

approved

Senior Tax Credit Task Force

Minutes of the March 13, 2007, meeting

The Senior Tax Credit Task Force met on March 13, 2007, in the Ellicott Room, Howard Building, 3430 Courthouse Dr., Ellicott City, MD, at 2 pm.

The following members of the task force were in attendance: Ted Meyerson, Frank Chase, Janice Bloodworth, Joel Yesley, Sara Hamer, Sherman Howell, Susan Buswell, Sue Brown, Don Dunn, and Pat Dornan

Others from staff in attendance were Linda Watts, Jeff Bronow, Leo Oken, Jeff Meyers, Sandy Stecker, Donald Stitely, and Diana Coll.

The meeting was open to the public and press.

Chairman Meyerson called the meeting to order at 2 p.m.

The Chairman briefed the Task Force on legislation now before the County Council. The Task Force voted to support CB 10-2007 and CR 22-2007. The Task Force discussed other legislation now before the Council, but because the Task Force had not studied any of the legislation in depth, it did not take a position. The Task Force formally adopted the following position statements:

The County Council passed Resolution 145-2006, establishing a Task Force to examine CB68-2006. The Resolution stipulated that the Task Force was to submit an interim report by February 22, 2007. Working diligently, the Task Force was able to meet that requirement. The interim report contains recommendations which are implemented in CB 10-2007.

The Task Force fully supports CB 10-2007. The Task Force's recommendations implemented by this Bill are: pegging the income test to 400% of the federal poverty level, adding an asset test, substituting a 25% credit for the legally-suspect freeze, clarifying that other credits are applied first, and requiring an outreach campaign.

The Task Force found an alarming lack of knowledge among seniors about available tax relief programs. The Task Force fully supports CR 22-2007, which would ask tax preparers to educate their clients about property tax credits.

The minutes from February 15 were approved unanimously.

The chairman requests that all members of the task force attend the public hearing on March 19 .

The task force adjourned a 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Meyers