Dannielle M. Glaros
Chair
Council District 3
(301) 952-3060

PRINCE GEORGE'S | COUNTY COUNCIL

Together Strengthening Our Community

FEB 06 2018

The Hon. Jim Rosapepe, Chair
Prince George's County Senate Delegation
James Senate Office Building, Room 314
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

The Hon. Jay Walker, Chair
Prince George's County House Delegation
Lowe House Office Building, Room 207E
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

Re: **Prince George's County Council's Position on General Assembly Legislation**

Dear Senator Rosapepe & Delegate Walker:

It is my pleasure, on behalf of the Prince George's County Council, to transmit our position on pending proposed State legislation for the 2018 General Assembly Session. The Council met on February 6, 2018. The enclosed report reflects our position on General Assembly bills as they are currently drafted.

The Council appreciates the opportunity to work together with you and your colleagues to address issues important to our citizens and the operation of Prince George's County. Should you have any questions or need additional information please do not hesitate to contact me. For your convenience my office phone number is (301) 952-3060. Thanks again, for favorable consideration of the Council's position.

Sincerely,

Dannielle M. Glaros
Chair

Enclosures

cc: Hon. Rushern L. Baker, III, Prince George's County Executive

RULES & GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE REPORT

The Prince George's County Council met on February 6, 2018 with the following Members present:

Council Member, Dannielle M. Glaros, Chair
Council Member, Todd M. Turner, Vice Chair
Council Member Mel Franklin
Council Member Andrea C. Harrison
Council Member Mary A. Lehman
Council Member Obie Patterson
Council Member Deni Taveras
Council Member Derrick L. Davis

The Council voted for the following positions on these respective bills:

PG 429-18/HB 218 (Davis)	Prince George's County – Utility Services – Master Meters – **SUPPORT w/AMENDMENT**
PG/MC 102-18/HB 391 (Tarlau)	Prince George's County and Montgomery County – Special Exception Hearings – Required – **OPPOSE**
SB 277/HB 372 (Feldman/Korman)	Maryland Metro Funding Act – **SUPPORT**

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

POSITION STATEMENT

(PG 429-18/HB 218)
Delegate
Derek Davis

Prince George's County - Utility Services - Master Meters

POSITION: **SUPPORT w AMENDMENT**

PG 429-18 (HB 218) – Prince George's County - Utility Services - Master Meters – this bill prohibits the Public Service Commission or the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission from authorizing the use of a master meter in a residential multiple occupancy unit that is constructed for, or converted to, condominium or cooperative ownership. In the case of a residential multiple occupancy building in which master meters were previously authorized, the intended conversion to condominium or cooperative ownership may not take effect until individual meters have been installed.

Currently, the existence of master meters in multiple occupancy dwellings has often created significant burdens. In some areas, the onset of the foreclosure crisis has left remaining residents with large outstanding utility bills. These unpaid bills have become a countywide issue and have proliferated throughout many communities.

The Council is in full support of this legislation, but offers one suggestion to help ensure that existing concerns are also taken into consideration. We believe it is pertinent that the retrospective effects of master meters be taken into account and addressed. Therefore, we request that a study group, or workgroup that focuses on the extent of the problems created by master meters and offers recommendations for mitigating the impact of those existing problems be created.

For the foregoing reasons, the Prince George's County Council offers its position of **SUPPORT w/AMENDMENT** for PG 429-18, and asks that a workgroup be assembled to address any remaining conditions which exist as a consequence of master meters. We respectfully request your favorable consideration of our position.

Prepared by: Tia L. Holmes
Strategic Solutions Center, LLC
Jennifer A. Jenkins
On behalf of Prince George's County Council

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

POSITION STATEMENT

(PG/MC 102-18) (HB 391)
Tarlau

Prince George's County and Montgomery County – Special Exception Hearings – Required Notice

POSITION: **OPPOSE**

PG/MC 102-18 (HB 391) – requires in Prince George's County and Montgomery County, the Board of Appeals, the District Council, or an Administrative Office or Agency provide notice of a hearing for a special exception to all parties of record.

It is important to note that in Prince George's County, the Zoning Hearing Examiner holds the evidentiary hearings for Special Exceptions. The language in the bill that requires the Board of Appeals or the District Council to provide notice could create confusion in an already complex area of the law.

Under the authority of State Law, the County Council, sitting as the District Council, established certain zoning laws. Under the Zoning Law section of the *Prince George's County Code*, the Zoning Hearing Examiner ("ZHE") is the only body authorized to hold hearings for special exceptions and is required to provide notice to all persons of record.

Specifically, Section 27-125.04(b)(1) of the *Prince George's County Code* provides, in pertinent part:

> "(b) Notice of Hearing.
>
> (1) The Planning Board, **Zoning Hearing Examiner** and District Council **shall mail written notice** of the date, time, and place of the public hearing on **any application**, as provided in other parts of this Subtitle, **to all persons of record at least thirty (30) days prior to the hearing.** The application number, description of the property and the applicant's request shall also be included in the notice."

While "hearing for a special exception" is not enunciated in the *Code*, a Special Exception hearing is a **public hearing** initiated by an **application** for Special Exception. Therefore, when an applicant submits an application for Special Exception, a public hearing is scheduled and the notice requirement is triggered. In short, the Prince *George's County Code* currently addresses the intent of your legislation.

Additionally, in recognizing that all parties interested in a matter may not necessarily be persons of the record, signage that details date, time, and place of the public hearing are positioned on the property as an additional measure to help ensure the general public's awareness.

While the County Council appreciates the Bill Sponsor's intention to create and ensure greater transparency in local zoning mattes, this particular piece of legislation is duplicative and does not further the sponsor's goal.

Therefore, the County Council **OPPOSES** PG/MC 102-18 (HB 391) and respectfully requests your favorable consideration of our position.

Prepared by:

Maurice Simpson, Jr.
Jennifer A. Jenkins
On behalf of Prince George's County Council

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

POSITION STATEMENT

(SB 277/HB 372) Maryland Metro Funding Act
Senator Feldman
Delegate Korman

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

SB 277/HB 372 – Maryland Metro Funding Act - establishes the Maryland Metro Dedicated Fund Account in the Transportation Trust Fund to provide increased, dedicated contributions toward the capital costs of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority ("Metro"), contingent upon similar appropriations by the Commonwealth of Virginia and the District of Columbia.

This Council recognizes that Metro faces structural challenges that are largely associated with past underinvestment in the maintenance, rehabilitation and replacement of the system's infrastructure, and an unsustainable operating model. In order for Metro to continue in the critical role it plays in the success of the region's economy, transportation mobility, and overall quality of life, the system requires funding that is both reliable and predictable.

Metro's proposed FY19 budget totals $3.2 billion, which includes $1.9 billion in operating budget and debt service, and the capital budget. Bridging the gap in Metro's long-term capital needs is the funding priority. Metro's FY19 budget proposes $1.3 billion of immediate capital investment, and $8.5 billion over six years in order to continue providing a safe and reliable transit system. This year, these investments include:

- Continued delivery of 7000-series railcars to replace older, less reliable trains;
- New buses and paratransit vehicles; and
- Additional improvements or maintenance for tracks, stations, rail power, and radio and wireless systems.

Metro's service area size is nearly 1, 500 square miles with a population of approximately four million people. The average weekday passenger trips on Metrorail, Metrobus, and MetroAccess total approximately one million. These numbers remind us that our citizens rely on this system, which requires that we provide increased investments in system safety and reliability improvements. The conversation regarding a dedicated funding source for Metro has been longstanding and ongoing. Yet, every year Metro officials must seek contributions from multiple jurisdictions to maintain daily services for the residents and visitors who travel using our system. It has become painfully apparent that time has run out for short-term fixes to Metro. An investment in our region's transportation system is an investment in our people, businesses and communities for a future that promises a better quality of life, and economic prosperity for the state of Maryland, and for our region.

For these reasons, the Prince George's County Council offers a strong position of **SUPPORT** for **SB 277/HB 372.** We respectfully request your favorable consideration of our position.

Prepared by: Jennifer A. Jenkins
On behalf of Prince George's County Council