

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORT
2023 Legislative Session

Reference No.:	CB-008-2023
Draft No.:	2
Committee:	Health, Human Services, and Public Safety
Date:	02/02/2023
Action:	FAV (A)

REPORT: Favorable as amended 4-0: Council Members, Oriadha, Blegay, Burroughs, and Dernoga, Absent: Franklin.

The Health, Human Services, and Public Safety Committee convened on February 2, 2023, to consider CB-008-2023, An Act Concerning a Private Security Camera Incentive Program. CB-008-2023 was presented to the County Council on December 12, 2022. The legislation seeks to assist public safety agencies with the crime problem that has been elevated recently both nationally and here in Prince George's County. The cameras would assist public safety agencies in decreasing crime and illegal dumping by creating an additional tool for law enforcement. The Bill would establish a private security camera incentive program that would encourage businesses, nonprofits, and homeowners to set up cameras to increase security surveillance. Criteria to become eligible to participate in the program and the associated rules in which an owner or leaseholder may participate are described in the bill.

Amendments were discussed that would further clarify agency responsibilities. Additional definitions were added, including reimbursement rates and where the cameras should be located. DR 2 includes a section that incorporates Community Inclusiveness, to ensure that the constitutional rights of immigrant County residents are not violated.

Mrs. Cassandra Fields, Legislative Budget and Policy Analyst, Audits and Investigations provided a synopsis of the Fiscal and Policy Note that she prepared based on Draft 1 of the legislation. The Bill could have an adverse fiscal impact on the County due to the reimbursement of costs associated with the installation of the security cameras. However, the enactment of CB-008-2023 could have a positive indirect fiscal impact, as the incentive and installation of security cameras could ultimately deter illicit behavior, leading to a reduction in crime and the associated law enforcement cost savings.

Terry Bell, Council Liaison, Office of the County Executive, noted that the administration continues to

work with the sponsor on potential amendments and that no position has been taken on the legislation.

Major Olare presented suggested amendments that will include PGPD in partnership with OCR. DR 2 includes the suggested amendments.

HHSPS Chair Oriadha spoke about the importance of this legislation in reducing crime and saving lives. This tool could provide police with the additional assistance needed to prevent crime. Draft 2 will be named in honor of Jayz Agnew, who was tragically slain, and the lack of a camera video has hampered the investigation.

Ms. Agnew spoke in support and described the heartbreaking loss of her son and how the lack of cameras in the community affected the investigation. Young Mr. Agnew was raking leaves on November 8, 2022, when he was shot in his front yard.

Vice Chair Blegay, expressed her support for the legislation. Council Chair Dernoga inquired about the budget which is estimated to have an approximate \$100,000 fiscal impact.

Council Member Burroughs noted that the FY 23 PGPD budget is \$370 million, a 10.5 percent or 35 million dollar increase which makes this \$100,000 cost reasonable.

After discussion, the HHSPS Committee voted CB-008-2023 out favorably, 4-0 as amended.