

Resolution No.: 15-1395
Introduced: March 28, 2006
Adopted: April 4, 2006

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

By: Council President

SUBJECT: Establishment of Ad Hoc Agricultural Policy Working Group

Background

1. The Council is committed to the long-term protection of the County's prized 93,000-acre Agricultural Reserve, which is now celebrating its 25th anniversary, and to the support of agriculture in Montgomery County. In recent months the Council has addressed several critical issues affecting the Agricultural Reserve, with more such issues on the horizon.
2. There is widespread agreement that issues affecting the Agricultural Reserve should be considered comprehensively rather than in isolation. The Agricultural Advisory Committee, the Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board, and the League of Women Voters are among those who have emphasized this point. The Planning Board intends to include the full range of issues affecting the Agricultural Reserve in its future work program.
3. The Council would benefit from the establishment of an ad hoc working group to provide comprehensive advice on proposals dealing with interrelated issues affecting the Agricultural Reserve.

Action

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

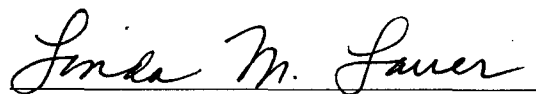
The Council establishes an Ad Hoc Agricultural Policy Working Group, comprising 10 to 15 community members with significant knowledge of the issues involved, to provide comprehensive advice on ways to ensure the long-term protection of the Agricultural Reserve and preservation of our agricultural industry.

The Council calls on the Working Group to:

- undertake a thorough review of pending and potential legislation concerning the Rural Density Transfer zone: the child lot program, the proposed building lot termination program, uses of sand mound technology, and technical tracking and use issues associated with the Transfer of Development Rights program;
- assure that this review provides a clear understanding of how the individual proposals interact with each other and considers the potential for unanticipated negative consequences;
- proceed in a way that respects the concerns of all stakeholders;
and
- update the Council on its progress and submit a final report to the Council within calendar year 2006.

Support for the Working Group will be provided by Park and Planning staff, Council staff, and outside experts as the Working Group deems necessary. The Council also requests the participation of relevant Executive Branch staff.

This is a correct copy of Council action.



Linda M. Lauer, Clerk of the Council