

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND**

**2012 Legislative Session**

**REORGANIZATIONAL PROPOSAL**

Executive Order No. 20-2012

Date Received August 14, 2012

Bill No. CB-69-2012

Chapter No. 46

Action by Council Approved

Date of Council Action October 9, 2012

**EXECUTIVE ORDER**

**No. 20 -2012**

WHEREAS, the County's permitting, inspection, and enforcement functions are currently dispersed among several departments, including the Department of Environmental Resources, the Department of Public Works and Transportation, and the Health Department; and

WHEREAS, the unification of various elements of the permitting process will improve the ease of use of this process by both County residents and businesses by reducing redundancies, the need for multiple trips to multiple locations and issues of coordination between multiple agencies; and

WHEREAS, having functions relative to permitting centralized in one agency will reduce the cost of complying with the requirements of the permitting process, saving both time and money for County residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, by moving those services related to permitting, inspections and enforcement into one agency will create efficiencies in these processes allowing for timely resolution of such matters; and

WHEREAS, shifting functions relative to permitting, inspections and enforcement into one central agency will allow other departments to focus on their core services such as transportation and environmental resources; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive has determined that the creation of a new department to perform the permitting, inspections, and enforcement functions currently performed by the Department of Environmental Resources, the Department of Public Works and Transportation, and the Health Department will enable the County to more effectively carry out these responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, Section 503 of the Prince George's County Charter provides that the County Executive may propose changes to the organization of the Executive branch, including the establishment or abolition of agencies, and the assignment of functions, powers and duties among agencies, which proposals shall be set forth in Executive Orders in statutory form and be submitted to the County Council; and

WHEREAS, there is hereby proposed a Department of Permitting, Inspections, and Enforcement.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that:

SECTION 1. The Schedule of Legislation of the Charter for Prince George’s County, Maryland, be and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

SCHEDULE OF LEGISLATION

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**Section 11. Department of Environmental Resources.**

There shall be a Department of Environmental Resources headed by a Director of Environmental Resources. The Director of Environmental Resources shall be responsible for the overall administration and coordination of the County's environmental policies and programs including, but not limited to, solid waste and recycling management, water and sewer planning, and water quality and flood management planning. The Director shall study and report on master plans, capital improvement programs, and any planning and zoning matters related to the County’s environmental policies and programs which may be referred to the Executive branch. The Director shall be responsible for the administration of County laws relating to [business licensing and the processing of complaints against such businesses. The Director shall also be responsible for the administration and enforcement of the County's permitting functions as assigned by law. These functions shall include, but need not be limited to:

- (1) Housing regulations and inspections;
- (2) Construction standards, including plans review and inspections, and enforcement of building and fire codes related to building permits;
- (3) Zoning enforcement;
- (4) Property standards; and
- (5) Animal control.

[Additional responsibilities relating to permit granting and inspectional authority may be assigned by law.]

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**Section 17. Department of Permitting, Inspections, and Enforcement**

There shall be a Department of Permitting, Inspections, and Enforcement headed by a Director of Permitting, Inspections, and Enforcement. The Director of Permitting, Inspections, and Enforcement shall be responsible for the administration of County laws relating to business licensing and the processing of complaints against such businesses. The Director shall study and report on any planning and zoning matters related to permitting, inspections, and enforcement. The Director shall also be responsible for the administration and enforcement of the County's permitting functions as assigned by law. These functions shall include, but need not be limited to:

- (1) Housing regulations and inspections;
- (2) Construction standards, including plans review and inspections, and enforcement of building and fire codes related to building permits;
- (3) Zoning enforcement; and
- (4) Property standards.

Additional responsibilities relating to permit granting and inspectional authority may be assigned by law.

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SECTION 2. This Order shall be submitted to the County Council pursuant to Section 503 of the Prince George's County Charter and, thereafter, shall become effective sixty (60) calendar days after such submission unless disapproved by a majority vote of the full Council.

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Rushern L. Baker, III  
County Executive