

**MINUTES**  
**Public Hearing of the College Park City Council**  
**Tuesday, May 14, 2013**  
**7:05 p.m. – 7:12 p.m.**

**13-O-04**

**An Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the City of College Park, Maryland, Amending Chapter 110 “Fees and Penalties” by Repealing and Reenacting §110-1 “Fees and Interests” to Increase the Application Fees for the Occupancy Permits Required by Chapter 144**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Fellows; Councilmembers Kabir, Wojahn, Catlin, Dennis, Day, Afzali and Mitchell.

**ABSENT:** Councilmember Stullich

**ALSO PRESENT:** Joe Nagro, City Manager; Janeen Miller, City Clerk; Suellen Ferguson, City Attorney; Chantal Cotton, Assistant to the City Manager; Steve Groh, Director of Finance; Bob Ryan, Director of Public Services; Josh Ratner, Student Liaison.

Mayor Fellows opened the public hearing on 13-O-04 at 7:05 p.m. and invited Mr. Groh to give an overview. Mr. Groh said this ordinance increases occupancy permit application fees by 3.6% for all categories. The various increases range from \$1 to \$20, the highest being for fraternities and sororities. Single Family Residences, the largest category of permits, increases by \$9. These fees were last increased on July 1, 2010. If adopted, this ordinance will be effective July 1, 2013.

**Comments from the audience:**

**Dave Dorsch, 4607 Calvert Road:** Why is the Council asking for this increase? With the hundreds of new units that have been completed recently, at a cost of \$125 per unit to inspect, the department should be rolling in money. It was stated that this is to cover 75% of the cost of code enforcement, but why is it proper for rental properties to cover 75% of code enforcement when code enforcement is responsible for all the properties in the city? There are more non-rental properties than rentals. Single Family Rental houses are charged the most to inspect, but does it really take more time to inspect a Single Family Rental than McDonalds? This is discriminatory. If you are trying to work with the landlords, increasing this fee at this time is not viewed as a carrot. Council should explore ways to provide code enforcement more economically.

**Mary Cook, 4705 Kiernan Road:** She rents out her former house in College Park and was debating when to sell it. Looking at the amount they pay in occupancy permit and trash fees, they opted to sell now. Part of the reason is the amount of fees they have to pay.

**Christine Nagle, 9506 52<sup>nd</sup> Avenue:** Wasn't it in the strategic plan to have an overview of code enforcement? She thinks it would be a good idea.

There being no further public comment, Mayor Fellows closed the public hearing at 7:12 p.m.