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Editor's Note: Media may arrange to meet with the team. To request access, please contact Stacy Wilkerson, northbeach@northbeachmd.org.

North Beach, Maryland, to Receive Planning Assistance from Volunteer Team

CHICAGO—A pro bono planning assistance team from the [American Planning Association](#) will be working in [North Beach](#) next week, August 20 - 23, assisting the town with creating a downtown business area specific plan to enhance summertime tourism as well as enhance the year-round community for full-time residents.

The team is part of the American Planning Association's professional institute's [Community Planning Assistance Teams program](#). The program matches communities that have no planning staff or need additional planning assistance with planning experts from around the country. Teams have previously assisted with advancing community planning goals, economic development, transportation and post-disaster recovery.

The Town of North Beach, along with the planning commission and area planners, architects, and the APA Maryland Chapter, requested planning assistance. The team will tour the town, interview community stakeholders and start to assemble a future vision for the town. The team also will look at the under- and undeveloped downtown land that the town owns.

The North Beach Community Planning Assistance Team is a group of selected planning experts based upon their knowledge in economic development, zoning and codes, and urban design. The team will be led by Robert J. Paternoster, FAICP. Paternoster is an adjunct professor of city planning at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. He has more than 45 years of planning experience, including service as the planning director for the city of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and Long Beach, California; and as director of community development for Sunnyvale, California. Team members include:

- Philip Franks, AICP, AIA – Principal, Hurley-Franks & Associates (Philadelphia, PA)
- Wendy Moeller, AICP – Principal, Compass Point Planning (Cincinnati, OH)
- Kannan Sankaran – Managing Director, PKF Consulting (Washington, DC)
- Sidney Wong, Ph.D. – Senior Consultant, World Bank (Philadelphia, PA)

[Read more about the North Beach Team.](#)

Throughout the week, the team will be meeting with community leaders, stakeholders and the public as well as touring the community. The team will hold an initial public meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 20, at the Town Hall. The team will provide an overview of their work on the final day of their visit on Sunday, August 23, at 5 p.m. at Town Hall.

Communities seeking planning-related assistance can [apply](#). The Community Planning Assistance Team program was established in 1995 to help serve communities with limited planning resources. Previous

teams have recently worked in Deerfield Beach, Florida; Franklin, Tennessee; La Feria, Texas; and Seven Ranches Area – Maricopa, Arizona; among other locations.

The American Planning Association is an independent, not-for-profit educational organization that provides leadership in the development of vital communities. APA and its professional institute, the American Institute of Certified Planners, are dedicated to advancing the art, science and profession of good planning -- physical, economic, and social -- so as to create communities that offer better choices for where and how people work and live. APA has offices in Washington, D.C., and Chicago, with almost 38,000 members worldwide in nearly 100 countries. For more information, visit www.planning.org.

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