Subject:

Testimony for Council Bill

-2009

Agricultural Land Preservation Installment Purchase Agreement Reauthorization

To:

Lonnie Robbins

Chief Administrative Officer

From:

Marsha S. McLaughlin, Director

Department of Planning and Zoning

Date:

May 21, 2009

Council Bill 18-2000 in FY 2002 authorized a \$15,000,000 appropriation for the purchase of agricultural land preservation easements. As has been standard for enabling legislation authorizing the use of Installment Purchase Agreements (IPAs) for the preservation program, that Bill had a four year-term beginning on the effective date of the legislation. The original authorization bill was re-enabled by Council Bill 37-2005. The current Bill will again continue that reauthorization.

The Agricultural Land Preservation Program (ALPP) has entered into IPAs worth \$10,845,200 to purchase 618 acres of easements using the prior authorization, leaving \$\$4,154,800 available for additional easement purchases. These funds, combined with additional FY2007 and FY2008 appropriations will enable the County to open a new application period for the Agricultural Land Preservation Program (ALPP).

The Department of Planning and Zoning supports this legislation as it will allow the County to continue to protect its agricultural industry and rural character.

## Fiscal Impact

There are no additional fiscal impacts associated with adoption of this Council Resolution.

## MM/jm

cc:

Sharon Greisz, Finance Director

Ray Wacks, Budget Administrator

Ian Kennedy, Acting Legislative Coordinator

Lisa O'Brien, Office of Law

Joy Levy, Agricultural Program Administrator, DPZ