

**THE TOWN OF FOREST HEIGHTS
RESOLUTION 33-20**

**A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AND SUPPORT THE RE-DESIGNATION OF AN
ENTERPRISE ZONE PROGRAM AREA WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF
THE TOWN OF FOREST HEIGHTS**

Introduced By: Mayor Habeeb-Ullah Muhammad

WHEREAS, the Maryland Enterprise Zone Program was adopted in 1982 through State legislation which encourages job creation and investment in real property in economically distressed areas and now consists of 36 Enterprise Zones in 18 Counties and Baltimore City; and

WHEREAS, the County's Enterprise Zone Program is administered by the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation and an Enterprise Zone is an area of a county, city or town in which state and local incentives are offered to encourage the expansion of existing businesses and the attraction of new business investment and jobs; and

WHEREAS, although some prior Enterprise Zone areas no longer qualify for re-designation, Enterprise Zone proposed re-certification areas and the application process was commenced last fall and requires an expression of consent in the form of resolutions from both the County Council and the city or town council of each affected municipality; and

WHEREAS, the eligibility criteria of an Enterprise Zone must satisfy at least one of the following: (i) an average rate of unemployment is at least 150 percent of the average rate of unemployment in Maryland, (ii) a low-income poverty area in which the proportion of families with less than poverty level incomes is at least 1.25 times the national proportion, (iii) a median family income (at least 70 percent of the families have incomes that are less than an amount equal to 80 percent) of the median family income within Prince George's County), or (iv) a 10 percent population decrease, and chronic abandonment or demolition of the property, or substantial property tax arrearages; and

WHEREAS, the Enterprise Zones in this county currently include 8,833.26 acres and the Focus Areas include 414.46 acres both of which are substantially located within the Beltway and were scheduled for expiration on 12/14/2019; and

WHEREAS, in Enterprise Zones, the benefits to applicants include a one-time tax credit of \$1,000 - \$6,000 per new worker, and a ten year real property tax credit on the value of a portion of real property improvements of which the credit is 80% for the first five years and decreases 10% annually thereafter to 30% in the 10th year; and

WHEREAS, in the Enterprise Zone Focus Areas, where economic distress is greater, an enhanced incentive package is available to stimulate economic development activity to include: (i) Real property tax credits of 10-years, with an 80 percent credit against local real property taxes on the value of a portion of real property improvements, but the credit does not decline in

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focus areas as it does with the standard benefit, (ii) Personal property tax credits including a 10-year, 80 percent credit against local personal property taxes on new investment in personal property within a focus area (Personal property tax credits are only available in focus areas), and (iii) Income tax credits of one or three year credit for wages paid to new employees, where the general credit is a one-time \$1,500 credit for each new qualified position (For economically disadvantaged employees, the credit increases to a total of \$9,000 per worker distributed over three years); and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council find that a State Enterprise Zone (located partially within the Town along Livingston Rd., Talbert Dr. and MD-210) and Focus Area (located near the Town at the Eastover Shopping Center) would provide state income, County and municipal real property, and County and municipal business personal property tax credits that could be instrumental in attracting new business investment to communities that have been targeted for revitalization, as depicted in Exhibits A, B, & C.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and the Town Council of the Town of Forrest Heights, that the Town hereby approves and supports the ten-year designation of the Enterprise Zone located within the corporate boundaries of the Town of Forest Heights.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage.

PASSED this 14 day of June 2020.

APPROVED: By Resolution of the Town Council of The Town of Forest Heights, Maryland

ROLL CALL VOTE

YEA/NAY/ABSTAIN/ABSENT

MUHAMMAD

Yea

KENNEDY II

Yea

NOBLE

Yea

BARNES

Yea

HINES

Yea

WASHINGTON

Yea

ATKINSON

Yea

ATTEST:

THE TOWN OF FOREST HEIGHTS,
MARYLAND

THE TOWN OF FOREST HEIGHTS
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SIGNATURE ON FILE

Sherletta Hawkins, Town Clerk

By:

SIGNATURE ON FILE

Mayor Habeeb-Ullah Muhammad, Mayor

SIGNATURE ON FILE

By:

Calvin Washington, Council President

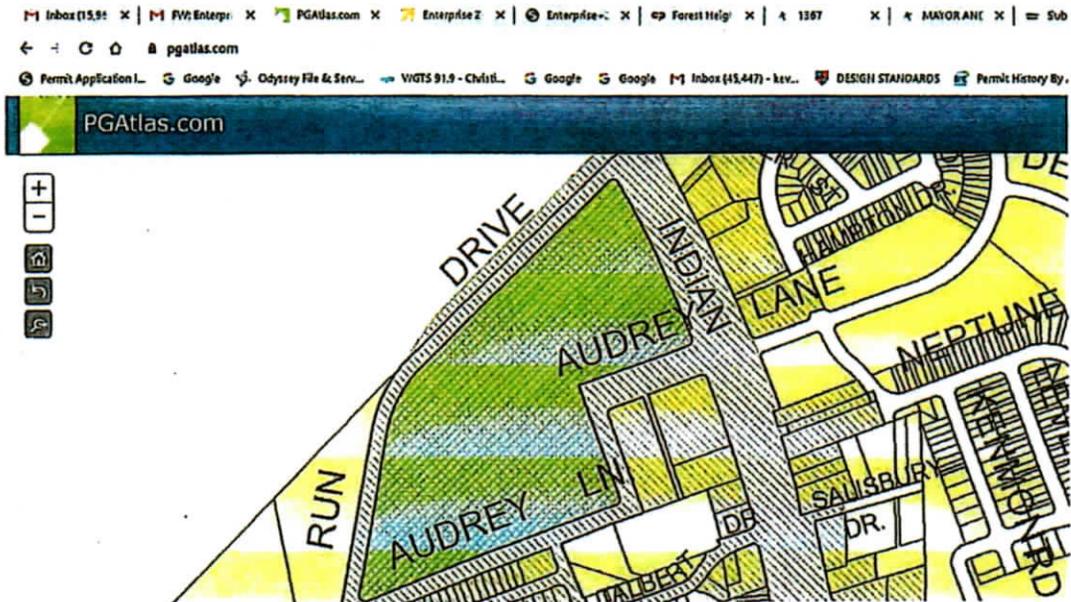
CERTIFICATION

I, hereby certify, as the duly appointed Town Clerk of the Town of Forest Heights, Maryland, that on the 14 day of June 2020 with 7 Aye votes and 0 Nay votes the aforesaid Resolution 33-20 passed.

SIGNATURE ON FILE

Sherletta Hawkins, Town Clerk

Exhibit A – PGAtlas Map of Enterprise Area in Red Hatch with Focus Area in Green



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Exhibit B – Extract of Map of Enterprise Zone (Yellow) and Focus Areas (Red) (Map available at <https://www.pgcedc.com/enterprise-zone-program>)

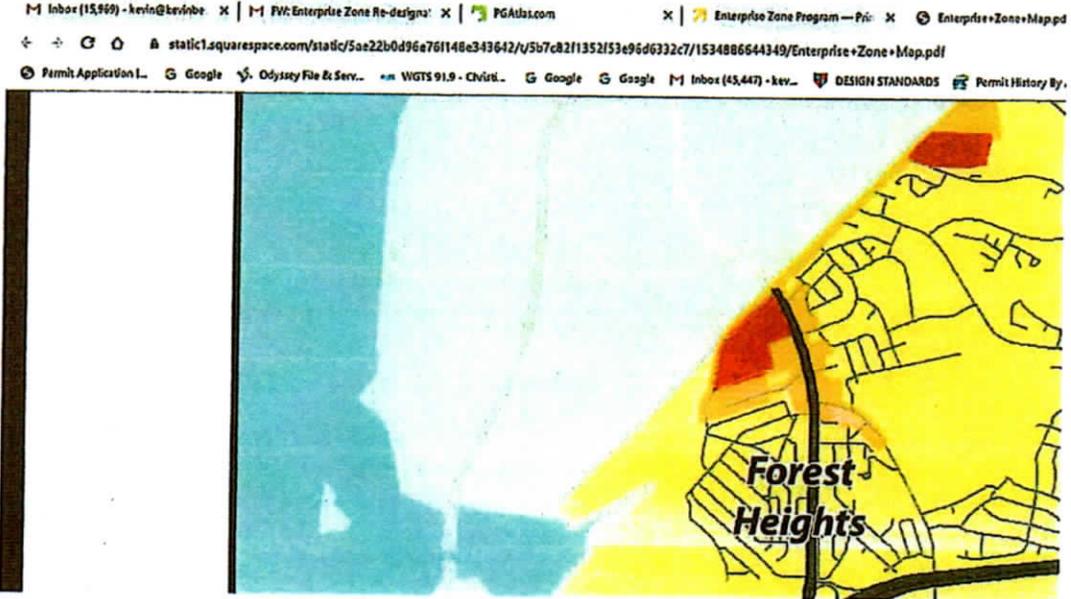


Exhibit C – Extract of Annexation Extension 8 (Light Green)

