

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORT

2020 Legislative Session

Reference No.: CB-081-2020

Draft No.: 2

Committee: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Date: 10/13/2020

Action: FAV (A)

REPORT:

Committee Vote: Favorable as amended, 11-0 (In favor: Council Members Turner, Anderson-Walker, Davis, Dernoga, Franklin, Glaros, Harrison, Hawkins, Ivey, Streeter and Taveras)

The Committee of the Whole convened on October 13, 2020 to consider CB-81-2020. The Planning, Housing, and Economic Development Committee Director summarized the purpose of the bill and informed the Committee of written referral comments received. Draft-1 of the bill amended Subtitle 13, Housing and Property Standards, to increase the authority of the Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement (DPIE) to issue civil citations and monetary fines for property standards violations in Prince George's County. The bill also provided an appeal process for a citation issued by the DPIE Director to the Board of Administrative Appeals of Prince George's County.

The PHED Committee Director provided an overview of a Proposed Draft-2 (DR-2) with revisions included by the bill co-sponsors. The Proposed DR-2 included amendments to provide increased authority to the Administrative Hearing Unit of DPIE to enforce property standards and maintenance violations on nonresidential property in Prince George's County, to provide for an administrative citation pursuant to Division 15, Subtitle 1 of Subtitle 13, to provide that the administrative citation shall be adjudicated in accordance with the provisions of that Subdivision, to provide that the penalty for an administrative citation issued pursuant to any of the enumerated sections is \$1000.00 per violation, and to remove all language that was provided in Draft-1 concerning civil citations and appeals of civil citations to the Board of Administrative Appeals for Prince George's County

Terry Bell, Council Liaison, Office of the County Executive, indicated that the

County Executive supports the legislation and that DPIE Director Bolling and Senior Advisor Lori Parris were available in the meeting to respond to questions. Director Bolling indicated that DPIE staff is appreciative of the opportunity to work with the bill co-sponsors on this legislation. The Office of Law reviewed Proposed DR-2 and found it to be legally sufficient with no legal impediments to its enactment.

Council Member Franklin and Council Member Streeter, the bill co-sponsors, explained that CB-81-2020 broadens and strengthens DPIE's authority through the Administrative Hearing Unit to enforce property standards and maintenance violations on nonresidential properties to address blight, constituent concerns regarding violations, and overall improve communities.

On a motion by Council Member Franklin, and second by Council Member Streeter, the Committee of the Whole voted 11-0 on CB-81-2020 with the amendments in Proposed DR-2.