

Prince George's County Council Agenda Item Summary

Meeting Date: 11/15/2011
Reference No.: CB-061-2011
Draft No.: 2
Proposer(s): Harrison
Sponsor(s): Harrison, Franklin, Turner, Patterson, Olson, Lehman, Campos
Item Title: An Act concerning Prostitution Free Zones for the purpose of establishing Prostitution Free Zones and enforcement provisions.

Drafter: Colette R. Gresham, Legislative Officer
Resource Personnel: Rodney C. Streeter, Legislative Aide District 5

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

Date Presented:	9/27/2011	Executive Action:	12/7/2011 S
Committee Referral:	9/27/2011 - PSFM	Effective Date:	1/23/2012

Committee Action: 10/5/2011 - FAV(A)

Date Introduced: 10/18/2011
Public Hearing: 11/15/2011 - 10:00 AM

Council Action (1) 11/15/2011 - ENACTED
Council Votes: WC:A, DLD:A, MRF:A, AH:A, LJ:-, ML:A, EO:A, OP:A, IT:A, KT:A
Pass/Fail: P
Remarks:

AFFECTED CODE SECTIONS:

14-139.05

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PSFM Committee Report

Date 10/5/2011

Committee Vote: Favorable as amended 5-0 (In Favor: Council Members Campos, Franklin, Patterson, Toles and Turner)

This bill authorizes the Chief of Police to declare Prostitution Free Zones in Prince George's County. The law provides that, while a Prostitution Free Zone is in effect, it is unlawful for a group of two or more persons to congregate in a public space or property in that area for the purpose of engaging in prostitution or prostitution-related offenses. A Prostitution Free Zone may be established by the Chief of Police, provided it meets certain criteria, including a disproportionately high number of arrests or calls for police service related prostitution or prostitution-related offenses in the proposed zone within the preceding six-month period. Each Prostitution Free Zone will last no more than 480 hours and the area will be clearly identified. Any violators of the law are subject to a fine of \$1,000, imprisonment for up to 6 months, or both. The District of Columbia has a similar law which was adopted in 2006.

The sponsor of the bill stated that the Prostitution Free Zone legislation was requested by a community that borders the District of Columbia. There was a concern for the safety of the residents as well as the children being subjected

to these types of activities. As a result of working closely with the District and the police, there has been a decrease in prostitution activity. Major Nader, Prince George's County Police Department, District 3 spoke in support of the legislation and stated that with an increased police presence in these communities, they have been able to combat the problem with prostitution and prostitution-related offenses. Alison Green, a representative from the State's Attorney's Office, also spoke in support. The County Executive was also in support of this legislation with suggested amendments.

During the worksession the bill was amended as follows:

1. On page 2, line 4, after "(4)" insert "Police Department means the Prince George's County Police Department." and renumber
2. On page, 2, line 7, insert "Prostitution free zone means public space or public property in an area not to exceed a square of one thousand (1,000) feet on each side that is established pursuant to subsections (b) and (c)."
3. On page 2, line 23, after "the" insert "proposed".

The Office of Law has reviewed this legislation and finds it to be in proper legislative form with no legal impediments to its enactment.

There will not be a negative fiscal impact on the County as a result of enacting CB-61-2011.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION/FISCAL IMPACT:

(Includes reason for proposal, as well as any unique statutory requirements)

The proposed legislation would authorize the Chief of Police to declare "Prostitution Free Zones" in the County based on certain criteria and for a certain period of time. The bill provides that, while a Prostitution Free Zone is in effect, it is unlawful for a group of two or more persons to congregate on public space or property in that area for the purpose of engaging in prostitution or prostitution-related offenses. The District of Columbia has a similar law which was adopted in 2006 by the Council and became effective April 24, 2007.

CODE INDEX TOPICS:

INCLUSION FILES:
