



Committee: Directly to Council
Committee Review: N/A
Staff: Gene Smith, Legislative Analyst
Purpose: Final action – vote expected
Keywords: Economic Development

AGENDA ITEM #5G
March 15, 2022
Action

SUBJECT

Resolution to create the Biohealth Opportunity Zone Incentive Program: grants to attract Biohealth Priority Campuses in County Opportunity Zones

EXPECTED ATTENDEES

None

COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

- N/A

DESCRIPTION/ISSUE

The subject resolution, sponsored by Councilmembers Friedson and Navarro and cosponsored by Council President Alborno and Councilmembers Hucker, Riemer, Katz, Jawando, Glass, and Rice creates a program in the Economic Development Fund (EDF). This program provides \$250,000 to any Biohealth Priority Campus, as defined in ZTA 21-09, that locates in a County Opportunity Zone upon its receipt of an occupancy permit.

SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- The Council introduced ZTA 21-09 on October 19, 2021. ZTA 21-09 establishes a definition for a Biohealth Priority Campus and provides a quicker regulatory process for the development of biohealth facilities of 150,000 square feet or more or expansion of existing biohealth facilities of 50,000 square feet or more.
- The Planning, Housing, and Economic Development Committee reviewed ZTA 21-09 on January 31, 2022 and considered possible amendments, including strategies to attract industries, like the biohealth industry, to the County's Opportunity Zone.
- The subject resolution creates an EDF Program so that a Biohealth Priority Campus that locates in a County Opportunity Zone will receive \$250,000 from the EDF upon receipt of its occupancy permit.

This report contains:

Proposed resolution

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Resolution No.: _____
Introduced: March 8, 2022
Adopted: _____

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

Sponsored by: Councilmembers Friedson and Navarro
Cosponsored by: Council President Alborno and Councilmembers Hucker, Riemer,
Katz, Jawando, Council Vice President Glass, and Councilmember Rice

SUBJECT: Biohealth Opportunity Zone Incentive Program: grants to attract Biohealth
Priority Campuses in County Opportunity Zones

Background

1. Montgomery County, Maryland is home to more than 480 private biotechnology companies that includes businesses that are global leaders and emerging technologies in the biotechnology industry.
2. The County must continue to leverage its resources to strengthen this strategic industry cluster to remain competitive regionally and globally.
3. The County Council introduced a Zoning Text Amendment No: 21-09, Office and Professional – Biohealth Priority Campus (ZTA 21-09) on October 19, 2021.
4. ZTA 21-09 will create a definition for a Biohealth Priority Campus and will provide a quicker regulatory process for the development of biohealth facilities of 150,000 square feet or more or expansion of existing biohealth facilities of 50,000 square feet or more.
5. The Planning, Housing, and Economic Development (PHED) Committee reviewed ZTA 21-09 on January 31, 2022 and considered possible amendments, including strategies to attract industries, like the biohealth industry, to the County’s Opportunity Zones.
6. The Council enacted ZTA 21-09 on February 15, 2022.
7. This resolution creates the Biohealth Opportunity Zone Incentive Program, an Economic Development Fund (EDF) program for biotechnology businesses qualifying as a Biohealth Priority Campus that locate in a County Opportunity Zone to address the need for economic development in underserved communities in the County.
8. Any Biohealth Priority Campus in a County Opportunity Zone will receive \$250,000 through the EDF upon receipt of its occupancy permit. Grant funding through the Biohealth

Opportunity Zone Incentive Program does not exclude the business from applying to and possible funding from other EDF Programs, such as the Economic Development Fund Grant and Loan Program.

Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following resolution:

The County Council creates a supplemental program to provide additional grants to attract Biohealth Priority Campuses to County Opportunity Zones. The Department of Finance must provide a grant to eligible businesses as defined in Paragraph 8 of this resolution.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

Selena Mendy Singleton, Esq.
Clerk of the Council