

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2024 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-051-2024

Proposed by Council Members Hawkins and Blegay

Introduced by Council Members Hawkins, Blegay, Ivey, Olson, Watson, Oriadha,
Franklin and Dernoga

Co-Sponsors _____

Date of Introduction June 4, 2024

RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 A Workgroup to Study Arab-American Businesses: Disparities, Causes, Effects, and Solutions
3 For the purpose of establishing an MBE Expansion Workgroup; providing for the purpose of the
4 MBE Expansion Workgroup; providing the composition of the MBE Expansion Workgroup;
5 providing for the staff and technical support for the MBE Expansion Workgroup; providing for
6 the issuance of a report; and generally regarding MBE Expansion Workgroup.

7 WHEREAS, Arab-American Business' are not designated as a protected class to obtain
8 preferences in government contracting pursuant to the County's Minority Business Opportunities
9 Program; and

10 WHEREAS, to substantiate a government program that prefers or sets-asides opportunities
11 for protected class members, there must be a compelling reason (e.g., a showing of intentional
12 and discriminatory past underutilization) and a narrowly tailored solution; and

13 WHEREAS, Legislation providing that Arab Americans are a MBE protected class is
14 premature until a disparity study is completed and such a finding is made, and

15 WHEREAS, a study geared towards the necessity of a disparity study should be conducted,
16 thereby allowing the County Council to make an informed decision on the necessity of a
17 disparity study; and

18 WHEREAS, Section 506 of the Charter provides that the County Council may appoint, for
19 designated periods, one or more temporary advisory boards of citizens of the County who shall
20 assist in the coordination of County Policies and programs.

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's

1 County, Maryland, that there is hereby established the MBE Expansion Workgroup to assist the
2 County in determining whether Arab-American Business face disparities while
3 opening/operating in the county, and begin planning for a disparity study if such hardships are
4 uncovered:

5 (a) The Workgroup shall study the number of Arab-American businesses operating in the
6 County, the difficulty of obtaining licenses and permits for Arab-American owned
7 businesses, the number of licenses/permits that are denied and approved for Arab-
8 American owned businesses, violations issued to Arab-American businesses, and any
9 other disparity standard the workgroup believes is necessary.

10 (b) The workgroup shall identify if a disparity study is necessary and form the
11 foundation/procedure of the disparity study if the workgroup deems the study as a
12 necessity.

13 (c) The Workgroup shall be comprised of 13 members:

14 (1) One (1) Representative from Prince George's County Council or their
15 representative, who shall serve as chair;

16 (2) The Director of Permitting, Inspections, and Enforcement or the Director's
17 representative;

18 (3) Chief Executive Officer of Economic Development, or the Chief Executive
19 Officer's representative;

20 (4) The Executive Director of Ethics & Accountability, or the Executive
21 Director's representative;

22 (5) The Director of Finance, or Director's representative;

23 (6) The Executive Director of Human Rights, or the Director's representative;

24 (7) The County Attorney or their representative;

25 (8) The Director of Management & Budget, or the Director's representative;

26 (9) The Executive Director of Revenue Authority, or the Executive Director's
27 representative;

28 (10) The Director of Central Services, or the Director's representative;

29 (11) Three (3) Representatives total from three different non-profit organizations
30 focused on minority business.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the MBE Expansion Workgroup shall present its

1 findings and recommendations to the County Council on or before August 24th, 2025.

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council Administration shall assign appropriate
3 technical and administrative support staff to assist the MBE Expansion Workgroup.

Adopted this 4th day of June, 2024.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Jolene Ivey
Chair

ATTEST:

Donna J. Brown
Clerk of the Council