

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2021 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-23-2021

Proposed by Council Member Hawkins

Introduced by Council Members Hawkins, Taveras, Anderson-Walker, Davis, Ivey,
Streeter, Dernoga, Glaros, Franklin, Turner and Harrison

Date of Introduction March 2, 2021

RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 National Day of Empathy

3 For the purpose of expressing the County Council’s support for the National Day of Empathy
4 and initiatives that support criminal justice reform.

5 WHEREAS, millions of people suffer behind bars and the United States accounts for about
6 25 percent of the world’s total incarcerated population; and

7 WHEREAS, too many men and women are unnecessarily incarcerated as a result of the
8 failed policies of the past and our prison and jail populations have grown by more than 400%
9 over the past 30 years; and

10 WHEREAS, there are now nearly 7 million people incarcerated, on parole, or on probation
11 and that equals 70+ million Americans with a criminal record, in the past 3 decades; and

12 WHEREAS, the incarcerated live day after day, divorced from the empathy of most of
13 human society and this abandonment of our sisters and brothers, community members, and loved
14 ones is made possible by a massive “empathy gap” — our inability to see ourselves in those who
15 are incarcerated; and

16 WHEREAS, Dream Corps JUSTICE is a national bipartisan effort to safely and smartly cut
17 the number of people behind bars and give people coming home chances to rebuild their lives
18 and contribute to their communities; and

19 WHEREAS, Dream Corps JUSTICE builds unlikely alliances that bridge the political
20 divide and brings people together to advance solutions that redefine justice and equity; and

21 WHEREAS, Dream Corps JUSTICE organized the Day of Empathy; an annual, national
22 day of action to generate empathy on a massive scale for the millions of Americans impacted by

1 the criminal justice system, in partnership with their 50 state network of criminal justice reform
2 organizers; and

3 WHEREAS, the National Day of Empathy, which started in 2017, aims to build empathy in
4 elected officials—governors, state legislators, and other policy makers—to take action on
5 criminal justice reform and humanize and uplift the stories of those who have been impacted by
6 the criminal justice system through personal interactions with lawmakers to demonstrate the
7 impact that policy has on the lives of impacted people, their spouses, their children, their parents,
8 their friends, crime survivors, and their communities; and

9 WHEREAS, the National Day of Empathy will be held on March 2, 2021 by organizers
10 across the country, in all 50 states and in the District of Columbia to activate for a single day of
11 action to spotlight state and local efforts to highlight the urgency of criminal justice reform; and

12 WHEREAS, without empathy, we cannot achieve meaningful policy changes in criminal
13 justice reform that keep our communities safe, our families whole, and our economy strong; and

14 WHEREAS, the Prince George’s County Council supports initiatives for criminal justice
15 reform and advancing policy solutions that redefine justice and equity.

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's
17 County, Maryland, that the County Council expresses its support for the National Day of
18 Empathy occurring on March 2, 2021 and initiatives that support criminal justice reform.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all residents are encouraged to take part in the National
20 Day of Empathy activities.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be sent by the Clerk of the
22 Council to Maryland Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., and the Chairs of the Prince George’s
23 County Senate and House Delegations.

Adopted this 2nd day of March, 2021.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Calvin S. Hawkins, II
Chair

ATTEST:

Donna J. Brown
Clerk of the Council