

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2020 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-10-2020
Proposed by Council Chair Turner
Introduced by Council Members Turner, Anderson-Walker, Davis, Dernoga, Franklin,
Glaros, Harrison, Hawkins, Ivey, Streeter and Taveras
Date of Introduction March 17, 2020

EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

1 AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION concerning

2 Emergency Operations—Public Meetings, Sessions, and Hearings

3 For the purpose of postponement of County Council actions, providing for alternative public
4 participation for meetings that are required to be held, and operations necessitated by the
5 Coronavirus (“COVID-19”) public health emergency.

6 WHEREAS, The World Health Organization (“WHO”) and the Centers for Disease Control
7 and Prevention (“CDC”) have declared the COVID-19 outbreak a “public health emergency of
8 international concern”; and

9 WHEREAS, the CDC and other public health authorities have advised taking precautions to
10 reduce the possibility of exposure to the virus and slow the spread of the disease; and

11 WHEREAS, the President of the United States proclaimed that the COVID-19 outbreak in
12 the United States constituted a national emergency beginning March 1, 2020; and

13 WHEREAS, Governor Lawrence Hogan has issued a “Proclamation and Declaration of
14 State of Emergency and Existence of Catastrophic Health Emergency – COVID-19”; and

15 WHEREAS, The Prince George’s County Health Department has elevated its
16 recommendations to be consistent with those of the CDC and is recommending social distancing
17 within Prince George’s County, including limiting access to public buildings, recreational
18 facilities and the courthouses located in the County until April 6, 2020; and

19 WHEREAS, the Chief Administrative Officer of Prince George’s County issued a
20 memorandum on March 13, 2020, directing all County Boards and Commissions to suspend in-
21 person meetings and/or hearings and restricting access to County buildings to only County
22 Employees beginning March 16, 2020; and

1 WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, Prince George’s County Executive Angela Alsobrooks
2 declared that a Local State of Emergency exists in Prince George’s County; and

3 WHEREAS, most public institutions in Prince George’s County, including the Judicial
4 Branch, have limited public access in recognition of the global pandemic posed by COVID-19;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, the global pandemic COVID-19 poses an imminent risk to the health, safety,
7 and welfare of Prince George’s County residents; and

8 WHEREAS, pursuant to the Prince George’s County Charter a resolution has the force and
9 effect of law but of a temporary or administrative character.

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's
11 County, Maryland, that all public meetings, sessions and hearings of the Prince George’s County
12 Council sitting as the District Council, Zoning Hearing Examiner, and Board of Appeals are
13 stayed for a period of sixty (60) days or until such time as the statewide emergency is lifted; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the time within which any individual, agency or
15 official must submit a recommendation and/or response to the Prince George’s County Council
16 sitting as the District Council, Zoning Hearing Examiner, or Board of Appeals for their
17 consideration at said public meetings, sessions and hearings, is stayed for a period of sixty (60)
18 days or until such time as the statewide emergency is lifted.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this shall suspend, toll, extend or otherwise grant relief
20 from time deadlines, requirements, or expirations in the Prince George’s County Code, including
21 Subtitle 27, where there is no practical ability of a party subject to such deadline, requirement, or
22 expiration, to comply or seek other relief.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 317 of the Prince George’s County
24 Charter, in the event of an emergency declared by the Governor pursuant to provisions of State
25 law, which emergency affects any part or all of Prince George's County, and there is an emergent
26 issue which precludes a Council meeting, the Council Chair or Vice Chair, in the Chair’s
27 absence, is authorized, upon advice and consent of a majority of the full Council, to modify the
28 voting, quorum, and publication requirements consistent with State law, as necessary to respond
29 to the emergency.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in order to address the public emergency and in light
31 of the County Charter, in the event a public meeting, session, or hearing is mandated by law and

1 cannot be continued, or is necessary for the continuity of government operations, the Council
2 may provide for alternative public participation to include remote teleconferencing to address the
3 emergency.

Adopted this 17th day of March, 2020.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Todd M. Turner
Council Chair

ATTEST:

Donna J. Brown
Clerk of the Council