



Agenda Item Summary Report

Meeting Date:
February 10, 2025

Submitted by:
Michelle Bailey Hedgepeth, Town Administrator
Jarryd Hawkins, Economic Development
Consultant

Item Title: Trade School Update | February 2025

This is an update on the actions and activities related to the Trade School Earmark.

Work Session Item [X]
Council Meeting Item [X]

Documentation Attached:

Recommended Action:

This has been provided to the Council and community informed of Council and staff actions. The Council is being asked to provide any input and direction on this matter.

Background: In 2021, Senator Cardin earmarked \$1 million for the Town to acquire property and operate a trade school. The initiative was aimed at supporting young adults graduating from local schools who may not have the necessary training to secure employment in industrial trades and related fields.

Progress Update: When I began working with the Town in Fall 2023, I collaborated with our Economic Development Consultant, Jarryd Hawkins, on the following key areas:

- **Identifying Potential Real Estate Sites:** Over the last year, we held some closed sessions to provide the Council with updates on particular parcels of interest
- **Building a Partnership with Employ Prince George's (EMPLOY):** This is key to having a long-term partnership for the operations after the Earmark is spent. EMPLOY serves as the Workforce Development Authority for Prince George's County.

2024, I met with the Chief of Staff for EMPLOY, Mr. Talley, and Senator Washington, who works with the agency. During this discussion, I mentioned the earmark funding and inquired how we could explore potential partnership opportunities. Over the past year, we have connected with Executive Director Walter Simmons to develop this initiative further.

Current Status

- Mr. Simmons has engaged with the Acting County Executive, Jackson, and reached out to the School District regarding the use of the **International School facilities**. The county has been positive about this project, and he believes that they will support a formal engagement.
- The International school's principal indicated that their construction timeline has been delayed, and they may continue occupying the current location for the next 3-4 years

Next Steps & Council Considerations

Short-Term Priorities:

- Mr. Hawkins is inquiring with HUD regarding any changes in funding requirements due to the change in the administration.

Long-Term Priorities:

- Staff will explore options for long-term ownership and potential sites within the Town.
- A **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** will be developed to formalize the Town's partnership with EMPLOY.

The town administrator or Mr. Hawkins can provide further insights if you have any questions or want additional details.

Budgeted Item: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA Budgeted Amount: \$1 Millions One-Time Cost: NA Ongoing Cost: NA	Continued Date:
Council Priority: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Approved Date: