

# PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

## COMMITTEE REPORT

2024 Legislative Session

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**Reference No.:** CB-17-2024

**Draft No.:** 1

**Committee:** GOFP

**Date:** April 25, 2024

**Action:** FAV

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**REPORT:** Committee Vote Favorable, 5-0 (Chair Watson, Vice Chair Harrison, Council Members Dernoga, Franklin and Oriadha)

The Prince George's County Council's Government Operations and Fiscal Policy Committee convened on April 25, 2024, to consider CB-017-2024, which is an act concerning the Board of Appeals and composition and salary revision.

As proposed, CB-17-2024 would decrease the size of the Board of Appeals, increase the monthly salary rate for each member of the Board of Appeals, and increase the annual salary rate for the Chairman of the Board of Appeals. The composition of the Board of Appeals is proposed to be reverted to the three (3) members by virtue of the terms of CB-086-2021, which temporarily increased the membership to five (5).

The compensation rate of the members will increase to one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) per month compared to the previous rate of seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750.00). The Chair of the Board of Appeals will be compensated an additional one thousand seven hundred fifty dollars (\$1,750.00) per year for administrative responsibilities compared to the previous rate of one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00).

Mr. Roger Banegas of the Budget and Policy Analysis Division noted the enactment of CB-017-2024 will have an adverse direct fiscal impact on the County in the form of additional compensation of \$250 per month for each member (totaling \$750 per month additional) and an additional \$250 per year for the Chair of the Board of Appeals. The total annual additional expenditure required would be \$9,250 per year.

Council Chair Ivey reminded the committee that the Board of Appeals has not had an increase in compensation since the year 2000. The last time an increase occurred was through CB-014-2000.

The Office of Law (OOL) reports CB-17-2024 to be in proper legislative form with no legal impediments to its enactment. Terry Bell spoke on behalf of the Office of Law and shared the Office's opinion that Board of Appeals members cannot receive an increase in compensation once their term of office has begun. However, public officials can receive

increased compensation if their term of office begins after or simultaneously with the effective date of a compensation increase.

CM Franklin inquired about the expiration of the member's terms. Terry Bell, OOL, confirmed that the Board of Appeals members are working under expired terms. Upon official appointment, new members will receive a salary increase.

After further discussion, Vice-Chair Harrison moved favorably, and a second was offered by Council Member Oriadha. The Government Operations and Fiscal Policy Committee voted favorably on CB-17-2024, 5-0.