

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2020 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-65-2020
Proposed by Council Members Hawkins and Turner
Introduced by _____
Co-Sponsors _____
Date of Introduction July 7, 2020

RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 Protection of Minimum Wage Increases - Reject the Off-Ramp

3 For the purpose of expressing a policy regarding the Prince George's County Council's goals of
4 supporting the principles of the "Fight For \$15 Coalition"; and generally relating to protection of
5 minimum wage increases.

6 WHEREAS, the "Fight for \$15 Coalition" successfully advocated for the passage and the
7 eventual enactment of a phased-in \$15 per hour minimum wage for Marylanders;

8 WHEREAS, during the deliberation of the "Fight For \$15" legislative proposal, the
9 Maryland Legislature added Section 3-413.1 to the Labor and Employment Article, which grants
10 the Board of Public Works (BPW) the authority to delay a scheduled increase in the minimum
11 wage if the BPW determines that economic circumstances warrant such a delay; and

12 WHEREAS, this provision became known as the "off-ramp"; and

13 WHEREAS, throughout the entirety of the COVID-19 pandemic, Maryland's front-line
14 workers, including health care support workers, grocery store employees, fast food workers, and
15 delivery and transit workers, have sacrificed and placed themselves in harm's way so that all
16 Marylanders can adhere to the Governor's stay-at-home order to remain healthy and alive; and

17 WHEREAS, the Prince George's County Council believes that local government exists to
18 respond to the needs of the people who live and work there; and

19 WHEREAS, the next installment of the increase to the minimum wage is scheduled for
20 January 1, 2021, which would move the current minimum wage from \$11 per hour to \$11.75 per
21 hour; and

22 WHEREAS, the County Council believes that while the present and near-future economic

1 circumstances for Maryland are uncertain and rather bleak, the economic circumstances of the
2 working families who would benefit from an increase of the minimum wage are even worse; and

3 WHEREAS, the County Council believes that while the legislature acted in good faith by
4 including the “off-ramp” language in passing the \$15 per hour minimum wage legislation, now is
5 not the time to stop this lawful increase of the minimum wage; and

6 WHEREAS, the County Council believes that the BPW must remove (or refrain from
7 exercising) the off-ramp option from the table, now, so that Maryland’s hardworking, front-line
8 employees can rest assured that a planned increase in their very nominal pay will not be taken
9 away; and

10 WHEREAS, along with many elected officials from across the State of Maryland, the
11 County Council fully supports the goals of the “Fight For \$15 Coalition” to protect Maryland's
12 essential workers.

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's
14 County, Maryland, that the Prince George’s County Council declares its support for maintaining
15 the scheduled wage increases provided pursuant to Chapter 10 of the Acts of 2019 (See
16 Attachment A);

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be sent to the following:
18 Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., Governor,
19 Peter V.R. Franchot, Comptroller,
20 Nancy K. Kopp, Treasurer,
21 Adrienne A. Jones, Speaker Maryland House of Delegates,
22 William C. Ferguson, IV, President Maryland Senate

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect on the date that it is
24 adopted.

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 2020.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Todd M. Turner
Council Chair

ATTEST:

Donna J. Brown
Clerk of the Council