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**STEVEN R. SCHUH
County Executive**

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 24

**TO CREATE THE ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY
AGRICULTURE, FARMING AND AGRITOURISM COMMISSION**

WHEREAS, Bill 67-17, which was passed by the County Council on September 5, 2017 and becomes effective on October 22, 2017, defines “agriculture”; revises the definition of the term “farming”; defines the term “agritourism”; and establishes agritourism as a conditional use in certain zoning districts in Anne Arundel County; among other things; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive is committed to promoting, furthering, and establishing agriculture, farming, and agritourism uses in Anne Arundel County and ensuring that such uses further the interests and needs of the communities within the County; and

WHEREAS, a body made up of members and residents of the County familiar with agriculture, farming, and agritourism and related issues is critical to the promotion, coordination, development, furtherance and establishment of agriculture, farming, and agritourism in the County.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Steven R. Schuh, County Executive, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Charter and laws of Anne Arundel County, Maryland, hereby order and direct on this 13 day of September, 2017, as follows:

1. The Anne Arundel County Agriculture, Farming and Agritourism Commission (the “Commission”) is created and shall meet at least quarterly to perform its functions under this Executive Order. All meetings shall comport with the Maryland Open Meetings Act and relevant provisions of the Anne Arundel County Code.
2. The Commission shall consist of thirteen voting members, as follows:

- A. No fewer than five (5) residents of the County possessing knowledge and expertise in the area of farming, agriculture, or agritourism, each of whom shall be an owner, manager, or operator of a working farm in the County;
 - B. No fewer than one (1) representative from the Anne Arundel County Farm Bureau;
 - C. No fewer than two (2) residents of the County possessing knowledge and expertise in land use, neither of which shall be an owner, manager, or operator of a working farm in the County;
 - D. No fewer than one (1) owner or operator of a restaurant in the County; and
 - E. No fewer than one (1) owner or operator of a retail nursery in the County; and
 - F. No fewer than one (1) person involved in the tourism industry in the State of Maryland.
3. The County Executive shall appoint a Chair and a Vice Chair from among the voting members of the Commission. The Chair shall: preside at all meetings of the Commission; meet as requested with the County Executive and other County representatives; provide information to the Commission; represent the Commission at relevant meetings and functions; oversee preparation of the reports to the County Executive; enforce compliance with this Executive Order, the Maryland Open Meetings Act, the County Code, and any bylaws adopted by the Commission.
4. Members of the Commission shall be appointed by the County Executive for four (4) year terms co-terminus with the term of the County Executive. Members shall serve no more than two (2) consecutive terms. A member whose term has expired shall serve until a successor is appointed. Members serve at the pleasure of the County Executive and may be removed at any time, with or without cause. Members shall be considered removed for cause if they miss more than one-half of the meetings held during a twelve (12) month period.
5. The Commission shall include the following eleven (11) non-voting ex officio members, or their designees:
- A. the Planning and Zoning Officer;
 - B. the Director of the Department of Inspections and Permits;
 - C. the Director of the Department of Recreation and Parks;
 - D. the Constituent Services Officer;
 - E. the Health Officer;

- F. the Fire Marshal;
 - G. the County Attorney;
 - H. one (1) representative of the Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation;
 - I. one (1) representative of the Anne Arundel County Soil Conservation District;
and
 - J. two (2) consultants, directors, or professors in the area of agricultural education with any university or college within the State of Maryland.
6. The duties and responsibilities of the Commission shall be to:
- A. Advise and report to the County Executive and the County Office of Planning and Zoning on the promotion, coordination, development, furtherance and establishment of agriculture, farming, and agritourism uses within the County;
 - B. Advise and report to the County Executive and County Office of Planning and Zoning of any recommended changes to the agriculture, farming, and agritourism provisions in the County Code;
 - C. Advise and report to the County Executive and the County Office of Planning and Zoning about activities or land uses that fall within the definition of agriculture, farming, and agritourism as set forth in Bill 67-17 or the County Code, as it may be amended from time to time by Ordinance of the County Council;
 - D. Advise and report to the County Executive and the County Office of Planning and Zoning on the community impacts of proposed or actual agriculture, farming, and agritourism uses within the County;
 - E. Assist in educating residents of the County about agriculture, farming, and agritourism within the County; and
 - F. Provide information as requested by the County Executive or the Office of Planning and Zoning consistent with this Executive Order on the topics of agriculture, farming, and agritourism uses within the County.
7. The Commission shall submit an annual report to the County Executive that sets forth the status of plans and progress of the responsibilities set forth herein, as well as goals and priorities for the next year.
8. The Commission shall meet annually with the County Executive or the designee of the County Executive.

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9. A majority of the voting members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum for all purposes.

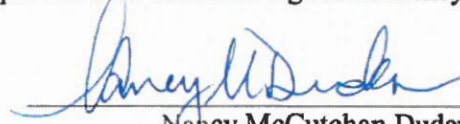
10. Members of the Commission shall serve without compensation.

This Executive Order shall be archived at the Office of Law and remain in existence until altered or terminated by a subsequent Executive Order.



STEVEN R. SCHUH
County Executive

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency:



Nancy McCutchan Duden
County Attorney