

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORT

2020 Legislative Session

Reference No.: CB-36-2020

Draft No.: 1

Committee: Committee of the Whole

Date: 06/18/2020

Action: FAV

REPORT:

Committee Vote: Favorable 9-0. (In favor: Council Members Turner, Anderson-Walker, Davis, Dernoga, Glaros, Harrison, Hawkins, Ivey, Streeter and Taveras). (Absent: Council Member Franklin)

The Committee of the Whole convened on June 18, 2020, to discuss this legislation, which modifies the provisions for administrative hearings by authorizing the adjudication of matters involving violations of the Building Code, Housing Code, rental licenses laws, and the Department of Permitting, Inspections, and Enforcement's abatement of violations that have been adjudicated through the administrative hearing process and to assess the costs of abatement to the responsible parties. Certain matters that are currently heard by the Board of Appeals and the Nuisance Abatement Board would be heard by a new Administrative Hearings Unit. The Administrative Hearings Unit would conduct hearings and would be authorized to render decisions and orders, as well as impose civil penalties. The bill details the authority, functions, duties, and other significant matters regarding the Administrative Hearings Unit.

There was the following discussion. Director Bolling and her staff provided an overview of the bill and took questions from the County Council members. Council member Dernoga offered support for the bill and asked about the impact of COVID-19 on processing. The Department provided that the virtual meeting framework was being built to take care of the backload. Chair Turner offered the questions noted by the Board of Appeals. Barbara Stone, the Administer of the Board of Appeals provided information about the violation notice process and the handling of the zoning tables. Council member Glaros requested that the Department prepare a chart for the County Council and the public outlining which entity would handle specific matters; namely, whether it would be the Administrative Unit or the Board of Appeals. The Director indicated that her Department had prepared a chart and would make it available.

Sakinda Skinner of the Office of Law, provided that the bill was in proper legislative form and had no legal impediments to its adoption.

Terry Bell, the County Executive's Council Liaison, provided that Ms. Bolling, the Director of the Department of Permitting, Inspections, and Enforcement and her staff would be providing remarks.

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After the discussion, the Committee of the Whole voted favorably on CB-36-2020 (DR-1)

Glaros/Davis 10-0 (Absent: Franklin)