

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date: 4/15/2003

Reference No.: CB-21-2003

Proposer: County Executive

Draft No.: 1

Sponsors: _____

Item Title: Executive Order No. 14- 2003 Reorganization Proposal
creating the Office of Homeland Security

Drafter: Cheryl Ringer
Law

Resource Dr. Jacqueline Brown,
Personnel: Chief Administrative Officer

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

Date Presented: 4/1/2003 **Executive Action:** __/__/____

Committee Referral: 4/1/2003 C.O.W. **Effective Date:** 7/1/2003

Committee Action: 4/8/2003 FAV

Date Introduced: __/__/____

Public Hearing: __/__/____ __:__ __

Council Action: 4/15/2003 APPROVED

Council Votes: PS:A, MB:A, SHD:A, TD:A, CE:A, DCH:A; TH:-, TK:A, DP:A

Pass/Fail: P

Remarks: _____

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT

Date: 4/8/03

Committee Vote: Favorable, 8-0, (In favor: Council Members Shapiro, Bland, Dean, Dernoga, Exum, Harrington, Hendershot and Knotts.)

This bill is an Executive Order creating a new Office of Homeland Security that will include the functions of the Office of Emergency Management and the management of the County's public safety and emergency communications into a single agency.

Based on potential threats to our country and homeland security, Prince George's County Government must proactively prepare for any state of emergency. The proposed organization of resources and functions provides the infrastructure and coordination of expertise that can best ensure the preparedness of the County as a whole.

The new Office of Homeland Security will be charged with the development and maintenance of comprehensive emergency management programs through coordinated planning with county, state and federal agencies with the objective of protecting life, property and the environment from the effects of natural and man-made disasters. It will consist of a director and two deputy directors. The office will be divided into two sections: Domestic Preparedness and Response and Public Safety Communications. The director will have complete oversight of the office while the deputy directors will be in charge of each section.

The Domestic Preparedness and Response section will be responsible for providing planning, coordination and domestic preparedness training for county employees, businesses, citizens and residents.

Public Safety Communications, (approximately 165 employees), will be transferred from the Office of Information Technology and Communications and the Fire/EMS Department to the Office of Homeland Security. This transfer will provide a more integrated and coordinated approach to handling emergency 911 calls and the dispatching of public safety personnel as well as coordinating all communication activities during the management of a disaster.

There will be a negative fiscal impact on the County for the compensation of two additional employees as a result of enacting CB-21-2003.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION/FISCAL IMPACT

(Includes reason for proposal, as well as any unique statutory requirements)

This bill is an Executive Order relating to the creation of the Office of Homeland Security. The Office of Homeland Security shall be responsible for providing planning, coordination and domestic preparedness training and shall coordinate the County's emergency management effort with Federal, State and local jurisdictions. The Office of Homeland Security shall also be responsible for management of an integrated public safety and emergency communication system. Within the Office of Homeland Security, there shall be an Office of Public Safety Communication, and an Office of Emergency Management.

CODE INDEX TOPICS: