



# **FOREST HEIGHTS NEWS**

## **SPECIAL EDITION**

**Incorporated 1949**

**53rd Year, Issue No. 6**

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**4 of 4 Publications as Required by the Annotated Code of Maryland**

**Summary of Proposed Forest Heights Town Council Resolutions 15, 16, 17 & 18**

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE FOREST HEIGHTS TOWN CHARTER**

*Introduced on February 16, 2006 and shall take effect April 7, 2006.*

**Charter Amendment Number 15**, Section 33-18(e) (*Chief Executive*) proposes to make the Mayor the Chief Executive of the town in the context of town administration and operations and the head of the administrative branch of the town government.

**Charter Amendment Number 16**, Section 33-3 (*Number; Selection; Term*) proposes to make the charter consistent in election date language and eliminate annual elections to make them every two years beginning March 2007 thereby achieving overlap in council terms, consistency in government affairs, an enhanced budget management.

**Charter Amendment Number 17**, Section 33-33 (*Election of Councilmen*), proposes to make the charter consistent in election date language and eliminate annual elections to make them every two years beginning March 2007 thereby achieving overlap in council terms, consistency in government affairs, and enhanced budget management.

**Charter Amendment Number 18**, Section 33-32 (*Election of Mayor*) proposes to change the election month for Mayor of Forest Heights from May to March to allow for enhanced budget management.

**\*\*The full text of all amendments referred to above can be found posted on the BULLETIN BOARD at the Forest Heights Municipal Center, 5508 Arapahoe Drive, Forest Heights, Maryland 20745, (301) 839-1030. \*\***

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### **EMERGENCY ORDINANCE TO BANNING HAZARDOUS CONDUCT IN THE TOWN OF FOREST HEIGHTS**

On March 15, 2006 the Forest Heights Town Council passed emergency legislation making hazardous behavior a municipal infraction. Any person arrested for drug related charges within the Town of Forest Heights shall be subject to a \$1000.00 fine. In the event that individual is a minor, his/her parent shall be liable for the fine and all costs associated with processing and/or prosecuting the infraction.

### **EMERGENCY ORDINANCE TO IMPLEMENT THE LEGISLATIVE PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES ACT**

On March 15, 2006 the Forest Heights Town Council passed emergency legislation to ensure proper conduct of Town business, proper administrative interaction with agencies outside of the municipality, and proper administration of employees of the Town of Forest Heights.

**\*\*\*ALL EMERGENCY ORDINANCES SHALL TAKE EFFECT IMMEDIATELY UPON ITS PASSAGE AND SHALL REMAIN IN EFFECT INDEFINITELY\*\*\***

**1 of 4 Publications as Required by the Annotated Code of Maryland**  
**Summary of Proposed Forest Heights Town Council Resolutions 19 & 20**  
**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE FOREST HEIGHTS TOWN CHARTER**

*Introduced on March 6, 2006 and shall take effect April 25, 2006.*

**Charter Amendment Number 19**, Section 33-6 (Meetings) proposes adopt the framework of the Maryland Open Meetings Act, which permits local jurisdictions to close portions of meetings to the public that limited government business may be conducted away from the public, such as personnel issues, legal issues, contract negotiations; and other sensitive matters in an executive session from the public.

**Charter Amendment Number 20**, Section 33-22 (*Enforcement of Powers*). Propose to increase fine limits to \$1,000, the enforcement of Town ordinances is essential for maintaining the quality of living and safety of the Town's residents. The current limit for fines is \$500 which was set in 1963. Inflation has reduced the significance of that level of fine for inducing compliance with the Town's ordinances. Article 23A § 3(a) and § 3(b)(2) of the State Code permit municipalities to levy fines as high as \$1,000.

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