



**TO: Linda Gorton, Mayor
Urban County Council**

**FROM: Commissioner Keith Horn
Department of Planning and Preservation**

CC: CAO Sally Hamilton

DATE: 12/18/2024

SUBJECT: Ordinance creating Chapter 27 of the Code of Ordinances, authorizing the creation of the Small Farm Conservation Program.

Request: This is a request to create a new Small Farm Conservation Program with the purpose of authorizing the Rural Land Management Board to purchase conservation easements on farms in the Rural Service Area that are at least 10 but less than 20 acres.

Purpose of Request: Currently, the PDR Program purchases conservation easements on farms that are at least 20 acres in size. During the FY25 budget discussions, the Department proposed the expansion of the Purchase of Development Rights Program to include small farms that are greater than 10 but less than 20 acres in size to promote access and equity to the PDR program while also creating additional avenues for reaching the 50,000-acre goal. The Small Farm Conservation Program will function like the current Purchase of Development Rights program for farms that are 20 acres or more. Farms will apply and will be evaluated using an established criteria outlined in Chapter 27-7. Funding for small farm conservation easements will come from funds budgeted for PDR program expenses.

Cost in this Budget year and future budget years: No budgetary impact.

Are the funds budgeted? Yes

File Number: 0010-25

Director/Commissioner: Denney/Horn

