



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Monday, August 9, 2010

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EQUINE INDUSTRY TASK FORCE FOCUSES ON SUSTAINING PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY'S HORSE INDUSTRY

Group Builds Recommendations for County Council

The Equine Industry Task Force, established in March 2010 under Council Resolution 29-2010, has begun its work of exploring and facilitating the economic development potential of the equine industry in Prince George's County.

Prince George's County has the fourth largest inventory of horses in the State, with nearly 7,500 horses valued at over \$60 million, housed, trained, and otherwise maintained on 1,170 equine operations covering 11,700 acres.

"The role of the equine industry is significant to the culture, history and economic viability of the County," says Council Chair Thomas Demoga (D) – District 1. "How to foster the industry demands further exploration and we look forward to hearing the recommendations of the task force."

Council Member Sam Dean (D) – District 6, who proposed the legislation establishing the Equine Task Force, says the industry can be a much-needed economic engine for Prince George's County, "We can ill-afford to ignore the role of the equine industry as it relates to our local economy. Equine-related-activities are a lucrative business for Prince George's County and a wider understanding of this industry is critical to a thriving economy."

The Equine Industry Task Force, under the direction of Task Force Chair, K. Teya Moore, Esq., consists of four subcommittees working on various aspects of the equine industry - Special Projects, Zoning, Marketing and Environmental.

"The equine industry is one of the County's most unique, historic and economically significant industries," said Task Force Chair K. Teya Moore. "We want to bring a representative voice to the industry and serve as an educational resource for the citizenry. Currently we are in the process of examining resources, statistics, reports and assets and look forward to presenting sound recommendations to the Council."

Equine Task Force meetings are open to the public and held on Thursdays at 8:30 a.m., County Administration Building, Council Hearing Room 2027, 14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive in Upper Marlboro. Comments and suggestions will be received from the public during the August 19th meeting. The Equine Industry Task Force is preparing to brief the Prince George's County Council on their recommendations in early September.

The Task Force consists of a representative from the Office of the County Executive, Economic Development Corporation; Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC); Maryland Equestrian Foundation; Maryland Horse Industry Board; Prince George's Chamber of Commerce; Citizens Advisory Board for the Equestrian Center; Prince George's County Conference and Visitors Bureau; the University of Maryland; and two representatives from the Horse Racing Industry in Prince George's County. Additionally, the Task Force includes two members from the County Council and the general public.

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All legislative powers of Prince George's County are vested in the County Council. The County Council sits as the District Council on zoning and land use policy, and as the Board of Health to govern and guide health policy. The County Council meets as a legislative body on Tuesdays in the Council Hearing Room on the first floor of the County Administration Building in Upper Marlboro. For more information on the Prince George's County Council, please visit www.princegeorgescountymd.gov.



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