

# PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

## COMMITTEE REPORT

2020 Legislative Session

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**Reference No.:** APPT-1-21

**Draft No.:** 1

**Committee:** COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

**Date:** 01/28/2021

**Action:** FAV

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**REPORT:** Favorable 10-0: Council Members Hawkins, Anderson-Walker, Davis, Dernoga, Franklin, Glaros, Hawkins, Ivey, Harrison, Streeter, Taveras and Turner.

The Committee of the Whole convened on January 28, 2021, to consider the appointment of Corenne D. Labbé as the Director of the Prince George's County Department of Corrections.

Beginning in Prince George's County government in the early 90's Acting Director Labbé has accumulated decades of professional experience in correctional administration, human resources and project management. She has extensive knowledge of the criminal justice system and principles and practices of administrative management. She has served as a liaison with federal, state, and metropolitan area governmental agencies whose policy, laws, regulations, and directives impact Department of Corrections and County activities. Ms. Labbé earned a Bachelor of Science from West Virginia State University and a Juris Doctorate from the Howard University School of Law.

Council Member Ivey questioned the status of the facilities during the meeting. Acting Director Labbé noted that she will continue to coordinate with the Office of Central Services, the agency responsible for maintaining the physical plant. Air handler units were over 20 years old and in need of replacement have become a part of phase two renovation plans which are 50% complete. The kitchen did not initially have an adequate HVAC system installed but this has been corrected. Council Member Harrison inquired about plumbing issues that had occurred in the past, and suggested the process needs to be streamlined and made more efficient as a potential cost saving measure. Acting Director Labbé noted that additional plumbers have been added since the issues of two years ago. The plumbing blitzes that required closed cells are a thing of the past. Council Member Streeter asked about technology upgrades or other priority areas that should be considered during budget deliberations. Director Labbé responded that difficulties arising from aging infrastructure have decreased because of recent investments in technology infrastructure. Video visitation and virtual learning could be also be expanded and improved through use of additional tablets for inmates use. Officers are currently sharing radios and Ms. Labbé would like to be able to have a radio for each officer. Acting Director Labbé noted that there is a very low **Covid-19** positivity rate that reflects the commitment to following protocols

for safety and sanitation. Council Member Davis mentioned his personal experience over many years witnessing Ms. Labbé's excellent work.

After each committee member expressed support, Council Member Davis made the Motion to approve the appointment. Council Member Dernoga seconded the Motion. The Committee of the Whole voted favorably on the appointment of Acting Director Labbé, 11-0.