

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORT

2023 Legislative Session

Reference No.: CB-036-2023

Draft No.: 1

Committee: TIEE

Date: 4/13/2023

Action: FAV

REPORT:

Committee Vote: Favorable, 5-0 (In Favor: Council Members Olson, Dernoga, Hawkins, Ivey, and Watson).

The Committee convened on April 13, 2023, to discuss CB-036-2023 and the accompanying resolution CR-017-2023. The bill would amend the County's Building Code to extend the expiration date for After-Hours Permits from six (6) months to twelve (12) months for permits issued by the Department of Permitting Inspections and Enforcement (DPIE). CB-36 would also amend the Building Code by establishing an After-Hours Permit fee for the review and issuance of these permits. CR-17-2023 would amend the table of fees maintained by DPIE to add the permit fee for an After-Hours Permit, setting it at sixty dollars (\$60) plus a 5% technology fee.

An After-Hours Permit is a specialized permit issued by DPIE which allows for work beyond the authorized construction hours of Monday through Saturday 7:00am – 7:00pm. These permits are usually issued for 30-day periods and include work within public spaces authorized by DPIE. Currently, applicants are often unable to complete the review process and obtain permits within the six-month period, as an application needs to be reviewed by various agencies including the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC), the Soil Conservation District, and the Health Department, in addition to the DPIE Building Plan and Site Road Divisions. This sequence of reviews causes applicants to request waivers which triggers a renewal fee. With the proposed change to twelve months, it is anticipated that waiver requests will decrease. Additionally, this change was proposed in response to the industry's challenges with current permitting policy and practices. The proposed legislation also includes a new permit category, After-Hours Permit fee adopted in 2020, for which there was no prior associated fee. The proposed fee is now \$60.00 plus the 5% technology fee which is in alignment with other permitting fees. In fiscal year 2022, DPIE had approximately 4,500 abandoned permit applications. In 2023, DPIE has only issued one After Hours Permit. Extension of the review timeframe from six (6) month to twelve months will proved more flexibility for DPIE staff, as well as the applicant, to have applications vetted, processed, and issued without the need for waivers or abandonment. Staff provided a technical amendment to CR-17 that was accepted by the Committee.

After discussion, the Committee voted favorably on CB-36-2023, and favorably as amended on CR-17-2023, both by votes of 5-0.