

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORT

2020 Legislative Session

Reference No.: CR-062-2020
Draft No.: 2
Committee: Committee of the Whole
Date: 7/14/2020
Action: FAV

REPORT: Favorable 11-0: Council Members Turner, Anderson-Walker, Davis, Dernoga, Franklin, Glaros, Harrison, Hawkins, Ivey, Streeter and Taveras

CR-062-2020 was introduced on July 7, 2020 and referred to the Committee of the Whole held on July 14, 2020. CR-062-2020 would, if approved, establish the Prince George's County Food Security Task Force. Pursuant to Section 506 of the County Charter, the County Council may appoint individuals to consider policy.

This task force would build on the work of the Food System Study initiated by the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission. Two research projects were inspired by the study; the 2015 Healthy Food for All Prince Georgians project assessment and the 2018 Healthy Food Policy Project published by "**Prince George's County Food Equity Council: Taking on Food Swamps through Policy Change**". The goal is to identify challenges and opportunities and provide recommendations for creating a healthy, equitable, and sustainable food system that ensures every Prince Georgian has access to nutritious, affordable, sustainably grown, safe and culturally appropriate food.

During discussion it was noted that the County Executive would like to add a member to the task force directly from the Executive's office.

Council Member Glaros noted the Council's focus in recent years on improving food security in the County. A goal is to continue that effort and to continue the dialog about how we can break down silos. In response to a request during the meeting from the County Executive's Office, Council Member Glaros stated her agreement with adding a member to the task force in addition to the agency directors currently proposed.

It was noted that a person to provide administrative and technical support to the task force should be added to the Resolution. The assignment of this individual will be made by the County Council Administrator. A position has been created in the executive branch for a food security and distribution specialist that is expected to play a key role.

Council Member Dernoga suggested that it may be beneficial to reduce the size of the task force and list the agencies as support not as members.

Council Member Glaros informed the committee that she had attempted to remove members, but it kept growing and that subcommittees will handle the complex matters and should be sufficient.

The Resolution makes provision for 20 stakeholders.

1. One (1) member appointed by the **County Council Chair** who will serve as the Chair;
2. A representative from the Prince George's County **Legislative Branch**;
3. A representative from **Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission**;
4. A representative from the Prince George's County **Health Department**;
5. A representative from the Prince George's County **Soil Conservation District**;
6. A representative from Prince George's County Department of **Social Services**;
7. A representative from Prince George's County **Economic Development Corporation**;
8. A representative from Prince George's County Department of **Family Services**;
9. A representative from the Prince George's County **Office of Emergency Management**;
10. A Prince George's County **farmer** appointed by the County Council;
11. An **aggregate supplier** from Prince George's County appointed by the County Council;
12. A representative from **University of Maryland Extension who is a nutritionist**;
13. A **grocer** operating in Prince George's County appointed by the County Council;
14. A representative from the Prince George's County **Food Recovery Network**;
15. A representative from the **Capital Area Food Bank**;
16. A representative from Prince George's County Public **Schools** appointed by the Prince George's County Public Schools Chief Executive Officer; CR-062-2020 (DR-1)
17. A Prince George's County **nonprofit which deals with direct hunger relief** and/or anti-poverty advocacy appointed by the County Council;
18. A representative from a **Prince George's County Hospital System** community benefit Department;
19. A representative from the **Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments**; and
20. A representative from a **Prince George's County faith-based organization** appointed by the County Council.

The Office of Audits and Investigations, Policy Analysis Group, found the legislation likely to create a minimal increase in expenditures.

The Office of Law found CR-062-2020 to be in proper legislative form with no legal impediments to its adoption. Formatting suggestions were added to draft 2.

After discussion the Council voted CR-062-2020 out favorable, 11-0.