

The Honorable Rushern L. Baker, III  
Prince George's County Executive  
County Administration Building 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive  
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Dear Mr. County Executive,

Thank you for your continued leadership and partnership. As you are aware, in the adopted Fiscal Year 2016 (FY16) budget, county agencies were asked to temporarily shift 2% of their budgets and \$6 million from overtime spending into the County Contingency Fund as a means of (a) avoiding proposed furloughs and layoffs of county employees, especially public safety officers, (b) providing some fiscal safeguard in the budget in case of overspending or emergencies, and (c) additional State budget unknowns.

Currently, \$17,665,434 remains in the County Contingency Fund, which represents a significant portion of the 2% from each agency and the \$6 million from overtime spending. In September, the Spending Affordability Committee estimated that county budget revenues will exceed our initial FY16 projections by \$16.9 million. This positive forecast suggests that the County should begin to consider shifting some of the funds in the County Contingency Fund back to agencies to address important needs. Specifically, the County Council believes that providing additional officers to the Police Department is a key priority that will ensure that we keep pace with retirements and grow the size of the force to continue the Department's important progress in reducing crime. In addition, the Council continues to request a full budget briefing to address FY 2016 budget matters in light of the recent positive revenue forecast.

According to the Charter, budget amendments during the fiscal year must be initiated by the County Executive and then considered by the County Council. We respectfully request that you expeditiously initiate such a budget amendment to restore sufficient funds from the County Contingency Fund to the Police Department's budget to add an additional class of sworn police officers to the FY16 budget during the first quarter of calendar year 2016. Thank you again for your kind consideration and we look forward to working together to build an even stronger county.

Sincerely,

Mel Franklin, Chair  
Prince George's County Council