

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORT

2023 Legislative Session

Reference No.: CB-058-2023

Draft No.: 1

Committee: TIEE

Date: 6/22/2023

Action: FAV

REPORT:

Committee Vote: Favorable, 5-0 (In Favor: Council Members Olson, Dernoga, Hawkins, Ivey, and Watson).

The Committee convened on June 22, 2023, to discuss CB-58-2023, which changes the method of providing service of process for anti-litter and weed ordinance violations. The County currently uses certified mail as the primary method of notice for such violations. This process tends to be costly as the County spends approximately \$1,500 per week on certifications. The average certification is \$13.50, and processing a certified mailing takes approximately 20 minutes of manual staff time per violation. Using first-class mailings will provide cost savings to the County. Additionally, first-class mailings are now processed through the new automated Momentum system.

Lamont Hinton, Deputy Director of the County Department of Permitting, Inspections & Enforcement (DPIE) attended the meeting to discuss the need for change in service of process. During the discussion, the Committee expressed concerns regarding:

- 1) The current process used by inspectors for notification/interaction with property owners prior to the issuance of violation notices and fines,
- 2) The response times and closure rates for complaints filed through the 3-1-1 system,
- 3) The need for clarification on the process for responding to landscaping/litter complaints on state roadways, and
- 4) The need for improved communication between DPIE and Council Member offices in responding to citizen complaints.

Mr. Hinton agreed to provide follow-up on these issues prior to the public hearing. The County Executive's Office supports the legislation, and the Office of Law indicated that CB-58-2023 is in proper form with no legal impediments to enactment.

After discussion, the Committee voted favorably on CB-58-2023 by a vote of 5-0.