

# PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

## COMMITTEE REPORT

2022 Legislative Session

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**Reference No.:** CR-059-2022

**Draft No.:** 1

**Committee:** PLANNING, HOUSING, & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**Date:** 7/6/2022

**Action:** FAV

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### **REPORT:**

Committee Vote: Favorable, 4-0 (In favor: Council Members Franklin, Glaros, Hawkins, and Turner)

The Planning, Housing, and Economic Development (PHED) Committee convened on July 6, 2022, to consider CR-59-2022. This legislation was transmitted by the County Executive seeking the County Council's endorsement of the 2022 Prince George's County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategic Action Plan and adoption of the economic actions and strategies set forth therein. This 2022 Economic Development Strategic Action Plan would take the place of the 2013 Economic Development Strategy, endorsed by the County Council pursuant to the adoption of CR-75-2013.

Following the Planning, Housing and Economic Development (PHED) Committee Director's overview of the resolution, David Iannucci, President and CEO, Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation, provided introductory remarks and introduced members of the consultant team who were present for a presentation of the Strategic Action Plan's eighteen recommendations. Richard Clinch, PhD, Director, The Jacob France Institute, University of Baltimore and Mitch Horowitz, Co-Founder and Senior Fellow TEconomy Partners, LLC provided a PowerPoint presentation summarizing key elements of the Strategic Action Plan, the four principles to help guide and advance the Plan, comparison to the 2013 Strategy, outline of the Strategic Action Plan, as well as strategic priorities, partnership initiatives and supporting actions.

The Office of Law reviewed the CR-59-2022 as it was introduced on May 17, 2022, and found it to be in proper legislative form and sees no legal impediments to its adoption.

Shelly Gross-Wade, President and CEO, FSC First, was also present in the meeting and informed the Committee that FSC First has positioned itself to take advantage of all Federal and State dollars available to further enhance the toolbox. PHED Chair Franklin commented on ongoing concerns with equity and inclusion related to State and Federal funds not making it to small and minority businesses in Prince George's County. In response to PHED Chair Franklin's question concerning cost of implementing the Plan recommendations, Mr. Iannucci noted the need to collaborate on a strategy for implementation given various costs ranging from \$100,000 to several million dollars.

Council Member Turner expressed his appreciation on the work on the 2013 Strategy and the proposed update and commented on the synergy working with local governments as an additional source of partnerships and funding. Mr. Turner also commented on the importance of a strong residential base as part of an effective economic development strategy as well as his work with his colleagues and Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) on the regional level to push some of the additional development into the County as opposed to having the East-West divide. Additionally, Mr. Turner noted the recent re-establishment of the RISE Zone at the University of Maryland College Park and suggested that other State-supported institutions of higher education in the County also be considered for the Zone as an opportunity for workforce/talent development in advancing the Strategic Plan.

Council Member Glaros commented on implementation given the number of entities having responsibility in the Strategic Plan and her interest in hearing from the County Executive and team in moving forward with implementation. Ms. Glaros suggested that the PHED Committee have an annual update briefing on status of implementation.

Council Chair Hawkins commented on moving from a discussion on equity to realizing that local minority engagement does not change as the County moves forward. PHED Committee Chair Franklin expressed the importance of how the County invests in creating opportunities for small business owners who can grow and make it to the next level, emphasizing the dedication of resources and intentional efforts, funding and technical assistance in directing and utilizing the resources by the County to make this Plan a reality.

Council Member Medlock introduced himself as the Council Member for the Sixth District and expressed his excitement to be a part of the process with his colleagues and his intention to do his part to make sure resources are in place.

After discussion, on a motion by Council Member Turner and second by Council Member Glaros, the Planning, Housing and Economic Development Committee voted favorable, 4-0, on CR-59-2022 Draft-1.