

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 _____

Date of Introduction April 7, 2026

RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 The Accessibility Taskforce for the Blind and Deaf

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

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

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

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

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

19 WHEREAS, barriers on websites and digital platforms may include inaccessible PDFs and
20 forms, lack of compatibility with screen readers and assistive technology, inadequate alternative
21 text, poor keyboard navigation, inaccessible online service portals, lack of captions or transcripts,

1 and other obstacles to effective communication and use; and

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

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

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

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

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's
18 County, Maryland, that the Accessibility Task Force for Blind and Deaf is hereby established to
19 assess barriers and develop recommendations aimed at improving accessibility across Prince
20 George's County.

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

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

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

29 (c) the accessibility of County facilities, service locations, community centers,
30 libraries, health facilities, and other public-facing County buildings as they relate to navigation,
31 signage, wayfinding, communication access, and service delivery for blind, low-vision, deaf, and

1 hard-of-hearing residents.

2 (d) assess the availability of County communications and materials in accessible formats,
3 including braille, large print, audio, captioned video, transcripts, and other effective
4 communication formats;

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

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

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

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall consist of the following
16 membership:

- 17 (a) One representative from the Department of Family Services;
- 18 (b) One representative from the Office of Information Technology;
- 19 (c) One representative from the Department of Social Services;
- 20 (d) One representative from the Department of Public Works and Transportation;
- 21 (e) One representative from Prince George’s County Public Schools;
- 22 (f) One representative from the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority;
- 23 (g) One representative from Gallaudet University;
- 24 (h) One representative from Connections Beyond Sight;
- 25 (i) One representative from Maryland/DC Hands & Voices;
- 26 (j) One representative from the Prince George’s County Memorial Library System;
- 27 (k) The County Council Chair shall appoint three (3) members which shall include:
 - 28 (1) One resident of Prince George’s County who is blind or low-vision; and
 - 29 (2) One resident of Prince George’s County who is deaf or hard-of-hearing; and
 - 30 (3) One member of the County Council.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Council Chair shall appoint the task force

1 chair. The taskforce chair shall be responsible for overseeing the taskforce’s general operations.

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

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

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

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

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

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2026.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Krystal Oriadha
Chair

ATTEST:

Donna J. Brown
Clerk of the Council