



Gregory J. Swain, County Attorney

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Members, Anne Arundel County Council

**From:** Christine B. Neiderer, Assistant County Attorney /s/

**Via:** Gregory J. Swain, County Attorney /s/

**Date:** July 6, 2020

**Subject:** Bill No. 56-20 – Purchasing – Acquisition of real property by gift

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### Legislative Summary\*

This summary was prepared by the Anne Arundel County Office Law for use by members of the Anne Arundel County Council during consideration of Bill No. 56-20, which approves the County’s acquisition of real property by gift.

**Purpose.** The purpose of the ordinance is to approve the County’s acquisition by gift of real property consisting of 0.826 acres of land more or less, from Philip I. Hazen (“Philip Hazen”) as required by § 8-3-101 of the County Code.

**Background.** Philip Hazen desires to convey, and the County Executive desires to accept, 0.826 acres of land, more or less, known as 511 Duckett Avenue in Tracys Landing, 20779 (“Property”). The Property is identified as Lots 1, 2, 3, 20, 21, and 22 of Block 16 on the plat entitled “Subdivision of Fair Haven - Section One - On Herring Bay”, which plat is recorded among the plat records of the County, in Plat Book 6, Page 04, as Plat Number 325. Mr. Hazen acquired the Property from John R. Hammond, Financial Officer for Anne Arundel County, as the Collector of State and County taxes, pursuant to a deed dated January 26, 1996, and recorded among the land records of the County in Book 7307, Page 773.

Section 8-3-101(b) of the County Code requires that gifts of real property to the County must be approved by the County Council by ordinance. Before seeking the Council’s approval, the County Executive is required to identify a public purpose for the property, to ensure that the Director of the Department of Public Works conducts an environmental assessment and identifies potential hazards and remediation expenses, and to ensure that the Budget Officer provides an assessment of any fiscal impact of the gift.

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\* This Legislative Summary provides a synopsis of the bill as introduced. It does not address subsequent amendments to the bill.

The County Executive has identified a public purpose for the Property in that it will be used to fulfill 18,077 square feet of Critical Area forest mitigation on future County projects. The Director of Public Works conducted an environmental assessment which revealed no evidence of recognized hazards. In addition, the Budget Officer provided a written assessment of the fiscal impact of the proposed gift, concluding that the fiscal impact is *de minimus* and that the proposed gift will have no measurable impact on future County expenses.

The Office of Law is available to answer any additional questions regarding the attached ordinance. Thank you.

Cc: Honorable Steuart Pittman, County Executive  
Matthew Power, Chief Administrative Officer  
Dr. Kai Boggess-de Bruin, Chief of Staff  
Peter Baron, Legislative Liaison  
Jim Beauchamp, Budget Officer  
Christine Romans, Central Services Officer