

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

2000 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-30-2000

Proposed by Council Member Shapiro

Introduced by Council Member Shapiro

Co-Sponsors _____

Date of Introduction June 6, 2000

RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 A Review of the Accessibility of County Government Services to the Hispanic
3 Community

4 For the purpose of establishing a Task Force to Examine County Government Services and their
5 accessibility to the Hispanic Community and to recommend ways of increasing the access of
6 those services.

7 WHEREAS, the 1998 United States Census Report shows that more than 5% of the
8 County's population is Hispanic and the population has doubled in size over the past ten years;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Prince George's County has the fourth largest Hispanic community in the
11 Washington, D.C. metropolitan area and ranks second in the State of Maryland; and

12 WHEREAS, a 1999 report by CASA of Maryland and the Public Justice Center states that
13 Hispanics in the County have problems accessing government services due to language barriers;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, such barriers to government services may create potential liabilities for some
16 county agencies; and

17 WHEREAS, Prince George's County is desirous of providing equal access to all county
18 residents regardless of their capacity to speak English; and

19 WHEREAS, there is a need for the Directors of certain county agencies or their
20 representatives and representatives from Hispanic groups to meet with County officials to
21 determine the number of services readily accessible to Spanish-speaking individuals and to
22 develop an inventory of those services.

1 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's County,
 2 Maryland, that the Task Force is established to Review the Accessibility of County Government
 3 Services to the Hispanic Community and to recommend ways of increasing the access of those
 4 services.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force shall be comprised of fifteen (15)
 6 members appointed within thirty (30) days of adoption of this resolution and in the following
 7 manner:

8 (1) Four members appointed by the Chair of the County Council;

9 (2) Four members appointed by the County Executive;

10 (3) One representative from the following community organizations:

11 Action Langely Park; CASA of Maryland; Centro Catolico; La Comunidad de Habla
 12 Hispana; the Hispanic Resource Center; the Legal Aid Bureau; and the Law
 13 Foundation;

14 (4) County agencies shall have non-voting representatives to assist the members of the
 15 Task Force:

16 Office of Business and Regulatory Affairs; Department of Environmental Resources;
 17 Department of Family Services; Fire/EMS Department; Department of Health;
 18 Department of Housing and Community Development; Police Department; Sheriff's
 19 Department; Department of Social Services; Office of the State's Attorney; the
 20 Human Relations Commission; and other agencies as necessary.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Council shall direct appropriate staff to
 22 assist and advise the members of the Task Force in its efforts as necessary.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force Report to the County Council shall
 24 contain a list of accessible services currently provided by the County and a prioritized list of
 25 services which the County should provide and an estimated cost for those services.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force Report to the County Council shall be
 27 used as a model by the County to enhance the services provided to other non-English speaking
 28 residents of Prince George's County.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of the Task Force Report to the County Council
 30 shall be prepared in Spanish or other languages as deemed necessary.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force on the Review of the Accessibility of
2 County Government Services to the Hispanic Community shall submit a report of its findings
3 and recommendations to the County Council within 120 calendar days from the adoption of this
4 resolution.

Adopted this 27th day of June, 2000.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Dorothy F. Bailey
Chair

ATTEST:

Joyce T. Sweeney
Clerk of the Council