

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2025 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-140-2025
Proposed by Council Member Hawkins
Introduced by Council Members Blegay, Burroughs, Watson, Oriadha, Dernoga, Ivey,
Adams-Stafford, Harrison, and Fisher
Co-Sponsors _____
Date of Introduction November 18, 2025

RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 Prince George’s County Civil Rights Monument Commission

3 For the purpose of establishing a commission to create and implement a plan to establish a civil
4 rights monument in Prince George’s County to honor the historical contributions of county
5 residents to the advancement of civil rights in Prince George’s County.

6 WHEREAS, by 1850, Prince George’s County was home to the largest population of slaves
7 of African descent in the State of Maryland, comprising over half of the County’s numerical
8 population by 1860; and

9 WHEREAS, during the post-Civil War era, at least four (4) persons were lynched and
10 murdered by racial violence in Prince George’s County; and

11 WHEREAS, in the Jim Crow era, racial segregation and discrimination, particularly
12 against African Americans in Prince George's County, were a pervasive and pernicious part of
13 daily life, particularly involving discriminatory housing practices, including redlining and
14 whites-only communities, and a segregated and unequal school system; and

15 WHEREAS, the Brown v. the Board of Education decision in 1954 declared segregation
16 unconstitutional, Prince George's County schools were not fully integrated until a federal court
17 ordered busing to begin in 1972; and

18 WHEREAS, legendary figures in Prince George’s County’s history have made significant
19 contributions to the advancement and progress of civil rights in Prince George’s County; and

20 WHEREAS a Prince George’s County Civil Rights Monument would create a deserving
21 tribute to the great civil rights accomplishments of residents who have helped bring about

1 generational change and progress for all subsequent generations of Prince Georgians.

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's
3 County, Maryland, that the Council hereby establishes the Prince George's County Civil Rights
4 Monument Commission, as a temporary citizen advisory board authorized by Section 506 of the
5 County Charter, for the purpose of and in exercise of the following:

6 (a) Conducting a feasibility study for the establishment of the Prince George's County Civil
7 Rights Monument, which shall include:

8 (1) Identifying at least three (3) potential locations in the County;

9 (2) Creating at least three (3) design concepts for the monument;

10 (3) Projected costs and best fundraising sources;

11 (4) Project construction process and timeline; and

12 (5) Obtaining the necessary experts to assist in facilitating such a study.

13 (b) Based on the results of the feasibility study, by majority vote of the Commission at a
14 public meeting, shall recommend a comprehensive plan to the County Council, the County
15 Executive, and the public for the establishment of the Prince George's County Civil Rights
16 Monument. The comprehensive plan shall include at least three (3) locations, at least three (3)
17 project designs with their projected costs, entitlement and construction plans for each design, a
18 timeline, and a fundraising plan.

19 (c) The comprehensive plan shall include a recommendation for the individuals to be
20 considered by the public, the County Council, and the County Executive for inaugural selection
21 and commemoration in the Prince George's County Civil Rights Monument.

22 (d) No more than sixty (60) days after publishing its recommended comprehensive plan, the
23 Commission shall execute a community engagement process to gather public feedback about its
24 comprehensive plan and feasibility study results. The community engagement process shall be at
25 least three (3) months in length, but no longer than six (6) months, subject to a ninety-day (90)
26 extension as determined by majority vote of the Commission at a public meeting.

27 (e) After the end of the community engagement process, by majority vote of the
28 Commission, at a public meeting, shall adopt and publicly issue a final report consisting of its
29 comprehensive plan, amended if so determined, and final recommendations for the establishment
30 of a Prince George's County Civil Rights Monument in Prince George's County for
31 consideration by the County Council and County Executive. The Commission shall provide a

1 public briefing to the County Council and the County Executive or the County Executive's
2 designee about its published final report at a public meeting of the County Council expeditiously
3 after the issuance of the final report.

4 (f) The membership of the Prince George's County Civil Rights Monument Commission
5 shall be as follows:

6 (1) One (1) person to serve as Chair of the Commission, appointed by the Chair of the
7 County Council;

8 (2) One (1) person to serve as Vice-Chair of the Commission, appointed by the County
9 Executive;

10 (3) Two (2) members appointed by the Chair of the County Council who have been
11 recommended by the Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council;

12 (4) Two (2) members appointed by the County Executive who have been recommended
13 by the Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council;

14 (5) Two (2) members appointed by the Chair of the County Council who have been
15 recommended by the Chair of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning
16 Commission, Prince George's Planning Board;

17 (6) Two (2) members appointed by the County Executive who have been recommended
18 by the Chair of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Prince
19 George's Planning Board; and

20 (7) One (1) member of the County Council, appointed by the Chair of the County
21 Council.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Prince George's County Civil Rights Monument
23 Commission shall be appointed no later than ninety (90) days after the adoption of this
24 resolution, meet in accordance with a schedule determined by the Chair of the Prince George's
25 County Civil Rights Monument Commission, which shall be at least once every two months until
26 the publication of its final report.


27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the recommended comprehensive plan shall be
28 submitted no later than six (6) months after the first public meeting of the Prince George's
29 County Civil Rights Monument Commission, subject to a ninety-day (90) extension of this
30 deadline as determined by a majority vote of the Commission at a public meeting. The
31 Commission's final report shall be published and transmitted to the County Council and the

1 County Executive no more than ninety (90) days after the final meeting of the community
2 engagement process, subject to a ninety-day (90) extension of such deadline as determined by a
3 majority vote of the Commission at a public meeting.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Prince George's County Civil Rights Monument
5 Commission shall cease to exist ninety (90) days after the completion of the construction and
6 inaugural public opening of the Prince George's County Civil Rights Monument, and this
7 resolution shall be of no further force or effect on such date.

Adopted this 18th day of November, 2025.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: 

Edward P. Burroughs III
Chair

ATTEST:



Donna J. Brown
Clerk of the Council