

# PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

## COMMITTEE REPORT

2018 Legislative Session

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**Reference No.:** CR-50-2018

**Draft No.:** 2

**Committee:** HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES

**Date:** 9/5/2018

**Action:** FAV(A)

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### REPORT:

#### **HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**    DATE: 9/5/2018

Committee Vote: Favorable with amendments, 4-0 (In favor: Council Members Lehman, Patterson, Harrison and Franklin. Absent: Davis).

The Health, Education and Human Services Committee met on September 5, 2018 to consider CR-50-2018. The Legislative Officer provided an overview of the legislation, explaining that draft 2 of the legislation was proposed and was a significant departure from draft 1, where the County Council expressed support for the creation of a County Office of the Poet Laureate. Draft 2 expressed the County Council support for the establishment of a poet laureate program within the existing Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council.

Council Member Harrison questioned why the resolution was even needed since she was under the impression that such activities were already covered under the current powers of the Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council. Ms. Rhonda Dallas, Executive Director of the Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council, that eligibility to receive certain grants and resources requires a poet laureate program to be specially designated.

Ms. Dallas proceeded to inform the committee that the Poet Laureate Program would engage in cultural planning, display the existing poetic talent in Prince George's County and emphasize the impact of the arts both inside and outside of the County.

Mr. Hiram Larew, a local poet, discussed the current work of the Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council such as the Poetry Poster Project which includes the works of eight local poets: six African American poets, one Native American poet,

and one youth poet. Mr. Larew stated that the Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council is also working on activities in tandem with Youth Art Month.

Another local poet, Joy "Sister Joy" Alford, explained that she produces art shows on CTV, highlights poets throughout the world and produces a program with Prince George's Parks and

Recreation. Ms. Dallas stated that she supports the appointment of Ms. Alford as the Inaugural Poet Laureate of Prince George’s County for a term of three years. During which the Prince George’s Arts and Humanities Council will establish an independent panel to select a poet laureate.

Mr. Franklin’s amendment to the proposed draft 2 included:

1)Page 2, Line 4, change “supports” to “endorses”.

2)Page 2, Line 5, after “Program” insert “, including the appointment of a County Poet Laureate,”.

3)Page 2, Lines 8-1, Remove the following “BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Prince George’s County Council respectfully requests that the County Executive establish the County Poet Laureate Program to highlight literary arts and promote appreciation for poetry and to inspire a deeper engagement in the written and spoken word in Prince George’s County.”

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**CODE INDEX TOPICS:**

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**INCLUSION FILES/ZONING FIGURES:**

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