

# PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

## COMMITTEE REPORT

2021 Legislative Session

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**Reference No.:** CR-082-2021

**Draft No.:** 1

**Committee:** COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

**Date:** 10/21/2021

**Action:** FAV

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### REPORT:

Committee Vote: Favorable, 8-0 (In favor: Council Members Hawkins, Davis, Dernoga, Franklin, Glaros, Harrison, Taveras, and Turner)

The Committee of the Whole convened on October 21, 2021 to consider CR-82-2021. This legislation was transmitted by the County Executive for the Council's consideration. The Planning, Housing and Economic Development (PHED) Committee Director summarized the purpose of the Resolution and informed the Committee of written comments received on referral. As introduced on September 14, 2021, Draft-1 of the legislation approves an increase in all fees maintained by the Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement (DPIE).

DPIE Director Melinda Bolling stated that the modest increase, which still provides low fees compared to surrounding jurisdictions, is proposed to keep pace with commerce. Council Member Glaros commented on concern with an across-the-board 10 percent fee increase and Council Member Turner noted his higher expectation of review based on the increase. Council Member Franklin inquired about DPIE consideration of a different fee structure for small, minority owned businesses based in the County.

The Office of Law reviewed CR-82-2021 as it was introduced on September 14, 2021 and found it to be in proper legislative form with no legal impediments to its adoption. Associate County Attorney Amanda Denison stated that the fee increase is not subject to referendum as contained in Section 813 of the County Charter as they are excepted fees from this requirement.

The Office of Audits and Investigations provided the following analysis in a Policy and Fiscal Impact Statement dated October 20, 2021:

#### Fiscal Impact:

Direct Impact Adoption of CR-82-2021 should have a positive direct fiscal impact to the County as all DPIE fees would increase by 10%.

#### Indirect Impact:

Increased revenue from CR-82-2021 could have an indirect positive impact for the County from increased enforcement of safety regulations as the revenue could be used to hire additional staff.

On a motion by Council Member Franklin and second by Council Member Glaros, the Committee of the Whole voted favorable, 8-0, on CR-82-2021 Draft-1.