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Scott France, AICP
Executive Director

April 23, 2026

Ms. Jaime Snyder, Borough Manager
Hatfield Borough
401 South Main Street
Hatfield, Pennsylvania 19440

Re: MCPC #26-0094-001
Proposal Name: Core Commercial District Text Amendment
Hatfield Borough

Dear Ms. Snyder:

We have reviewed the above-referenced zoning text amendment in accordance with Section 609 of Act 247, "The Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code," as you requested on April 7, 2026. We forward this letter as a report of our review.

BACKGROUND

The applicant, W.B. Homes, has proposed a zoning text amendment to Hatfield Borough's Core Commercial District with the future intention of submitting a land development plan consisting of 15 townhouses at 41 North Market Street (Tax ID: 090001348002). The proposed text amendment adds townhouses as a use permitted by-right in the Core Commercial District and provides dimensional design requirements for single-family attached dwellings within this district. We previously reviewed the zoning text amendment informally and many of our proposed modifications were incorporated in this version. However, we still have several comments on the dimensional design standards proposed for single-family attached dwellings.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COMPLIANCE

The proposed text amendment is generally consistent with the Montgomery County Comprehensive Plan, *Montco 2040: A Shared Vision*, and, in particular its objectives to support growth and development in appropriate areas with existing infrastructure. The Core Commercial District is located within a "designated growth area" per the Growth and Preservation component of the county comprehensive plan. Furthermore, our Future Land Use Map categorizes the Core Commercial District as a "Town Center". The plan recommends that new development in these

areas be built close to the sidewalk with doors that open to the sidewalk and windows along the street, and that parking should be located to the rear of buildings.

The proposed text amendment is also consistent with Hatfield Borough's draft 2045 Comprehensive Plan which recommends adding Townhomes as a permitted use within the Core Commercial District.

RECOMMENDATION

The Montgomery County Planning Commission (MCPC) generally supports the applicant's proposal; however, in the course of our review we have identified the following issues that the applicant and Hatfield Borough may wish to consider prior to adopting the zoning amendment. Our comments are as follows:

REVIEW COMMENTS

§ 27-2108 DIMENSIONAL AND DESIGN REQUIREMENTS WITHIN THE CC DISTRICT

A. §27-2108.6 - Dimensional Design Standards for Single-Family Attached Dwellings. The proposed amendments include the addition of specific design standards for single-family detached dwellings.

   1. §27-2108.6.L Architectural Requirements. The second sentence states, "If there are conflicts between these architectural requirements and the requirements of §27-2108, the requirements shall govern." As these proposed architectural requirements are within §27-108, this sentence is redundant and, in our view, unnecessary.

   2. §27-2108.6.L.1. We recommend considering adding standards for walkways to entrance doors located within the front elevation and side elevation of residential buildings that face an existing public street. Montgomery County's Comprehensive Plan advises that new developments in a "Town Center" such as Hatfield Borough should be pedestrian-oriented with appropriate design that encourages walking. Hatfield Borough's draft 2045 Comprehensive Plan echoes the sentiment that new development in the Traditional Main Street future land use category should be pedestrian-oriented with doors that open to the sidewalk. Adding standards for walkways to entrance doors located within the front and side elevations of residential buildings facing an existing public street for any new townhouse development in the CC District will help achieve the plan's objectives and provide a necessary amenity to residents.

   3. §27-2108.6.L.3. We recommend specifying that the requirements apply to side elevations of a residential building *not fronting on an existing public street* so that they are not confused with the requirements for side elevations of residential buildings fronting on an existing public street in L.1.

CONCLUSION

We wish to reiterate that MCPC generally supports the applicant's zoning changes, but we believe that our suggested revisions will better achieve Hatfield Borough's planning objectives for the Core Commercial District.

Please note that the review comments and recommendations contained in this report are advisory to the municipality and final disposition for the approval of any proposal will be made by the municipality.

Should the governing body adopt this proposed zoning ordinance amendment, Section 609 of the Municipalities Planning Code requires that we be sent an official copy within 30 days.

Sincerely,



Adam Schantz, Community Planner
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c: Katie Vlahos, Assistant Borough Manager
Ryan Giatto, Borough Code Enforcement Officer
Eric Jarrel, Community Planning Manager, MCPC