

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2010 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-63-2010

Proposed by Council Member Turner

Introduced by Council Members Turner, Harrison, Dernoga, Bland, Olson, Campos, Dean

Co-Sponsors _____

Date of Introduction July 13, 2010

RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 Childhood Obesity

3 For the purpose of expressing the County Council's support of the Metropolitan Washington
4 Council of Governments (COG) Resolution proposing regional strategies to reduce obesity.

5 WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Washington (COG) through its Health Officials Committee
6 has long supported region-wide efforts to improve the health of the region's population; and

7 WHEREAS, on April 14, 2010 the Board of Directors for the Metropolitan Washington
8 (COG) adopted Resolution R18-10 including several action items encouraging member
9 jurisdictions to adopt childhood and adolescent obesity prevention strategies; and

10 WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Washington COG Resolution cites the Institute of
11 Medicine's Report, Local Government Actions to Prevent Childhood Obesity as a primary
12 resource; and

13 WHEREAS, the Institute of Medicine's Report states that 16.3 percent of children and
14 adolescents between the ages of two and 19 are in the United States are obese ; and

15 WHEREAS, since the mid-1970s, the prevalence of obesity and overweight children and
16 adolescents has dramatically increased three-fold; and

17 WHEREAS, this epidemic has exploded over the past three years such that the life
18 expectancy and quality of life of this same age group is likely to decrease and diminish as a
19 result; and

20 WHEREAS, obese children and adolescents are more at risk to develop hypertension, high
21 cholesterol, and type two diabetes then their lower-weight contemporaries; and

22 WHEREAS, the Institute for Medicine's Report recommends 12 action steps for local

1 governments to implement to reduce the prevalence of obesity in children including reducing
2 sedentary behavior through greater emphasis on physical activity and encouraging better eating
3 habits by increasing access to healthy affordable foods; and

4 WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Washington (COG) Resolution also provides that the region
5 must work together to build broad based understanding and support for health and education
6 policies, including land use decisions, that are focused on reducing obesity and creating healthier
7 communities; and

8 WHEREAS, local governments have historically implemented land use, community
9 planning and transportation policies as well as funding for education, health and nutrition
10 programs including examining the equity of access to recreation programs and grocery stores
11 within the communities; and

12 WHEREAS, local governments are therefore ideally positioned to promote healthy eating
13 habits and proper nutrition behaviors in children and adolescents; and

14 WHEREAS, the County Council is authorized under the enumerated Express Powers
15 granted to and conferred upon charter counties under the provisions of Article IX of the
16 Maryland State Constitution to enact laws for the protection and promotion of public health; and

17 WHEREAS, the County Council also sits as the Board of Health hearing matters related to
18 the health and welfare of the citizens and residents of Prince George's County; and

19 WHEREAS, the Health Education and Human Services Committee held an Obesity Forum
20 (The Impact of Childhood Obesity on Learning) on March 18, 2010 and a County Youth Health
21 Day on May 14, 2010 to dialogue about obesity prevention strategies; and

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's
23 County, Maryland, that the County Council supports the Metropolitan Washington Council of
24 Governments (COG) Resolution proposing regional strategies to reduce obesity.
25

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Council is hereby directed to deliver a
2 copy of this Resolution to the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments.

Adopted this 13th day of July, 2010.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Thomas E. Dernoga
Chair

ATTEST:

Redis C. Floyd
Clerk of the Council