



## **MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION AGENDA**

**Monday, April 27, 2009**

**7:30 p.m.**

***City Hall Council Chambers***

*(Please turn off all cellular phones and pagers prior to the meeting. Hand held signs brought into the Council Chambers may not be displayed in a manner which disrupts the meeting, blocks the view of spectators or cameras and poses a safety concern [e.g., signs mounted on stakes]. Your cooperation is appreciated.)*

### **I. Call to Order**

### **II. Topic(s)**

- A. Report from District 17 Delegation (Senator Jennie Forehand, Delegates Kumar Barve, Jim Gilchrist and Luiz Simmons) and District 39 (Senator Nancy King) on the 2009 Legislative Session**
- B. Report from the Ad Hoc Elections Ordinance Review Committee**
- C. Approval of Board of Supervisors of Elections Recommendations on the Number and Locations of Polling Places**

### **III. Adjournment**

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TO CONFIRM ACCESSIBILITY ACCOMMODATIONS,  
PLEASE CONTACT DORIS STOKES AT CITY HALL, 301-258-6310

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**UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETING**

This list is not all-inclusive, and does not reflect priorities or scheduling  
*But is intended to provide a glance at future items to come before the City Council.*

**Regular Meeting of the Mayor and City Council**

- Mon., May 4** - **Presentation** - "If I Were Mayor" 2009 Junior Mayor Contest Winner
- Appointments** - Various Committees
- Ord./Res./Reg.** - Intro. RCN Cable Franchise Agreement Renewal  
- Award Cable Franchise Agreement to Verizon
- Public Hearings** - Proposed Charter Amendments "Personnel"  
- Ordinance to Repeal and Reenact Chap. 17 "Personnel"  
- FY '10 Proposed Budget Ordinance  
- Constant Yield Tax Rate

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# Call to Order

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# Topics

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# MAYOR & COUNCIL AGENDA COVER SHEET

**MEETING DATE:**

April 27, 2009

**CALL TO PODIUM:**

**District 17 Delegation and  
Senator Nancy King**

**RESPONSIBLE STAFF:**

**Fred Felton  
Assistant City Manager**

**Monica Sanchez  
Administrative Assistant III**

**AGENDA ITEM:**

(please check one)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Presentation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Proclamation/Certificate
<input type="checkbox"/>	Appointment
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Hearing
<input type="checkbox"/>	Historic District
<input type="checkbox"/>	Consent Item
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ordinance
<input type="checkbox"/>	Resolution
<input type="checkbox"/>	Policy Discussion
<input type="checkbox"/>	Work Session Discussion Item
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:

**PUBLIC HEARING HISTORY:**

(Please complete this section if agenda item is a public hearing)

Introduced	
Advertised	
Hearing Date	
Record Held Open	
Policy Discussion	

<b>TITLE:</b>
Report from District 17 Delegation (Senator Jennie Forehand, Delegates Kumar Barve, Jim Gilchrist and Luiz Simmons) and District 39 (Senator Nancy King) on the 2009 Legislative Session

<b>SUPPORTING BACKGROUND:</b>
The 2009 Maryland General Legislative Session adjourned on April 13, 2009. The District 17 Delegation and District 39 Senator Nancy King will provide a brief overview of the session and respond to any questions the Mayor and City Council may have.

<b>DESIRED OUTCOME:</b>
Hear Presentation.

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# MAYOR & COUNCIL AGENDA COVER SHEET

**MEETING DATE:**

April 27, 2009

**CALL TO PODIUM:**

**Fred Felton**  
**Assistant City Manager**

**RESPONSIBLE STAFF:**

**Fred Felton**  
**Assistant City Manager**

**AGENDA ITEM:**

(please check one)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Presentation
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Appointment
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**PUBLIC HEARING HISTORY:**

(Please complete this section if agenda item is a public hearing)

Introduced	
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Record Held Open	
Policy Discussion	

<b>TITLE:</b>
Report from the Ad Hoc Elections Ordinance Review Committee

<b>SUPPORTING BACKGROUND:</b>
<p>On May 19, 2008 the Mayor and City Council appointed the Ad Hoc Elections Ordinance Review Committee with the charge to review the City's election ordinance and to provide recommendations to improve our elections process. The Committee has met regularly since being appointed.</p> <p>From the onset, the committee's key goal has been to make Gaithersburg's elections process as transparent as possible by ensuring potential voters knew what individuals and organizations were financing the various campaigns.</p> <p>After considerable discussion and debate, the committee is unanimously recommending certain changes to the elections ordinance, the City Charter, and City policies:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Elections Ordinance</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Campaign Finance</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Add two additional pre-election campaign finance reports.</li> <li>2. Require campaign finance reports to be filed electronically utilizing software specified by the Board of Supervisors of Elections.</li> <li>3. Allow candidate to keep campaign finance account open between election cycles and require annual report on the account.</li> <li>4. Require estimated reporting of expenditure if actual data (invoice) is not available when finance report is due.</li> </ol>

<b>DESIRED OUTCOME:</b>
Receive presentation and provide guidance.

# MAYOR & COUNCIL AGENDA COVER SHEET

## Supporting Background Page 2:

### Political Committees

1. Define political committees as “any combination of two or more persons formed in any manner, which independently collects or expends a cumulative amount of \$250 or more to assist in the promotion of the success or defeat of any candidate or slate of candidates for City elective office.
2. Political committees must act independently and may not coordinate with any candidate or group of candidates.
3. Political committees must file a campaign finance report within three days of collecting or expending the first \$250. Thereafter, they must file on the same schedule as candidates for office.
4. Any literature or signage paid for by a political committee must have language clearly identifying what organization paid for it.

### Independent Expenditures

1. Define independent expenditure as “a cumulative expenditure of \$250 or more by an individual to assist in the promotion of the success or defeat of any candidate or slate of candidates for city elective office that is not coordinated with any candidate or group of candidates.”
2. Individuals who independently expend \$250 or more would be required to file a campaign finance report within three days of the first. Thereafter, they must file the same pre-election schedule as candidates for office. The final report of any individual making expenditures of \$250 or more is due on the last day of the day following the month in which the election was conducted.
3. Any literature or signage paid for by an individual must have language clearly identifying who paid for it.

### Contributions

1. No person shall contribute more than \$500 (including in kind donations) to any candidate or political committee.
2. No person may contribute a cumulative total of more than \$1,000 (including in kind contributions) during any election cycle.
3. Candidates or political committees may not accept anonymous contributions. Any anonymous contribution received by a candidate or political committee shall be given to the City for any lawful purpose.

# MAYOR & COUNCIL AGENDA COVER SHEET

## Supporting Background Page 3:

### BOSE Powers/Violations

1. In addition to having the authority to require respondents to cease and desist, the board would have the authority to order corrective action.
2. Respondents subject to BOSE orders would have the right to appeal to Circuit Court within 14 days.
3. Failure to comply with an order of the BOSE would be a misdemeanor rather than a municipal infraction.

### Charter Amendment

1. Section 32 of the City Charter mandates that the board of supervisors of elections shall keep the polls open from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM unless the Council, by resolution, shall fix longer or shorter hours. The Committee believes the BOSE should have the ability to extend the hours of the polls on Election Day if extraordinary circumstances warrant an extension.

### City Policies

1. All campaign finance reports should be placed on the City's website in a searchable format as soon as possible after being filed.
2. The City should have a qualified lawyer on retainer to assist the BOSE in investigating complaints and interpreting the elections ordinance if the City Attorney should determine that it would be a conflict for the City Attorney to provide advice on a given matter.

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# MAYOR & COUNCIL AGENDA COVER SHEET

**MEETING DATE:**

April 27, 2009

**CALL TO PODIUM:**

Lynn Board,  
City Attorney

**RESPONSIBLE STAFF:**

Lynn Board,  
City Attorney

Lauren Klingler,  
Administrative Assistant

**AGENDA ITEM:**

(please check one)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Presentation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Proclamation/Certificate
<input type="checkbox"/>	Appointment
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Hearing
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Policy Discussion
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Work Session Discussion Item
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:

**PUBLIC HEARING HISTORY:**

(Please complete this section if agenda item is a public hearing)

Introduced	
Advertised	
Hearing Date	
Record Held Open	
Policy Discussion	

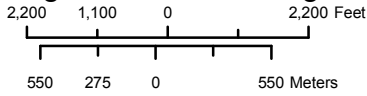
<b>TITLE:</b>
Recommendation from Board of Supervisors of Elections of the Number and Location of Polling Places

<b>SUPPORTING BACKGROUND:</b>																					
Section 6C-3.1(3) of the City Code provides that the Board of Supervisors of Elections (BOSE) shall make recommendations to the Mayor and City Council concerning the number and location of election polling places. The BOSE is scheduled to meet on April 23, 2009 and will forward its recommendation to the Mayor and Council.																					
Staff is proposing that the number and location of election polling places and the boundaries of each voting area remain unchanged from those used during the 2007 City election as there have not been significant shifts of registered voters among the voting areas. Attached is a map of the proposed voting areas and polling places. Also included is the number of registered voters in each voting area based on data received from Montgomery County in March of 2009.																					
Below is a summary of the change in the number of registered voters from the 2007 City election:																					
<table> <thead> <tr><th></th><th><u>2007</u></th><th><u>2009</u></th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>GA01</td><td>4,598</td><td>4,206</td></tr> <tr><td>GA02</td><td>5,622</td><td>5,639</td></tr> <tr><td>GA03</td><td>5,703</td><td>6,120</td></tr> <tr><td>GA04</td><td>1,204</td><td>1,184</td></tr> <tr><td>GA05</td><td>5,219</td><td>5,057</td></tr> <tr><td>GA06</td><td>5,291</td><td>5,521</td></tr> </tbody> </table>		<u>2007</u>	<u>2009</u>	GA01	4,598	4,206	GA02	5,622	5,639	GA03	5,703	6,120	GA04	1,204	1,184	GA05	5,219	5,057	GA06	5,291	5,521
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<b>DESIRED OUTCOME:</b>
Receive recommendation from the Board of Supervisors of Elections and approve the number and location of polling places for the 2009 election.

# City Elections 2009

## Voting Areas and Polling Places



Voting Areas and Polling Places 2009.mxd • 15-Apr-2009 • jke



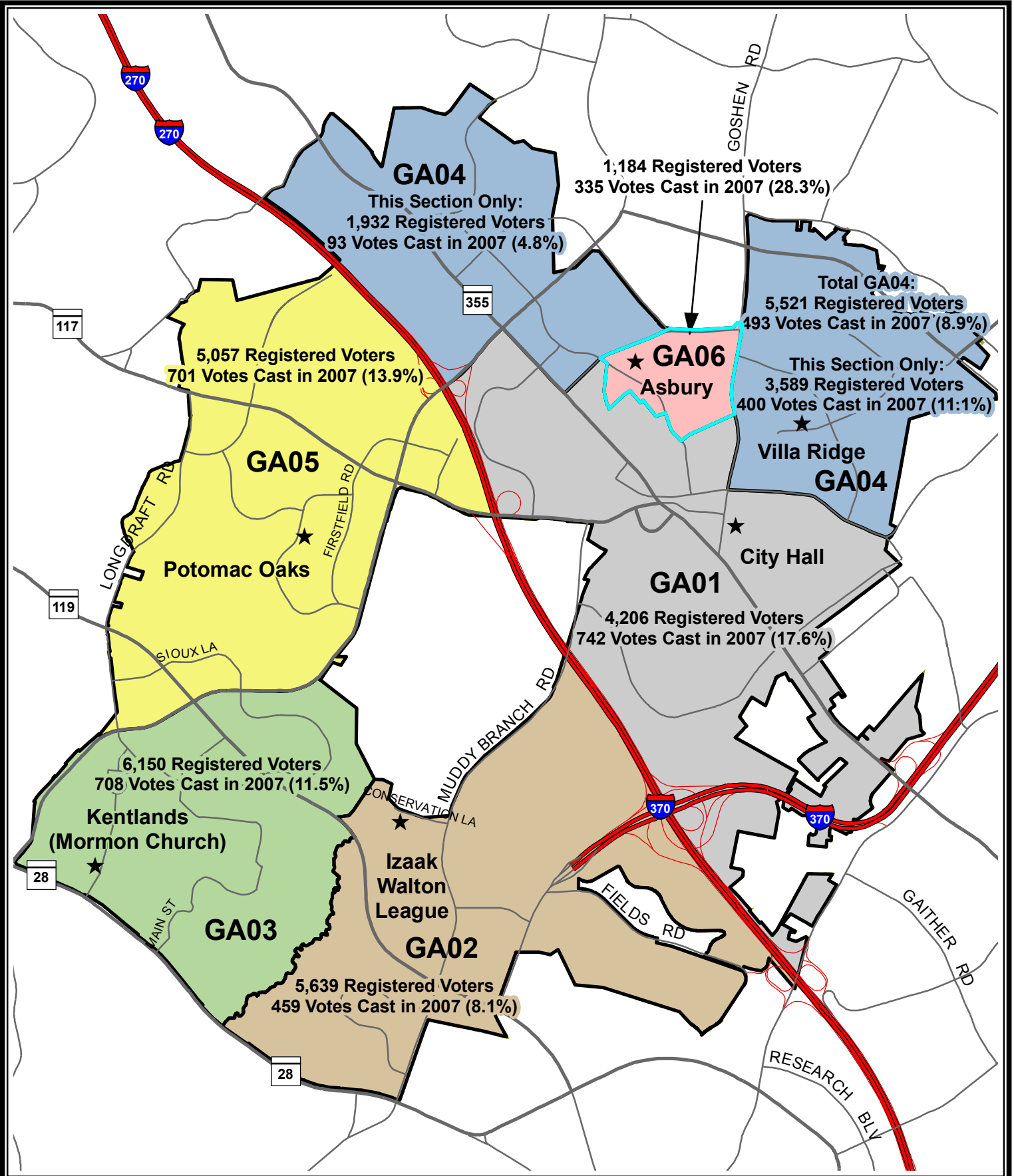
MD State Plane  
HPGN NAD 83/91

Property boundaries, voting information, and planimetric basemap ©2007 M-NCPPC, Montgomery County Board Of Elections, and City of Gaithersburg. All rights reserved.

The City of Gaithersburg makes no warranty, express or implied, for the completeness and accuracy of the information depicted on this map. This map may not be reproduced, in whole or in part, without the express written permission of the City of Gaithersburg and other referenced parties.



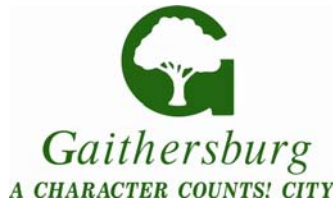
City of Gaithersburg  
Planning and Code Admin  
31 S Summit Ave  
Gaithersburg, MD 20877  
(301) 258-6330  
[www.gaithersburgmd.gov](http://www.gaithersburgmd.gov)



# Adjournment

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# From Staff



Distributed to M&CC:4/27/09

April 9, 2009

Mr. Pete Henry  
BP Realty Investment, LLC  
10000 Falls Road, #100  
Potomac, MD 20854

Dear Mr. Henry;

Please find this letter in response to your letter dated April 3, 2009.

The City received an application for Final Site Plan (SP-07-0017) approval on October 17, 2007. Beginning on October 24, 2007, at you or your representative's request, the City embarked upon a series of weekly meetings where revised plans and "works in progress" were presented to the City for comment in preparation for Planning Commission review and approval. In February, 2008, these meetings ended with the agreement that the plans were generally ready to move forward to Planning Commission once outstanding environmental issues were resolved and the plans for Watkins Mill Road were approved by the state. There was effectively no further communication between your team and the Planning Department for more than six months after the multi-family developer exited the project.

It is my understanding that Assistant City Manager Fred Felton contacted you in December of 2008 to determine if the plan was moving forward so a decision could be made as to whether or not Montgomery County would build the 6<sup>th</sup> District Police Station on the site identified on the approved SDP. Subsequently, you delivered a set of plans marked "Preliminary" to Mr. Felton on December 12, 2008, and these plans were received by the Planning Department on December 17, 2008.

At the City's request, a meeting was held with you on December 23, 2008 to discuss the project. During this meeting, you indicated that the commercial portion of the plan would not be ready for Planning Commission review, and suggested that the site plan be separated so Watkins Mill Road Extended and the 6<sup>th</sup> District Police Station could move forward to meet Montgomery County's schedule. Additionally, staff expressed concern over significant changes that had been made to the plan since general agreement was reached on the plan in February of 2008. Finally, you indicated that final sets of plans would be formally submitted to the Planning Department for review and comment.

City of Gaithersburg • 31 South Summit Avenue, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877-2098  
301-258-6300 • FAX 301-258-6149 • TTY 301-258-6430 • cityhall@gaitthersburgmd.gov • www.gaitthersburgmd.gov

MAYOR  
Sidney A. Katz

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS  
Jud Ashman  
Cathy C. Drzyzgula  
Henry F. Marraffa, Jr.  
Michael A. Sesma  
Ryan Spiegel

CITY MANAGER  
Angel L. Jones

Mr. Pete Henry  
April 9, 2009  
Page 2 of 2

No further written communication was received from the applicant by the Planning Department. On March 3, 2009, several City staff attended a meeting regarding Watkins Mill Road at Rodgers. Again, the City reiterated our request for an official submission of plans. Once again, no communication was received by the Planning Department. Under growing concern regarding the timing of this project, and rumors that the project was going out for bid, a letter was sent formally requesting an official submission on March 24, 2009.

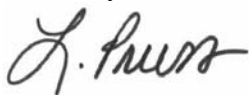
A response to this request was received on March 27, 2009. Upon initial review of the plans it was noted that the plans deviated substantially from the plans that were ready to proceed to Planning Commission in February, 2008. These changes include, but are not limited to: modifications to the approved road code, reductions in building heights, changes in building footprints, changes in retail floor areas and locations, significant departure from the agreed upon architecture, and removal of the promenade at the senior center site.

Upon review of these significant changes to the approved schematic development plan (SDP-07-001), the City was concerned that we would not be able to come to agreement regarding the plans in time to ensure that construction of Watkins Mill Road and the police station remain on track. As such, the City strongly recommended that the plans be revised to only include required improvements for Watkins Mill Road, Professional Drive, and the police station and that the remainder of the Spectrum at Casey East be omitted at this time and submitted for approval at a later date.

On April 9, 2008, the City and BP Realty met to discuss this recommendation. This meeting was quite productive with BP Realty agreeing to proceed with two separate site plans. One site plan would be submitted for Watkins Mill Road, Professional Drive and the police station, and another would be submitted for the remainder of phase one of the project. Additionally, it was agreed that the plans would be revised to provide readjustment of stormwater recharge areas to reduce clearing and specimen tree impacts.

I hope this information is helpful. If you have any questions you may contact me at 301-258-6330.

Sincerely,



Lauren Pruss  
Planning Director

cc: Angel L. Jones, City Manager  
Fred Felton, ACM  
Greg Ossont, PCA Director  
Caroline Seiden, PCA



31 South Summit Avenue  
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877  
Telephone: 301-258-6330

Distributed to M&CC:4/27/09

## MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION MARCH 18, 2009

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Chair John Bauer called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Present at the meeting were Vice-Chair Danny Winborne, Commissioners Matthew Hopkins, Lloyd Kaufman, and Lenny Levy, Alternate Commissioner Geri Lanier, Planning Director Lauren Pruss, Community Planning Director Trudy Schwarz, Planner Rob Robinson, and Recording Secretary Myriam Gonzalez. Chair Bauer noted Alternate Commissioner Lanier would sit at the dais but would not actively participate this evening, since all Commissioners were present.

### I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

March 4, 2009, Planning Commission Meeting

Commissioner Levy moved, seconded by Commissioner Kaufman, to APPROVE the Minutes of the March 4, 2009, Planning Commission Meeting as submitted.

Vote: 5-0

### II. RECORD PLATS

R-1252 -- Fairfield at West Deer Park, Plat 3 (Plat of Correction)

R-1253 -- Fairfield at West Deer Park, Plat 4 (Plat of Correction)

Commissioner Levy moved, seconded by Vice-Chair Winborne, to APPROVE the Record Plat Agenda.

Vote: 5-0

### III. RECOMMENDATION TO MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Olde Towne Guidelines – Design Guidelines for Future Development and Redevelopment in accordance with the Gaithersburg Olde Towne District Master Plan: MP-1-05

Planner Robinson noted the draft guidelines were introduced for the Commission's discussion in January 2009, and were revised following the receipt of comments from the Commission, the Olde Towne and Historic Preservation Advisory Committees during their February 2009 meetings, and from the public. He reported that staff has received endorsements from the above-referenced advisory committees encouraging the City Council to adopt the guidelines.

The Commission reviewed each section of the draft document and inquired further about language discouraging tree grates, as well as lighting levels, sustainability issues, fences and walks, parking, trash, drainage, architecture and encouragement of stylistic elements. Staff was given guidance with language modifications regarding those items and the glossary section. Commissioner Hopkins recommended the use of pictures and diagrams, particularly with respect to storefronts. Mr. Robinson voiced a concern, however, with standardizing, which would conflict with seeking creative diversity in Olde Towne. Commissioner Hopkins and

Chair Bauer elaborated on the advisability of using pictures of multiple storefront types in the glossary section.

Lastly, Mr. Robinson discussed how the subsequent reviews of the draft guidelines and adoption resolution would proceed. Chair Bauer suggested labeling diagrams/pictures as "draft" for the City Council's review so as to ensure the focus of the review is on the narrative content.

The Commission directed staff to revise the draft document in accordance with tonight's discussion and bring back the revised guidelines for recommendation to the City Council. Chair Bauer congratulated staff on the quality of their work.

#### IV. DISCUSSION

##### Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) Gaithersburg West Master Plan

Planning Director Pruss referenced her March 12, 2009, Memorandum to the Planning Commission with an accompanying draft letter from the Commission to the County's Department of Planning, previously included in the Commission's informational package for tonight's meeting. She indicated the draft letter discusses broader issues which staff identified as items the Planning Commission wishes to address, noting that staff is seeking comments and/or additional issues the Commission wants included in the letter.

Chair Bauer shared Gaithersburg City Manager Jones's request for the removal of the reference to "Gaithersburg" from the County's plan name, and additionally recommended revising the name of the landmark project (Life Sciences Center) so as to better reflect its mixed use residential portion. He suggested a name more evocative of the historical content of the area would be more appropriate.

In addition, Chair Bauer expressed a concern with the addition of a stop in the Corridor Cities Transitway (CCT) route, noting that it could delay the process from going forward due to the need for additional review. Director Pruss noted that although staff shares the concern, it chose not to include it in the draft letter as additional stops would call for adding density, which would help support the future funding of the CCT. Planner Robinson noted, however, two related issues (Nos. 10 and 15) in the letter that call for the inclusion of acceptable alternatives in the plan, while ensuring that the overall project is not delayed. In response to Commissioner Levy, Mr. Robinson provided information relating to State and County funding for the CCT project.

Commissioner Hopkins suggested language to encourage the retention of the DANAC Stop. Chair Bauer strongly recommended that public access to a station at the Johns Hopkins University's Belward Research Center campus be provided. Commissioner Hopkins agreed adding that street-front retail development contiguous to that station would be most appropriate.

Lastly, Chair Bauer provided language for inclusion in the letter ensuring that public review/comment forums continue through the time the plan's design process nears its completion, and added that this item be included in staff's verbal comments at the public hearing.

Planning Director Pruss announced the County's public hearing is scheduled for March 26, 2009, at which time the City staff would voice the City's key comments on major issues.

Commissioner Hopkins re-emphasized the importance of calling for mixed use transit-oriented development around the CCT centers.

V. FROM THE COMMISSION

Vice-Chair Winborne

1. Thanked staff for its site plan status report and suggested that project completion dates be included
2. Voiced his best wishes for former City Council Member Blanche Keller's prompt recovery. Commissioner Levy echoed Vice-Chair Winborne's comments.

Commissioner Kaufman

Noting the coming of the spring season, suggested the City publish a bike path and bike rack map, showing existing and proposed facilities. Planner Robinson provided a status update on the City's planning and mapping of the bicycle/pedestrian pathway system as part of the master plan update process.

Chair Bauer

1. Echoed the sentiments for both Blanche Keller's and Historic Preservation Advisory Committee Chair Richard Arkin's prompt recovery.
2. Referencing the site plan status report, noted its usefulness as a resource to ascertain the impact of the nation's economy on the City's development projects.

VI. FROM STAFF

Planning Director Pruss

Noting the Planning Commission's light agenda for its regular meetings in April, asked for the Commission's guidance as to the scheduling of those meetings. She added, however, that a training session could be scheduled instead of a regular meeting. The Commission's consensus was to cancel the April 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, if no regulatory items are submitted for Commission review.


Community Planning Director Schwarz

Announced two joint public hearings to be heard concurrently with the City Council on April 6, 2009.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before this session, the meeting was duly adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



M. Gonzalez  
Recording Secretary

For Release April 15, 2009

## Gaithersburg Officials Notified of Federal Findings Regarding Police Chief John King

*Gaithersburg, MD.* On Wednesday, April 15, 2009 Gaithersburg City Attorney N. Lynn Board was notified by the United States Attorney's Office that it had concluded its investigation regarding allegations against Police Chief John King. The U.S. Attorney's Office has determined that no criminal charges related to Chief King's disability retirement with Montgomery County government will be filed.

City officials report that Chief King complied with all of the City of Gaithersburg's required personnel procedures during his hiring process in 2007. "I am very glad that this investigation was completed in a timely manner with no criminal charges being filed," said Gaithersburg City Manager Angel L. Jones. "With this investigation completed Chief King and the Gaithersburg Police Department can continue their efforts to ensure public safety within our community. This remains our highest priority."

The Gaithersburg Police Department is a nationally-accredited law enforcement agency that shares responsibility for services with the Montgomery County Police, providing coverage 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The Department responds to calls for service as necessary, and utilizes community action teams to solve problems and deal with issues affecting the safety of all City neighborhoods.

###

**Mayor**  
Sidney A. Katz

**City Manager**  
Angel L. Jones

**Council Members**

Jud Ashman    Cathy C. Drzyzgula    Henry F. Marraffa, Jr.    Michael A. Sesma    Ryan Spiegel

For Release April 13, 2009

## Gaithersburg One of Eight Cities Nationwide Selected for “Bank On Cities” Financial Stability Initiative

**Gaithersburg, MD.** In today’s volatile economic climate, individual financial stability is an overwhelming concern. With a goal of helping residents build and protect their assets by connecting them to the financial mainstream, the City of Gaithersburg is proud to join with seven other cities nationwide selected to participate in the National League of Cities (NLC) Bank On Cities campaign.

Modeled after the Bank On San Francisco initiative, the campaign helps create relationships among local governments, citizens, local banks and credit unions, and community partners to ensure that all residents have access to bank accounts, financial education and other asset-building opportunities.

“We understand that as many as 5,000 households in Gaithersburg may lack basic checking or savings accounts,” said Assistant City Manager and Economic Development Director Tony Tomasello. “These ‘unbanked’ people will often turn to payday lenders and fringe financial services, making it difficult for families to protect their assets or establish a credit history.”

Gaithersburg will receive intensive technical assistance from NLC throughout the one year project. Key to the success of the Bank On Gaithersburg campaign, as it will be known locally, will be the ability to tap into the resources of the NLC staff and national experts who have been involved with this program for the past several years.

Gaithersburg is currently in the process of putting together a community action team and developing an action plan to implement Bank On Gaithersburg in the coming months. For more information please contact project director Cindy Hines in the Gaithersburg City Manager’s Office, 301-258-6310 or [chines@gaithersburgmd.gov](mailto:chines@gaithersburgmd.gov).

Twenty one cities applied to participate in the 2009 NLC Bank On Cities initiative. Those selected for the project include Bryan, Texas; Denver, Colorado; Gaithersburg, Maryland; Indianapolis, Indiana; Louisville, Kentucky; Newark, New Jersey; Rapid City, South Dakota; and St. Petersburg, Florida. The NLC Bank On Cities campaign is supported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the Ford Foundation.

As a resource and advocate for 19,000 cities, town and villages across the country, the National League of Cities strengthens and promotes cities as centers of opportunity, leadership and governance. For more information visit [www.nlc.org](http://www.nlc.org).

###

**Mayor**  
Sidney A. Katz

**City Manager**  
Angel L. Jones

### Council Members

Jud Ashman    Cathy C. Drzyzgula    Henry F. Marraffa, Jr.    Michael A. Sesma    Ryan Spiegel

For Release April 16, 2009

## Moderately Priced Dwelling Units Available at Amber Commons

**Gaithersburg, MD.** The City of Gaithersburg announces the availability of the first Moderately Priced Dwelling Units (MPDU) since the adoption of the City's fair housing ordinance in late 2006. The ordinance requires that 15% of units in new residential communities be set aside as Moderately Priced Dwelling Units and Work Force Housing.

Ten rental units are now available at Amber Commons, the former West Deer Park Apartments located at 72 West Deer Park Road. The buildings have undergone substantial renovation, including improvements to the overall site, common areas and unit interiors. Amber Commons is now in compliance with Gaithersburg's green building ordinance for residential development and redevelopment, with energy efficiency improvements that include ENERGY STAR windows and appliances.

First priority for the ten Amber Commons MPDUs will be given to tenants who were displaced when the apartment complex was vacated in 2006. Should any MPDU units remain after all former residents have been qualified, City residents and people working within the City of Gaithersburg may apply.

In order to be eligible for an MPDU, income for a one person household must be between \$43,134 and \$57,512. Two person household income must be between \$49,296 and \$65,728, three person household income must be between \$55,458 and \$73,944, four person household income must be between \$61,620 and \$82,160; and five person household income must be between \$66,550 and \$88,733. Applicants must be citizens or permanent legal residents, and other restrictions may apply.

For eligibility information and an application please contact Louise Kauffmann, Community Development Director, at 301-258-6310 or [lkauffmann@gaithersburgmd.gov](mailto:lkauffmann@gaithersburgmd.gov).

###

**Mayor**  
Sidney A. Katz

**City Manager**  
Angel L. Jones

### Council Members

Jud Ashman

Cathy C. Drzyzgula

Henry F. Marraffa, Jr.

Michael A. Sesma

Ryan Spiegel



For Release April 16, 2009

## Gaithersburg High School Staff and Students Challenge Gaithersburg Police Officers to Charity Basketball Game

*Gaithersburg, MD.* Officers of the Gaithersburg Police Department will play head to head against staff and students of Gaithersburg High School (GHS) in the first annual charity basketball tournament, to be held on April 23, 2009. The event will benefit GHS summer programs and the Gaithersburg Police Foundation.

The games will be held in the upper gym at Gaithersburg High School, 314 South Frederick Avenue. Tip-off for the first game between staff and students of GHS will be at 6 p.m. The second game between the members of the Gaithersburg Police Department and GHS staff and students will tip-off at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$5 each and are available in advance and at the door. For more information or to purchase tickets in advance please call 301-258-6400.

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**Mayor**  
Sidney A. Katz

**City Manager**  
Angel Jones

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For Release April 13, 2009

## Locally Grown Produce Available at Gaithersburg Farmers Market

**Gaithersburg, MD.** Locally grown strawberries, lettuce, bedding plants, and early cucumbers and squash should be available in time for the season opening of the City of Gaithersburg's Main Street Farmers Market on Saturday, May 2 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The market is housed in the Main Street Pavilion at 301 Main Street, one block off of Kentlands Boulevard in the Kentlands.

Select fresh-picked produce every Saturday through November 21. The variety and quantities available will increase each week as different crops reach maturity. To add to the market atmosphere, a variety of local artists and craftspeople will be joining the farmers each weekend with unique, handcrafted items.

Interested vendors should contact Nansie Wilde at 301-258-6350 x123 or via e-mail at [nwilde@gaithersburgmd.gov](mailto:nwilde@gaithersburgmd.gov).

For more information please call the number above or visit the City's website at [www.gaithersburgmd.gov](http://www.gaithersburgmd.gov).

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For Release April 10, 2009

## Gaithersburg Police Department Hosts Free Identity Theft Information Meeting

**Gaithersburg, MD.** The Gaithersburg Police Department will host a meeting on Identity Theft on April 22, 2009 from 7:00-8:00 p.m. The meeting, co-sponsored by LifeLock and the FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Association (FBI-LEEDA), will be held in the cafeteria of Gaithersburg High School, 314 South Frederick Avenue, Gaithersburg, Maryland. The event is free to the public.

Founded in 2005, LifeLock is the industry leader in proactive identity theft protection. The organization has a strong focus on educating consumers and working with law enforcement and elected officials to better understand the increasing threats of identity theft.

Presenters will help educate consumers on the threats of identity theft and define individual points of vulnerability. This free event will provide consumers with an opportunity to learn more about this devastating crime as well as the proactive steps consumers can take to protect themselves. Experts from the National Organization for Victims' Assistance (NOVA) will be on hand to lead discussions about the emotional effects of identity theft and to provide onsite counseling for those individuals who may have fallen victim to the crime. For more information please contact the Gaithersburg Police Department at 301-258-6400 or visit [www.gaithersburgmd.gov](http://www.gaithersburgmd.gov).

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For Release April 14, 2009

## Jazmine Yambo Named 2009 Gaithersburg Junior Mayor

**Gaithersburg, MD.** Out of a field of 142 entries, Jazmine Yambo of Washington Grove Elementary School has been selected as Gaithersburg's Junior Mayor. The official announcement will be made at the Mayor and City Council meeting at Gaithersburg City Hall on May 4, 2009.

Earlier this year 4<sup>th</sup> grade students throughout the City were invited to submit essays describing what they would do if they were mayor. The contest is sponsored statewide by the Maryland Municipal League (MML) and the Maryland Mayors' Association. The theme this year was: *"If you were Mayor, how would you encourage your citizens to get on board and "GO Green?"*

Regardless of whether or not MML selects a statewide winner from a Gaithersburg school, the 142 entries were reviewed locally by members of the City's CHARACTER COUNTS! Steering Committee. Five finalists were identified and were invited to City Hall for a final round of videotaped interviews, out of which Ms. Yambo was selected as Gaithersburg's Junior Mayor.

When asked during her interview what it takes to be a great leader, Ms. Yambo replied, "You need to be responsible, and you need to be very respectful of the earth and all the people in it." When she was asked what she would be interested in doing as Junior Mayor, she indicated that she'd like to visit other places and talk to people about their experiences, and she'd especially like to visit the White House!

The Junior Mayor will be invited to participate with Mayor Sidney Katz and members of the City Council in several public events throughout the year. Ms. Yambo's winning essay is posted on the City's website at [www.gaithersburgmd.gov](http://www.gaithersburgmd.gov). For more information on the Junior Mayor program contact Gaithersburg's Community Services Division at 301-258-6395.

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For Release April 8, 2009

## Nonprofit Support Group Hosts Gala to Benefit Wells/Robertson House for the Homeless

*Gaithersburg, MD.* On Friday, May 8, 2009 the Friends of Wells/Robertson House, Inc., a private, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, will host a gala for the benefit of Gaithersburg's transitional program for drug and alcohol addicted homeless men and women in recovery. Denim & Diamonds will take place from 7 p.m. to midnight at the Hilton –Washington DC North/Gaithersburg on Perry Parkway. Tickets are \$50 per person.

Dress up your favorite blue jeans with a tuxedo jacket or cocktail attire and be prepared to dance the night away to the lively sounds of the Reunion Band. Enjoy a delicious dinner featuring such treats as mini Cuban sandwiches, Thai chicken skewers in a sweet chili sauce, baked brie with almonds, and miniature Beef Wellingtons with a sherry mushroom sauce. A lively silent auction and great raffle prizes round out the evening.

All proceeds from the Denim & Diamonds Gala will benefit the Friends of Wells/Robertson House, Inc., whose mission is to support, independently and collaboratively, a continuum of prevention and intervention programs to reduce chronic addiction and homeless in the Gaithersburg Community.

For tickets and additional information please contact Friends of Wells/Robertson House Board Member Linda Plummer at [lplmp@aol.com](mailto:lplmp@aol.com) or call 240-654-3572.

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**Mayor**  
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# Outside Correspondence

APR 17 2009

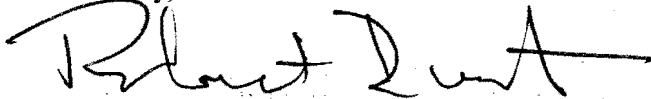
April 15, 2009

Office of the Mayor  
Gaithersburg, Maryland

Dear Mr. Mayor:

This letter is to inform you that that the following residents of Desellum Avenue and George Street fully support the project proposed by Dr. Robert Wilson and his father for the development of the property located on the corner of Desellum Avenue and Route 355. The proposed development will greatly improve the neighborhood and be of a positive value to the City of Gaithersburg and the residents within Observatory Heights. It is time to remove "old" buildings that have no practical value and move into the twenty-first century with modern buildings and offices along the Route 355 corridor. Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,



Robert and Loretta Durst  
21 Desellum Avenue  
Gaithersburg, Md.

Loretta Durst  
Scott W Henry  
Maura M Henry  
Cheryl  
William H. Walker

McKarameng (6 GEORGE ST)  
Tabitha Batson  
M. Carter W  
Paul Stone