

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORT

2025 Legislative Session

Reference No.: APPT-15-25

Draft No.: 1

Committee: Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy and Environment Committee

Date: 10/9/2025

Action: FAV

REPORT:

Committee Vote: Favorable, 3-1-1 (In Favor: Council Members Harrison, Blegay, and Fisher; Opposed: Council Member Olson; Abstained: Council Member Dernoga)

The Committee convened on October 9, 2025, to consider the appointment of Dr. Samuel Moki as the Director of the Prince George's County Department of the Environment. The appointment package was transmitted to the Council by County Executive Braveboy on July 6, 2025. The Public Hearing on the appointment is scheduled for October 21, 2025. The County Executive's Appointments Liaison, Danielle Hunter, summarized the background of the appointee for the Committee:

Dr. Moki has over two decades of leadership experience in environmental management, intergovernmental affairs, and academic instruction. A former Associate Director within DOE, Dr. Moki previously led major environmental programs and capital projects aimed at enhancing water quality, sustainability, and flood mitigation throughout the County. His oversight extended across compliance enforcement, budget administration, community engagement, and interagency coordination at the local, regional, and federal levels.

Dr. Moki helped secure and manage grant funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Maryland Department of the Environment, and other agencies to advance clean energy and infrastructure initiatives. He also served on the County's Solid Waste Advisory Commission and led DOE's involvement in the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. At the federal level, Dr. Moki was appointed as a Public Board Member for the Foreign Service Selection Boards in the U.S. Departments of State, Commerce, and Agriculture, where he evaluated the performance of senior personnel and reviewed the impact of multi-year programs. Dr. Moki also brings entrepreneurial and operational experience as the co-owner and Chief Operating Officer of Bethel Assisted Living Homes, LLC, a state-regulated healthcare facility serving seniors in Prince George's County.

He has also taught political science, government, and African American history at the University of Maryland Global Campus and Montgomery College. He holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from Howard University and advanced degrees in Environmental Management and Criminal Justice. He is the author of several books and academic publications.

Dr. Moki provided remarks on his background and desire to serve as DOE Director. An extensive list of speakers included both supporters and opponents of the appointment. The supporters included current and former colleagues, who touted Dr. Moki's knowledge, expertise, and collaborative energy; as well as former students and friends, who described his integrity and sincerity. Opponents expressed concerns regarding Dr. Moki's termination from his previous position in the Department of the Environment in 2014. The termination was upheld by the County Personnel Board, the Circuit Court, and the Court of Special Appeals. Several speakers questioned Dr. Moki's ability to effectively lead the agency due to these circumstances.

The Committee members asked Dr. Moki questions regarding his ideas on the county's challenges related to managing stormwater and solid waste, and offered him the opportunity to respond to his termination and discuss his subsequent career activities related to the environment.

After the discussion, the Committee voted favorably on the appointment by a vote of 3-1-1.