Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA) No. 18-05, Uses, Use Standards, and Regulatory Approvals – Signature Business Headquarters;

Subdivision Regulation Amendment (SRA) No. 18-02, Administrative Subdivision - Signature Business Headquarters

Gregory Russ, Planner Coordinator, FP&P, gregory.russ@montgomeryplanning.org, 301-495-2174
Pam Dunn, Chief, FP&P, pamela.dunn@montgomeryplanning.org, 301-650-5649

Completed: 04/26/18

Description

ZTA No. 18-05 amends the Montgomery County Zoning Ordinance to create a new use for a Signature Business Headquarters, and to provide a process for approval of a Signature Business Headquarters plan. SRA 18-02 amends the Subdivision Regulations to create an administrative subdivision process for a Signature Business Headquarters under certain standards.

Summary

Staff recommends approval of ZTA No. 18-05 to create a new use for a Signature Business Headquarters, and to provide a process for approval of a Signature Business Headquarters plan. Staff also recommends approval of SRA 18-02 to create an administrative subdivision process for a Signature Business Headquarters under certain standards. Staff believes that ZTA 18-05 and SRA 18-05 provide economic development tools to help the County attract jobs and residents, increase its tax base and achieve master plan goals for specific communities while maintaining the public input component of the development review process that is vital to all planning decisions.

Background/Analysis

Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett has requested a zoning text amendment (ZTA) be introduced to assist the County in attracting major private companies (Signature Business Headquarters). This ZTA would amend the Montgomery County Zoning Ordinance to include a Signature Business Headquarters as a new limited use on properties zoned Commercial Residential (CR) within a single Metro Station Policy Area.

The new use is being created as an economic development tool to help the County attract jobs and residents, increase its tax base and achieve master plan goals for specific communities.

This zoning text amendment, focused on procedural and process changes, makes it possible to shorten the review time required of a development application while maintaining the public feedback process that is vital to all planning decisions. The ZTA would continue to allow the public to comment and testify
about the proposed development. In addition, the proposed headquarters would have to meet the intent of the approved and adopted sector plan for the area where the new use would be located.

The accompanying SRA 18-02 would allow another category in the Subdivision Regulations (a Signature Business Headquarters) under which an applicant can file an administrative subdivision plan in place of a preliminary plan. The Planning Director can approve an administrative subdivision plan under an expedited process without Planning Board review.

The details of ZTA 18-05 are discussed below:

- A new limited use in the Commercial Residential (CR) zone, called a Signature Business Headquarters, is being proposed for the Montgomery County Zoning Ordinance. It is a limited use in the CR zone that allows for a corporate headquarters of 25,000 employees or more located within a single Metro Station Policy Area. Mapped CR zoning near metro stops is where we typically anticipate greater intensities in development. Staff therefore believes that there is a rational policy basis for establishing a separate review process for larger development in these areas. For your convenience, Attachment 3 provides a map depicting the locations of the County Transportation Policy Areas, including the 10 Metro Station Policy Areas. *(Line 11- Use Table and Lines 16-21)*

- As stated in the definition of a Signature Business Headquarters, to qualify for the expedited review process, the application must be for a headquarters or primary place of business of a single commercial/industrial organization that will locate at least 25,000 employees in a single Metro Station Policy Area. *(Lines 16-21)*

- Densities are limited by the total mapped floor area ratio (FAR) approved for the property, however commercial and residential FAR may be reallocated. The reallocation may adjust the schools/traffic mix, but adequate public facilities findings are still required. *(Lines 30-32)*

- FAR Averaging (consistent with the current process for sketch or site plan) is allowed. *(Lines 37-38 & Lines 61-104)*

- Building height may be increased by up to 100 feet for those buildings with a mapped height of at least 150 feet; in no case is height allowed to exceed 300 feet (the maximum height in the CR zones) and all development is subject to a compatibility finding by the Planning Board. Given the fact that CR zoning is generally located in the interior of the Metro Station Policy Areas, away from the Residential Detached zones, and that height and setback compatibility requirements govern when CR zoning abuts Agricultural, Rural Residential, Residential Detached, or Residential Townhouse zoning, staff has no objection to the proposed increase in height. *(Line 33-36)*

- The development review process for this use has been shortened from 120 days to 60 days by putting the use under a single plan review (called a Signature Business Headquarters plan) as opposed to both a sketch and site plan. There is no change in the public notice, time for public review of the staff report or opportunity for public comment at the public hearing. However, there is no pre-submittal meeting requirement, as is the case for sketch and site plan.
Attachment 4 provides an overview fact sheet of the ZTA including a timeline depicting the 60-day development review process. (Lines 205-210, Lines 220-222, Line 378- Notice Table)

- Approval as a Signature Business Headquarters replaces any prior approvals, including binding elements of a development plan. (Lines 26-28)

- A Signature Business Headquarters plan expires if a building permit application is not accepted by the Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services within 2 years of the Planning Board’s approval. This provision puts applicants on notice that implementation of plan approvals must occur in a timely manner. (Lines 280-282)

- Adequate public facility findings are still required. These findings tie development approvals under zoning and subdivision ordinances to standards for roads and transportation infrastructure, and public facilities such as schools. However, if the master plan area in which the property is located includes staging for non-auto driver mode share (NADMS), the staging requirements will not need to be met if: i) the applicant enters into a traffic mitigation agreement to meet the applicable NADMS goal, ii) parking is provided below the minimum required, and iii) transit, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure required for staging has been funded. Therefore, the purpose for the staging, to reduce vehicles on the road, will be met through other mechanisms. (Lines 245-260)

Under SRA 18-02, a lot or lots created for a Signature Business Headquarters may be approved under an administrative subdivision plan application if:

- the Planning Board approves a Signature Business Headquarters plan under Section 59-7.3.5, including a finding of adequate public facilities under the standards of Section 50-4.3.J, before approval of the plat;
- any required road dedications, or covenants for future dedications, and associated public utility easements are shown on the record plat;
- forest conservation, stormwater management, and environmental protection requirements, if applicable, are satisfied before approval of the plat; and
- all special protection area requirements are satisfied before approval of the plat, if the subject property is located in a special protection area.

Staff has no objection to the approval of lots for a Signature Business Headquarters under an administrative subdivision plan given that all of the necessary technical requirements of the administrative subdivision plan must still be reviewed by the Director under Section 4.3 of Chapter 50, most of which will also be addressed in review of the Signature Business Headquarters plan.

Conclusion

Staff believes that ZTA 18-05 and SRA 18-05 provide economic development tools to help the County attract jobs and residents, increase its tax base and achieve master plan goals for specific communities while maintaining the public input component of the development review process that is vital to all planning decisions. Staff recommends approval of ZTA 18-05 and SRA 18-02 as introduced.
Attachments

1. ZTA No. 18-05 as introduced
2. SRA No 18-02 as introduced
3. County Transportation Policy Areas Map
4. ZTA 18-05 Overview
Zoning Text Amendment No.: 18-05
Concerning: Uses, Use Standards, and Regulatory Approvals – Signature Business Headquarters
Draft No. & Date: 1 – 4/6/18
Introduced: April 10, 2018
Public Hearing:
Adopted:
Effective:
Ordinance No.:

COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND SITTING AS THE DISTRICT COUNCIL FOR THAT PORTION OF THE MARYLAND-WASHINGTON REGIONAL DISTRICT WITHIN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

By: The District Council at the request of the County Executive

AN AMENDMENT to the Montgomery County Zoning Ordinance to:

- create a new use for a Signature Business Headquarters, and
- provide a process for approval of a Signature Business Headquarters plan.

By amending the following sections of the Montgomery County Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 59 of the Montgomery County Code:

DIVISION 59-1.4. “DEFINED TERMS”
Section 59-1.4.2. “Specific Terms and Phrases Defined”
DIVISION 59-3.1. “USE TABLE”
Section 59-3.5.8. “Office and Professional”
Section 59-3.5.8.D. “Signature Business Headquarters”
DIVISION 59-4.5. “COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL ZONES”
Section 59-4.5.2. “Density and Height Allocation”
The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland, sitting as the District Council for that portion of the Maryland-Washington Regional District in Montgomery County, Maryland, approves the following ordinance:
Sec. 1. DIVISION 59-1.4. is amended as follows:

Division 1.4. Defined Terms

* * *

Section 1.4.2 Specific Terms and Phrases Defined

* * *

Signature Business Headquarters: See Section 3.5.8.D.

Sec. 2. DIVISION 59-3.1. is amended as follows:

Division 59-3.1. Use Table

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Section 3.5.8. Office and Professional

* * *

Section 3.5.8.D

D. Signature Business Headquarters

1. Defined

Signature Business Headquarters means the headquarters or other primary place of business of a single commercial or industrial organization, including ancillary uses, that includes at least 25,000 employees located within a single Metro Station Policy Area.

2. Exemptions

a. A sketch plan and a site plan are not required for a Signature Business Headquarters if the Planning Board approves a Signature Business Headquarters plan under Section 7.3.5.

b. A Signature Business Headquarters plan is exempt from the binding elements and conditions of a development plan approved before [date of adoption].

3. Use Standards

a. Commercial and residential FAR limits on the subject property may be reallocated, as long as total FAR does not exceed the maximum total mapped FAR of the property.

b. If the subject property has a mapped height of 150 feet or more, height may be exceeded by up to 100 feet, but no greater than a total height of 300 feet, if the Planning Board finds that the additional height is compatible with abutting and confronting development.

c. The subject property may utilize FAR averaging under Section 4.5.2.B.

* * *
Sec. 3. DIVISION 59-4.5. is amended as follows:

Division 59-4.5. Commercial/Residential Zones

* * *

Section 4.5.2. Density and Height Allocation

A. Density and Height Limits

1. Density is calculated as an allowed floor area ratio (FAR).

2. Each CRN, CRT, and CR zone classification is followed by a number and a sequence of 3 additional symbols: C, R, and H, each followed by another number where:

   a. The number following the classification is the maximum total FAR allowed unless additional FAR is allowed under Section 4.5.2.C or Section 4.7.3.D.6.c;

   b. The number following the C is the maximum nonresidential FAR allowed unless additional FAR is allowed under Section 3.5.8.D;

   c. The number following the R is the maximum residential FAR allowed unless additional residential FAR is allowed under Section 3.5.8.D, Section 4.5.2.C or Section 4.7.3.D.6.c; and

   d. The number following the H is the maximum building height in feet allowed unless additional height is allowed under Section 3.5.8.D, Section 4.5.2.C, Section 4.7.3.D.6.c, or Section 4.5.2.A.2.e.

B. FAR Averaging

1. Only standard method development projects that require site plan approval or optional method development projects can average FAR between properties.

2. FAR may be averaged over 2 or more directly abutting or confronting properties in one or more Commercial/Residential zones, if:

   a. the properties are under the same site plan [or] sketch plan [or] Signature Business Headquarters plan; however, if a sketch plan or Signature Business Headquarters plan is required, density averaging must be shown on the [sketch] applicable plan;
b. the resulting properties are created by the same preliminary subdivision plan or satisfy a phasing plan established by an approved sketch plan or Signature Business Headquarters plan;

c. the maximum total, nonresidential, and residential FAR limits apply to the entire development, not to individual properties;

d. the total allowed maximum density on a resulting property that is abutting or confronting a property in an Agricultural, Rural Residential, or Residential Detached zone that is vacant or improved with an agricultural or residential use, does not exceed that allowed by the property's zone; and

e. public benefits are required to be provided under any phasing element of an approved sketch plan or Signature Business Headquarters plan.

3. Density may be averaged over 2 or more non-contiguous properties in one or more CRT or CR zones, if:

   a. Each provision under Section 4.5.2.B.2 is satisfied;

   b. The properties are within 1/4 mile of each other, [or] located in a designated master planned density transfer area, or are part of a Signature Business Headquarters plan;

   c. The minimum public benefit points required under Section 4.5.4.A.2 must be exceeded by at least 50%; and

   d. The applicable master plan does not specifically prohibit the averaging of density between non-contiguous properties.

4. If the Planning Board approves a site plan or Signature Business Headquarters plan for a development project using FAR averaging across two or more lots, the maximum density on certain lots in the development project will be less than or greater than the zone allows, as indicated in the [site]applicable plan. To provide additional notice of the FAR averaging, before the Planning Board approves a certified site plan or certified Signature Business Headquarters plan for such a project or, if plat approval is required, before plat approval, the applicant must state the gross square footage taken from any lot with reduced density in an instrument approved by the Planning Board and must record the instrument in the Montgomery County land records.

   * * *

7
Section 4.5.4. Optional Method Development

The CRT and CR zone allow development under the optional method.

A. General Requirements

1. Procedure for Approval

A sketch plan must be approved under Section 7.3.3, unless a Signature Business Headquarters plan is approved under Section 7.3.5. A site plan must be approved under Section 7.3.4. for any development on a property with an approved sketch plan.

* * *

Sec. 4. DIVISION 59-7.3 is amended as follows:

Division 59-7.3. Regulatory Approvals

* * *

Section 7.3.3. Sketch Plan

A. Applicability and Description

1. Development under optional method in the CRT, CR, EOF, or LSC zone requires approval of a sketch plan, or Signature Business Headquarters plan.

* * *

Section 7.3.5 Signature Business Headquarters Plan

A. Applicability and Description

1. A Signature Business Headquarters plan provides a detailed overview of a proposed Signature Business Headquarters. A Signature Business Headquarters plan review will be used to determine if the proposed development satisfies current laws, regulations, and this Chapter, and substantially conforms with the intent of the applicable master plan and approved guidelines.

2. A Signature Business Headquarters plan may be phased, with each phase approved separately under this section.
3. A Signature Business Headquarters plan may encompass all or part of any property on which the Signature Business Headquarters will be located and must demonstrate its relation to and coordination with other applicable approvals or submittals. Any amendment to a previously approved plan may follow the timeframe for review under Section 7.3.5.B.3 through Section 7.3.5.B.6, Section 7.3.5.C. and Section 7.3.5.D.

B. Application Requirements

1. Ownership

   a. An applicant must own the subject property or be authorized by the owner to file the application.

   b. If any land or right-of-way encompassed by a Signature Business Headquarters plan application is owned or controlled by the State, County, or any other entity or agency, a written agreement or authorization from that entity or agency must be submitted with the Signature Business Headquarters plan application.

2. A Signature Business Headquarters plan application must include:

   a. a legally binding commitment or other evidence accepted by the Planning Director that the Signature Business Headquarters will employ at least 25,000 individuals within a single Metro Station Policy Area;

   b. application form and fees required by the Planning Director;

   c. site map showing existing buildings, structures, circulation routes, significant natural features, historic resources, zoning and legal descriptions on the proposed development site and within 500 feet of the perimeter boundary;

   d. list of abutting and confronting property owners in the County tax records;
e. list of any civic, homeowners, and renters associations that are registered with the Planning Department and located within ½ mile of the site;

f. documentation of interest in the proposed development site under Section 7.3.5.B.1;

g. statement of justification outlining how the proposed development satisfies the standards and criteria required to grant the application;

h. verification that the applicant has posted notice on the property and notified affected properties;

i. Traffic Statement or Study accepted by the Planning Director, if not submitted with a previous or concurrent application;

j. environmental documentation or exemption for:
   i. an approved Natural Resources Inventory/Forest Stand Delineation;
   ii. Stormwater Management Concept Application or, if required, a Water Quality Plan Application; and
   iii. a final Forest Conservation Plan application;

k. existing and proposed dry and wet utility plan;

l. plans of proposed development showing:
   i. use, footprints, ground-floor layout, and heights of all buildings and structures;
   ii. required open spaces and recreational amenities;
   iii. detailed layout and dimensions for all sidewalks, trails, paths, roadways, parking, loading, and bicycle storage areas;
   iv. grading;
   v. landscaping and lighting; and
m. a development program and inspection schedule detailing the
construction schedule for the project.

3. **The applicant must submit an initial application to the Planning**
   Director for approval of completeness. **The Planning Director must**
   review the application for completeness within 3 days after receipt.
   An application is incomplete if any required element is missing or is
   facially defective, e.g., a drawing that is not to scale or lacks proper
   signatures. The assessment of completeness must not address the
   merits of the application.

4. **The applicant must submit any required revisions to the Planning**
   Director. **The Planning Director must review the revised application**
   for completeness within 2 days after receipt.

5. **After the Planning Director verifies that the application is complete,**
   the applicant must file the final application with the Planning
   Director, who will accept the application and establish a hearing date
   under Section 7.3.5.C.

6. Public notice is required under Division 7.5.

**C. Hearing Date**

The Planning Board must schedule a public hearing to begin within 60 days
after the date an application is accepted. The applicant may request an
extension with Planning Board approval. Any extension of the public
hearing must be noticed on the hearing agenda with the new public hearing
date indicated.

**D. Review and Recommendation**

1. **State and County Agencies**
   a. **Reviewing State and County agencies and utilities must submit**
      comments within 15 days after the date an application is accepted.
b. The applicant must submit revised drawings to address the comments a minimum of 20 days before the date of the hearing. The Planning Director may extend the deadline if the applicant submits a written request within 5 days after the revised drawings were due.

2. **Planning Director**

The Planning Director must publish a report and recommendation a minimum of 10 days before the Planning Board hearing.

3. **Withdrawal of an Application**

The Planning Board must send a notice to all parties entitled to notice of the hearing when an applicant withdraws an application for a headquarters plan.

**E. Necessary Findings**

1. When reviewing an application, the approval findings apply only to the site covered by the application.

2. To approve a Signature Business Headquarters plan, the Planning Board must find that the proposed development:
   a. satisfies any previous approval that applies to the site, unless exempt under Section 3.5.8.D.2 or amended;
   b. satisfies the applicable use and development standards and general requirements of this Chapter;
   c. satisfies the applicable requirements of Chapter 19 and Chapter 22A;
   d. provides safe, well-integrated parking, circulation patterns, building massing, and site amenities;
e. substantially conforms with the intent of the applicable master plan and any guidelines approved by the Planning Board that implement the applicable plan;
f. will be located within the same Metro Station Policy Area as all other phases of the Signature Business Headquarters;
g. on a property in a master plan area that requires staging based on Non-Auto Driver Mode Share (NADMS), is exempt from the staging requirement if:
   i. the applicant agrees to enter into a traffic mitigation agreement that provides an action plan for substantial achievement of the applicable NADMS goal,
   ii. parking below the minimum required under Section 6.2.4 is provided, and
   iii. transit, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure required by the applicable stage of the master plan is funded in the Capital Improvements Program or Consolidated Transportation Program, or provided by the applicant;
   and,

h. will be served by adequate public services and facilities including schools, police and fire protection, water, sanitary sewer, public roads, storm drainage, and other public facilities.

F. Decision

1. The Planning Board must act upon the close of the record of the public hearing by majority vote of those present at the public hearing to approve, approve with modifications or conditions, or deny the application. The Planning Board must issue a resolution reflecting its decision within 7 days of the Planning Board vote.
2. Any party aggrieved by a decision of the Planning Board may file a petition for judicial review of the decision within 30 days after the Planning Board's action to the Circuit Court and thereafter to the Court of Special Appeals.

3. Final headquarters plans must be certified by the Planning Director to confirm that the drawings reflect the Planning Board's approval.

G. Conforming Permits

For any development requiring a Signature Business Headquarters plan, DPS must not issue a sediment control permit, building permit, or use-and-occupancy permit for any building, structure, or improvement unless the Planning Board has approved a Signature Business Headquarters plan and a bond has been approved under Section 7.3.5.K.3.

H. Duration of Approval

1. A Signature Business Headquarters plan expires unless a certified Signature Business Headquarters plan is approved by the Planning Director within 24 months after the date the resolution is mailed.

2. A Signature Business Headquarters plan does not become effective until a record plat is recorded that satisfies any approved subdivision plan for the subject property.

3. Development activities under Section 7.3.5 must satisfy the certified Signature Business Headquarters plan and any conditions of approval.

4. If the Planning Board approves a Signature Business Headquarters plan, the applicant must have a building permit application, accepted by the Department of Permitting Services, that includes the core and shell of the principal building within two years of the date of the Planning Board’s resolution. Within two years after the Department of Permitting Services accepts the building permit application that
includes the core and shell of the principal building, the applicant must obtain that building permit. The deadlines under this section may not be extended. If an applicant fails to comply with any of the deadlines under this section, the applicable phase of the Signature Business Headquarters plan approval is revoked.

I. **Recording Procedures**

The certified Signature Business Headquarters plan and Planning Board resolution must be maintained in the permanent files of the Planning Department.

J. **Amendments**

Any property owner may apply for a Signature Business Headquarters plan amendment to change a certified Signature Business Headquarters plan. There are two types of amendments: a major and a minor amendment.

1. **Major Amendment**

   a. A major amendment includes any request to increase density or height by more than that allowed under a minor amendment (Section 7.3.5.J.2); decrease open space; deviate from a condition of approval; or alter a basic element of the plan.

   b. Public notice is required under Division 7.5.

   c. A major amendment must follow the same hearing procedures and satisfy the same necessary findings as the original Signature Business Headquarters plan.

2. **Minor Amendment**

   a. A minor amendment includes any request to increase density by up to 10% or 30,000 square feet whichever is less, provided the increase is less than or equal to the total mapped
density; increase height by up to 10% provided the height is
less than or equal to the height allowed under Section 3.5.8.D;
change an ancillary use, a parking or loading area, landscaping,
sidewalk, recreational facility or area, configuration of open
space, or any other plan element that will have a minimal effect
on the overall design, layout, quality or intent of the plan. A
minor amendment also includes a reduction in approved
parking to satisfy Article 59-6. A minor amendment does not
include any change that prevents circulation on any street or
path.

b. Public notice is required under Division 7.5.
c. A minor amendment may be approved by the Planning
Director without a public hearing if no objection to the
application is received within 15 days after the application
notice is sent. If an objection is received within 15 days after
the application notice is sent, and the objection is considered
relevant, a public hearing is required. A public hearing must be
held under the same procedures as an original application.

K. Compliance and Enforcement

1. If the Planning Board finds, after holding a public hearing or
designating a hearing officer to hold a public hearing, that a property
under development is not in compliance with a certified Signature
Business Headquarters plan, it may:

a. impose a civil fine or administrative civil penalty authorized
   by Chapter 50 (Section 50-10.6.D);
b. suspend or revoke Signature Business Headquarters plan approval;

c. order a compliance program that would permit the applicant to take corrective action to satisfy the certified Signature Business Headquarters plan;

d. allow the applicant to propose modifications to the certified Signature Business Headquarters plan; or

e. take any combination of these actions.

2. If the Planning Board or its designee finds that the applicant has failed to comply with a compliance program approved under Section 7.3.5.K.1.c, the Planning Board may, without holding any further hearing, take any of the actions identified in Section 7.3.5.K.1.a. through Section 7.3.5.K.1.e.

3. If the Planning Board suspends or revokes a Signature Business Headquarters plan, DPS must immediately suspend any applicable building permit under which construction has not been completed or withhold any applicable use-and-occupancy permit, until the Planning Board reinstates the Signature Business Headquarters plan or approves a new plan for the development.

4. The Planning Board may require the applicant to post a commercially acceptable form of surety securing compliance with and full implementation of specified features of the certified Signature Business Headquarters plan in an amount set by the Planning Board. If such surety is required, DPS must not issue a building permit or use-and-occupancy permit until such surety is accepted.

* * *
Sec. 5. DIVISION 59-7.5 is amended as follows:

Division 59-7.5. Notice Standards

Section 7.5.1. Notice Required

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<th>Application</th>
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<th>Pre-Submittal Meeting</th>
<th>Application Sign</th>
<th>Application Notice</th>
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Subdivision Regulation Amendment
No.: 18-02
Concerning: Administrative Subdivision
- Signature Business Headquarters
Draft No. & Date: 1 – 4/6/18
Introduced: April 10, 2018
Public Hearing:
Adopted:
Effective:
Ordinance No.:  

COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND
SITTING AS THE DISTRICT COUNCIL FOR THAT PORTION OF
THE MARYLAND-WASHINGTON REGIONAL DISTRICT WITHIN
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

By: The District Council at the request of the County Executive

AN AMENDMENT to the Subdivision Regulations to:

- create an administrative subdivision process for a Signature Business
  Headquarters under certain standards.

By amending
Montgomery County Code
Chapter 50. “Subdivision of Land”
Section 50-6. “Administrative Subdivision Plan”
Section 50-6.1. “Applicability”
EXPLANATION:

**Boldface** indicates a Heading or a defined term.

*Underlining* indicates text that is added to existing law by the original text amendment or by ZTA 14-09.

-[Single boldface brackets] indicate text that is deleted from existing law by original text amendment.

**Double underlining** indicates text that is added to the text amendment by amendment or text added by this amendment in addition to ZTA 14-09.

-[[Double boldface brackets]] indicate text that is deleted from the text amendment by amendment or indicates a change from ZTA 14-09.

* * * indicates existing law unaffected by the text amendment.

ORDINANCE

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland, sitting as the District Council for that portion of the Maryland-Washington Regional District in Montgomery County, Maryland, approves the following ordinance:
Sec. 1. Chapter 50 is amended as follows:

* * *

Division 50.6. Administrative Subdivision Plan

Section 6.1. Applicability

The subdivider may file an administrative subdivision plan application instead of a preliminary plan under the following circumstances. The Director must review the necessary technical requirements of the administrative subdivision plan under Section 4.3.

* * *

E. Subdivision application for property to be used as Signature Business Headquarters under Section 3.5.8.D of the Zoning Ordinance. A lot or lots created for a Signature Business Headquarters may be approved, if:

1. The Planning Board approves a Signature Business Headquarters plan under Section 59-7.3.5, including a finding of adequate public facilities under the standards of Section 50-4.3.J, before approval of the plat;

2. any required road dedications, or covenants for future dedications, and associated public utility easements are shown on the record plat;

3. forest conservation, stormwater management, and environmental protection requirements, if applicable, are satisfied before approval of the plat; and

4. all special protection area requirements are satisfied before approval of the plat, if the subject property is located in a special protection area.
Montgomery County Transportation Policy Areas

Definitions

- **Red (Metro Station Policy Areas)**
  - Bethesda CBD
  - Friendship Heights
  - Glenmont
  - Grosvenor
  - Rockville Town Center
  - Shady Grove Metro Station
  - Silver Spring CBD
  - Twinbrook
  - Wheaton CBD
  - White Flint

- **Orange**
  - Bethesda/Chevy Chase
  - Burtonsville Town Center
  - Chevy Chase Lake Master Plan
  - Clarksburg Town Center
  - Derwood
  - Gaithersburg City
  - Germantown Town Center
  - Kensington/Wheaton
  - Long Branch Sector Plan
  - North Bethesda
  - R&D Village
  - City of Rockville
  - Silver Spring/Takoma Park
  - Takoma/Langley
  - White Oak

- **Yellow**
  - Aspen Hill
  - Clarksburg
  - Cloverly
  - Fairland/Colesville
  - Germantown East
  - Germantown West
  - Montgomery Village/Airpark
  - North Potomac
  - Olney
  - Potomac

- **Green**
  - Damascus
  - Rural East
  - Rural West

- **Definitions**
  - Downcounty central business districts and Metro station policy areas (MSPAs) characterized by high-density development and the availability of premium transit service (i.e., Metrorail, MARC).
  - Corridor cities, town centers and emerging transit-oriented development (TOD) areas where premium transit service (i.e., Corridor Cities Transitway, Purple Line, bus rapid transit) is planned.
  - Lower density areas of the county characterized by mainly residential neighborhoods with community-serving commercial areas.
  - The county’s Agricultural Reserve and rural areas.
SIGNATURE BUSINESS HEADQUARTERS

Corporate/Industrial Headquarters
25,000+ Employees
Located in a Metro Station Policy Area

60-Day Development Review Process

Application Sign and Notice  Acceptance  Milestone 1 5 Days  Milestone 2 15 Days  Milestone 3 30 Days  Milestone 4 50 Days  Milestone 5 60 Days
Public Notice of the Application  15-Day Application Review By Agencies  15-Day Turnaround for Plan Corrections  20-Day Review and Report Finalization  Noticing, Post Staff Report and Draft  Planning Board Hearing and Decision

Building Height Requirements
Buildings that are 150 feet or higher may increase height by 100 feet but cannot exceed 300 feet.

Floor Area Ratio (FAR) Reallocation
Commercial and residential FAR may be reallocated but not exceed what was previously zoned.

Why Is There A Need for the Signature Business Headquarters Zoning Text Amendment?
To allow the county to pursue economic development initiatives while still maintaining community participation through the development review process.

Questions or comments? Contact the County Executive’s Office at 240-777-2500.