



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

March 11, 2026

Intra-office Memorandum

TO: Wala Blegay, Chair
Planning, Housing and Economic Development Committee

FROM: Rana Hightower, Director *RH*
Planning, Housing, and Economic Development Committee

SUBJECT: **People's Zoning Counsel Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Review**

Budget Overview

- Under Zoning Ordinance Section 27-3309, the People's Zoning Counsel is charged with protecting the public interest and promoting a full and fair presentation of relevant issues in administrative proceedings to achieve balanced records upon which sound land use decisions can be made.
- The People's Zoning Counsel appears at hearings on zoning matters and is empowered to summon and cross-examine witnesses, introduce documentary evidence, file exemptions, and present arguments at these hearings, as evidence and law may warrant.
- The County's FY 2027 Proposed General Fund Budget includes funding in the amount of \$250,000 for the People's Zoning Counsel, the same level of funding as the FY 2026 Approved Budget. The proposed funding supports one (1) contract attorney.
- Expenses for the People's Zoning Counsel are recovered from the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) as a project charge. The project charge is included in M-NCPPC's Administration Fund in the Planning Department's budget.
- The Office's workload consists of reviewing Planning Board cases, Zoning Hearing Examiner cases, District Council cases, and responding to zoning issues from residents.