

Mayor Pantelides' Monthly Newsletter – September 2016

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Mayor Mike Pantelides' Monthly Newsletter



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I am so pleased to announce that after a year of amendments and ongoing conversation, the Annapolis City Council voted unanimously to adopt the city's first **Forest Conservation Act**. This piece of legislation has been in the works throughout my entire Administration, and I want to thank my fellow bill sponsors, Alderpersons Jared Littman, Joe Budge, Ross Arnett, and Sheila Finlayson. I would also like to thank the

Annapolis Environmental Commission who wrote to me expressing their support of the legislation and asked me to please vote in favor of it. It is imperative to note that this bill been approved by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and despite some trying to say the legislation doesn't go



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far enough, I am grateful that we were able to put this bill into motion and allow the city to have a Forest Conservation Act that can always be improved on in the future, if needed.



Annapolis and Anne Arundel County will work together to have the Anne Arundel County Board of Elections assist in the administrative processing of both the 2017 city primary and general elections. This partnership is not only incredibly cost effective for the city, but it offers proficiency in the process. The County Board of Elections is a group of professionals that is staffed

year-round for the sole purpose of conducting elections, compared to the city which adds one temporary elections staff member, every four years. Through an agreement between both the county and the city, the Anne Arundel County Board of Elections (BOE) will provide for the administrative processing of the 2017 City of Annapolis Elections - both primary and general.

The County BOE will provide the voting infrastructure and personnel for the conduct of the 2017 elections, and will also work in conjunction with the city to provide:

- election judges to staff the Polling Places and operate the voting infrastructure on Election Day
- voting system staff to prepare the voting infrastructure
- administrative staff to perform voter registration transactions, recruit, hire, and train election judges, and review absentee and provisional ballots at canvassing and present recommended dispositions to the City Board of Supervisors of Elections
- canvassing staff to assist the City with the conduct of the Absentee Ballot and Provisional Ballot canvasses and assist the City with the conduct of any recount

The 2017 primary and general elections will be conducted in accordance with the City's Election Code, and under the agreement, the ultimate decision making authority granted under the City's Election Code to the City's Board of Supervisors of Elections will remain totally intact. This includes the sole authority to certify as final the 2017 primary and general elections. The employment status of city personnel will not be affected by the agreement. The proposed agreement would be in effect for only the 2017 City Elections, and will be evaluated by city and

county officials for renewal after a thorough review.

After meeting John Harris, owner and CEO of Chesapeake Light Craft, I was enthusiastic about building a boat that could help me tell the story of Annapolis' proud tradition of the Maritime Industry.

A number of friends, including several from Boy Scout troop 771, fellow City Council members, nonprofit organizations, residents, and local business owners stopped by throughout the week of September 26th to lend a hand. One of the highlights was when two young men from the Center of Applied Technology South (CAT-South), a vocational trade school, came to help me construct the Northeaster Dory. The young men understood the real need for the next generation to take over the trades offered by the Maritime Industry and both are looking at careers in the marine and maritime industry after they graduate High School. Chesapeake Light Craft owner, John Harris, donated the boat to the City of Annapolis.



I recently announced my new nomination for the Housing Authority of the City of Annapolis (HACA) Board of Commissioners at the City Council meeting.

Mr. John Dillon is a resident of Annapolis and the founder and former president of Chrysalis, a nonprofit organization in Los Angeles, California responsible for empowering men and women to find jobs and gain access to safe and affordable housing. Chrysalis was named Nonprofit of the year in 2012 and has purchased, financed, renovated, and managed affordable housing for low-income men and women, helping thousands find jobs in the Los Angeles area. Mr. Dillon worked with city officials, top LA law firms, business owners, and professionals to successfully complete the projects.

During his six years in Los Angeles, Mr. Dillon lived in a homeless shelter and in a Single Room Occupancy (SRO) hotel on Skid Row to better understand the needs of low income individuals and evaluate purchasing and renovating housing for low income renters. I know Mr. Dillon is serious about finding solutions to the problems our residents in HACA properties deal with on a daily basis. John leads by example and will not only use his past knowledge to help our residents, but will also use his extensive financial and managerial experience to help the HACA

administration create a financially sound environment for its day-to-day operations.

John Dillon is a member of the Board of Directors for the Community Preservation and Development Corporation (CPDC) and has served as its Finance Chairman during his twenty years with the organization. CPDC works to provide safe, high-quality, affordable housing to low and moderate-income individuals and has renovated and operates the Wiley H. Bates Heritage Park apartments. City Council is currently considering the nomination.

Just a reminder, October's Open Door session has been moved to October 11 due to a scheduling conflict. My open door sessions will resume on the first Tuesday of each month in November. The discussions are 10 minutes in length and will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Individuals can sign in at 8:30 a.m. and wait until their allotted time, or the person can show up early and sign in for a time later in the day and return for the meeting. I look forward to seeing you soon.

The Mayor's Office is located at 160 Duke of Gloucester, 2nd floor.

