

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORT
2017 Legislative Session

Reference No.: CB-09-2017
Draft No.: 2
Committee: HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
Date: 3/9/2017
Action: FAV(A)

REPORT:

Committee Vote: Favorable as Amended, 5-0 (In favor: Council Members Toles, Taveras, Franklin, Harrison and Turner).

Staff gave an overview of the legislation and informed the committee of referral comments that were received. CB-9-2017 establishes a Commission on Fathers, Men and Boys as an advisory resource to the County Executive, County Council and the public on issues and needs of fathers, men and boy within Prince George's County. The Commission will consist of thirteen (13) members who shall be nominated by the County Executive and subject to the approval of the County Council subsequent to a public hearing. All members of the Commission shall serve without compensation. Funds appropriated by the County for use by the Commission will be used to offset expenditures of the Commission as a whole, or by a group of its members.

The sponsor discussed the motivation for the creation of the Commission; indicating the need to help men remove the obstacles to their success, so they can improves themselves and become sources of strength and stability for their families.

The Director of Family Services provided comments and answered questions by the members of the Committee regarding the agency's position. The Director of Family Services spoke in support of the legislation indicating that she had spoken with the sponsor and provided feedback regarding the language in that it should be similar to the other Commissions, i.e. the ability for and receive grants would not be a function. Additionally, feedback was provided regarding the terms, so that those terms were similar to the existing Commissions and Boards. The above-mentioned changes are reflected in CB-9-2017 (Draft 2). Council Member Toles requested that Council Member Franklin, bill's sponsor, continue dialogue with Commission for Women to address any additional concerns.

Representatives from 100 Father's Inc., "Ordinary Men Doing Extraordinary Thing," spoke in support of CB-9-2017; including information on the purpose, goals and success of their programs.

The Office of Law reviewed the bill and found it to be in proper legislative form with no legal impediments to its enactment.

The County Executive supports CB-9-2017 as amended.

The Office of Audits and Investigations determined that the enactment of CB-9-2017 should not have an adverse fiscal impact on Prince George's County.

The Committee voted favorably with an amendment to add the following language recommended by Council Member Taveras: on Page 2, Line 1: "including geographic, ethnic and linguistic diversity".