COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

2026 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-085-2026

Proposed by Council Member Oriadha

Introduced by Council Members Oriadha, Adams, Hunter, Olson and Burroughs

Co-Sponsors

Date of Introduction September 1, 2026

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION concerning

Autism Equity in Prince George's County

For the purpose of encouraging a comprehensive initiative to advance autism equity through inclusive public infrastructure, and transparent data reporting. Such an initiative must supplement and coordinate with existing programs, including the Infants & Toddlers Program, while filling gaps in early outreach, awareness, and system navigation. The County Council shall establish [an] a Prince George's County Autism Equity Advisory Workgroup to monitor the initiative's commencement and advise on the initiative's continuous improvement.

WHEREAS, "Autism" means autism spectrum disorder as defined by the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition (DSM-5); and

[WHEREAS, for too long, autism has been seen by the public as a misunderstood disorder resulting in stark disparities in terms of resources and accommodations encountered by those suffering from this unfortunate illness; and]

WHEREAS, for too long, autism has been misunderstood by the public, resulting in stark disparities in resources and accommodations encountered by autistic individuals and their families; and

WHEREAS, an initiative that integrates autistic individuals with County agencies and programs would leverage those agencies' resources to expand opportunities for accommodation, thereby creating parity in terms of outreach, awareness, and system navigation; and

[WHEREAS, an initiative which integrates those with autism with certain agencies and programs that can leverage those agencies resources to expand opportunities for accommodation, thereby creating parity in terms of outreach, awareness, and system navigation; and]

WHEREAS, Section 506 of the Charter provides that the Council may appoint, for designated periods, one or more temporary advisory boards of citizens of the County who shall assist in the coordination of County policies and programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's County, Maryland, that the County Council strongly encourages the County to pilot a sensory-friendly zone in at least [one park and] one library by [the end of FY27] December 31, 2027.

[BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Health Department develop and publish annually an Autism Services Dashboard on the County website, tracking:

(1) Wait times for diagnostic or therapeutic services; and

(2) Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) special education performance indicators for autistic students; and

(3) Employment rates for autistic adults served by workforce agencies; and

(4) Disparities by race, income, zip code, and language.]

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Council directs the County Health Department to develop and publish an Autism Services Dashboard to support informed decision-making and continuous improvement in autism-related service accessibility, navigation, delivery, and the well-being of individuals with autism spectrum disorder and their families. The Dashboard should, at a minimum and to the extent data is available, strive to capture:

(1) County-level autism prevalence and demographic data; and

(2) wait times for developmental screening, diagnostic evaluation, and treatment and therapeutic services, together with provider and workforce capacity data; and

(3) data on students with autism spectrum disorder, as reported by the Prince George's County Public Schools pursuant to a data-sharing agreement with the County Health Department, including but not limited to the number of students served under an Individualized Education Program, graduation rates, and state assessment performance, and all requests for evaluations and services; and

(4) utilization of autism-related service navigation and family support resources; and

(5) disparities in access and outcomes by race, income, geographic district, language, and insurance status; and

(6) indicators of community inclusion and family well-being.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Council directs each County agency

identified as a data source under this subsection to report its portion of the requested data to the County Health Department by a date specified by the Department, consistent with any applicable data-sharing agreement, and the Department should apply standard small-cell suppression or aggregation thresholds before publishing disaggregated figures to protect individual privacy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's County, Maryland, recognizes and encourages the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission's (M-NCPPC) existing practice of incorporating sensory elements into new and renovated playgrounds countywide. M-NCPPC shall publish the data on their sensory awareness playgrounds for purposes of the Dashboard.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Council strongly encourages the County Executive to designate a lead agency to coordinate implementation within ninety (90) days following the date of adoption of this Resolution.

[BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Council shall establish an Autism Equity Advisory Workgroup to monitor the initiative's commencement and advise on the initiative's continuous improvement, specifically, evaluate County organizations and make recommendations on how to improve.]

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Council shall establish a Prince George's County Autism Equity Advisory Workgroup to monitor implementation and advise on continuous improvement, in support of informed decision-making and continuous improvement in autism-related service accessibility, navigation, delivery, and the well-being of individuals with autism spectrum disorder and their families across the lifespan — including the milestones and outcomes of living and thriving in one's chosen community, safety and health at home and in the community, and the greatest degree of self-determination; to that end, the Workgroup shall, among other things:

(1) evaluate the County's autism-related service landscape, including County government agencies (programs, services, and overall capacity), community partners, and private service providers, and make recommendations on how to improve autism-related service capacity and delivery;

(2) advise and provide feedback, advice, and guidance to the County Health Department on the development and ongoing improvement of the Autism Services Dashboard established under this Resolution — including identifying the appropriate agency and methodology for measuring

employment outcomes for autistic adults for potential future incorporation into the Dashboard serving as the Dashboard's improvement advisory entity; and

(3) consult with subject matter experts and affected entities across the full range of systems that affect individuals with autism spectrum disorder and their families, including but not limited to the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC) and the Prince George's County Memorial Library System, as needed in the course of its work.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Prince George's County Autism Equity Advisory Workgroup shall be composed of [eight (8)] nine (9) members:

1. A representative appointed by the Chair of the County Council;
2. A representative of the Prince George's County Board of Education;
3. A representative of [the] PGCPS;
4. An individual who is an autistic adult;
5. An individual who is the parent of an autistic child;
6. An individual who is in the business of providing care to autistic individuals;
7. An individual who is an educator for autistic individuals;
8. An individual who is a subject matter expert in equity issues; and
9. A representative of a County nonprofit organization that is knowledgeable in providing care and services to autistic individuals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the [Prince George's County Autism Equity Advisory] Workgroup shall meet [on a bi-monthly basis] for at least nine (9) meetings.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the [Prince George's County Autism Equity Advisory] Workgroup shall produce a final report [analysis] including recommendations within 12 months from their first meeting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Workgroup shall disband upon submission of its final report to the County Council and County Executive.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council Administrator shall assign appropriate technical and administrative support staff to assist the [Prince George's County Autism Equity Advisory] Workgroup in its work.

Adopted this 6th day of October, 2026.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Krystal Oriadha
Chair

ATTEST:

_____
Donna J. Brown
Clerk of the Council