

# PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

## COMMITTEE REPORT

2021 Legislative Session

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<b>Committee:</b>	COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
<b>Date:</b>	07/01/2021
<b>Action:</b>	FAV

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**REPORT:** Favorable 9-0: Council Members Hawkins, Anderson-Walker, Davis, Dernoga, Glaros, Harrison, Ivey, Streeter, Taveras, and Turner. Absent: Franklin and Turner.

The Prince George's County Council convened as the Committee of the Whole on July 1, 2021 to consider appointments of Ms. Mary Melissa Scales Hamilton, Ms. Katrina Dixon Patterson, and Ms. Dahlia M. Shaewitz to the Commission for Individuals with Disabilities for Prince George's County.

The Commission works with stakeholders to jointly address and promote the needs and rights of individuals with disabilities. This Commission has 20 volunteer members that serve a two-year term and has been in existence since 1986.

Ms. Miriam Brewer, Appointment Liaison, Office of the County Executive, provided a brief overview and introduced the appointees. The nominees then introduced themselves, provided brief introductory remarks and answered questions from the committee members.

Ms. Mary Melissa Scales Hamilton, a resident of Upper Marlboro, is a Customized Employment Specialist with over twenty (20) years of experience in education, customer service, and community outreach. She has demonstrated success in developing Independent Educational and Living Skills to improve personal and business operations. Ms. Hamilton previously served as Director of Independent Living with Accessible Resources for Independence. She attended North Carolina Central University and the University of Maryland University College.

Ms. Katrina Dixon Patterson, a resident of Upper Marlboro, is a clinically trained and practicing Social Worker and Person-Centered Training Coach. Ms. Patterson is currently employed by the District of Columbia Government Department on Disability Services and is a Psychiatric Rehabilitation Program Supportive Counselor with Affordable Behavioral Consultant. She will bring her in-depth knowledge of the healthcare and social service system to the Commission. Ms. Patterson received her undergraduate and graduate degrees from Salisbury University and a second graduate degree from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

Ms. Dahlia M. Shaewitz, a resident of Capitol Heights, is the Vice President, Transition, Disability and Employment with the Institute for Educational Leadership. In this role, she leads strategic planning and networking to empower youth and young adults with disabilities that create opportunities leading to

economic and social improvements. Ms. Shaewitz is also the co-lead and co-author of two research briefs highlighting the business case for hiring and marketing to people with disabilities. She is a graduate of the University of Maryland, College Park; Norwich University and Johns Hopkins University.

After discussion, the Prince George's County Council, sitting as the Committee of the Whole, voted the appointments to the Commission of Individuals with Disabilities favorable, 9-0.