

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORT

2021 Legislative Session

Reference No.: CR-024-2021

Draft No.: 2

Committee: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Date: 04/20/2021

Action: FAV(A)

REPORT:

Committee Vote: Favorable as amended, 11-0 (In favor: Council Members Hawkins, Anderson-Walker, Davis, Dernoga, Franklin, Glaros, Harrison, Ivey, Streeter, Taveras and Turner)

The Committee of the Whole (COW) convened on April 8, 2021 and April 20, 2021 to consider CR-24-2021. The Planning, Housing and Economic Development Committee Director summarized the purpose of the resolution. Aspasia Xypolia, Director of the Department of Housing and Community Development, provided additional background on the legislation and responded to Council Members' questions.

CR-24-2021 amends the Prince George's County Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Annual Action Plan for Housing and Community Development by adding new Community Development Block Grant COVID-19 Round 3 ("CDBG-CV") Program activities. These eligible activities were not originally funded or described in the FY2020 Annual Action Plan, as modified on June 16, 2020. The Citizen Participation Plan requires at least one public hearing, which was held on April 6, 2021.

The United States Congress enacted the Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security ("CARES") Act, part of which attempts to address a wide variety of needs including providing shelter to homeless individuals, increasing affordable housing options, and maintaining crucial public services during the current public health outbreak through a formula grant allocation. As part of the effort, Congress designated funding to federal entitlement programs, allocated through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Specifically, Prince George's County is designated to receive additional funding totaling (\$4,086,220) in Community Development Block Grant Program COVID-19 Round 3 Funds.

The resolution was held in Committee on April 8 for further evaluation of the new CDBG-CV Program activities. During the April 20 COW meeting, the Committee reviewed revisions in Attachment A to CR-24-2021 (DR-2) as transmitted by the Administration on April 19, 2021. Director Xypolia explained the changes to include a decrease in funding recommendation in the amount of \$161,926 for the Prince George's County Stand Up and Deliver activity and an increase in the same amount in funding recommendation for Sowing Empowerment and Economic Dev., Inc. Emergency Food Distribution Hub activity.

The Associate County Attorney, Amanda Denison, determined that the resolution, including the amendments in Attachment A, were in proper legislative form and there were no legal impediments to adoption of the resolution. However, technical errors were identified as follows:

- Page 1, Line 21:
After the word “by”, strike colon “:”
After the word “providing” insert colon “:.”
- Page 1, Line 22:
After the word “low-“ insert “income”
- Page 3, Line 2:
After “15A-106” insert “-Review and Approval of the Five-Year Consolidated Housing and Community Development Plan and Annual Action Plan.”

After “15A-105(a)(1)” insert “-Plan Annual Housing and Community Developmental Action 11 Plan – content”
- Page 3, Line 22:
After the word “part” and before the word “hereof” insert “of the record”
- Page 3, Line 26:
Strike “U.S.” and replace with “United States”

The Office of Audits and Investigations reviewed CR-24-2021 and determined that there would be no negative fiscal impact on the County as a result of adopting the resolution. Adoption of CR-24-2021 would have offsetting impacts on revenue and expenditures as it represents an increase of \$4,086,220 in Department spending, funded by an equivalent amount of federal CDBG-CV3 funds, to address concerns caused by the public emergency.

After discussion the Committee of the Whole voted favorable, 11-0, on CR-24-2021 DR-2 as transmitted by the Administration with the additional technical amendments recommended by the Associate County Attorney.