



**City of Annapolis**  
Planning Commission  
Department of Planning & Zoning  
145 Gorman Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Annapolis, MD 21401-2535

410-263-7961 • Fax 410-263-1129 • [www.annapolis.gov](http://www.annapolis.gov)  
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June 20, 2019

**To: Annapolis City Council**  
**From: Planning Commission**  
**Re: Findings for Ordinance O-18-19: Department of the Environment**

### SUMMARY

The purpose of Ordinance O-18-19 is primarily to establish a new title in the City Code—Title 19: Environment. This new title creates a new Department of the Environment and moves the regulations in Title 14, Title 17, and Title 21 related to Forest Conservation Act review, environmental compliance, and stormwater management to the new department from the Department of Planning and Zoning and the Department of Public Works.

### ANALYSIS

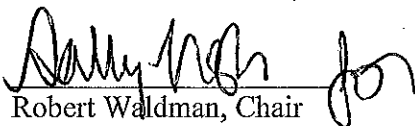
In July of 2016, the Department of Neighborhood and Environmental Programs was reorganized so that the inspection and permitting functions were transferred to Planning and Zoning, along with the regulatory authority for Forest Conservation Act review. Environmental compliance and stormwater management functions were transferred to the Department of Public Works. A new office was formed, the Office of Environmental Policy. This office is responsible for the protecting the environment by implementing policies and programs such as grants, policy development, public education and outreach, and watershed improvement, among others.

The Department of Planning and Zoning has adjusted to the new structure since 2016, and anticipates few projects in the future with substantial Forest Conservation Act review. Additionally, approximately 75% of the City is located in the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area, which is not subject to Forest Conservation Act requirements, as this property is subject to the state law pertaining to Critical Areas.

### RECOMMENDATION

On June 19, 2019, the Planning Commission held a public hearing on O-18-19 and subsequently moved to recommend that the City Council adopt the ordinance. The recommendation was approved with a vote of 3 to 0 with 2 abstentions.

Adopted this 1<sup>st</sup> day of August, 2019

  
Robert Waldman, Chair