



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3820

Mel Franklin
Council Chairman, District 9

September 15, 2015

The Honorable Rushern L. Baker, III
Prince George's County Executive
County Administration Building
14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

County Executive Baker,

On behalf of the Prince George's County Council, in light of the challenges of the County's current fiscal state, I am requesting that the Administration conduct advance discussions with Council leadership and the affected communities before any additional FY 2016 budget-related reduction decisions are made and implemented. The Executive Branch has implemented several recent reductions in service to our constituents, especially in the area of public safety, with little or no consultation with Council leadership or the communities affected by such changes.

As you are aware, the adopted Budget directed every agency to temporarily set aside 2% of their budgets until later in the Fiscal Year as a safeguard against exceeding spending the approved FY 16 Budget, a practice which has depleted the County's unrestricted fund balance and could jeopardize the County's coveted AAA bond rating. These funds were moved to the County's Non-Departmental Contingency budget. Direct discussions with the Council about budget reductions based on the 2% measure and other budget adjustments are strongly encouraged as the most prudent path to executing the adopted FY 2016 spending plan.

We would point out that \$17,665,434 remains in the County's Non-Departmental Contingency budget, which represents a significant portion of the funding from the 2% transfer of funds from each agency and the transfer of \$6 million in reduced overtime spending, and is available for use and potential restoration and reallocation during FY 2016 through budget amendment as an alternative to reductions in service to our residents. As you aware, per County Charter, any such budget amendment must be initiated by your administration. Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

Mel Franklin, Chairman
County Council

Cc: Agency Department Heads

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