

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2026 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-024-2026

Proposed by Council Member Blegay

Introduced by Council Members Blegay, Oriadha, Hunter, Harrison, Ivey
Fisher, Dernoga, and Olson

Co-Sponsors Council Members Adams, Adams-Stafford, and Burroughs

Date of Introduction April 7, 2026

RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 The Accessibility Taskforce for People Who Are Blind, Low-Vision, Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or
 3 Deaf Blind

4 For the purpose of identifying accessibility barriers and developing recommendations to improve
 5 access for blind, low-vision, deaf, hard-of-hearing residents, and deaf blind in Prince George's
 6 County; consideration of related accessibility issues affecting other residents with disabilities;
 7 the membership of the accessibility task force; and generally relating to improving accessibility
 8 for residents who are deaf or blind.

9 WHEREAS, Prince George's County is committed to ensuring that all residents have
 10 meaningful access to County programs, services, and public participation; and

11 WHEREAS, blind, low-vision, deaf, hard-of-hearing residents, and deaf blind may
 12 encounter barriers when accessing County information, services, facilities, meetings, websites,
 13 and communications; and

14 WHEREAS, such barriers may impede residents' ability to obtain public information, apply
 15 for services, participate in hearings and meetings, navigate County buildings, access
 16 transportation information, and communicate effectively with County agencies; and

17 WHEREAS, digital accessibility is an essential component of equal access to government
 18 services, and County websites, portals, forms, notices, and digital documents should be
 19 accessible to blind, low-vision, deaf, and hard-of-hearing residents, deaf blind; and

20 WHEREAS, barriers on websites and digital platforms may include inaccessible PDFs and
 21 forms, lack of compatibility with screen readers and assistive technology, inadequate alternative

1 text, poor keyboard navigation, inaccessible online service portals, lack of captions or transcripts,
 2 and other obstacles to effective communication and use; and

3 WHEREAS, many Prince George's County residents rely upon public transportation
 4 services and related infrastructure, and accessibility concerns affecting County residents may
 5 include issues relating to bus stops, rail stations, signage, service alerts, visual and audible
 6 announcements, elevator reliability, pedestrian connections, and paratransit coordination; and

7 WHEREAS, because the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)
 8 provides transportation services used by many Prince George's County residents, coordination
 9 with WMATA is necessary to identify and evaluate transportation-related accessibility issues
 10 affecting blind, low-vision, deaf, hard-of-hearing residents, and deaf blind in the County; and

11 WHEREAS, the County Council finds that a dedicated task force is needed to study these
 12 issues, identify barriers, gather stakeholder input, and develop recommendations to improve
 13 accessibility for blind, low-vision, deaf, hard-of-hearing residents, deaf blind in Prince George's
 14 County; and

15 WHEREAS, Section 506 of the Prince George's County Charter authorizes the County
 16 Council to appoint temporary advisory boards and commissions to assist in the consideration of
 17 county policies and programs.

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's
 19 County, Maryland, that the accessibility task force for people who are blind or have low vision,
 20 deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf blind is hereby established to assess barriers and develop
 21 recommendations aimed at improving accessibility across Prince George's County.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be responsible for:

23 (a) reviewing the accessibility of County websites, web pages, digital platforms, online
 24 forms, service portals, digital documents, and other online resources used to provide information
 25 or services to the public, for the blind, low-vision, deaf, hard-of-hearing residents, and deaf
 26 blind;

27 (b) identifying barriers relating to screen-reader compatibility, alternative text,
 28 keyboard navigation, accessible forms, accessible PDFs and digital documents, captioning,
 29 transcripts, American Sign Language interpretation, and other communication access features
 30 relevant to blind, low-vision, deaf, hard-of-hearing residents, and deaf blind.

31 (c) the accessibility of County facilities, service locations, community centers,

1 libraries, health facilities, and other public-facing County buildings as they relate to navigation,
 2 signage, wayfinding, communication access, and service delivery for blind, low-vision, deaf,
 3 hard-of-hearing residents, and deaf blind.

4 (d) assess the availability of County communications and materials in accessible formats in
 5 plain language and Spanish translations, including braille, large print, audio, captioned video,
 6 transcripts, and other effective communication formats;

7 (e) identify accessibility issues affecting blind, low-vision, deaf, hard-of-hearing residents,
 8 and blind deaf in connection with transportation systems and transportation-related infrastructure
 9 serving Prince George's County, including issues involving bus stops, rail stations, visual and
 10 audible service announcements, signage, elevator reliability, pedestrian connections, paratransit
 11 coordination, and access to service alerts and transit information;

12 (f) identify accessibility issues affecting blind, low-vision, deaf, hard-of-hearing, and blind
 13 deaf students and families in connection with public education, school communications, and
 14 public-facing school events;

15 (g) accessibility issues affecting blind, low-vision, deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf blind
 16 residents in the areas of emergency communications, accessible evacuation and
 17 transportation, accessible sheltering and mass care, voluntary registries and privacy, funding and
 18 training;

19 (j) any other additional high priority areas affecting the blind, low-vision, deaf, hard of
 20 hearing, and deaf blind residents;

21 (i) create a set schedule of meeting times, bylaws of operation, and a manner to incorporate
 22 public input when it is reasonable to do so.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall consist of the following
 24 membership:

25 (a) One representative from the Department of Family Services;

26 (b) One representative from the Office of Information Technology;

27 (c) One representative from the Department of Social Services;

28 (d) One representative from the Department of Public Works and Transportation;

29 (e) One representative from Prince George's County Public Schools;

30 (f) One representative from the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority;

31 (g) One representative from Gallaudet University;

- (h) One representative from Connections Beyond Sight;
- (i) One representative from Maryland/DC Hands & Voices;
- (j) One representative from the Prince George's County Memorial Library System;
- (k) The County Council Chair shall appoint six (6) members which shall include:

- (1) One resident of Prince George's County who is blind;
- (2) One resident of Prince George's County who is low-vision;
- (3) One resident of Prince George's County who is deaf;
- (4) One resident of Prince George's County who is hard-of-hearing;
- (5) One resident of Prince George's County who is deaf blind; and
- (6) One member of the County Council.

(l) The Chair of the Prince George's County Commission for Individuals with Disability Chair or their designee;

(m) One representative of the Coalition of Blind Residents for Accessibility, Inc

(n) The membership should be composed of fifty percent (50%) with individuals with disabilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Council Chair shall appoint the task force chair. The taskforce chair shall be responsible for overseeing the taskforce's general operations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all representatives and appointments should be confirmed within ninety (90) days of the adoption of this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall submit its preliminary findings and recommendations to the County Council no later than October 6, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall submit its final recommendations to the County Council on improving accessibility in the County no later than December 8, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force term shall end on December 8, 2026, unless extended subsequently by County Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be sent by the Clerk of the Council to the enumerated departments, agencies, institutions, organizations, and the Chair of the County Council.

Adopted this 9th day of June, 2026.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Krystal Oriadha
Chair

ATTEST:

Donna J. Brown
Clerk of the Council