



November 14, 2025

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

TO: Colette R. Gresham, Esq.
Acting Council Administrator

Karen T. Zavakos
Acting Deputy Council Administrator

THRU: Lavinia Baxter 
Senior Legislative Budget and Policy Analyst

FROM: Isaiah Joseph 
Legislative Budget and Policy Analyst

RE: Policy Analysis and Fiscal Impact Statement
CR-140-2025 Prince George's County Civil Rights Monument Commission

CR-140-2025 (*Proposed and introduced by:* (Council Member Hawkins))

Assigned to Committee of the Whole (COW)

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY CIVIL RIGHTS MONUMENT COMMISSION For the purpose of establishing a commission to create and implement a plan for establishing a civil rights monument in Prince George's County to honor the historical contributions of county residents to the advancement of civil rights in Prince George's County.

Fiscal Summary

Direct Impact:

Expenditures: None Likely

Revenues: No direct impact

Indirect Impact:

None Likely.

Legislative Summary:

CR-140-2025, introduced by Council Member Hawkins, establishes the Prince George’s County Civil Rights Monument Commission as a temporary citizens advisory board under Section 506 of the Prince George’s County Charter. The Commission is tasked with conducting a feasibility study, preparing a comprehensive plan, and leading community engagement efforts to guide the development of a Civil Rights Monument honoring County residents who advanced the cause of civil rights.

This resolution sets forth the membership of the Commission, including two (2) appointments by the Chair of the County Council, and two (2) by the County Executive, the Prince George’s Arts and Humanities Council (4 members total), and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission’s Prince George’s Planning Board (4 members total). The Commission is directed to identify at least three potential locations for the monument, evaluate no fewer than three design concepts with projected costs, and develop a construction timeline and fundraising strategy.¹

Current Law/Background:

The Prince George’s County Charter, Section 506 (“Citizens Advisory Boards”), authorizes the County Council to appoint temporary citizens advisory boards. Section 506 states: “*The Council or the County Executive may appoint, for designated periods, one or more temporary advisory boards of citizens of the County who shall assist in the consideration of County policies and programs.*”²

Historical and Policy Context

Prince George’s County holds a distinct and consequential place in the history of civil rights in Maryland. By 1850, the County was home to the largest population of enslaved African descendants in the state, with 11,510 individuals recorded in the federal census. By 1860, enslaved persons comprised more than half of the County’s total population, numbering 12,479 of 23,327 residents.³

Following emancipation, African American residents in Prince George’s County continued to face racial violence. Local research has documented at least four individuals who were lynched in the

¹ Summary

² [County Charter](#)

³ [Slavery MSA.GOV](#)

County during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, part of a broader pattern of racial terror across Maryland.

During the Jim Crow era, African Americans in the County were subjected to systemic racial discrimination, including exclusion from housing through racially restrictive covenants and redlining, as well as unequal access to public education.⁴ Although the Supreme Court's decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954) declared segregated schools unconstitutional⁵, Prince George's County schools were not fully integrated until 1972, when the federal court in *Vaughns v. Board of Education of Prince George's County* ordered busing to achieve desegregation.⁶

Discussion/Policy Analysis:

The establishment of a Prince George's County Civil Rights Monument Commission under Charter §506 could potentially enable the County to conduct a structured feasibility study, gather community input, and recommend a comprehensive plan for honoring the legacy of residents whose struggles and achievements advanced civil rights and generational progress in the County. If enacted, the Commission will provide a detailed plan for studying and establishing a monument that reflects the history of African Americans in the county and the progress made. Public engagement is required to ensure that the project reflects community values and priorities, and the final report will provide the County Council and County Executive with recommendations for consideration.

Fiscal Impact:

- *Direct Impact*

No direct impact

- *Indirect Impact*

No direct impact

Effective Date of Proposed Legislation:

This resolution will become effective on the date of adoption.

⁴ [RACIALLY RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS](#)

⁵ [ARCHIVES.GOV](#)

⁶ [HISTORY OF PG COUNTY BUSING](#)

If you require additional information, or have questions about this fiscal impact statement, please reach out to me via phone or email.