



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT
Office of Audits and Investigations

September 27, 2016

MEMORANDUM

TO: Robert J. Williams, Jr.
Council Administrator

William M. Hunt
Deputy Council Administrator

THRU: David H. Van Dyke *DHV*
County Auditor

FROM: Inez N. Claggett *INC*
Legislative Auditor

RE: Fiscal Impact Statement
CB-61-2016 Illegal Signs

Pursuant to your request, we have reviewed CB-61-2016 to estimate its fiscal impact on Prince George's County, Maryland.

CB-61-2016 amends Subtitle 27, Sections 27-265, 27-609 and 27-610 of the Prince George's County Zoning Ordinance to increase penalties for illegal signs.

Under the proposed Bill the civil fine for the conviction of a person who violates the provisions of the Zoning Ordinance governing illegal signs increases from Five Hundred Dollars (\$500) to One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000). The Bill also proposes to allow a One Thousand Dollar (\$1,000) civil citation, or the assessment of penalties as prescribed within Section 28-111(c) of the Zoning Ordinance, if the unsafe or illegal sign is not erected, removed or maintained in accordance with a directive from the Department of Permitting, Inspections, or Enforcement (DPIE), or applicable ordinances existing at the time of the erection of the sign.

Enactment of CB-61-2016 may result in positive fiscal impact for the County related to an increase in collections received from fines and/or penalties imposed on owners, or users of signs, which violate the Zoning Ordinance in force at the time of the construction of the sign. The penalty increase may also act as a deterrent to violating the Zoning Ordinance. A reasonable estimate of any additional revenue related to the increase in the penalty cannot be readily determined at this time.

If you require additional information, or have questions about this fiscal impact statement, please call me.

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