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# Howard County

## *Internal Memorandum*

**To:** The Honorable Dr. Calvin Ball, County Executive  
Opel Jones, Chair, Howard County Council  
Brandee Ganze, County Administrative Officer

**From:** Lynda Eisenberg, AICP, Director of Planning & Zoning

**Date:** June 26, 2026

**Subject:** New Town Taskforce Report Transmittal

In accordance with Executive Order 2025-09 and the direction established in HoCo by Design, the Department of Planning and Zoning, in collaboration with its consultant JMT, has completed the work of the New Town Taskforce and is pleased to transmit the Taskforce's recommendations for consideration. JMT facilitated the Taskforce process and prepared the final report. The report is available on the New Town Taskforce webpage: *New Town Taskforce Recommendations Report*. The New Town Taskforce was established to evaluate the existing New Town zoning framework and develop recommendations for its future refinement. The 22-member Taskforce represented Columbia's villages, major property owners, and other community stakeholders, ensuring a broad range of perspectives throughout the process.

Over the course of 14 months, the Taskforce convened 11 meetings to evaluate key issues, discuss potential changes, and develop consensus recommendations. To support public engagement and gather community input, the Taskforce also hosted two public meetings and conducted two community surveys—one at the outset of the process and a second focused on the draft recommendations.

As a result of this work, the Taskforce developed 27 recommendations for consideration by the County, the Planning Board, and the County Council as part of the forthcoming comprehensive zoning efforts.

The Department of Planning and Zoning appreciates the time, expertise, and commitment contributed by the Taskforce members and members of the public throughout this important process.

Questions regarding the Taskforce recommendations may be directed to Lynda Eisenberg, Director, Department of Planning and Zoning.

CC: Felix Facchine Deputy Chief of Staff, Howard County Government  
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Christiana Rigby, Vice-Chair, Howard County Councilmember, District 3  
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New Town Taskforce Members