

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORT

2022 Legislative Session

Reference No.: CR-11-2022

Draft No.: 2

Committee: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Date: 3/10/2022

Action: FAV (A)

REPORT:

Committee Vote: Favorable as amended, 10-0 (In favor: Council Members Hawkins, Davis, Dernoga, Franklin, Glaros, Harrison, Ivey, Streeter, Taveras and Turner)

The County Council, sitting as the Committee of the Whole, convened on March 10, 2022, to consider CR-11-2022. The Planning, Housing, and Economic Development Committee Director summarized the purpose of the resolution. CR-11-2022 was transmitted by the County Executive for the Council's consideration to redesignate the Greater College Park Regional Institution Strategic Enterprise ("RISE") Zone.

The RISE program was enacted by the General Assembly during the 2014 Session and codified at Section 5 of the Economic Development Article for the purpose of providing income and property tax credits to qualifying businesses within a geographical area designated as a RISE Zone by the Maryland Department of Commerce. The Economic Development Article requires a "qualified institution" as defined in the article to apply jointly with a county, a municipality or the economic development agency of a county or municipality to the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Commerce.

In September 2015, the Secretary designated University of Maryland as a "qualified institution" and in 2016, with the adoption of CR-14-2016 the County Council approved the designation of the Greater College Park "RISE" Zone. State law provides a five-year designation of the RISE Zone by the Maryland Department of Commerce and the original designation expired in December 2021. CR-11-2022 redesignates the Greater College Park RISE Zone.

David Iannucci, President and CEO, Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) was present in the meeting to provide additional background and respond to Council Members' questions. Joining Mr. Iannucci in support of CR-11-2022 were Michael Williams, City of College Park, Economic Development Manager; Ryan Chelton, Town of Riverdale Park, Director of Development Services; and Ken Ulman, University of Maryland College Park. Mr. Iannucci informed the Committee that no company has taken advantage of the RISE Program and even though the incentives are well intentioned, a new emphasis on the rental assistance program tool authorized by the General Assembly could be more beneficial to the targeted startup technology companies.

Council Member Turner inquired about the annual report that is submitted to the State and suggested that the resolution be amended to require that EDC also submit the report to the

County Executive and County Council. Mr. Iannucci responded that annual reports have been submitted to the State, and even though there is activity occurring within the area, none of the activity is connected to the RISE Program.

The Office of Law reviewed CR-11-2022 as it was introduced on February 22, 2022 and determined that it is in proper legislative form with no legal impediments to its adoption.

On a motion by Council Member Glaros and second by Council Member Davis, the Committee of the Whole voted favorable on CR-11-2022 with an amendment to include language requiring EDC to submit the annual report to the County Executive and the County Council.