

may deem appropriate except the adoption or amendment of the Regional Development Plan.

#### 10. Staff.

The employment, compensation, and tenure of an executive officer may be made by the Regional Planning Council without being subject to any of the provisions and restrictions of Article 64A of the Annotated Code of Maryland, title "Merit System". Said executive officer (with the approval of The Council) may appoint three additional department or section heads without being subject to the provisions and restrictions of Article 64A of the Annotated Code of Maryland, title "Merit System". The Council may also employ or retain counsel or consultants without being subject to the provisions and restrictions of Article 64A of the Annotated Code of Maryland, title "Merit System". All other employees of The Council shall be subject generally to the provisions and restrictions of Article 64A of the Annotated Code of Maryland, title "Merit System".

#### 11. Quorum.

The Regional Planning Council may act only by the affirmative vote of not less than ~~ten~~ ELEVEN members.

### Operations

#### 12. Functions of The Council.

As expeditiously as possible, The Council shall prepare and adopt a comprehensive plan for the development of the Regional Planning Area to be known as the SUGGESTED General Development Plan. The plan shall be based upon comprehensive surveys and studies of land use, transportation, public utilities, governmental facilities and services, and natural resources. It shall take into account social and economic factors, conditions, and trends that are relevant to the probable future development of the Area. In the preparation of the SUGGESTED General Development Plan for the Area, The Council shall work closely with all units of government within the Area, with other metropolitan or regional planning agencies within and outside of the State, with State departments and officials, and with private groups concerned with the orderly development of the Area.

The Regional Planning Council shall establish a period for the completion of the SUGGESTED General Development Plan.

In preparing the SUGGESTED General Development Plan, The Council shall take account of the planning activities of Federal, State, county, municipal, or other local or private agencies within the Area. In preparing the plan or any part thereof, and in preparing from time to time, revisions, amendments, extensions, or additions, The Council may seek the cooperation and advice of other regional or metropolitan agencies, educational and research organizations, whether public or private, and of civic groups and private persons and organizations. The SUGGESTED General Development Plan shall embody the policy recommendations of the Council in regard to the physical development of the Area supplemented by maps, charts, graphs, and such other descriptive matter as may be necessary to depict the plan, and it shall contain: