



Dannielle M. Glaros
Chair
Council District 3
(301) 952-3060

February 27, 2018

The Honorable Angela M. Angel
Maryland House of Delegates (25th)
House Office Building, Room 216
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1924

Re: House Bill 236 (PG 408-18) Affordable Housing Commission

Dear Delegate Angel:

The Prince George's County Council understands and shares your concern about providing affordable housing options throughout Prince George's County. We recently reviewed your bill, **HB 236 – Prince George's County - Affordable Housing Commission**, which establishes the Prince George's County Affordable Housing Commission to review the procedures and practices currently used in the County's administration of housing and community development policies and examine the state of affordable housing in the in County.

Throughout our discussion, it was noted that this Council, through Council Resolution ("CR") 16-2016, established a Comprehensive Housing Strategy Ad Hoc Subcommittee to develop a plan for the County.. The goals of the Comprehensive Housing Strategy, similar to ones completed by our sister jurisdictions, are to: (1) provide a variety of quality and diverse housing choices to meet existing and future needs of a diverse population and demographic; (2) evaluate existing housing policy and program tools for effectiveness; (3) provide quality, secure, long-term affordable and workforce rental housing through strategic new development and redevelopment; (4) promote and support provision of affordable and workforce home purchase opportunities for County residents and workers; (5) increase homeownership opportunities, develop strategies that promote regional housing collaboration and coordination as well as consider the unique housing and fiscal challenges in Prince George's County; and (6) promote and encourage sustainable and vibrant communities, energy efficiency, thriving families and housing options for all.

The Prince George's County Comprehensive Housing Strategy Team consists of subject matter experts and project consultants from the private sector, non-profits and academia in order to develop an inclusive and comprehensive housing strategy for all residents of the County. This effort is being led by Eric Brown, the Director of County's Department of Housing and Community Development ("DHCD"), who reports to the Prince George's County Council's Ad Hoc Subcommittee on housing policy.

We believe it would be a strain on current resources to seat an Affordable Housing Commission this year while the work of the Comprehensive Housing Strategy Team is currently underway. The Comprehensive Housing Strategy is the best forum for addressing the important issue of expanding affordable housing options in the County and balancing those needs with other housing priorities. Under the proposed project timeline the Council is expecting a report by **September 30, 2018** before exploring other avenues for developing housing policy. We welcome and encourage your participating with the Comprehensive Housing Strategy project to ensure your specific concerns regarding affordable housing are addressed through the Comprehensive Housing Strategy report.

Therefore, as a matter of courtesy, we request that you hold HB 236 until after the completion of the Comprehensive Housing Strategy's report to determine the need for and guide the work of a potential Affordable Housing Commission.

Sincerely,

Dannielle M. Glaros
Chair

cc: Prince George's County Senate Delegation Members
Prince George's County House Delegation Members
Prince George's County Executive
Prince George's County Council Members
Robert J. Williams, Jr., Prince George's County Council Administrator
William M. Hunt, Prince George's County Deputy Council Administrator
Glenda R. Wilson, Chief of Staff, Office of the County Executive
Nicholas A. Majett, Chief Administrative Officer, Office of the County Executive
Eric Brown, Director, County's Department of Housing and Community Development