applicants to support existing public facilities.** 

Regarding the first waiver in subsection a. allowing less than the code required parking, there is existing code that currently allows applications in PLDs to provide less than the minimum required parking, with the caveat that the applicant pay into the PLD fund. As written this new waiver would

<u>not</u> require BPCs to pay into the PLD if it provides less than the required minimum, so it is staff's assumption that circumventing the PLD fund was the intent. Not requiring a payment to the PLD for any parking below the minimum required on-site would deprive these entities of a needed revenue source that is paid by every other user within the district. This waiver would effectively create no minimum parking requirement for the BPC use in a PLD if the Planning Board agrees to the reduced parking. **Staff supports minimizing parking in PLDs, but believes that all users should still be required to pay into the PLD fund if they have less than the minimum parking.** 

Subsection b. is the waiver that would allow more than the maximum allowed parking within a PLD. Current requirements for parking in a PLD do not allow an applicant to exceed the maximum parking under any circumstance, thus this waiver would create a major change in existing policy. The ZTA would allow this if the excess parking provided is for the public, but does not require a determination that the extra public parking is needed and risks providing too much parking in a PLD. **Staff is concerned about allowing any users in a PLD to exceed the parking maximum – even if the spaces are available to the public as this would result in private garages being oversized and competing with the PLD.** If a site enters into an agreement with the PLD to provide excess parking, this excess should not count toward the application and would therefore not be an issue.

It is also unclear why, and presumed to be an error, that the new waiver provision added with this ZTA subsection c. would allow a deciding body to waive any requirements of Section <u>6.2.5 Vehicle Parking Design Standards</u>, when the intent of the waivers above are targeted toward the minimum and maximum parking standards of the PLD. There is no direct connection to new Sections 3.5.8.E.4.a and b providing modifications to parking in a PLD, and the actual waiver in subsection c., which only would allow the parking design standards to be waived. Also, the design standards section may already be waived by the parking waiver under Section 6.2.10 making the text redundant as written. Staff wonders if this was a drafting error.

Staff's recommendation is to eliminate the parking provisions and waiver proposed by the ZTA in its entirety. However, if the intent is still to change the parking policies for BPCs located within a PLD, staff suggests a much shorter and cleaner way would be to not include the new Section 3.5.8.E.4 and instead make any necessary amendments to Division 6.2 Parking, Queuing, and Loading instead. Section 6.2.3.H.1 Parking Lot District could be modified to create exceptions for the BPC use, or Section 6.2.10. Parking Waiver could be modified to allow a BPC use to request a waiver of the PLD provisions, which are currently not allowed to be waived.

#### OTHER TECHNICAL COMMENTS

<u>Building Height:</u> The ZTA as introduced creates ambiguity around a mapped building height of 100 feet. The ZTA provides different treatments for two different ranges of mapped building heights ("100 feet or less" and "100 to 200 feet"), which are both inclusive of 100-foot heights. If this ZTA is ultimately to be adopted, the ZTA text should either identify building height thresholds as 'under 100

feet' and' heights of 100 to 200 feet', or building 'heights up to 100 feet' and 'heights of 101 feet up to 200 feet'.

<u>Planning Board Approval:</u> The ZTA explicitly indicates that a property may exceed the mapped height maximum only with Planning Board approval. However, the immediate subsequent text, pertaining to increasing the amount of nonresidential FAR does not explicitly require Planning Board approval, which staff believes should also be required. The recommended fix would be to rewrite the text of the new subsection 5 (in both the Commercial/Residential Zones section and the Employment Zones section) to start with the text "<u>With Planning Board approval</u> [For a] Life Science or..." which would then apply to both the increased heights and the increased nonresidential FAR.

Also, it is not clear what is meant by 'Planning Board approval'. There is a presumption this takes the form of a Site Plan, but there may be situations where Site Plan is not required based on adjacent zones and the FAR density requested by the application. Staff recommends anywhere within the ZTA there is reference to Board approval, it be stated as Board approval of a site plan.

### **Alternative ZTA language**

Understanding the sponsor's intent to promote growth in the biohealth industry in Montgomery County, but recognizing the many concerns staff has with the introduced ZTA – particularly with how it is in conflict with the master plan process – staff has both made suggestions within this report on how to modify the introduced ZTA language and also offers the following alternative code language which could be added to Sections 4.5.2 (for Commercial/Residential Zones) and 4.6.2 (for Employment Zones):

#### E. Development of certain Bio-Tech Applications

For any application that includes buildings to be used by Life Sciences, Research and Development, or Medical/Scientific Manufacturing and Production users, the following provisions apply:

- 1. Residential FAR may be reallocated to nonresidential FAR if the total FAR does not exceed the maximum total mapped FAR for the property, and the building height does not exceed the mapped building height except as allowed under Section 4.5.2.E.2. or Section 4.5.2.E.3.
- 2. Building height for a portion of a building may be increased above the number following the H on the zoning map so long as the average height of the building is no greater than the maximum height allowed by the mapped zone. Average building height is calculated as the sum of the area of each section of the roof having a different height multiplied by that height, divided by the total roof area. Height is measured as the midpoint of each roof section along each frontage.
- 3. Building height for one or more buildings across a campus-like development site may be increased above the number following the H on the zoning map under the following circumstances:
  - a. The development site is one or more properties under joint application by the same applicant;

- b. The property or properties under application are adjacent or part of a campus;
- c. The zoning within the development site may be mapped with different amounts of C, R and total FAR, and different maximum heights, provided they are within the same underlying zoning classification;
- d. The average building height across a development site is no greater than the average maximum height allowed across the development site, based on the mapped zones.
  - i. Average building height across a development site is calculated as the sum of each area of each section of roof having a different height multiplied by that height, divided by the total roof area. Height is measured as the midpoint of each roof section along each frontage.
  - ii. If the development site has two or more different mapped heights, the average maximum height is based on the proportion of the development site within each mapped height area. It is calculated as the sum of site square footage within each mapped height area multiplied by the mapped height, divided by the total site area.
- e. Increases in building height above the H on the zoning map under Section 4.5.2.E.3 is not allowed within 200 feet of a property in any of the Residential Zones, or the CRT Zone that is vacant or improved with an agricultural or residential use;
- 4. Any reallocation of residential FAR to nonresidential FAR under Section 4.5.2.E.1 or averaging of building heights under Section 4.5.2.E.2 or Section 4.5.2.E.3 require site plan approval under Section 7.3.4.

The height averaging approach proposed above is an alternative way to provide building height flexibility on a site of one or multiple zones based on the existing framework of building height averaging that exists across single properties within the same zone. This targets the added flexibility to larger properties that have more options to increase the height while incorporating design elements to increase compatibility. Subsection e. also incorporates Staff's concern about a lack of a buffer between the CR and Residential zones in some locations. In the provided example a simple distance buffer was chosen, but this could also be replaced with language about adjacent and confronting properties.

### **Racial Equity and Social Justice (RESJ)**

Staff received the Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) RESJ statement on ZTA 22-02. Generally, it mirrored similar concerns expressed during the review of ZTA 21-09 for Biohealth Priority Campuses, namely noting inequities in the employment makeup and opportunities within the Biohealth industry. This report however did also highlight one of Planning Staff's stated concerns about this ZTA undermining the Master Planning process, breaking trust with communities and disadvantaging communities that are typically under-represented in public comment of development applications.

### **SECTION THREE**

#### CONCLUSION

#### Conclusion

Staff recommends the Planning Board transmit comments recommending denial of introduced ZTA 22-02 to the District Council or consideration with significant revisions, highlighting the list of policy and technical concerns identified in this staff report. While staff understands the importance of supporting the growing biohealth industry and its unique difficulties developing in urban infill areas, we remain deeply concerned with the unintended consequences of these proposed modifications.

#### **Attachments**

A – ZTA introduction Packet for ZTA 22-02

B - RESJ Statement

Ordinance No.:

Zoning Text Amendment No.: 22-02 Concerning: Density and Height

Limits, Parking –

Biohealth

Draft No. & Date: 1 - 3/4/2022 Introduced: March 15, 2022

Public Hearing:

Adopted: Effective:

# COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND SITTING AS THE DISTRICT COUNCIL FOR THAT PORTION OF THE MARYLAND-WASHINGTON REGIONAL DISTRICT WITHIN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

Lead Sponsor: Councilmember Friedson Co-Sponsors: Councilmembers Hucker, Katz, Navarro, Council President Albornoz, Councilmember Glass

## AN AMENDMENT to the Montgomery County Zoning Ordinance to:

- allow additional height for certain scientific uses;
- allow greater flexibility in density for certain scientific uses;
- amend the use standards for Biohealth Priority Campuses; and
- generally amend the provisions for certain scientific uses.

By amending the following sections of the Montgomery County Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 59 of the Montgomery County Code:

Division 3.5. Section 3.5.8.	"Commercial Uses" "Office and Professional"
Division 4.5. Section 4.5.2.	"Commercial/Residential Zones" "Density and Height Allocation"
Division 4.6. Section 4.6.2.	"Employment Zones" "Density and Height Allocation"
Division 6.2. Section 6.2.4.	"Parking, Queuing, and Loading" "Parking Requirements"

**EXPLANATION:** Boldface indicates a Heading or a defined term.

<u>Underlining</u> indicates text that is added to existing law by the original text amendment.

[Single boldface brackets] indicate text that is deleted from existing law by original text amendment.

<u>Double underlining</u> indicates text that is added to the text amendment by amendment.

[[Double boldface brackets]] indicate text that is deleted from the text amendment by amendment.

\* \* \* indicates existing law unaffected by the text amendment.

#### **ORDINANCE**

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland, sitting as the District Council for that portion of the Maryland-Washington Regional District in Montgomery County, Maryland, approves the following ordinance:

1		,	Sec.	I. Div	vision 3.5 is amended as follows:
2	Div	visio	on 3.	<b>5.</b> Co	mmercial Uses
3	*	*	*		
4	Sec	ctio	n 3.5	<b>5.8. O</b> 1	ffice and Professional
5	*	*	*		
6	E.	]	Bioh	ealth	Priority Campus
7	*	*	*		
8			3.	Use	Standards
9				a.	Residential FAR limits on the subject property may be
10					reallocated to commercial FAR if the total FAR does not
11					exceed the maximum total mapped FAR of the property and the
12					building height does not exceed the maximum mapped height,
13					including any increases in each allowed by this Chapter.
14				b.	A mechanical penthouse, and the roof structures listed in
15					Section 4.1.7.C.3, may occupy a maximum of 50% of the roof
16					area of any individual building.
17				c.	The subject property may utilize FAR averaging under Sections
18					4.5.2.B. and 4.6.2.B.
19				<u>d.</u>	Facilities serving a Biohealth Priority Campus may be
20					consolidated and located on one or more properties inside the
21					area subject to the Biohealth Priority Campus plan. Such
22					facilities may include utilities, open space, and parking.
23		4	<u>4.</u>	<u>Par</u>	king
24				<u>a.</u>	In a Parking Lot District, an applicant may provide fewer
25					parking spaces than required, after all adjustments are made
26					under Section 6.2.3.I, only if a parking waiver under Section
27					3.5.8.E.4.c is approved.

28			<u>b.</u>	In a Parking Lot District, an applicant may provide more than
29				the maximum number of parking spaces allowed provided the
30				excess parking spaces are made available to the public and are
31				not reserved, or if a parking waiver under Section 3.5.8.E.4.c is
32				approved.
33			<u>c.</u>	The deciding body may waive any requirement of Section 6.2.5
34				if the alternative design satisfies Section 6.2.1.
35	*	* *		
36		Sec.	2. DI	VISION 59-4 is amended as follows:
37	Div	vision 4	.5. Coi	mmercial/Residential Zones
38	*	* *		
39	Sec	ction 4.5	5.2. De	ensity and Height Allocation
40	A.	Den	sity an	nd Height Limits
41		1.	Dens	sity is calculated as an allowed floor area ratio (FAR).
42		2.	Each	CRN, CRT, and CR zone classification is followed by a number
43			and	a sequence of 3 additional symbols: C, R, and H, each followed
44			by a	nother number where:
45			a.	The number following the classification is the maximum total
46				FAR allowed unless additional FAR is allowed under
47				Section 4.5.2.C or Section 4.5.2.D;
48			b.	The number following the C is the maximum nonresidential
49				FAR allowed, unless additional FAR is allowed under Section
50				3.5.8.D;
51			c.	The number following the R is the maximum residential FAR
52				allowed, unless additional residential FAR is allowed under
53				Section 3.5.8.D, Section 4.5.2.C, or Section 4.5.2.D; and

d. The number following the H is the maximum building height in feet allowed unless additional height is allowed under Section 3.5.8.D, Section 4.5.2.C, Section 4.5.2.D, or Section 4.5.2.A.2.e.

- e. With Planning Board approval any Optional Method project in a CR zone that includes the provision of a major public facility under Section\_4.7.3.A may add the height of any floor mostly used for above grade parking to the maximum height otherwise allowed, when the major public facility diminishes the ability of the applicant to provide parking at or below grade.
- 3. The following limits apply unless additional total FAR, residential FAR, or height are allowed under Section\_4.5.2.C, Section 4.5.2.D, or Section 4.5.2.A.2.e:

Zone	Total FAR (max)	C FAR (max)	R FAR (max)	Height (max)
CRN	0.25 to 1.5	0.00 to 1.5	0.00 to 1.5	25' to 65'
CRT	0.25 to 4.0	0.25 to 3.5	0.25 to 3.5	35' to 150'
CR	0.5 to 8.0	0.25 to 7.5	0.25 to 7.5	35' to 300'

- 4. Zones are established at density increments of 0.25 FAR and height increments of 5 feet up to the maximums in Section\_4.5.2.A.3.
- 5. For a Life Sciences or Research and Development Use under Section 3.5.8 or a Medical/Scientific Manufacturing and Production Use under Section 3.6.4.D in the CR zone that is within a red policy area or opportunity zone, including contiguous properties separated from the red policy area or opportunity zone only by a public right-of-way; or within ½ mile of a planned or existing Bus Rapid Transit route including the Corridor Cities Transitway:

77				<u>a.</u>	with Planning Board approval, a property with a maximum
78					building height of 100 feet or less may exceed the maximum
79					building height allowed in the mapped zone by 2.0 times, and a
80					property with a maximum building height of 100 to 200 feet
81					may exceed the maximum building height allowed in the
82					mapped zone by 1.5 times; and
83				<u>b.</u>	nonresidential FAR may be increased above the number
84					following the C on the zoning map if the total FAR does not
85					exceed the maximum total mapped FAR of the property,
86					including any increases allowed under this Chapter, and the
87					building height does not exceed the height allowed under
88					Section 4.5.2.A.5.a.
89				<u>c.</u>	Where the provisions of any Overlay zone are contrary or more
90					restrictive, Section 4.5.2.A.5. applies.
91	*	*	*		
92			Sec.	3. DI	VISION 59-4.6 is amended as follows:
93	Di	visi	ion 4	.6. Em	ployment Zones
94	*	*	*		
95	Se	ctio	on 4.0	6.2. De	ensity and Height Allocation
96	A.		Den	sity ar	nd Height Limits
97			1.	Den	sity is calculated as an allowed floor area ratio (FAR).
98			2.	Eacl	n GR, NR, LSC, and EOF zone classification is followed by a
99				num	ber and symbol: H, which is followed by another number where:
100				a.	The number following the classification is the maximum total
101					FAR allowed unless additional FAR is allowed under Section
102					4.6.2.C and Section 4.6.2.D; and

103	b.	The number following the H is the maximum building height in
104		feet allowed unless additional height is allowed under Section
105		4.6.2.D or Section 4.6.2.A.5.

3. The following limits apply unless additional total FAR, residential FAR, or height are allowed under <u>Section 4.6.2.A.5</u>, Section 4.6.2.C, and Section 4.6.2.D.

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Zone	Total FAR (max)	Height (max)
GR	0.5 to 2.5	25' to 120'
NR	0.25 to 1.5	25' to 50'
LSC	0.5 to 2.5	35' to 200'
EOF	0.5 to 4.0	35' to 200'

- 4. Zones are established at density increments of 0.25 FAR and height increments of 5 feet up to the maximums in Section\_4.6.2.A.3.
- 5. For a Life Sciences or Research and Development Use under Section 3.5.8 or a Medical/Scientific Manufacturing and Production Use under Section 3.6.4.D in the LSC or EOF zone that is within a red policy area or opportunity zone, including contiguous properties separated from the red policy area or opportunity zone only by a public right-ofway; or within ½ mile of a planned or existing Bus Rapid Transit route including the Corridor Cities Transitway:
  - a. with Planning Board approval, a property with a maximum building height of 100 feet or less may exceed the maximum building height allowed in the mapped zone by 2.0 times, and a property with a maximum building height of 100 to 200 feet may exceed the maximum building height allowed in the mapped zone by 1.5 times; and

125				<u>b.</u>	nonresidential FAR may be increased above the number
126					following the C on the zoning map if the total FAR does not
127					exceed the maximum total mapped FAR of the property,
128					including any increases allowed under this Chapter, and the
129					building height does not exceed the height allowed under
130					Section 4.6.2.A.5.a.
131				<u>c.</u>	Where the provisions of any Overlay zone are contrary or more
132					restrictive, Section 4.6.2.A.5. applies.
133	*	*	*		
134			Sec.	4. I	DIVISION 59-6.2 is amended as follows:
135	Di	visio	on 6.	.2. P	arking, Queuing, and Loading
136	*	*	*		
137	Se	ctio	n 6.2	<b>2.4.</b> ]	Parking Requirements
138	*	*	*		
139	В.	,	Veh	icle	Parking Spaces

USE or USE GROUP	Metric	Agricultural, Rural Residential, Residential, and Industrial Zones	Rural Residential, Within a Parki or Reduced Pand Industrial		Outside a Parking Lot District or Reduced Parking Area
		Baseline Minimum	Baseline Minimum	Baseline Maximum	Baseline Minimum
* * *					
Office and Professional					
Office	1,000 SF of GFA	2.80	2.00	3.00	2.25
Life Sciences Research and Development	1,000 SF of GFA	1.50	1.00	3.00	1.50
Biohealth Priority Campus	1,000 SF of GFA	==	1.00	3.00	1.50

141 \* \* \*

Sec. 5. Effective date. This ordinance becomes effective 20 days after the

143 date of Council adoption.

# Racial Equity and Social Justice (RESJ) Zoning Text Amendment Statement

Office of Legislative Oversight

**ZTA 22-02:** 

**DENSITY AND HEIGHT LIMITS, PARKING - BIOHEALTH** 

## **SUMMARY**

The Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) anticipates that Zoning Text Amendment 22-02 could negatively impact racial equity and social justice as its benefits would disproportionately accrue to White business owners and employees. OLO anticipates a small impact of this ZTA on racial and social inequities. To improve racial equity and social justice, this statement offers a few recommended policy options for consideration.

## **PURPOSE OF RESJ IMPACT STATEMENTS**

The purpose of RESJ impact statements for zoning text amendments (ZTAs) is to evaluate the anticipated impact of ZTAs on racial equity and social justice in the County. Racial equity and social justice refer to a **process** that focuses on centering the needs, leadership, and power of communities of color and low-income communities with a **goal** of eliminating racial and social inequities.<sup>1</sup> Achieving racial equity and social justice usually requires seeing, thinking, and working differently to address the racial and social harms that have caused racial and social inequities.<sup>2</sup>

## **PURPOSE OF ZTA 22-02**

The purpose of ZTA 22-02, Density and Height Limits, Parking – Biohealth, is to diminish current requirements for building height, density, and parking for biohealth facilities that locate in urban areas in the County. The underlying intent of ZTA 22-02 is to reduce building regulations for biohealth businesses that could grow the sector and advance economic development in the County.

Towards this end, ZTA 22-02 amends recent changes to the zoning code establishing Biohealth Priority Campuses to provide more building flexibility for facilities that locate on them and increase building height and density allocations for biohealth facilities that operate under the Life Sciences, Research and Development and Medical/Scientific Manufacturing and Production uses.<sup>3</sup> If enacted, ZTA 22-02 would allow:

- Biohealth Priority Campuses to consolidate facilities for utilities, open space, parking and reduce parking space requirements.
- Higher building densities and height allocations for biohealth facilities located in Commercial/Residential Zones within a Red Policy Area<sup>4</sup> (or adjacent to it), within an Opportunity Zone,<sup>5</sup> or within ½ mile of a planned or existing Bus Rapid Transit route.<sup>6</sup> Increased building densities and height allocations established with this ZTA could supersede existing Overlay Zone requirements for building densities and height allocations.
- Higher building densities and height allocations for biohealth facilities located in Employment Zones. Increased building densities and height allocations established with this ZTA could also supersede existing Overlay Zone requirements for building densities and height allocations.

ZTA 22-02 was introduced on March 15, 2022.

## **Zoning Text Amendment 22-02**

## LAND USE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND RACIAL EQUITY

Understanding the impact of ZTA 22-02 on racial equity and social justice requires understanding the historical context that shapes land use and economic development in Montgomery County today. To describe this historical context, this section describes the historical drivers of racial inequities in land use and economic development and available data on racial disparities, especially within the biohealth industry.<sup>7</sup>

Inequities in Land Use. The way land is used and regulated either helps or hinders people's access to opportunity. Throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century, jurisdictions have used zoning to separate not only uses – like residential, commercial, and industrial – but also people according to wealth, class, and race.<sup>8</sup> More specifically, land use regulations have been used to exclude people of color and low-income residents from predominantly White and affluent residents in several ways. For example, by allowing single family homes or homes on large lots, both of which exclude more affordable housing.<sup>9</sup> This has resulted in the concentration of poverty, especially in BIPOC communities.<sup>10</sup> Because social determinants are so tightly connected to where one lives, the implications of zoning on inequality are large as where one lives determines where they go to school, their exposure to crime and policing, and where they can shop.<sup>11</sup> For homeowners, where one resides is perhaps the most important determinant of their family's wealth.<sup>12</sup>

Data show that many poor neighborhoods have disproportionately high people of color populations and lack access to jobs, good schools, and other opportunities necessary to help residents rise out of poverty.<sup>13</sup> The land use injustices and social inequities impacting localities are multi-faceted.<sup>14</sup> They manifest not only in housing segregation but also in disparities in exposure to pollution, health inequities, unequal access to green and blue infrastructure (e.g. parks, trees, well-functioning waterways), transportation infrastructure, and economic investment.<sup>15</sup> These inequities result from zoning and a variety of other government policies and private actions that include environmental laws, housing policies, transportation policies, restrictive covenants, housing-market discrimination, and redlining.<sup>16</sup>

Patterns of inequitable land use in Montgomery County manifest as racial and economic segregation by Council district, higher rates of unemployment, poverty, and housing burden among Black and Latinx residents, and as greater reliance on public transit and longer commutes for Black residents. More specifically, the data shows:

- Racial and economic segregation by Council district where 72 percent of District 1 (Bethesda, Poolesville, and Potomac) residents were White, average household income was \$205,600, and the poverty rate was 3 percent compared to 66 percent of District 5 residents (Burtonsville, Silver Spring, and Takoma Park) were BIPOC, average household income was \$102,500, and the poverty rate was 9 percent from 2011 to 2015.<sup>17</sup>
- Racial inequities in unemployment where 5 percent of Black residents and 4 percent of Latinx residents were unemployed compared to 3 percent of Asian and White residents in 2019.<sup>18</sup>
- Racial inequities in poverty where 13 percent of Latinx residents and 12 percent of Black residents lived in poverty compared to 6 percent of Asian residents and 3 percent of White residents in 2019.<sup>19</sup>
- Racial inequities in housing burden where 59 percent of Latinx renters and 54 percent of Black renters expended more than 30 percent of their household income on housing compared to 43 percent of Asian renters and 42 percent of White renters in 2019.<sup>20</sup>
- Racial inequities in public transit use where 21 percent of Black residents commuted to work via public transit compared to 14 percent of Asian residents, 13 percent of White residents and 11 percent of Latinx residents.<sup>21</sup>
- Racial inequities in commuting time where Black residents averaged 38 minutes commutes to work compared to 36 minutes commutes for Asian residents and 34 minutes commutes for both White and Latinx residents.<sup>22</sup>

## **Zoning Text Amendment 22-02**

**Inequities in Economic Development.** Historically inequitable policies have fostered racial and ethnic inequities in economic development among business owners and employees. As noted by the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston:<sup>23</sup>

"(T)he practices and policies that laid the groundwork for and built the U.S. were explicitly designed to ensure an absolute accumulation of intergenerational wealth and concentrated power for white people, particularly men. A legacy of land theft, slavery, racial segregation, disenfranchisement, and other exclusive policies against Black and Indigenous people and people of color produced a racialized economy that decimated these communities and intentionally barred survivors and descendants from building wealth, socioeconomic well-being, and resilience."

Current inequities in policies and practices also adversely impact people of color as they consider starting and growing businesses. These include disparities by race and ethnicity in educational attainment, personal wealth, access to mainstream capital, and exposure to entrepreneurship in family and social networks.<sup>24</sup> They also include disparities by race and ethnicity in access to credit with Black - and Latinx-owned businesses more likely to have been denied credit, to receive only a portion of the funding requested, or to refrain from applying for needed funding out of fear their applications will be rejected.<sup>25</sup> Other factors that explain the disparity in capital include discriminatory lending practices, less wealth to leverage, recent financial challenges, and lower credit scores.

Historic and current inequities in economic opportunity result in sizable disparities in business ownership, employment, and income by race and ethnicity. More specifically:

- Despite Black and Latinx firms each accounting for 15 percent of local firms in 2012 and Asian firms accounting for 14 percent of local firms, Black and Latinx firms each accounted for less than 2 percent of business revenue, and Asian firms accounted for 4 percent of business revenue.<sup>26</sup>
- Nearly two-thirds (64 and 62 percent) of White and Asian residents in Montgomery County were employed in management, business, science and arts occupations in 2017 compared to less than half of Black residents (45 percent) and only a quarter of Latinx residents were employed in such positions.<sup>27</sup>
- The median household income for White families in Montgomery County was \$119,000 in 2017 and \$109,000 for Asian families compared to \$73,000 for Black households and \$72,000 for Latinx households.<sup>28</sup>

<u>Inequities in the Biohealth Industry.</u> Systemic racism has also fostered racial inequities in health care and the biohealth industry. The nation's history of inequitable health care by race predates its founding with the near genocide of Indigenous people due to their exposure to small pox and other diseases from European colonists and the inhumane treatment of enslaved Africans that made them more susceptible to disease and death.<sup>29</sup> Post slavery, health care services remained segregated by race and it was not until the 1960's with the passage of Medicare and Medicaid that health care services were integrated.<sup>30</sup>

Racial inequities have also characterized the biohealth industry where historically the medical community has exploited Black people through experimentation.<sup>31</sup> Additionally, educational and occupational segregation continue to limit the participation of Black and Latinx people as professionals in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields that include the biohealth industry. Nationally, between 2017 and 2019: <sup>32</sup>

- Black people accounted for 11 percent of all jobs, 9 percent of STEM jobs, and 6 percent of life science jobs.
- Latinx people accounted for 17 percent of all jobs and 8 percent of STEM jobs and ? percent of life science jobs.
- Asian people accounted for 6 percent of all jobs, 13 percent of STEM jobs and 19 percent of life science jobs.
- White people accounted for 63 percent of all jobs, 67 percent of STEM jobs and 65 percent of life science jobs.

## **Zoning Text Amendment 22-02**

A study of personnel and executives in the biotech industry also finds an under-representation of Black, Latinx and Indigenous employees and executives. The 2020 survey of 18 biotech firms found that:<sup>33</sup>

- Black people accounted for 7 percent of biotech employees and 3 percent of executives;
- Latinx people accounted for 4 percent of biotech employees and 4 percent of executives;
- Asian people accounted for 18 percent of biotech employees and 14 percent of executives;
- Native Americans, Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders accounted for 0.4 percent of biotech employees and 0
  percent of executives; and
- White people accounted for 65 percent of biotech employees and 78 percent of executives.

These racial and ethnic disparities in the biohealth workforce are significant because the industry offers high wages. In 2017, bioscience workers earned an average income of nearly \$99,000.<sup>34</sup> In Maryland, the average annual pay for biomedical positions was nearly \$70,000 with workers at the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile earning \$44,000 annually and those at the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile earning \$107,000 annually.<sup>35</sup>

The racial and ethnic disparities in the biohealth workforce are also significant because the industry is sizable. More than 800,000 people work in the biopharmaceutical industry in the U.S.; it is estimated that the biohealth industry supports another 4.7 million jobs across the country.<sup>36</sup> Of note, the Biohealth Capital Region of Maryland, the District of Columbia, and Virginia employs an estimated 75,000 workers and ranks fourth among U.S. biopharma hubs, behind Boston, San Francisco, and New Jersey/New York.<sup>37</sup> The United Therapeutic Corporation headquartered in Silver Spring, Maryland and the Research Training Park in North Carolina employs 950 people.<sup>38</sup>

### **ANTICIPATED RESJ IMPACTS**

Understanding the impact of ZTA 22-02 on racial equity and social justice requires understanding the stakeholders most likely to be impacted by this zoning text amendment and their demographics. Since this ZTA is aimed at reducing building regulations and requirements for biohealth facilities, biotech firm owners, employees and residents located near biohealth facilities are the stakeholders most likely to be impacted by this ZTA as follows.

- Biohealth Business Owners. Available data on local business revenue suggest that White-owned firms
  predominate the biohealth industry and thus could disproportionately benefit from ZTA 22-02. While Whiteowned firms accounted for slightly more than half of all Montgomery County businesses in 2012, they
  accounted for more than 90 percent of local business revenue. If White-owned firms benefit more from ZTA 2202 than BIPOC-owned firms, this ZTA could widen current racial and ethnic inequities in entrepreneurship.
- **Biohealth Workers.** Available data on occupations and the biohealth workforce from national and local sources suggests that Asian residents are significantly over-represented among local biohealth workers and thus could disproportionately benefit from growth in the local biotech industry fostered by ZTA 22-02. White people account for a majority of the biotech workforce and thus would benefit from biotech industry growth as well. Nationally, Asian people account for 18 percent of biotech positions compared to 6 percent of the overall workforce; White people account for 65 percent of biotech positions compared to 63 percent of the overall workforce. If Asian and White employees benefit more from ZTA 22-02 than Black, Latinx and Indigenous residents, this ZTA could widen current racial and ethnic inequities in biohealth employment

## **Zoning Text Amendment 22-02**

• Residents Near Biohealth Facilities. County residents whose homes and communities abut biohealth facilities are the residents potentially most impacted by the higher densities and building heights and reduced parking requirements allowed under this ZTA. OLO anticipates a negative impact of this ZTA on the residential neighbors of biohealth facilities who do not do business with these facilities. The demographics of which residents could be most adversely impacted by this ZTA, however, remain unknown as it is unclear where biohealth facilities will locate, relocate, or expand in the County as a result of reducing building regulations and requirements.

Taken together, OLO finds that ZTA 22-02 could have a net impact of widening racial and ethnic inequities in the County as available data suggests that the two groups to benefit the most from this bill – biohealth business owners and employees – are disproportionately White and Asian. To narrow racial and social inequities, ZTA 22-02 would have to yield greater benefits for BIPOC groups under-represented in the biohealth industry as business owners and employees. Overall, OLO anticipates a small impact of ZTA 22-02 on racial and social inequity.

### **RECOMMENDED POLICY OPTIONS**

The County's Racial Equity and Social Justice Act requires OLO to consider whether recommended amendments to bills aimed at narrowing racial and social inequities are warranted in developing RESJ impact statements.<sup>39</sup> For zoning text amendments, OLO offers recommended policy options rather than amendments to offset potentially racially or socially inequitable changes to the Zoning Ordinance.

Overall,OLO finds that ZTA 22-02 could widen racial and ethnic inequities because its provisions could exacerbate racial inequities in business revenue and employment in the biohealth sector. Should the Council seek to advance equitable growth in the biohealth industry that reduces racial and social inequities, the following policy options could be considered to require and/or encourage biohealth firms seeking to create or expand their facilities to:<sup>40</sup>

- Report workforce and vendor data by race, ethnicity, and gender. The rationale for public policies to support economic development is that their benefits exceed their costs to government. Yet, there is rarely any accountability for achieving favorable returns on public investments for economic development or equitable development that narrows gaps in outcomes by race and ethnicity. To track whether changes in the zoning code and/other public policies enhance equitable economic development, the County Council could encourage and/or require biohealth firms to report data on their workforce and vendor demographics by race (Black, Asian, White, Indigenous, Other), ethnicity (Latinx), and gender (male, female, non-binary).
- Invest in workforce development opportunities, particularly for BIPOC residents.<sup>41</sup> To ensure that growth in the biohealth industry benefits a cross-section of communities and reduces disparities in the biohealth workforce by race and ethnicity, biohealth firms could be encouraged to enter into agreements to provide biohealth workforce development opportunities for underrepresented persons of color. Biohealth firms investing in biohealth workforce development programs could be encouraged to partner with community members, education institutions and non-profit partners to design and deliver programs. Career and technical education programs in secondary and post-secondary institutions, apprenticeships and targeted training could increase the pipeline of Latinx and Black residents into biohealth professions.

## **Zoning Text Amendment 22-02**

• Invest in local small businesses, especially underrepresented BIPOC small businesses.<sup>42</sup> To ensure that local small businesses inclusive of BIPOC businesses benefit from the expansion of biotech business opportunities, biotech firms could be encouraged to (a) partner with underrepresented BIPOC businesses to increase the success of such firms in the biohealth industry; and (b) provide opportunities to BIPOC businesses that offer spillover benefits for industry expansion. For example, local biohealth firms could be encouraged to support an industry eco-system analogous to the Opportunity Hub Initiative in Atlanta that promotes "inclusive high-tech innovation, entrepreneurship, and investment eco-systems" to foster BIPOC entrepreneurship in technology.<sup>43</sup>

#### **CAVEATS**

Two caveats to this racial equity and social justice impact statement should be noted. First, predicting the impact of legislation on racial equity and social justice is a challenging, analytical endeavor due to data limitations, uncertainty, and other factors. Second, this RESJ impact statement is intended to inform the legislative process rather than determine whether the Council should enact legislation. Thus, any conclusion made in this statement does not represent OLO's endorsement of, or objection to, the bill under consideration.

## **CONTRIBUTIONS**

OLO staffers Elaine Bonner-Tompkins, Senior Legislative Analyst, and Elsabett Tesfaye, Performance Management and Data Analyst, drafted this RESJ impact statement.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Definition of racial equity and social justice adopted from "Applying a Racial Equity Lends into Federal Nutrition Programs" by Marlysa Gamblin, et.al. Bread for the World, and from Racial Equity Tools <a href="https://www.racialequitytools.org/glossary">https://www.racialequitytools.org/glossary</a>
<sup>2</sup> Ibid

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Montgomery County Council, Zoning Text Amendment 22-02, Density and Height Limits, Parking – Biohealth, Introduced March 15, 2022

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Red Policy Areas, also known as Metro Station Areas Policy Areas (MSPA), are one of the four areas within the Transportation Policy Area. MSPAs are characterized by high-density development and the availability of premium transit service (Metrorail, MARC). Montgomery County Planning Department

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Opportunity Zones are designed to spur economic development by providing tax benefits to investors. They are part of a federal tax code that allow investors to roll capital gains into Opportunity Funds that invest in businesses, equipment, and real property in select census tracts. Montgomery County Planning Department: Montgomery County Economic Indicators Briefing 2019.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Bus Rapid Transit is a high-quality and high-capacity bus-based transit system that delivers fast, comfortable, reliable and cost-effective transit service. Montgomery County Planning Department, Transportation.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Information in this section originally referenced in OLO RESJ Impact Statement for ZTA 21-09, Office and Professional – Biohealth Priority Campus, December 2, 2021

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Tyler Quinn-Smith, Zoning for Equity: Raising All Boats. Smart Growth America

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Lance Freeman, Build Race Equity into Zoning Decisions, Brookings Institution

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Tyler Quinn-Smith

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Lance Freeman

<sup>12</sup> Ibid

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Kathleen McCormick, Planning for Social Equity, Land Lines, Winter 2017

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Tony Arnold, "Land-Use Regulation: What's It Worth Anyway?" Urban Institute

<sup>15</sup> Ibid

<sup>16</sup> Ibid

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Leah Headey and Lily Posey, Racial Inequities in Montgomery County, 2011-15, Urban Institute, <a href="https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/95386/2017.12.28">https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/95386/2017.12.28</a> montgomery county finalized 7.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> National Equity Atlas, https://nationalequityatlas.org/indicators/Unemployment#/?geo=0400000000024031

<sup>19</sup> Ibid

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- <sup>20</sup> Ibid
- <sup>21</sup> Ibid
- <sup>22</sup> Ibid
- <sup>23</sup> Field Note, 2020-2, December 2020 Turning the Floodlights on the Root Causes of Today's Racialized Economic Disparities: Community Development Work at the Boston Fed Post-2020, Regional and Community Outreach
- <sup>24</sup> Stephen Roblin, COVID-19 Recovery Outlook: Minority-Owned Businesses, Office of Legislative Oversight, September 21, 2020
- <sup>25</sup> Alicia Robb, "Minority-Owned Employer Businesses and their Credit Market Experiences in 2017," Office of Advocacy U.S. Small Business Administration, July 22, 2020 cited by Stephen Roblin
- <sup>26</sup> Jupiter Independent Research Group, Racial Equity Profile Montgomery County, OLO Report 2019-7, Office of Legislative Oversight, July 15, 2019
- <sup>27</sup> American Community Survey, 1 Year Estimates, 2019, Table S0201
- <sup>28</sup> Jupiter Independent Research Group
- <sup>29</sup> W.M. Byrd and L.A. Clayton, Race, medicine, and health care in the United States: a historical survey, 2001, National Medical Association. <a href="https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2593958/">https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2593958/</a>
- 30 Ibid
- <sup>31</sup> Harriet Washington, Medical Apartheid: The Dark History of Medical Experimentation on Black Americans from Colonial Times to the Present, Doubleday, 2007.
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