

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

2014 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-23-2014

Proposed by Council Member Olson

Introduced by Council Members Olson and Lehman

Co-Sponsors _____

Date of Introduction April 29, 2014

RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 Establishment of County Policy

3 for Shade Trees within County Rights-of-Way

4 For the purpose of the establishment of a shade tree policy along sidewalks within the Prince
5 George’s County rights-of-way.

6 WHEREAS, to strengthen neighborhoods, improve health, provide more transportation
7 options and make transit more accessible, Prince George’s County seeks to improve the
8 walkability and sustainability of our communities; and

9 WHEREAS, according to the National Weather Service, typical summer temperatures
10 (mid-June through late August) average between 80 - 90 degrees in Prince George’s County,
11 with mid-day temperatures often much higher; and

12 WHEREAS, trees provide shade to pedestrians and communities, lower temperatures and
13 reduce the “urban heat island effect,” absorb stormwater runoff, help reduce stress, and help
14 increase neighborhood property values; and

15 WHEREAS, neighborhoods with fewer trees in the Washington region have significantly
16 lower household incomes than neighborhoods with tree canopies; and;

17 WHEREAS, Prince George’s County is committed to environmental justice; and

18 WHEREAS, the Prince George’s County Council in 2012 enacted CB-83-2012, a bill
19 establishing a Complete and Green Streets policy for Prince George’s County, which adopted a
20 principle that streets in the County safely and adequately accommodate and incorporate best
21 management practices of environmental site design; and

22 WHEREAS, the County has, under Subtitles 23 and 25 of the County Code, established

1 requirements to plant, control, protect, regulate and improve roadside trees and vegetation within
2 the County rights-of-way and to preserve, maintain, enhance and restore the tree canopy
3 coverage in the County;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's
5 County, Maryland, that it shall be County policy that sidewalks in the County rights-of-way shall
6 have shade trees, roadside trees, ornamental trees, and flowering trees at intervals consistent with
7 the needs of their species, and shall provide shade as much as possible; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in implementing this policy, the County will not be
9 required to install trees where they are not feasible in certain sections due to physical constraints,
10 proximity of utility infrastructure, or other factors, but that the 'right tree in the right place'
11 principle shall be followed; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in implementing this policy, the County shall generally
13 start the planting of shade trees in areas of highest concentration of pedestrians, to include *Plan*
14 *Prince George's 2035 Approved General Plan* designated centers, as well as sidewalks leading
15 to bus stops, transit stations, commercial centers, parks and recreation facilities, schools, and
16 within neighborhoods; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Public Works and Transportation is
18 encouraged to revise its regulations, specifications and policy manuals to reflect the goals of this
19 County Council resolution and report annually to the County Council the number of trees
20 planted, neighborhoods covered, and tree canopy created; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Public Works and Transportation
22 shall collaborate with other agencies, including the Department of the Environment and
23 Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), as well as non-profits,
24 state agencies, and other applicable institutions to acquire and plant shade trees; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the newly planted trees will need water and care, and
26 that partnerships with neighborhoods where trees are planted should be pursued and will result in
27 the best maintenance and care for the trees.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be sent by the Clerk of the
29 Council to Rushern L. Baker, III, Prince George's County Executive, Darrell Mobley, Director,
30 Prince George's County Department of Public Works & Transportation, Adam Ortiz, Director,
31 Prince George's County Department of the Environment, Elizabeth Hewlett, Chair, M-NCPPC,

1 and the Chair of the County Beautification.

2 Adopted 23rd day of July, 2014.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Mel Franklin
Chairman

ATTEST:

Redis C. Floyd
Clerk of the Council