



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

John K. Peterson, Chief Administrative Officer

Jessica Fitzwater
County Executive

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO.: 02-2023

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 5, 2023

Temporary Hold on Accepting, Considering, and Issuing Certain Demolition Permits

WHEREAS, The Historic Preservation Ordinance (Chapter 1-23 of the Frederick County Code) was adopted in 1997 and last updated in 2014. The 2014 update (Ordinance 14-23-678) was to amend all Frederick County ordinances to remove references to the Board of County Commissioners, County Commissioners, and County Manager as a charter government was going into effect. The Ordinance has not been comprehensively updated to address numerous historic preservation issues that have grown in importance in the late 1990s.

WHEREAS, through the Procurement and Contracting Office, a Request for Proposals was issued and a contract was awarded to Cultural Heritage Partners. Staff is working with a Cultural Heritage Partners attorney specializing in historic preservation and an Ordinance Review Committee that was first convened in March 2023. The Ordinance Review Committee includes members of the Historic Preservation Commission, representatives of the building and development industries, and owners of County Register properties.

WHEREAS, the proposed ordinance updates will include the addition of a demolition review process for historic structures, beyond just those properties on the County Register of Historic Places. Currently, staff reviews demolition permits for historic structures that are not on the County Register; however, the County has no authority to delay or halt demolition – even for exceptional properties of national significance.

WHEREAS, during the process of updating the ordinance, staff believes it would be prudent to place a nine-month hold on the issuance of demolition permits for historic structures. The hold would give staff and the Ordinance Review Committee time to develop a more comprehensive demolition review process for the County, and for a bill with the Ordinance amendments to proceed through the legislative process, without losing any historic properties.

WHEREAS, an “historic structure” shall be defined as all structures over 50 years of age that are currently on the National Register of Historic Places or have been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places by either the United States Department of the Interior or the Maryland Historical Trust.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JESSICA FITZWATER, COUNTY EXECUTIVE OF FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE CHARTER OF FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND, AND THE LAWS OF MARYLAND, HEREBY ISSUE THIS EXECUTIVE ORDER, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

The Frederick County Planning and Permitting Division staff is directed to temporarily discontinue accepting, considering, processing, reviewing, or issuing any application for a demolition permit for a historic structure, as defined above and determined by County Staff.

This Executive Order is issued this 5th day of May, 2023, effective immediately, and shall terminate on February 2, 2024, unless changed by further Executive Order.



John K. Peterson
Chief Administrative Officer



Jessica Fitzwater
Frederick County Executive