



Testimony of the Mayor and Council of Rockville
HB 691 – State Government – Procedures – Permitting Efficiency for Housing
Development Projects
SUPPORT

Good afternoon, Chair Valderrama and esteemed members of the House Economic Matters committee. I am Monique Ashton, Mayor of Rockville, and I thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the City of Rockville in support of HB 691. We thank Delegate Lopez for sponsoring this important legislation.

The Mayor and Council stand together with the Gaithersburg Mayor and Council in joint support of HB 691. This legislation requires State agencies responsible for issuing housing construction permits to adopt procedures to streamline permitting processes and supports collaboration with local governments. Further, HB 691 aligns with the Mayor and Council's housing priority to expand the supply of affordable units.

We support this legislation for the following reasons:

- While Rockville already has State Delegated authority for many of the reviews in the development process, including stormwater management and erosion and sediment control, it is likely that other jurisdictions may benefit from additional State delegated authority for land-use and other environmental reviews that may streamline the issuance of housing permits.
- HB 619 allows for concurrent filing and adjudication of multiple permits where feasible and allows for predictable sequencing when concurrency is not possible.
- The bill encourages collaboration by authorizing State agencies to delegate any task related to the review or approval of permits for housing construction within a county or municipality by agreement, which supports and expedites the permitting process.

HB 691 is good public policy that aligns with our shared goal of increasing housing supply, reducing costs, and strengthening partnerships between the State and counties and municipalities. For these reasons, we urge the Committee to provide HB 691 with a favorable report. Thank You.