

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

2003 Legislative Session
REORGANIZATIONAL PROPOSAL

Executive Order No. 14

Date Received March 28, 2003

Bill No. CB-21-2003

Chapter No. 7

Action by Council Approved

Date of Council Action April 15, 2003

EXECUTIVE ORDER
No. 14-2003

March 28, 2003

WHEREAS, the County has an Office of Emergency Management that is charged with protecting the lives and property of Prince George's County citizens and residents through an integrated effort to mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from future emergencies and disasters; and

WHEREAS, emergency management activities nationwide are being revised in the wake of September 11, 2001, the increased man made threats that could pose an emergency and the creation of the national Office of Homeland Security; and

WHEREAS, there is an increased need to ensure that the County government undertakes pre-planning and mitigation strategies and is able to communicate with its citizens, residents and other jurisdictions regarding actions that should be taken to prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies and potential emergencies; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive has determined that combining the functions of the Office of Emergency Management and the management of public safety and emergency communications into a single agency will enable the County to more effectively carry out these responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, Section 503 of the Prince George's County Charter provides that the County Executive may propose changes to the organization for the Executive branch, including the establishment or abolition of agencies, and the assignment of functions, powers and duties among agencies, which proposals shall be set forth in Executive Orders in statutory form and be submitted to the County Council; and

WHEREAS, there is hereby proposed an Office of Homeland Security;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that:

SECTION 1. The Schedule of Legislation of the Charter for Prince George's County, Maryland, be and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

SCHEDULE OF LEGISLATION

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Section 9. Office of Information Technology and Communications

There shall be an Office of Information Technology and Communications headed by the Director of Information Technology and Communications. The Director shall be responsible for information management and technology within the County government and for maintaining an effective and efficient information and communications system ,including coordination with the Office of Homeland Security to provide maintenance and support for public safety and emergency communication systems. The Director shall also be responsible for the administration of the Cable Television Commission of the County.

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Section 13. Fire/Emergency Medical Services Department.

There shall be a Fire/Emergency Medical Services ("EMS") Department headed by a Fire Chief. The Fire Chief shall be responsible for fire prevention, fire suppression, emergency medical services, fire and rescue communications, research and training activities, and coordination of the volunteer fire companies[, and emergency management]. The Fire Chief shall have had at least five years administrative experience in the field of fire prevention, fire training, or fire suppression. There shall be a Fire Commission composed of nine members elected by the volunteer fire companies of Prince George's County. Each company shall be entitled to cast one vote for each member of the Commission. The first election shall take place in the month of December, 1970, and an election shall take place annually thereafter during the month of July. The Fire Commission shall review the financial needs and requests for public funds of each volunteer fire company. It shall formulate annually one capital budget, one capital improvement program, and one current expense budget for all volunteer fire companies with respect to the expenditure of public funds, and shall submit said budgets and program, together with appropriate justification, to the County Executive in accordance with the provisions of this Charter. [Within the Fire/Emergency Medical Services Department, there shall be an Office of Emergency Management, headed by a Director of Emergency Management. The Director shall be appointed by the Governor pursuant to the provisions of Article 16A, Section 7, of the Annotated Code of Maryland, upon the recommendation of the County Executive. Prior to submission to the Governor, the County Executive shall secure concurrence of the County Council with his recommendation in the manner set forth in Section 322 of the Charter. The Director of Emergency Management shall have the duties and responsibilities as set forth in Article 16A, Section 7, of the Annotated Code of Maryland and shall be responsible for the preparation and coordination of emergency actions of the County government.]

Section 14. [Reserved.] Office of Homeland Security.

There shall be an Office of Homeland Security headed by a Director of Homeland Security. The Office of Homeland Security shall be responsible for providing planning, coordination and domestic preparedness training and shall coordinate the County's emergency management effort with Federal, State and local jurisdictions. The Office of Homeland Security shall also be responsible for management of an integrated public safety and emergency communication system. Within the Office of Homeland Security, there shall be an Office of Public Safety Communication, and an Office of Emergency Management. The head of the Office of Emergency Management shall be appointed by the Governor pursuant to the provisions of Article 16A, Section 7, of the Annotated Code of Maryland, upon the recommendation of the County Executive. Prior to submission to the Governor, the County Executive shall secure concurrence of the County Council with the recommendation in the manner set forth in Section 322 of the Charter. The Office of Emergency Management shall have the duties and responsibilities as set forth in Article 16A, Section 7, of the Annotated Code of Maryland. There may be an Advisory Committee on Homeland Security which shall function in an advisory capacity to the Director of Homeland Security.

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SECTION 2. This Order shall be submitted to the County Council pursuant to Section 503 of the Prince George's County Charter and, thereafter, shall become effective July 1, 2003 unless disapproved by a majority vote of the full Council within sixty (60) calendar days after such submission.

Jack B. Johnson
County Executive