

# PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

## COMMITTEE REPORT

2019 Legislative Session

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**Reference No.:** APPT-51-19

**Draft No.:** 1

**Committee:** Health, Human Services and Public Safety Committee

**Date:** 11/6/2019

**Action:** FAV

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**REPORT:** Favorable 3-0: Council Members Hawkins, Ivey, and Taveras. Absent: Franklin and Harrison.

The Health, Human Services and Public Safety Committee met on November 6, 2019 to consider the appointments of four individuals to the Prince George's County Fire Commission.

Miriam Brewer, Appointments Liaison, Office of the County Executive, provided an overview of the responsibilities of the Commission and introduced the proposed members who then shared some of their qualifications for service.

In accordance with the provisions of the County Charter, the Fire Commission must annually formulate a capital budget, capital improvement program (CIP) and a current expense budget for all volunteer fire companies with respect to the expenditure of public funds.

The Commission also provides operational and administrative support for Volunteer Fire Companies, including operation and maintenance of individual fire stations and equipment; and the purchase of fire suppression and rescue apparatus. Incentive programs are also implemented to recruit and retain members.

Council Member Ivey asked each proposed member to share something they intend to focus on if confirmed to the Commission. The responses included a renewed focus on the Capital Improvement Program, which is not functioning as smoothly as it could, reducing the time it takes to get a recruit trained, and putting more of the process online. It was reported that the recruitment process has been continually improving and is now down to 30 days with a potential to reach 24 hours using technology to further refine the process. The members will also focus on improvements to training, education and communication.

After discussion, the Health, Human Services and Public Safety Committee, voted the appointments of those nominated to the Fire Commission out favorably, 3-0.