



Calvin S. Hawkins, II

At-Large Council Member

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"Building the People's Movement"

September 26, 2025

Colette Gresham, esq.
Acting Council Administrator
Prince George's County Council
Wayne K. Curry County Administration Building
1301 McCormick Drive., 2nd Fl.
Largo, MD 20774

Re: Performance Audit of the Permitting Process in Prince George's County

Dear Council Administrator,

Pursuant to Rule 18 of the County Council Rules of Procedure, I am submitting this letter to respectfully request that the County Auditor conduct a performance audit of the application, review, and approval processes for obtaining permits in Prince George's County.

It is vital for qualified residents and businesses to be able to expeditiously obtain permits from the County in order to conduct matters of business and quality of life improvements. Despite attempts over the past 25 years to improve the various processes, policies, and practices involved in permit application, review, and approval, the permitting process in Prince George's County continues to be a source of significant concern among many businesses and residents alike. Unnecessary delays in the various permitting processes and practices for small businesses can cause significant economic losses and even contribute to the failure of such businesses, thereby hurting job creation and economic growth, destroying generational wealth, and discouraging other prospective small businesses from investing, locating, or expanding in Prince George's County. These unnecessary delays in the various permitting processes and practices for economic development projects can contribute to the failure of such projects to remain financially viable and thus discourage other major economic development projects from locating in Prince George's County, which harms job creation, our commercial tax base, and attraction of retail and hospitality amenities to the County.

Significantly improving our various permitting processes would incentivize economic growth and thus increase public revenues that support critical services like public education, public safety, health and human services, and roads and transit. Furthermore, other peer jurisdictions are widely perceived to have significantly more efficient and competitive permitting processes, policies, and practices than those in Prince George's County. I believe this independent, objective analysis of our permitting functions will help to improve performance, reduce costs, and increase accountability.



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Pursuant to Rule 18 of the County Council Rules of Procedure, I hereby request that the County Auditor, upon approval by the County Council, conduct a performance audit of the various processes, policies, and practices involved in obtaining any permit granted by Prince George's County Government, including retaining any necessary independent experts to assist in such an audit. This performance audit should include, but not be limited to including, the following:

(a) A comprehensive review and analysis of all of the permitting processes, policies, and practices administered for any permit awarded by the Prince George's County Government, including review and analysis of any agencies at any level of government involved in the process of review and approval of such permits and/or which grant related permits that impact the approval of permits granted by the Prince George's County Government, including obtaining customer and constituent feedback;

(b) A survey and analysis of the best permitting processes, policies, and practices of peer jurisdictions and a comparison of those processes, policies, and practices with those in Prince George's County;

(c) Comprehensive recommendations and strategies for improving permitting processes, policies, and practices administered for any permit awarded by the Prince George's County Government, including improving efficiency, economy, competitiveness, accountability, transparency, and monitoring; and

(d) Any other components determined by the County Auditor and any retained independent expert(s) to be important, prudent, and necessary to conduct an effective performance audit of the processes, policies, and practices for granting permits by the Prince George's County Government.

This performance audit should commence expeditiously due to the urgent need to improve Prince George's County's economic competitiveness in the Greater Washington Region and be completed within 180 days after it commences, subject to extensions at the discretion of the County Auditor, with its results publicly released in accordance with Rule 18 of the Council Rules of Procedure. I also request that this audit be conducted in accordance with the Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards (GAGAS) for performance audits.

Thank you for your urgent attention to this matter. I humbly request expeditious placement of this matter on the Council's regular meeting agenda as the next earliest practical possibility.

With Kind Regards,

Calvin S. Hawkins, II

Prince George's County Council Member At-Large