

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORT
2025 Legislative Session

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Committee: Health, Human Services, and Public Safety

Date: September 18, 2025

Action: FAV

REPORT:

Committee Vote: Favorable 5-0 (In favor Council Members Blegay, Fisher, Olson, Oriadha, and Watson)

The Health, Human Services, and Public Safety Committee met on September 18, 2025, to consider the appointment of Acting Police Chief George Nader as Police Chief.

Staff provided brief comments on Acting Police Chief George Nader's nomination as Police Chief, noting that Ms. Danielle Hunter, Appointments Liaison, Office of the County Executive, would provide educational and professional background information.

Ms. Danielle Hunter introduced Acting Police Chief George Nader as the County Executive's nominee for Chief of Police, highlighting his 31 years in law enforcement, including 18-plus years in leadership roles. She noted his broad expertise in areas like emergency management, investigations, budgeting, and policy development, as well as his strong record of collaboration with federal and regional partners. She emphasized his many awards and recognitions, his proven leadership, and his commitment to reform and community trust. Importantly, she stressed that Acting Police Chief Nader is a Prince George's County native, making his appointment not just professional but also personal, a homecoming to lead the Department in the community where he was raised.

Deputy Chief James McCreary spoke in support of Acting Police Chief George Nader, emphasizing that the Department is excited to welcome back someone who knows the county and its communities firsthand. He highlighted Acting Police Chief Nader's focus on staffing and recruitment, especially engaging youth, and his push to modernize technology to help address resource gaps. Deputy Chief McCreary noted that Acting Police Chief Nader is committed to addressing the root causes of crime, like poverty, addiction, truancy, and homelessness, alongside traditional law enforcement. He also praised Acting Police Chief Nader's holistic

approach to public safety, including reducing injuries and fatalities on roadways and fostering collaboration with nonprofits, the Fire Department, and state agencies. Deputy Chief McCreary concluded by noting that the community and officers alike appreciate Acting Police Chief Nader's continued engagement and leadership, which has already energized the Department.

Acting Police Chief George Nader expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve and said he is deeply committed to both the Police Department and the community he grew up in. He emphasized that his ultimate goal is zero crime, noting that while overall crime has gone down, even one incident is too many. His approach is centered on addressing root causes such as poverty, addiction, homelessness, and truancy by working closely with schools, social services, and community partners. He outlined efforts to improve staffing through new recruitment strategies that connect with younger generations and highlighted early success with community outreach. Acting Police Chief Nader also discussed the importance of using modern technology to strengthen safety and support officers. He emphasized transparency, community engagement, and giving young people a voice through advisory programs and mentorship. He also underscored the value of strong partnerships with local, state, and federal agencies to provide the best public safety services possible. Finally, he noted that since taking on the role, he has led the Department through several critical incidents, ensuring clear communication with the public and coordinated responses to maintain community trust and safety.

Council Member Fisher asked about the Police Department's role with ICE. She reflected on the challenges this creates, noting how residents may be hesitant to speak out in an environment where ICE is present, and stressed the importance of maintaining community trust moving forward.

Acting Police Chief Nader explained that the Department does not coordinate with ICE, and it is not county policy to cooperate with them. He explained that while ICE may show up on scenes, the Department's role is limited to making sure they are who they say they are and that no one is mistreated.

Council Member Olson shared a recent carjacking incident where bystanders hesitated to call the police out of ICE fear, leading to a hit-and-run. He stressed the need to clearly communicate that Prince George's County Police do not cooperate with ICE, so residents feel safe reporting crime.

Council Member Hawkins thanked both Acting Police Chief Nader and Acting Fire Chief Michaelides for their service and contributions. He shared his personal experiences working with both leaders, offering praise and expressing appreciation for their return to county leadership. He then asked both nominees what steps they are taking to reduce overtime within their departments.

Acting Fire Chief Michaelides explained that after reviewing the overtime budget, she noticed many uniformed staff were assigned to office roles. To cut down on overtime, the Department reassigned those personnel back into the field, which has already helped reduce costs.

The Acting Police Chief explained that reducing overtime requires more staffing. Currently, some sworn officers are doing administrative work that could be handled by civilians at a lower cost, freeing officers to return to the field. His plan includes adding civilian positions and expanding recruitment. He is working with OHRM to modernize outdated hiring practices, moving away from paper applications and toward more accessible, technology-driven methods, to better attract and retain recruits.

Chair Blegay made a motion, seconded by Council Member Fisher, to move favorably on the appointment of the Acting Police Chief, George Nader.

The Council Members voted unanimously in support of Acting Police Chief Nader, praising his accessibility, dedication, and the trust he has built with residents. They also underscored the need to urgently advance police hiring practices and technology.

After discussion, the Health, Human Services, and Public Safety Committee voted 5-0 favorably on George Nader's nomination as Police Chief.