

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

1998 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-58-1998
Proposed by Council Member Del Giudice
Introduced by Council Member Del Giudice
Co-Sponsors
Date of Introduction July 14, 1998

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION concerning

DUI Fatal Crash Victim Memorial Sign Program

For the purpose of establishing the DUI Fatal Crash Victim Memorial Sign Program, adopting eligibility criteria, and adopting operational guidelines.

WHEREAS, persons driving under the influence of alcohol or controlled dangerous substances are a significant contributing factor in the number of fatal motor vehicle crashes in Prince George's County; and

WHEREAS, the Maryland State Police, the Prince George's County Police Department and several municipal law enforcement agencies operating within the County have a long-standing commitment to implementing effective alcohol countermeasure strategies in the County; and

WHEREAS, despite the existing commitment to reduce the death toll due to driving under the influence of alcohol or controlled dangerous substances, 28 persons were killed in such crashes on County roads in 1997, and as of April 1998, alcohol-related crashes were up 50% compared to the same period last year; and

WHEREAS, a high level of public awareness of the dangers of driving under the influence of alcohol or controlled dangerous substances has been shown to be an effective deterrent; and

WHEREAS, the Boulder County (Colorado) Sheriff's Department and the Colorado Department of Transportation have developed and instituted an innovative roadway memorial signing program that provides a highly visible reminder to the driving public of the dangers of

driving under the influence of alcohol or controlled dangerous substances; and

WHEREAS, the roadway memorial signing program provides a fitting memorial for the family and friends of persons who are killed by drivers attempting to operate a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or controlled dangerous substances; and

WHEREAS, the Prince George's County Council is confident that a roadway memorial signing program will be an effective tool to help increase awareness of the dangers of having irresponsible drivers on the roads and highways of the County who drive while under the influence of alcohol or controlled dangerous substances and will reduce the number of fatalities associated with such conduct.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's County, Maryland, that the County hereby adopts a roadway memorial signing program to be known as the Prince George's County DUI Fatal Crash Victim Memorial Sign Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief of Police, the Director of the Department of Public Works and Transportation and the County Attorney are hereby authorized to promulgate regulations and administer the Prince George's County DUI Fatal Crash Victim Memorial Sign Program in accordance with the guidelines incorporated herein (Appendix 1); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief of Police shall direct appropriate staff to develop a public information campaign within ninety (90) days of enactment of this legislation to inform citizens of the Prince George's County DUI Fatal Crash Victim Memorial Sign Program, which will include an informational brochure and application that explain the Signing Program and list eligibility requirements.

Adopted this 6th day of October, 1998.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY:

Ronald V. Russell
Chairman

ATTEST:

Joyce T. Sweeney
Clerk of the Council

Only fatal victims of alcohol and/or drug-related crashes occurring in Prince George's County are eligible for the DUI Fatal Crash Victim Memorial Signing Program.

A sign must be requested by the family of the victim, or other sponsor with the concurrence of the victim's family.

A sign cannot be erected for a fatal driver who is shown by toxicology reports to be in violation of the State DUI law.

The families of fatal victims of alcohol and/or drug-related crashes in Prince George's County that have occurred after the date of enactment of this bill may apply to have a memorial sign erected, and the Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T) will pay for the sign.

The families of fatal victims of alcohol and/or drug-related crashes in Prince George's County that have occurred prior the date of enactment of this bill may apply to have a memorial sign erected, but will be required to pay DPW&T \$100.00 to help defray the cost of the sign.

Any application for a DUI Fatal Crash Victim Memorial Sign shall be made to the Chief of Police, who shall determine the validity of the application. An appropriate administrative fee for processing the application may be established by the Chief of Police.

Each sign will show only the names(s) and age(s) of any victim(s), the date of the accident, and a cautionary message that reads "DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE".

All signs will be installed and maintained by the DPW&T.

The Director of the Department of Public Works shall direct staff to produce and erect a memorial sign within ninety (90) days of receipt of a copy of a validated memorial sign application from the Chief of Police.

No signs shall be installed on an interstate highway. A sign may be installed on a County highway within a city or town with the concurrence of the municipal government, where appropriate. A sign may be installed on a rural County highway.

In the event that a fatal alcohol and/or drug-related crash occurs on a state highway in Prince George's County and an application for a DUI Fatal Victim Memorial Sign is submitted and validated by the Police Chief, the Director of DPW&T is encouraged to seek agreement from the Director of MDOT to erect the sign.

CR-58-1998(DR-2)

APPENDIX 1