



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Office of Audits and Investigations

September 30, 2015

MEMORANDUM

TO: Robert J. Williams, Jr.
Council Administrator

William M. Hunt
Deputy Council Administrator

THRU: David H. Van Dyke *DHV*
County Auditor

FROM: Inez N. Claggett *INC*
Legislative Auditor

RE: Fiscal Impact Statement
CB-79-2015 Illegal Signs

Pursuant to your request, we have reviewed CB-79-2015 to estimate its fiscal impact on Prince George's County, Maryland.

CB-79-2015 amends Subtitle 27, Section 27-609 of the Prince George's County Zoning Ordinance to allow for a rebuttable presumption for the enforcement of illegal signs in a County right-of-way.

All illegal signs in a County right-of-way shall be automatically deemed as a danger to public safety and shall be removed without delay or written order. The cost of removal shall be borne by the owner or user of the sign. A sign will be presumed to be owned by or attached to a person whose business name, business address, business telephone number, or trademark is contained on the face of the sign if placed in a County right-of-way, unless rebutted by sufficient evidence.

The Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T) has indicated to the Office of Audits and Investigations that information regarding the number of illegal signs removed from County rights-of-way are not maintained. DPW&T currently does not have authority to bill anyone for the cost of removing the signs from the County right-of-way and considers the removal of the sign to be within the normal course of doing business. DPW&T estimates that there will be no additional burden placed on the Agency with the enactment of the Bill.

An assessment of a fine and/or penalty for the removal of a sign in a County right-of-way under this proposed bill could be accomplished by the Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement (DPIE) if staff were able to determine the owner or user of the illegal sign. A

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reasonable estimate of additional revenue related to any assessments cannot be readily determined at this time as there is no historical data upon which to base an estimate.

Enactment of CB-79-2015 may result in a positive fiscal impact for the County equal to the collections received from fines and/or penalties imposed on owners or users of signs placed in County rights-of-way.

If you require additional information, or have questions about this fiscal impact statement, please call me.