

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORT

2020 Legislative Session

Reference No.: CR-099-2020

Draft No.: 1

Committee: Committee of the Whole

Date: 11/12/2020

Action: FAV

REPORT: Favorable 10-0: Council Members Turner, Anderson-Walker, Dernoga, Franklin, Glaros, Harrison, Hawkins, Ivey, Streeter and Taveras. Absent: Davis.

The Prince George's County Council, convened as the Committee of the Whole (COW) on October 6th, November 5th, and November 12th of 2020 to discuss CR-099-2020, which is a Resolution concerning the Healthy Food Priority Area – Designation, for the purpose of designating areas in Prince George's County Healthy Food Priority Areas. A Healthy Food Priority Area map would be set forth electronically on the date of Council adoption of this Resolution.

CR-099-2020, introduced on October 6, 2020, is companion legislation to CB-003-2020, an act concerning Healthy Food Priority Area Grocery Store Incentives, which began the process of establishing a Health Food Priority Area tax-credit program and related requirements. CB-003-2020, enacted earlier this year, will enable the Healthy Food Priority Areas Tax Credit Program, which is intended to attract full-service grocery stores to underserved communities, designated as Healthy Food Priority Areas. The County Council, with concurrence of the County Executive, may establish Healthy Food Priority Areas in accordance with a combination of factors:

- Limited availability of fresh fruit, vegetables, and other healthy food options in the designated area;
- A presence of a significant number or share of low-income residents in the designated area;
- Limited transportation options or access for local residents, including limited access to public transit, in the designated area;
- Comments from municipal governments, if applicable; and
- Any other factors that the County Council and the County Executive determine are relevant

This represents an eighty percent (80%) annual tax-credit against the county personal property taxes for a newly constructed or substantially renovated grocery store.

During the November 5, 2020 meeting, Sydney Daigle, Director, Food Equity Council and Alison Mendoza-Walters, Chief Executive Officer, Public Health Impact, provided information and answered questions about the map and inclusion criteria. However, the COW needed and requested further information to effectively deliberate, therefore, withholding a decision on CR-099-2020 until after receiving clarification and discussing the subject again during the following COW meeting held November 12, 2020.

Terry Bell, Council Liaison, Office of the County Executive, spoke in support of the legislation.

The Office of Law found CR-099-20 to be in proper legislative form with no legal impediments to its adoption.

The Policy Analysis Group provided an analysis of CR-099-2020 and found no evidence of a direct nor indirect fiscal impact.

After discussion, the Prince George's County Council, sitting as the Committee of the Whole, voted CR-099-2020 out favorable, 10-0.