

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORT

2021 Legislative Session

Reference No.: CR-041-2021

Draft No.: 2

Committee: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Date: 06/03/2021

Action: FAV(A)

REPORT:

Committee Vote: Favorable as amended, 8-0 (In favor: Council Members Hawkins, Anderson-Walker, Davis, Dernoga, Glaros, Ivey, Taveras and Turner)

The Committee of the Whole (COW) convened on June 3, 2021 to consider CR-41-2021. The Planning, Housing and Economic Development Committee Director summarized the purpose of the resolution and informed the Committee of written comments received on referral. Terry Bell, County Executive's Liaison to the County Council, informed the Committee of Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) and Department of Social Services (DSS) staff who were present for the discussion. Aspasia Xypolia, Director of DHCD, was joined by Shirley Grant, DHCD CPD Administrator. Ms. Xypolia introduced Renee Ensor-Pope, DSS Deputy Director for Community Services to provide additional background on the DSS request included in the resolution.

The United States Congress enacted the Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security ("CARES") Act, part of which attempts to address a wide variety of needs including providing shelter to homeless individuals, increasing affordable housing options, and maintaining crucial public services during the current public health outbreak through a formula grant allocation. As part of the effort, Congress designated funding to federal entitlement programs, allocated through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

CR-41-2021 amends the Prince George's County Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Annual Action Plan for Housing and Community Development by allowing a change in the use of Emergency Solutions Grants COVID-19 (ESG-CV) Program funds, in the amount of \$3,000,000, from one existing activity to other existing eligible activities in any category within the applicable Program. These eligible activities were not originally funded or described in the FY2020 Annual Action Plan, as modified on June 16, 2020. CR-41-2021 changes the use of Emergency Solutions Grant program funds from the Homeless Prevention program to include \$1,000,000 for the Department of Social Services' Homeless Shelter program and \$2,000,000 for the Department of Social Services' Rapid Re-housing program. The County Citizen Participation Plan requires at least one public hearing, which was held on May 18, 2021.

The Associate County Attorney, Sakinda Skinner, determined that the resolution is in proper

legislative form and there were no legal impediments to its adoption. However, a technical error was identified as follows:

On page 3, line 22, after “hereof” insert “of the record”.

The Office of Audits and Investigations reviewed CR-41-2021 and determined that adoption of the resolution would represent no fiscal impact to the County expenditures as the \$3,000,000 funding proposed to support the projects are being reallocated from one eligible activity to other eligible activities approved under the FY 2020 Annual Action Plan.

After discussion and Ms. Ensor-Pope’s responses to Council Members’ questions, the Committee of the Whole voted favorable, 8-0, on CR-41-2021 including the technical amendment noted by the Associate County Attorney.