



**ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY  
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY AUDITOR**

**To:** Councilmembers, Anne Arundel County Council  
**From:** Michelle Bohlayer, County Auditor  
**Date:** April 14, 2021  
**Subject:** Auditor Review of Legislation for the April 19, 2021 Council Meeting

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**Bill 11-21:  
Planning & Zoning –  
General Development Plan  
– Plan2040 (As Amended)**

**Summary of Legislation**

This bill repeals the 2009 General Development Plan (GDP) and related amendments and adopts the GDP set forth in “Plan2040,” an official policy document intended to guide future growth, development, resource management and protection, and provision of County services.

We commented on the bill in our letters dated February 24, 2021, March 10, 2021, and March 31, 2021. At the April 5, 2021 Council meeting, 44 amendments were adopted to modify or remove various aspects of Bill 11-21. We have no further comments on this bill.

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**Bill 20-21:  
Floodplain Management,  
Erosion and Sediment  
Control, and Stormwater  
Management –  
Subdivision and  
Development – Forest  
Conservation (As  
Amended, Eligible for  
Vote)**

**Summary of Legislation**

This bill expands the definition of standard grading plan, requires replanting or payment of a fee-in-lieu of replanting when an approved standard grading plan allows for the clearing of certain trees, establishes civil fines for certain clearing violations, adds penalties for violations of erosion and sediment control and stormwater management provisions, and adds penalties for clearing violations that occur during development.

We commented on the bill in our letters dated March 10, 2021 and March 31, 2021. At the April 5, 2021 Council meeting, this bill was held until the April 19, 2021 meeting. We have no further comments on this bill.

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**Bill 27-21:  
Public Works – Permits  
for Use of County Right-  
of-Way – Maintenance  
Permit and Inspection  
Fees**

**Summary of Legislation**

This bill requires a utility to be invoiced quarterly for right-of-way maintenance permit and inspection (ROW) fees and assesses a 10% penalty for invoices not paid within 30 days of the invoice date.

The total delinquent charges for ROW fees for the previous five years are as follows:

| <i>Year</i> | <i>Total Delinquent Charges</i> |
|-------------|---------------------------------|
| 2016        | \$777,200                       |
| 2017        | \$868,200                       |
| 2018        | \$737,900                       |
| 2019        | \$848,100                       |
| 2020        | \$545,200                       |

**Review of Fiscal Impact**

We agree with the fiscal note that if payments are submitted late, the penalty charge in this legislation will increase County revenue. Additionally, we agree that this bill will not result in additional expenses and any additional workload will be absorbed with existing staff.

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**Bill 28-21:  
Subdivision and  
Development –  
Community Meetings –  
Recordings**

**Summary of Legislation**

This bill requires the developer of a subdivision to record the proceedings of each community meeting and provide a copy of the recording to the Office of Planning and Zoning (OPZ). Additionally, this bill requires OPZ to post the recording of the meeting to the County’s webpage for at least 90 days.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the County Executive issued Executive Order 19, which required all community meetings to be conducted via Zoom. This Executive Order has since been terminated, but the practice of recording meetings and uploading them to the County webpage is still in practice.

**Review of Fiscal Impact**

OPZ is not aware of any current projects that will be impacted by this bill and does not expect a change in workload. This bill has no fiscal impact.

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**Resolution 23-21:  
In Support of the Police  
Department Allowing  
Disciplinary Hearings to  
be Streamed over the  
Internet**

**Summary of Legislation**

This resolution urges the County Executive to request the Anne Arundel County Police Department to adapt its policies and allow disciplinary hearings to be streamed over the internet, while ensuring that all of the hearing participants' personal information is protected, so that wider access is provided to all County residents.

**Review of Fiscal Impact**

This resolution is non-binding and has no fiscal impact.

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**Resolution 24-21:  
Opposing the Baltimore-  
Washington  
Superconducting Maglev  
Project**

**Summary of Legislation**

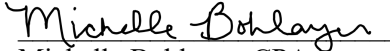
This resolution opposes the Baltimore-Washington Maglev Project and urges the Federal Railroad Administration and the Maryland Department of Transportation to better address all alternatives to reduce or eliminate potential negative impacts.

**Review of Fiscal Impact**

This resolution is non-binding and has no fiscal impact.

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Sincerely,

  
Michelle Bohlayer, CPA  
County Auditor