

# Resolution

## SMART GROWTH RESOLUTION Resolution 08-18

SMART GROWTH IS AN URBAN PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION APPROACH THAT CONCENTRATES GROWTH IN DESIGNATED GROWTH AREAS, USUALLY EXISTING COMMUNITIES, TOWNS, AND CITIES TO AVOID URBAN SPRAWL. IT ADVOCATES COMPACT, TRANSIT-ORIENTED, WALKABLE, BICYCLE-FRIENDLY LAND USE INCLUDING MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT WITH A RANGE OF HOUSING CHOICES. SMART GROWTH VALUES LONG-RANGE, REGIONAL CONSIDERATIONS OF SUSTAINABILITY. ITS GOALS ARE TO ACHIEVE A UNIQUE SENSE OF COMMUNITY AND PLACE, EXPAND THE RANGE OF TRANSPORTATION, EMPLOYMENT AND HOUSING CHOICES, EQUITABLY DISTRIBUTE THE COSTS AND BENEFITS OF DEVELOPMENT, PRESERVE AND ENHANCE NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES, AND PROMOTE PUBLIC HEALTH.

WHEREAS, Queen Anne's County recognizes the importance of appropriate careful planning for a sustainable future; and

WHEREAS, Queen Anne's County is currently updating its 2002 Comprehensive Plan which is underpinned by two dominant themes: directing growth to existing communities and keeping rural areas rural; and

WHEREAS, The County Commissioners' vision for the Update reiterates and strengthens this commitment as stated above; and

WHEREAS, Queen Anne's County understands and wishes to preserve and enhance its agricultural heritage and economy; and

WHEREAS, Queen Anne's County is an environmentally progressive jurisdiction and thus wishes to protect and preserve its sensitive environment; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of this Resolution to express the general commitment of Queen Anne's County to certain smart growth principles and to clarify for the public, and, to the extent the same may be helpful, to the Queen Anne's County Planning Commission as they complete the Comprehensive Plan Update, the County's position with respect to smart growth;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND this 9<sup>th</sup> day of September,

2008 that Queen Anne's County acknowledges and accepts that smart growth principles are essential for our sustainable future, and further recognizes that, where appropriate, legislative measures may be necessary to support such principles. Specifically, the County is committed to the following general principles and propositions:

A. Growth shall occur where there is existing infrastructure or where infrastructure may be improved and/or reasonably extended, thereby saving taxpayers from the cost of building brand new infrastructure to support poorly planned development.

B. The County should encourage a mix of land uses and should take advantage of compact building design and create housing opportunities and choices in growth areas.

C. It is advisable to create walkable communities which foster distinctive, attractive community design with a strong sense of place while providing for a variety of transportation choices.

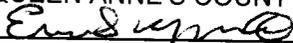
D. The preservation of open space, farmland, natural beauty, and critical environmental areas through preservation programs and regulations resulting in growth areas as the receiving areas for development will protect unincorporated rural lands. Rights and privileges granted through Federal, State and/or Local agricultural and forest land preservation programs, and minor subdivision proposals shall be exempted.

E. Development decisions should be predictable, fair, and cost-effective. The County should encourage community and stakeholder collaboration.

AS WITNESS the hands and seals of the County Commissioners of Queen Anne's County Maryland the day and year above written

ATTEST:

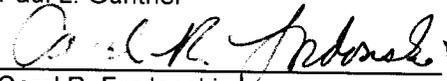
THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY

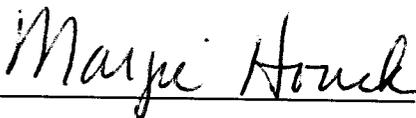
  
Eric S. Wargotz, M.D.

  
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