

# PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

## COMMITTEE REPORT

2023 Legislative Session

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<b>Reference No.:</b>	APPT-31-23
<b>Draft No.:</b>	1
<b>Committee:</b>	Health, Human Services, and Public Safety
<b>Date:</b>	09/21/2023
<b>Action:</b>	FAV

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**REPORT:** Favorable 5-0: Council Members, Oriadha, Blegay, Burroughs, Dernoga, and Franklin

The Health, Human Services and Public Safety Committee (HHSPS) convened on September 21, 2023, to consider APPT-31-23 Dr. Mathew D. Levy for the Health Officer position. Pursuant to Section 12-101.01 of the Prince George's County Code, the County Executive is required to establish a nominating committee comprised of representatives from the Office of the County Executive, the County Council, and the State Department of Health.

Based upon the criteria established in the Maryland State Health-General Article and the appointment process established in Section 12-101.01 of the Prince George's County Code, the County Executive is recommending the appointment of Dr. Matthew D. Levy as Health Officer for Prince George's County.

During the HHSPS meeting, council members discussed with Dr. Levy and Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Dr. Sanmi Areola some of the work that has been done in the County to address existing challenges, such as emergency room wait times, and access to services due to the shortage of primary and secondary health providers. Dr. Areola noted that a strategy is forthcoming to bridge the gap from years of underinvestment in health care, including strategies to involve the state more in the county. Dr. Levy noted that over the next few months, plans will be completed to ensure we are maximizing resources.

Concerns about having enough human and physical infrastructure were raised. The fact that County's request for additional beds and other pre-construction resources was denied by the State and was discussed, in addition to experiencing capacity challenges. Access to walkable neighborhoods and healthy food will also be a focus area for the Health Department. More vigorous evaluations of health impact assessments should be made as part of the development approval process.

After discussion, the Health, Human Services and Public Safety Committee, voted favorably 5-0 in favor of the appointment.

