

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2020 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-12-2020

Proposed by Council Members Taveras, Turner, Ivey Glaros and Dernoga

Introduced by Council Members Taveras, Turner, Ivey Glaros, Dernoga, Davis,
Anderson-Walker, Franklin, Harrison, Hawkins and Streeter

Date of Introduction April 20, 2020

RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 Public Health and Immigration Detention during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic
 3 For the purpose of recognizing the public health threat to all Prince George's County residents
 4 by holding County residents in immigration detention during the Coronavirus (hereinafter
 5 referred to as "COVID-19") pandemic.

6 WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the
 7 COVID-19 outbreak a global pandemic; and

8 WHEREAS, on March 6, 2020, Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., declared a state of
 9 emergency in Maryland due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

10 WHEREAS, on April 15, 2020 according to State Department of Health reports, Prince
 11 George's County reached more than 2,700 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and over 70 deaths
 12 due to COVID-19; and

13 WHEREAS, on March 24, 2020, the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency (ICE)
 14 announced the first positive COVID-19 case among immigrants in detention; and

15 WHEREAS, ICE has continued to carry out civil immigration enforcement throughout the
 16 pandemic to the present day; and

17 WHEREAS, the WHO and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) have urged social distancing
 18 measures, including stay at home and remaining at least six (6) feet apart from others when
 19 leaving home to carry out essential activities, that have been mandated under penalty of law as a
 20 misdemeanor criminal offense by the Governor of Maryland; and

21 WHEREAS, those in immigration detention cannot follow social distancing measures
 22 because they reside in group quarters; and

1 WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020, Prince George’s County District Court Judge Clayton A.
2 Aarons ordered the release of 50 inmates charged with low-level offenses and are awaiting trial
3 from the Prince George’s County Jail; and

4 WHEREAS, the County Council understands that at least 29 Prince George’s County
5 residents are currently detained by ICE, ranging from 19 to 62 years old and average of 16 years
6 residing in the United States; and

7 WHEREAS, the County Council understands that several of the detained individuals have
8 pre-existing medical issues, which may make them more susceptible to COVID-19; and

9 WHEREAS, these County residents, as well as all ICE detainees, are held in civil, not
10 criminal, custody at the sole discretion of ICE; and

11 WHEREAS, releasing all County residents from immigration detention is the only way for
12 all County residents to engage in social distancing as mandated by state law;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George’s
14 County, Maryland, that the Prince George’s County Council joins health care professionals and
15 leaders across the country in calling on ICE to either provide appropriate health services and
16 facilities to protect detainees or to release all detained immigrants and cease civil immigration
17 enforcement for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Adopted this 20th day of April, 2020.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Todd M. Turner
Council Chair

ATTEST:

Donna J. Brown
Clerk of the Council