

# PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

## COMMITTEE REPORT

2019 Legislative Session

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**Reference No.:** CR-016-2019

**Draft No.:** 2

**Committee:** PLANNING, HOUSING, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**Date:** 03/21/2019

**Action:** FAV (A)

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### REPORT:

Committee Vote: Favorable as amended, 5-0 (In favor: Council Members Glaros, Davis, Dernoga, Hawkins and Ivey)

The Planning, Housing, and Economic Development Committee Director summarized the purpose of the legislation and informed the committee as to comments received on referral. This resolution establishes the Housing Opportunities for All Workgroup to assist the County in setting priorities and implementing the Comprehensive Housing Strategy final report, "Housing Opportunity for All" for Prince George's County.

The Office of Law reviewed CR-16-2019 and determined that it is in proper legislative form with no legal impediments to its adoption. The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) reviewed the resolution and provided a comment that CR-16-2019 will have a positive impact on the agency as it "represents one of the next steps required by Prince George's County in its efforts to implement the Comprehensive Housing Strategy's recommendations. Acknowledging the formation of the workgroup, it is equally important to ensure that funds are available for consulting services for selected tasks/assignments, as required, by the workgroup." DHCD also commented on the fiscal impact to the agency as follows: "The additional cost is for the consulting services that will be required for selected assignments, as directed by the workgroup. Implementation of the Comprehensive Housing Strategy/Housing Opportunities for All requires the allocation of significant financial resources to create and/or preserve affordable/workforce housing."

Sarah Basehart, Executive Director of Independence Now, submitted electronic mail comments expressing concern that Independence Now is not included in the composition of the Housing Opportunities for All Workgroup. Ms. Basehart provided additional comments as follows: "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."

The Committee Director summarized amendments in a Proposed Draft-2 (DR-2) prepared at the sponsor's request to address comments that had been received following introduction of the resolution on March 5, 2019. The amendments are as follows:

- Page 2, line 7, after “was developed and”, strike “will be” and insert “was”
- Page 2, delete the Whereas clause in lines 27-29
- Page 3, line 10, change “eighteen (18) members” to “nineteen (19) members”
- Page 3, in Item 8, delete “Housing Initiative Partnership” and “Disability Rights Maryland”, and insert “Apartment and Office Building Association (AOBA)”
- Page 3, in Item 9, after “One (1) Representative from each category of the following areas”, insert “jointly selected by the County Executive and County Council Chair”, add, “Disability Community” and “Non-profit housing developer” and change “Developer” to “For-profit” Developer

Ms. Basehart testified in support of Proposed DR-2 with inclusion of the disability community to the membership of the workgroup. Melissa Bondi, representing Enterprise Community Partners, and Ron Wineholt, representing AOBA, testified in support of the resolution. Council Chair Turner also recognized Paul Rowe, Chair of the Prince George's County Housing Authority, in attendance for the committee worksession in support of CR-16-2019.

The Committee voted favorable on the legislation with the amendments provided in Proposed DR-2 as well as an additional amendment on Page 2, line 6 to appropriately reflect the correct title of the final Comprehensive Housing Strategy report “*Housing Opportunity for All*”.