

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORT

2020 Legislative Session

Reference No.:	APPT-7-21
Draft No.:	1
Committee:	COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Date:	04/08/2021
Action:	FAV

REPORT: Favorable 11-0: Council Members Hawkins, Anderson-Walker, Davis, Dernoga, Franklin, Glaros, Ivey, Harrison, Streeter, Taveras and Turner.

The Prince George's County Council convened as Committee of the Whole on April 8, 2021 to consider appointees to the Fire Commission of Prince George's County. The Fire Commission reviews the financial needs and request for public funds of each of the County's volunteer fire companies. They also help formulate the operating and capital budget for volunteers.

Ms. Miriam Brewer, Appointments Liaison, Office of the County Executive, introduced and provided details about the appointees.

-Mr. Johnathan L. Bolden is appointed as a Volunteer member, replacing Julian (Jay) Tucker and the term will expire July 1, 2022.

-Mr. Antwan D. Holbert is appointed as a Sworn member, replacing Kenneth McSwain and the term will expire July 1, 2022.

-Mr. Frederick Smalls is appointed as a County resident, replacing William Taylor and the term will expire July 1, 2022.

-Ms. Vanessa E. Surlis is appointed as a Volunteer member, replacing Piero Mellits and the term will expire July 1, 2022.

-Mr. Glenn R. Wilson is reappointed as a Resident and the term will expire July 1, 2023. This will be Mr. Wilson's fourth and final consecutive term.

Council Members expressed concerns that the volunteers stated choices were not selected and suggested that it may be necessary to reconsider the Fire Commission selection process and structure. Council Members also suggested adding more diversity to the Fire Commission to ensure that Latino voices are heard as they make up 20% of our population.

Council Members complemented the appointees and noted some of their accomplishments. Mr. Bolden runs one of the most significant businesses in the County performing electrical and mechanical work. Mr. Fred Smalls was recognized for longstanding services in replacing a great former member, Mr. William Taylor.

After discussion, the Prince George's County Council, sitting as the Committee of the Whole voted appointments to the Fire Commission out favorable, 11-0.