

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORT

2022 Legislative Session

Reference No.: CR-020-2022

Draft No.: 2

Committee: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Date: 5/3/2022

Action: FAV(A)

REPORT:

Committee Vote: Favorable as amended, 9-0 (In favor: Council Members Hawkins, Dernoga, Franklin, Glaros, Harrison, Ivey, Streeter, Taveras, and Turner)

The County Council convened as the Committee of the Whole (COW) on April 25, 2022, and May 3, 2022, to consider CR-20-2022. The Planning, Housing and Economic Development Committee Director summarized the purpose of CR-20-2022. The County Executive transmitted the resolution for the Council's consideration to approve and adopt the Prince George's County Fiscal Year ("FY") 2023 Annual Action Plan ("AAP") for Department Housing and Community Development ("DHCD"). The Annual Action Plan reflects the County's most critical housing and community development needs, as identified in the FY 2021-2025 Consolidated Plan. Additionally, the Annual Action Plan serves as the grant application for the following federal entitlement program funds: Community Development Block Grant ("CDBG") Program, HOME Investment Partnerships ("HOME") Program, and the Emergency Solutions Grants ("ESG") Program.

Ms. Aspasia Xypolia, Director of the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) provided a PowerPoint presentation summarizing the County's planned use of approximately \$7.7 million in federal fiscal year 2022 (CFY 2023) funds for the CDBG, HOME and ESG Programs. Director Xypolia was joined by Patricia Isaac, CDBG Program Manager, DHCD; Pamela Wilson, Housing Development Program Manager, DHCD; Shirley Grant, CPD Administrator, DHCD and LeShann Murphy, Senior Project Manager / DHCD HOFA coordinator.

In response to Council Member Turner's inquiry about the funding shift in the Planning and Administration category from traditional partners (Human Services Coalition of Prince George's County dba Nonprofit Prince George's County and the Neighborhood Design Center), Director Xypolia commented that DHCD simply doesn't have the funds but has provided the organizations with options to apply for different funding. Council Member Taveras expressed concern with the funding allocated for homeless prevention within the ESG Program and the need to stay vigilant in addressing homelessness.

The following comments were submitted via the electronic comment portal:

Briony Hynson Submitted At: 9:46am 04-17-22 To the Honorable County Council, This year's

CDBG budget recommendation only funds a portion of the Neighborhood Design Center's request. If this recommendation goes ahead, we will be very limited in capacity, preventing residents across the County from accessing valuable pro bono community design services. Effectively, services will not be available to additional groups for an entire year. I urge you to fully fund this program in order that NDC may continue to serve the communities of Prince George's County. Uploaded with this comment is a document summarizing last program year's significant accomplishments. To quote community partner Margaret Morgan Hubbard, "this unique set of services cannot be secured anywhere else, at any cost' Cutting off community access to NDC's planning and design support at this moment, on the brink of Recovery funding coming to our communities, is not strategic. Please fully fund NDC's funding request. In service, Briony Hynson, NDC Deputy Director.

Sophie Morley Submitted At: 8:49pm 04-14-22 To the Honorable County Council, This year's Community Development Block Grant budget recommendation cuts funding for our signature pro bono program, Community Design Works, to the barebones. If this recommendation goes ahead, we will be severely limited in capacity, preventing residents across the County from accessing our design services. Effectively, our services will not be available to additional groups for an entire year without this funding. We are seeking your support to restore this funding to enable us to continue to serve the communities of Prince George's County. Uploaded with this comment are 6 letters of support from the following community partners who have benefitted from our program: The City of Seat Pleasant, The Town of North Brentwood, River of Life Church Temple Hills, Prince George's County African American Museum and Cultural Center, Mount Rainier Elementary School PTO, Prince George's County Memorial Library System. In service, Sophie Morley NDC Program Manager.

The Office of Law reviewed CR-20-2022 as it was introduced on March 22, 2022, and found it to be in proper legislative form with no legal impediments to its adoption.

On a motion by Council Member Franklin and second by Council Chair Hawkins, the Committee of the Whole voted, 6-0, to hold CR-20-2022 in committee to further discuss Council Member requests for funding changes in coordination with DHCD.

At the May 3, 2022, Committee of the Whole meeting, after the PHED Committee Director's summary of the April 25 COW meeting and timetable for the Council's action on the legislation, Council Member Franklin made a motion to incorporate Amendment #1 into CR-20-2022, seconded by Council Vice Chair Harrison, for the purpose of restoring funding to the Neighborhood Design Center and Nonprofit Prince George's County to the FY2022 levels from the DHCD Administration funds and backfill the DHCD funding in the County Operating budget. Amendment #1 is as follows:

1. Amend Attachment A, page 5, as follows:

- Decrease PY48 funding for PA-1-CDBG-48, DHCD – CPD, in the amount of \$84,851.
- Increase PY48 funding for PA-2-CDBG-48, Human Services Coalition of Prince

George's County dba Nonprofit Prince George's County, from \$67,475.00 to the approved PY47 funding amount of \$106,937.00.

- Increase PY48 funding for PA-3-CDBG-48, The Neighborhood Design Center, Inc., from \$67,475.00 to the approved PY47 funding amount of \$112,864.00.

The Committee of the Whole voted favorable, 9-0, on CR-20-2022 including Amendment #1.