

**From:** [Brown, Jacqueline W.](#)  
**To:** [Aheart, Charlotte D.](#)  
**Subject:** FW: CR-016-2019  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 19, 2019 1:42:46 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Comment on CR-16 for Thursday.

*Jackie Brown*  
*Director*  
*Planning, Housing, and Economic Development Committee*  
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**PRINCE GEORGE'S** | **COUNTY COUNCIL**

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**From:** Sarah Basehart <ssorensen@innow.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 19, 2019 1:39 PM  
**To:** Olivo, Aimee, E. <AEOlivo@co.pg.md.us>; Brown, Jacqueline W. <jwbrown@co.pg.md.us>  
**Subject:** CR-016-2019

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Amy,

Thank you very much for taking my call today. I am writing to express my concern that Independence Now is not included in the composition of the Housing Opportunities for All Workgroup. I served as Independence Now's representative on the Comprehensive Housing Strategy. So I am surprised to see that Independence Now is not included as a member of the Housing Opportunities for All Workgroup.

Independence Now is the Center for Independent Living that serves Prince George's and Montgomery Counties. We are the only cross-disability organization wherein more than 50% of our staff and Board are people with disabilities. We serve hundreds of people with disabilities of all ages in Prince George's County each year. The number one goal set by these consumers is acquiring housing. For nearly 25 years we have been actively involved in housing advocacy to ensure there is a voice at the table about the need for affordable, accessible, integrated housing. Our staff also directly support consumers in housing case management, requesting reasonable accommodations and accessing emergency housing. We have a true day to day understanding of the housing issues for people with disabilities in the county.

While I see that Disability Rights Maryland is a representative on the Workgroup and feel that is an excellent decision, they do not work with people daily on individual housing issues in Prince George's County. This workgroup should in addition to Disability Rights Maryland have a local provider of support with a history of housing advocacy, like Independence Now represented as well.

Thank you for your consideration, I look forward to Thursday's Committee hearing.

Sarah Basehart

Sarah Basehart

Executive Director

Independence Now

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