

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2019 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-94-2019

Proposed by Council Member Taveras

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

Date of Introduction October 29, 2019

RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 The Freedom from Domestic Violence as a Fundamental Human Right

3 For the purpose of recognizing domestic violence as a human rights concern and declaring that
4 the freedom from domestic violence is a fundamental human right.

5 WHEREAS, 1 in 4 women and nearly 1 in 10 men in the United States experience contact
6 sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner during their lifetime,
7 according to the Centers for Disease Control; and

8 WHEREAS, the single best predictor of children becoming a perpetrator or victim of
9 domestic violence later in life is whether or not they grow up in a home where there is a
10 domestic violence, according to UNICEF; and

11 WHEREAS, 997 women were killed by their intimate partners in 2017, averaging about 2.7
12 women killed per day in the country, according to the Violence Policy Center; and

13 WHEREAS, the medical establishment is beginning to recognize the high prevalence of
14 traumatic brain injuries resulting from domestic violence survivors; and

15 WHEREAS, at least 94 of the mass shootings that occurred between 2009 and 2017
16 involved the perpetrator shooting an intimate partner or family member and these mass shootings
17 claimed 491 total victims; and

18 WHEREAS, there were 13,829 domestic violence crimes reported in Maryland in 2017,
19 including 49 homicides, 394 rapes, and 27,823 assaults; and

20 WHEREAS, there were 1,711 domestic-related crimes in Prince George's County in 2017;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, in fiscal year 2018 the Prince George's County Family Justice Center saw a

1 75% increase in clients seeking services related to domestic violence, sexual assault, human
2 trafficking, and elder abuse; and

3 WHEREAS, the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against
4 Women, adopted in 1993, recognizes the urgent need for the universal application to women of
5 the rights and principles with regard to equality, security, liberty, integrity, and dignity of all
6 human beings; and

7 WHEREAS, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women has urged
8 the United States government to reassess existing mechanisms for protecting domestic violence
9 survivors and for punishing abusers, stating that “violence against women is the most pervasive
10 human rights violation which continues to challenge every country in the world, and the U.S. is
11 no exception”.

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's
13 County, Maryland, that the Prince George’s County Council joins world leaders and leaders
14 within the United States in recognition of domestic violence as a human rights concern and
15 declares that the freedom from domestic violence is a fundamental human right.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be sent to the County
17 Executive, the Honorable Chairs and Members of the Prince George’s County Senate and House
18 Delegations to the Maryland General Assembly, and the Chief of Police.

Adopted this 29th day of October , 2019.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Todd M. Turner
Chair

ATTEST:

Donna J. Brown
Acting Clerk of the Council