

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

Resolution No. CR-129-2020

Proposed by Council Members Taveras, Turner and Glaros

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

Date of Introduction November 17, 2020

RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 Transgender Day of Remembrance

3 For the purpose of recognizing Transgender Day of Remembrance 2020 and affirming the right
4 of transgender individuals to live with peace, dignity, and respect.

5 WHEREAS, Transgender Day of Remembrance 2020 is being recognized on November 20,
6 2020 across the country; and

7 WHEREAS, in 1998 Rita Hester, a transgender woman of color was murdered, and her
8 murder has yet to be solved; and

9 WHEREAS, in 1999, the following year Gwendolyn Ann Smith created the first
10 Transgender Day of Remembrance in honor of Rita Hester and other transgender people who lost
11 their lives to violence; and

12 WHEREAS, at least 26 transgender and gender non-conforming individuals were murdered
13 in 2019, including at least 2 transgender women in Prince George's County, and 91% of these
14 victims were Black women; and

15 WHEREAS, at least 36 transgender and gender non-conforming individuals have been
16 murdered in 2020 to date, the highest number on record; and

17 WHEREAS, according to the National Center for Transgender Equality's U.S. Transgender
18 Survey, which included over 28,000 respondents, 47% of all Black respondents and 30% of
19 Latino respondents reported being denied equal treatment, verbally harassed, and/or physically
20 attacked in the previous year because of being transgender; and

21 WHEREAS, according to the same survey, nearly 57% of respondents were afraid to go to
22 the police when they needed help and 58% of transgender people who interacted with law

1 enforcement reported experiences of harassment, abuse or other mistreatment; and

2 WHEREAS, according to the same survey, over 81% of respondents reported seriously
3 thinking about suicide in their lifetime and over 40% reported attempting suicide at some point
4 in their lifetime; and

5 WHEREAS, according to a poll by NPR, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and
6 Harvard University, 31% of transgender Americans lack regular access to healthcare and 22% of
7 transgender people said they have avoided doctors or health care for fear of being discriminated
8 against; and

9 WHEREAS, one in five transgender people in the United States have been discriminated
10 against when seeking a home, more than one in ten have been evicted from their homes because
11 of their gender identity, and one in five transgender individuals have experienced homelessness
12 at some point in their lives; and

13 WHEREAS, over one in five transgender adults has one or more chronic condition, such as
14 diabetes, arthritis, or asthma, and transgender individuals are more likely to be living with HIV,
15 placing them at higher risk for contracting COVID-19; and

16 WHEREAS, it is the duty of the Prince George’s County government to protect and
17 preserve the lives of all residents.

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's
19 County, Maryland, that the Prince George’s County Council joins Americans across the country
20 affirming the rights and dignity of transgender individuals.

Adopted this 17th day of November, 2020.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Todd M. Turner
Council Chair

ATTEST:

Donna J. Brown
Clerk of the Council