

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND**

**1997 Legislative Session**

Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_ CR-6-1997

Proposed by \_\_\_\_\_ Council Member Del Giudice

Introduced by Council Members Del Giudice, Russell, Wilson, Scott, Gourdine, Estepp,  
\_\_\_\_\_ and MacKinnon

Co-Sponsors

Date of Introduction \_\_\_\_\_ January 28, 1997

**RESOLUTION**

A RESOLUTION concerning

Pawn Shops

For the purpose of suspending the approval and issuance of use and occupancy permits and secondhand dealer permits to operate a pawn shop in the County pending the consideration by the County Council of proposed legislation to regulate the number and location of pawn shops.

WHEREAS, the governing body of Prince George's County has enacted licensing and regulatory procedures to authorize secondhand dealers to operate pawn shops for lawful purposes; and

WHEREAS, Subtitle 5, Division 19 of the County Code provides for the regulation of secondhand dealers, including pawn shops, within Prince George's County to curtail the disposition of certain stolen property and to assist in identifying stolen property so that it may be returned to its rightful owners; and

WHEREAS, Section 5-234 further requires that a written permit be obtained from the County Office of Business and Regulatory Affairs to operate a secondhand dealer business; and

WHEREAS, Section 27-253 further provides that a use and occupancy permit is required whenever the use of a building or structure has changed or whenever a new occupant assumes possession of a building or structure; and

WHEREAS, there are 61 licensed pawn brokers operating within the County, including

37 licensed secondhand dealers; and

WHEREAS, the Police Department is required to monitor approximately 10,700 pawn transactions per week; and

WHEREAS, the licensing of new secondhand dealers and pawn shops and the relocation of secondhand dealers and pawn shops will adversely impact the ability of the Police Department to monitor pawn transactions and to curtail the disposition of certain stolen property and to assist in identifying stolen property so that it may be returned to its rightful owners; and

WHEREAS, the County has expended large sums of public funds to encourage redevelopment and revitalization of existing communities within the Capital Beltway and has provided economic incentives to encourage private development that will increase the tax base of the County; and

WHEREAS, the County Council finds that the concentration or inappropriate location of pawn shops within the revitalization and redevelopment areas of the County will discourage the location of other private investment in these areas; and

WHEREAS, the County Council finds that the inappropriate concentration and location of pawn shops in revitalization and redevelopment areas of the County are in conflict with the conservation and redevelopment of older communities; and

WHEREAS, the County Council finds that the existing number of pawn shops will be sufficient to accommodate the economic needs of the citizens of the County during the brief period of consideration of legislation pertaining to the number and location of pawn shops; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the citizens of Prince George's County to suspend the filing, acceptance, processing or issuance of permits for new secondhand dealers to operate as pawn shops, while allowing those businesses which possessed valid use and occupancy and secondhand dealer permits as of January 29, 1997 to continue operation; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the citizens of Prince George's County to suspend the filing, acceptance, processing or issuance of use and occupancy permits for new locations or for new occupants for secondhand dealers to operate as pawn shops, while

allowing those businesses which possessed valid use and occupancy and secondhand dealer permits as of January 29, 1997 to continue operation under certain circumstances.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's County, Maryland, that no new secondhand dealer licenses applications shall be filed, accepted, processed or issued, except for those which may be reinstated pursuant to Section 5-234 of the

Prince George's County Code and which possessed both a valid use and occupancy permit and a valid and current secondhand dealer license as of the effective date of this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no new applications for use and occupancy permits for new locations or for new occupants for secondhand dealers to operate as pawn shops, shall be filed, accepted, processed or issued, as of the effective date of this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect upon the concurrence of the County Executive.

Adopted this 18th day of February, 1997.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE  
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY:

Dorothy F. Bailey  
Chair

ATTEST:

Joyce T. Sweeney  
Clerk of the Council

APPROVED:

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

BY:

Wayne K. Curry  
County Executive