PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORT

2020 Legislative Session

Reference No.:	CR-092-2020
Draft No.:	1
Committee:	COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Date:	10/29/2020
Action:	FAV

REPORT:

Committee Vote: Favorable, 10-0 (In favor: Council Members Turner, Anderson-Walker, Davis, Dernoga, Franklin, Glaros, Hawkins, Ivey, Streeter and Taveras)

The Committee of the Whole convened on October 29, 2020 to discuss CR-92-2020, legislation to approve and adopt the Analysis of Impediments ("AI") to Fair Housing Choice for Prince George's County as required under Section 808(e) of the Fair Housing Act. The Planning, Housing and Economic Development Committee Director summarized the purpose of the legislation and informed the Committee of written referral comments received. The resolution was transmitted by the County Executive for the County Council's consideration. The transmittal included the following background information concerning the AI.

Section 808(e)(5) of the Fair Housing Act requires the Secretary of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD") to administer the Department's housing and urban development programs in a manner to "affirmatively further fair housing." As such, pursuant to 24 CFR Part 91.225, jurisdictions administering federal entitlement programs are required to submit a certification acknowledging its commitment to affirmatively furthering fair housing. Specifically, each jurisdiction is required to conduct an analysis to identify impediments to fair housing choice within boundaries; take appropriate actions to overcome the effects of any impediments identified through that analysis; and maintain records reflecting the analysis and actions. On November 12, 2013, the Prince George's County Council adopted the "Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice for Prince George's County" through County Resolution CR-116-2013. Thereafter, on July 23, 2019, the County Council adopted the current AI – 2019 Update. Both Fair Housing Reports were prepared in partnership with the City of Bowie. Please note that HUD recommends that each participating jurisdiction conduct or update and submit its AI at least once every three (3) to five (5) years consistent with its Consolidated Plan cycle. Therefore, in order to maintain compliance and consistency with the FY 2021-2025 Five Year Consolidated Plan, it is appropriate for the County to conduct and submit a new AI inclusive of a Fair Housing Action Plan that details the County's review and assessment of its laws, regulations, and administrative policies, procedures, and practices affecting the location, availability, and accessibility of housing, as well as an assessment of conditions, both public and private, affecting fair housing choice.

The Office of Law reviewed CR-92-2020 and found it to be in proper legislative form with no legal impediments to its adoption. The Office of Audits and Investigations submitted an October 28, 2020 Policy Analysis and Fiscal Impact Statement indicating that adoption of CR-92-2020 should not result in a direct fiscal impact to the County's revenue as no General Funds will be used in the provision of programs and services of the Analysis of Impediments. An indirect impact of adoption of the resolution may represent future positive impact through the identification and removal of impediments to housing choice, contributing to a more vibrant community and local economy.

Ms. Estella Alexander, Director of the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) commented on additional aspects of the AI and introduced consultants, Mr. Manuel Ochoa of Ochoa Urban Collaborative and Ms. Lisa Sturtevant of LSA to provide a PowerPoint presentation summarizing the "Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice – Prince George's County and City of Bowie, Maryland."

In accordance with 24 CFR §91.105, a public hearing was held on CR-92-2020 on October 27, 2020.

Following discussion, and questions and answers concerning the presentation, the Committee of the Whole voted favorable, 10-0, on CR-92-2020 Draft-1.