

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2022 Legislative Session**

Resolution No. CR-010-2022

Proposed by Council Member Taveras

Introduced by Council Members Taveras, Ivey, Hawkins, Streeter, Harrison, Davis,
Turner, Dernoga, Franklin, and Glaros

Co-Sponsors _____

Date of Introduction February 8, 2022

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION concerning
National Mentoring Month

For the purpose of recognizing January 2022 as National Mentoring Month and acknowledging that mentors and quality mentoring programs provide beneficial tools to help young people lead healthy and productive lives.

WHEREAS, the goals of National Mentoring Month are to raise awareness of mentoring, recruit individuals to mentor, celebrate the powerful impact of caring adults who volunteer time for the benefit of young people, and encourage organizations to engage and integrate quality mentoring into the efforts of the organizations; and

WHEREAS, there are young people across the United States who make everyday choices that lead to the big decisions in life without the guidance and support on which many other young people rely; and

WHEREAS, a mentor is a caring, consistent presence who devotes time to a person to help them discover personal strength and achieve their potential; and

WHEREAS, quality mentoring encourages positive life and social skills, promotes self-esteem, bolsters academic achievement and college access, supports career exploration, and nurtures desire for personal growth; and WHEREAS, mentoring happens in various settings, including community-based programs, elementary and secondary schools, colleges, government agencies, religious institutions, and the workplace, and in various ways, including formal mentoring matches and informal relationships with teachers, coaches, neighbors, faith leaders, and others; and

1 WHEREAS, mentoring programs have been shown to be effective in helping young
2 people make positive choices; and

3 WHEREAS, studies have shown that incorporating culture and heritage into mentoring
4 programs can improve academic outcomes and increases community engagement, especially for
5 Prince George’s County; and

6 WHEREAS, young people who meet regularly with mentors are 46 percent less likely
7 than peers to start using illegal drugs. Research also shows that young people who were at risk
8 for not completing high school but had a mentor, when compared with similarly situated young
9 people without a mentor, were:

10 (1) 55 percent more likely to be enrolled in college;

11 (2) 81 percent more likely to report participating regularly in sports or extracurricular
12 activities;

13 (3) more than twice as likely to say they held a leadership position in a club or sports
14 team; and

15 (4) 78 percent more likely to pay it forward by volunteering regularly in the communities
16 of young people; and

17 WHEREAS, students who are chronically absent are more likely to fall behind
18 academically, and mentoring can play a role in helping young people attend school regularly.
19 Research shows that students who meet regularly with a mentor are, as compared with the peers
20 of those students —

21 (1) 52 percent less likely to skip a full day of school; and

22 (2) 37 percent less likely to skip a class; and

23 WHEREAS, youth development experts agree that mentoring encourages positive youth
24 development and smart daily behaviors, such as finishing homework and having healthy social
25 interactions, and has a positive impact on the growth and success of a young person; and

26 WHEREAS, mentors help young people set career goals and use the personal contacts of
27 the mentors to help young people meet industry professionals and train for and find jobs; and

28 WHEREAS each of the benefits of mentors described in this preamble serves to link
29 youth to economic and social opportunity while also strengthening communities in the United
30 States; and

1 WHEREAS, despite those described benefits, an estimated 9,000,000 young people in the
2 United States feel isolated from meaningful connections with adults outside the home,
3 constituting a “mentoring gap” that demonstrates a need for collaboration and resources.

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County Council of Prince George's
5 County, Maryland, recognizes January 2022 as “National Mentoring Month” and recognizes the
6 caring adults who serve as staff and volunteers at quality mentoring programs and help the young
7 people of Prince George’s County find inner strength and reach their full potential.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Council of Prince George's County,
9 Maryland, acknowledges that mentoring is beneficial because mentoring supports educational
10 achievement and self-confidence, supports young people in setting career goals and expanding
11 social capital, reduces juvenile delinquency, improves positive personal, professional, and
12 academic outcomes, and strengthens communities; and promotes the establishment and
13 expansion of quality mentoring programs across Prince George’s County to equip young people
14 with the tools needed to lead healthy and productive lives.

Adopted this 8th day of February, 2022.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Calvin S. Hawkins, II
Chair

ATTEST:

Donna J. Brown
Clerk of the Council