



## FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

### OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Jessica Fitzwater  
County Executive

John K. Peterson, Chief Administrative Officer

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO.: 03-2024

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 29, 2024

#### **EXTENSION OF 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, last updated in 2014, and has not been comprehensively updated to address numerous historic preservation issues that have grown in importance since the late 1990s; and

WHEREAS, County staff has worked since January 26, 2023, with a Cultural Heritage Partners' attorney specializing in historic preservation and an Ordinance Review Committee that was first convened in March 2023, to update Chapter 1-23; and

WHEREAS, the proposed updates include the addition of a demolition review process for historic structures<sup>1</sup> not currently on the County Register of Historic Places in order to avoid the loss of valuable historic structures; and

WHEREAS, in order to facilitate the process of updating Chapter 1-23, Executive Order No. 02-2023 was issued (effective May 5, 2023), which placed an approximately nine-month hold on the issuance of demolition permits for historic structures to allow staff and the Ordinance Review Committee time to develop a more comprehensive demolition review process for the County as well as other Historic Preservation Ordinance amendments, and to allow them to proceed through the legislative process, without losing any additional historic properties; and

WHEREAS, in Executive Order No. 02-2024, I extended this temporary hold for an additional one hundred twenty days, expiring on June 1, 2024; and

WHEREAS, although the update process has proceeded efficiently, certain delays have occurred, including amendments by the County Council necessitating a second public hearing before final voting, to allow completion of the legislative process, which includes a 60-day delay before legislation becomes effective.

<sup>1</sup> As used herein, "historic structure" shall be defined as any structure over 50 years of age that is currently on the National Register of Historic Places or has been determined to be 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 TO EXTEND THE TEMPORARY HOLD ESTABLISHED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 02-2023, AND EXTENDED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 02-2024, FOR AN ADDITIONAL FIFTEEN DAYS AFTER JUNE 1, 2024.

EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY HOLD ON ACCEPTING, CONSIDERING,  
AND ISSUING CERTAIN DEMOLITION PERMITS

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 prohibition shall not apply to any demolition permit filed with the County that is in substantial conformance with preliminary plans or site plans that were approved or conditionally approved before May 5, 2023.

This Executive Order is issued this 29th day of April 2024, effective immediately, and shall terminate on June 16, 2024, unless changed by further Executive Order.

John K. Peterson

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