

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

2021 Legislative Session

REORGANIZATIONAL PROPOSAL

Executive Order No. 4

Date Received February 18, 2021

Bill No. CB-11-2021 (DR-2)

Chapter No. 5

Action by Council April 19, 2021

Date of Council Action April 19, 2021

EXECUTIVE ORDER

No. 4

WHEREAS, the County has an Office of Community Relations that is charged with responding to citizen complaints and inquiries concerning County services and programs, coordinating County relations with community-based organizations and developing community-based programming; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Division 12 of the Prince George’s County Code, the Human Relations Commission [is charged with eliminating discrimination and infringements of the civil rights or civil liberties of all persons in the County, investigating complaints and the holding of hearings on any matter assigned by Executive Order and/or Council Resolution relating to human relations and investigating any matter wherein an allegation has been made that an employee of a County agency, department or board, has denied a person his civil rights, civil liberties or has adversely affected that person in the areas of housing and residential real estate, employment, law enforcement, education, public accommodations or commercial real estate; and] (now known as the Office of Human Rights) is charged with educating, investigating and enforcing civil and human rights violations within the County, including investigations in the areas of housing and residential real estate, employment, law enforcement, education, public accommodations or commercial real estate; and

WHEREAS, Section 503 of the Prince George’s County Charter provides that the County Executive may propose changes to the organization for the Executive branch, including the establishment or the abolition of agencies, and the assignment of functions, powers and duties among agencies, which proposals shall be set forth in Executive Orders in statutory form and be submitted to the County Council; and

WHEREAS, the duties and functions of the Human Relations Commission (now known as the Office of Human Rights) are separate and incompatible with those of the Office of Community Relations, and would be performed effectively with separate administration; and

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that:

SECTION 1. The Schedule of Legislation of the Charter for Prince George’s County, Maryland, be and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

* * * * *

Section 16. Office of Community Relations.

There shall be an office of Community Relations headed by the Director of Community Relations. The Director shall be responsible for responding to citizen and resident complaints and inquiries concerning County services and programs; assisting citizens and residents in addressing community disputes and in developing leadership skills; coordinating County relations with community-based organizations; and developing community-based programming.

[The Human Relations Commission shall operate within the Office of Community Relations.]

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Section 18. [Reserved.] Office of Human Rights

There shall be an Office of Human Rights headed by the Executive Director of the Office of Human Rights. The Executive Director and staff shall be responsible for educating, investigating, and enforcing civil and human rights; overseeing and managing the Prince George’s County Human Trafficking Task Force; overseeing the Language Access Compliance Program; managing an immigration deportation universal representation program; addressing housing discrimination; and facilitating ongoing outreach that builds communities and creates dialogues to combat hate, bias and violence.

SECTION 2. The Order shall be submitted to the County Council pursuant to Section 503 of the Prince George’s County Charter and, thereafter, shall become effective sixty (60) calendar days after such submission unless disapproved by a majority vote of the full Council.

Angela Alsobrooks
County Executive