

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORT

2019 Legislative Session

Reference No.: CR-059-2019

Draft No.: 1

Committee: TRANSPORTATION, INFRASTRUCTURE, ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENT

Date: 7/11/2019

Action: FAV

REPORT:

Committee Vote: Favorable, 4-0 (In favor: Council Members Taveras, Anderson-Walker, Glaros, and Turner)

The Committee convened on July 11, 2019, to discuss this legislation to establish the Vision Zero Program in Prince George's County. The Vision Zero concept was developed in Sweden in the late 1990's, and is now present in several countries including Canada, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. Several U.S. Cities have established Vision Zero programs since 2012, including Chicago, New York City, Los Angeles, Fort Lauderdale and Boston. Regionally, the District of Columbia, the City of Alexandria and Montgomery County have recently established programs.

Terry L. Bellamy, Director, Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPWT) presented a briefing on the Prince George's County Vision Zero strategy to eliminate traffic fatalities. The program establishes a goal of reducing the number of traffic related fatalities and serious injuries to zero by the year 2040. DPWT is the lead agency, which will collaborate with the County's Police Department, Fire/EMS Department, Health Department and the Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission (M-NCPPC). Mr. Bellamy indicated that the collaborative efforts will include the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), which has a Vision Zero program due to the passage of HB 885 of 2019 by the Maryland General Assembly.

Prince George's County Police Chief, Henry P. Stawinski, provided remarks on the importance of this program toward the agency's overall mission to make the County's roads safer, with an increased emphasis on prevention, as well as enforcement. The program will include efforts to provide public safety education to drivers to help reduce the number of accidents and fatalities on the roads. The County Executive plans to have an event to formally launch the Vision Zero program on July 25, 2019. The Office of Law indicates the resolution is in proper form and the Office of Audits & Investigations indicates there should not be any adverse fiscal impact.

After the discussion, the committee voted favorably on CR-59-2019 by a vote of 4-0.