

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

2023 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-070-2023

Proposed by Council Member Ivey

Introduced by Council Members Ivey, Harrison, Dernoga, Olson, Oriadha,
Watson and Burroughs

Co-Sponsors _____

Date of Introduction July 18, 2023

RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 Universal Design Implementation Workgroup

3 For the purpose of establishing a Universal Design Implementation Workgroup; providing for the
4 purpose of the Universal Design Implementation Workgroup; providing for the appointment of the
5 members of the Universal Design Implementation Workgroup; providing for the composition of
6 the Universal Design Implementation Workgroup; providing for the staff and technical support for
7 the Universal Design Implementation Workgroup; providing for the issuance of a certain report;
8 and generally regarding the Universal Design Implementation Workgroup.

9 WHEREAS, Universal Design is the design of products and environments to be usable by all
10 people, to the greatest extent possible; and

11 WHEREAS, the intent of the universal design concept is to simplify life for everyone by
12 making more housing usable by more people at little or no extra cost; and

13 WHEREAS, a benefit of universal design is increased safety by having features such as no-
14 step walkways and entries, and adding grab bars and slip resistant floors that can prevent falls; and

15 WHEREAS, a benefit of universal design is the provision of ergonomic design by having an
16 environment that accommodates commonly used wheeled devices such as luggage, baby strollers,
17 walkers, and wheelchairs. Lever handles on faucets and doors not only make it easier to turn
18 handles when carrying items, they reduce stress to hands and wrists; and

19 WHEREAS, a benefit of universal design is the provision of a more inclusive design by
20 having a home that incorporates universal design, meaning that people of all ages and abilities are
21 able to use the home; and

1 WHEREAS, universal design allows for individuals to grow old in their homes by
2 accommodating changes over the lifetime of the individual due to aging, injuries, or other health
3 conditions; and

4 WHEREAS, CB-65-2023 (DR-2) requires the use of some universal design elements in new
5 residential construction with certain exemptions and waivers; and

6 WHEREAS, CB-65-2023 (DR-2) requires certain universal design elements for the
7 entrances, interior accessible routes, bathrooms, controls, switches, electrical outlets, kitchens,
8 smoke detectors, fire alarms, and CO2 detectors in new residential construction with certain
9 exemptions and waivers; and

10 WHEREAS, Section 506 of the Charter for Prince George's County provides that the County
11 Council or the County Executive may appoint, for designated periods, one or more temporary
12 advisory boards of citizens of the County who shall assist in the consideration of County policies
13 and programs.

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's County,
15 Maryland, that there is hereby established a Universal Design Implementation Workgroup to assist
16 the County in implementing the required procedural and design requirements of Universal Design
17 set forth in Subtitle 4, Division 6. Universal Design for Housing of the Prince George's County
18 Code, as enacted pursuant to CB-65-2023 (DR-2):

19 (a) The Universal Design Implementation Workgroup shall review the Universal Design
20 provisions of CB-65-2023 (DR-2) and shall provide advice on the County's priorities and
21 goals for requiring some Universal Design and on any proposed legislation and/or changes
22 to be considered to the provisions of this Division.

23 (b) The Chair of the County Council shall make the appointments to the Universal Design
24 Implementation Workgroup and the Universal Design Implementation Work Group shall
25 be comprised of the following members:

- 26 (1) The Chair of the County Council or the Chair's County Council designee to serve
27 as the Chair of the Universal Design Implementation Work Group;
- 28 (2) A Member of the County Council;
- 29 (3) A Representative of the County Executive or their designee;
- 30 (4) The Director of the Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement or their
31 designee;

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14

- (5) The Director of the Department of Planning or their designee;
 - (6) The Director of the Department of Public Works and Transportation or their designee;
 - (7) A Representative from the Maryland Building Industry Association, Prince George’s County Chapter (MBIA) or their designee;
 - (8) A Representative from the American Institute of Architects (AIA) from Prince George’s County or their designee;
 - (9) A Representative from the non-profit building community;
 - (10) A Representative from the disability advocacy community; and
 - (11) A Representative from the aging-in-place advocacy community.
- (c) The Council Administrator shall provide for the staff and technical support for the Universal Design Implementation Workgroup.
- (d) The Universal Design Implementation Work Group shall issue a report to be transmitted to the County Council no later than November 15, 2024.

Adopted this 18th day of July, 2023.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Thomas E. Dernoga
Chair

ATTEST:

Donna J. Brown
Clerk of the Council