

The County Council convened as the Committee of the Whole on October 13, 2020 to discuss CR-101-2020 a resolution continuing the emergency declaration adopted by the governing body on September 15, 2020, CR-90-2020 and continued by the County Executive as set forth in Executive Order 20-2020 dated September 3, 2020.

Rhonda Weaver, County Attorney, gave an overview of the resolution. She stated that the declaration of emergency shall stay in effect for 30 days from its effective date of October 16, 2020 unless amended or terminated sooner by the County Executive or as extended by a subsequent resolution of the governing body. Also, she noted specific provisions in Attachment A concerning a list of essential businesses in Section III, outdoor movie theaters, child care facilities and a correction to Sec. VII(l) dealing with Professional Sports to add language after "tailgating" that states "unless approved by the Health Department".

Dr. Earnest Carter, Health Officer, and Ronald Gill, Jr., Director of Emergency Management, also briefed the Committee on the status of COVID-19 efforts in the County and the need to continue the emergency declaration. The Committee discussed issues involving the continued closure of indoor movie theaters, the role and composition of the COVID Compliance Team, availability of the Rapid PCR saliva test, and the closure of certain testing sites in Laurel and Chillum. After a robust discussion, the Committee of the Whole voted favorable as amended on CR-101-2020, 11-0.