

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2020 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-35-2020

Proposed by Council Chair Turner

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

Date of Introduction May 18, 2020

EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

1 AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION concerning

2 Emergency Operations—Public Meetings, Sessions, and Hearings

3 For the purpose of postponement of County Council actions, providing for alternative public
4 participation for meetings that are required to be held, and operations necessitated by the
5 Coronavirus (“COVID-19”) public health emergency.

6 WHEREAS, the World Health Organization (“WHO”) and the Centers for Disease Control
7 and Prevention (“CDC”) have declared the COVID-19 outbreak a “public health emergency of
8 international concern”; and

9 WHEREAS, the CDC and other public health authorities have advised taking precautions to
10 reduce the possibility of exposure to the virus and slow the spread of the disease; and

11 WHEREAS, the President of the United States proclaimed that the COVID-19 outbreak in
12 the United States constituted a national emergency beginning March 1, 2020; and

13 WHEREAS, Governor Lawrence Hogan issued a “Proclamation and Declaration of State of
14 Emergency and Existence of Catastrophic Health Emergency – COVID-19”; and

15 WHEREAS, on May 13, 2020, Governor Lawrence Hogan amended and restated the Order
16 of May 6, 2020 allowing the reopening of certain businesses and facilities, subject to local
17 regulation; and

18 WHEREAS, the Prince George’s County Health Department elevated its recommendations
19 to be consistent with those of the CDC and is recommending social distancing within Prince
20 George’s County, including limiting access to public buildings, recreational facilities and the
21 courthouses located in the County until April 6, 2020; and

22 WHEREAS, the Chief Administrative Officer of Prince George’s County issued a

1 memorandum on March 13, 2020, directing all County Boards and Commissions to suspend in-
2 person meetings and/or hearings and restricting access to County buildings to only County
3 Employees beginning March 16, 2020; and

4 WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks
5 declared that a Local State of Emergency exists in Prince George's County; and

6 WHEREAS, the Governing Body of Prince George's County extended the Local State of
7 Emergency by adopting CR-31-2020 on May 11, 2020; and

8 WHEREAS, on May 14, 2020, Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks
9 extended the Local State of Emergency and the Stay-At-Home Order, as amended, for Prince
10 George's County by Executive Order 8-2020; and

11 WHEREAS, all of the above referenced States of Emergency continue in effect; and

12 WHEREAS, most public institutions in Prince George's County, including the Judicial
13 Branch, have limited public access in recognition of the global pandemic posed by COVID-19;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, the global pandemic COVID-19 poses an imminent risk to the health, safety,
16 and welfare of Prince George's County residents; and

17 WHEREAS, pursuant to the Prince George's County Charter a resolution has the force and
18 effect of law but of a temporary or administrative character.

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's
20 County, Maryland, that all public/evidentiary hearings, including notice thereof, of the Zoning
21 Hearing Examiner and Board of Appeals are stayed for a period that is the lesser of sixty (60)
22 days or until such time as the county-wide emergency is lifted; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the time within which any individual, agency or
24 official must submit a recommendation and/or response to the Zoning Hearing Examiner or
25 Board of Appeals for their consideration at said public/evidentiary hearings, is stayed for a
26 period that is the lesser of sixty (60) days or until such time as the county-wide emergency is
27 lifted.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall suspend, toll, extend or otherwise
29 grant relief from time deadlines, requirements, or expirations in the Prince George's County
30 Code, including Subtitle 27, except the County Council sitting in any capacity may meet to
31 consider legislative or non-zoning related administrative matters.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all time deadlines, including notice thereof, for oral
2 arguments or evidentiary hearings to be considered by the County Council sitting as the District
3 Council on pending zoning applications are suspended or tolled for a period that is the lesser of
4 sixty (60) days or until such time as the county-wide emergency is lifted.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect on the day it is
6 adopted and supersedes CR-10-2020 which no longer has any force or effect.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 317 of the Prince George’s County
8 Charter, in the event of an emergency declared by the Governor pursuant to provisions of State
9 law, which emergency affects any part or all of Prince George's County, and there is an emergent
10 issue which precludes a Council meeting, the Council Chair or Vice Chair, in the Chair’s
11 absence, is authorized, upon advice and consent of a majority of the full Council, to modify the
12 voting, quorum, and publication requirements consistent with State law, as necessary to respond
13 to the emergency.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in order to address the public emergency and in light
15 of the County Charter, in the event a public meeting, session, or hearing is mandated by law and
16 cannot be continued, or is necessary for the continuity of government operations, the Council
17 may provide for alternative public participation to include remote teleconferencing to address the
18 emergency.

Adopted this 18th day of May, 2020.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Todd M. Turner
Council Chair

ATTEST:

Donna J. Brown
Clerk of the Council