



LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
SPECIAL EDITION
ANNUAL REPORT
2019 - 2020



SERVICE. COMMUNITY. PROGRESS.



COUNCIL MEMBER TODD M. TURNER COUNCIL CHAIR LEGISLATIVE YEARS 2019 & 2020

I am grateful to my Council colleagues for choosing me to serve two consecutive one-year terms as Council Chair - in Legislative Year 2019, and again in Legislative Year 2020. It has been my great honor to lead the Council through such pivotal times in Prince George's County history, and to represent our citizens, especially residents in the Fourth Council District.

"My own sense of leadership is guided by the maxim that only through Service to the Community can we achieve Progress in Prince George's County. Each of us on this Council has worked over the last two years, through unprecedented and extraordinary circumstances, to serve our communities and continue building a successful legacy for Prince George's County."

From the Federal Shutdown of 2019 to the ongoing COVID-19 global pandemic and economic crisis, it has been my privilege to serve alongside such dedicated, hardworking and passionate public servants in support of our residents and communities. In a demonstration of unwavering commitment, Council Members Mel Franklin, Calvin S. Hawkins, II, Tom Dernoga, Deni Taveras, Dannielle Glaros, Jolene Ivey, Derrick Leon Davis, Rodney Streeter, Monique

Anderson-Walker, and Sydney Harrison, have worked together to ensure this Council meets the growing needs of our residents, especially through such tumultuous times. I want to especially thank my co-captains, District 7 Council Member Rodney C. Streeter, serving as Council Vice Chair in Legislative Year 2019, and At-Large Council Member

Calvin S. Hawkins, II, serving as Council Vice Chair in Legislative Year 2020. Their leadership, partnership and unique insights, helped to advance the body and Prince George's County, particularly through multiple crises.

Over the past two years, the Council has continued to build the strong collaborations established early on with County Executive Angela Alsobrooks, state lawmakers, regional and municipal government leaders,



our communities, businesses, nonprofits, and many other County stakeholders. These partnerships have greatly contributed to an effective crisis response that provides critical support, particularly through the devastating and ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 emergency.

The enduring spirit of Prince Georgians during this time is inspiring. Community engagement challenges this body to an even greater level of service, and is critical to our progress as a County. You have participated in Council meetings and processes, even after they became virtual for public safety. Your continued strength, determination and resiliency, helps ensure that we can get through anything together, as we continue our path forward.

This combined **2019-2020 Special Legislative Branch Annual Report – SERVICE. COMMUNITY. PROGRESS.** – is a summary highlighting our work, our response to challenges, and our signature accomplishments and continuing opportunities. We appreciate your partnership and your feedback.

Thank you.

Jodd M. James

Council Chair
Legislative Years 2019 & 2020





CONTENTS

MESSAGE FROM COUNCIL CHAIR 2019 - 2020	2
--	---

SERVICE. PROGRESS. COMMUNITY.	5
-------------------------------	---

SERVICE

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL	6
TEAM PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY	8
AROUND THE COUNTY CHAIR SHOW	8
LEADING THROUGH CRISIS	9
FORGING A PATH FORWARD FOR OUR CHILDREN	10
ADAPTING IN CHANGING TIMES	11

COMMUNITY

COUNCILCARES: MEMBERS WORKING FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY	12
SOCIAL JUSTICE: ADDRESSING WEALTH, OPPORTUNITIES AND PRIVILEGE	14
ENGAGING COMMUNITY PARTNERS	15
CENSUS 2020: COUNCIL ENERGIZES COMMUNITIES TO BE COUNTED	16
ELECTION 2020: COUNCIL ENCOURAGES CITIZENS TO VOTE	17

PROGRESS

BUDGETS FY 2019 & 2020: BALANCING IN CHALLENGING TIMES	18
FUTURE GOALS: THE COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE REWRITE	20
BUILDING THE BLUEPRINT: COUNTY COUNCIL BRIEFINGS	21
GROWING OUR COUNTY: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND FISCAL IMPACT	22
A ROBUST LOCAL ECONOMY, JOBS, GROWTH, OPPORTUNITY	23
HEALTH IN ALL POLICIES	24
HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL	26
2021 LEADERSHIP: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES	27

SERVICE. COMMUNITY. PROGRESS.

Legislative Years 2019 and 2020, representing pivotal points of transition, change and challenge, were times in Prince George's County history like none other.

With the historic election of County Executive Angela D. Alsobrooks, there is now, for the first time in our history, a woman leading our County Government. The County Council looked different as well, with a voter-approved expansion to an 11-member Council body to include five new members, and for the first time since 1982, two Council Members elected to At-Large seats.

As County leaders serving during unprecedented crises, we learned the value of partnerships early. We had barely taken office when our County felt the painful impact of the 2019 Federal Shutdown Crisis on working families and communities, and the health of our local economy.



Council Chair Todd M. Turner joins Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks; United Way National Capital Area President and CEO, Rosie Allen-Herring; Prince George's Community College President, Dr. Charlene Dukes; community partners and stakeholders on January 10, 2019, for a press conference to announce the Prince George's County Federal Shutdown Assistance Joint Initiative.

The County Council partnered with County Executive Angela Alsobrooks, Prince George's County Public Schools, Prince George's Community College, the United Way, local nonprofits, and utilities for the Prince George's County Federal Shutdown Assistance Joint Initiative, connecting federal workers and contractors impacted by the government shutdown with vital support and resources. The 2018 – 2019 United States Federal Government shutdown, which ended after 35 days, was the longest in U.S. history.

Legislative Year 2020 was tough and heartbreakng, in the face of a global pandemic that has caused a tragic loss of life, and threatened our health, businesses, communities and families. In addition to extraordinary efforts to keep our residents safe, the Council, in partnership with the County Executive, adopted a County Budget addressing the substantial economic impacts of COVID-19 on our residents and communities, and worked together to address ever-growing community needs for healthcare, food security, housing, jobs, education and economic development support.

These years are not limited to adversity, but also marked by consistent leadership; strong partnerships; and resilient communities. We do not yet know the true depth or duration of this pandemic, or what new challenges lie ahead, but amid such adversity, the Council remains committed to partnering, listening, and charting a path forward for our residents. **SERVICE. COMMUNITY. PROGRESS.**

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL



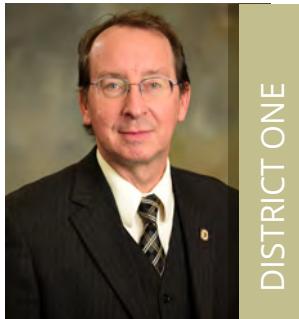
The newly elected and expanded, 11- member Prince George's County Council convened its first meeting on December 4, 2018 to elect the new Council leadership team of District 4 Council Member Todd M. Turner as Chair, and District 7 Council Member Rodney S. Streeter as Vice Chair, for Legislative Year 2019.

On December 3, 2019, the County Council reelected Council Member Turner to serve a second consecutive year as Council Chair, and At-Large Council Member Calvin S. Hawkins, II, to serve his first term as Council Vice-Chair, for Legislative Year 2020. Council Member Turner is serving his second term representing the Fourth District on the Council. District 7 Council Member Streeter and At-Large Council Member Hawkins are both serving their first terms on the Council.

The Prince George's County Council serves three distinct functions:

- County Council on legislative and budgetary matters
- District Council on zoning and land-use matters
- Board of Health on health policy matters

The County Council, since March 2020, has convened virtually as a legislative body on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The District Council also has met virtually on second and fourth Mondays. The Board of Health meets as required. Council meetings are recessed in August and December. In response to the declared state of emergency due the coronavirus, the Council has remained in emergency operations status since March 2020. All Council sessions are open to the public. To view live and on-demand video, please visit <https://pgccouncil.us/live> or view replays of Council session on Prince George's Community Television, www.pgctv.org



DISTRICT ONE

**THOMAS E.
DERNOGA**

DISTRICT TWO

**DENI L.
TAVERAS**

DISTRICT THREE

**DANNIELLE M.
GLAROS**

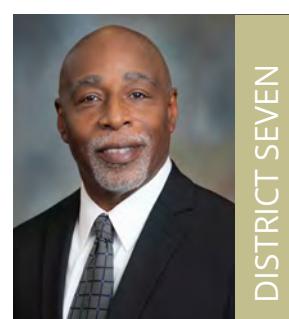
DISTRICT FOUR

**TODD M.
TURNER**

DISTRICT FIVE

**JOLENE L.
IVEY**

DISTRICT SIX

**DERRICK LEON
DAVIS**

DISTRICT SEVEN

**RODNEY C.
STREETER**

DISTRICT EIGHT

**MONIQUE
ANDERSON-
WALKER**

DISTRICT NINE

**SYDNEY J.
HARRISON**

AT-LARGE

**MEL
FRANKLIN**

AT-LARGE

**CALVIN S.
HAWKINS, II**

County Council Mission Statement

The Prince George's County Council is committed to developing partnerships and encouraging public participation and engagement with our citizens, community leaders and elected officials. The Council will exercise its oversight and legislative roles to improve services and programs for residents. The Council will manage County resources in an efficient and effective manner.

SE
RV
ICE

TEAM PRINCE GEORGE'S

FORWARD THINKING COUNTY COLLABORATION



County Executive Angela Alsobrooks, who made history as the first woman elected to serve as Prince George's County Executive, speaks with Council Members Taveras, Glaros, Davis, Franklin and Turner prior to the 2019 Gavel Exchange Ceremony.



Council Chair Turner and Vice-Chair Rodney Streeter join Maryland Delegates Mary Lehman, Michael Jackson and Andrea Harrison, all past County leaders, in General Assembly to discuss legislation impacting the citizens of Prince George's County.



"Around the County", a half-hour, cable television program produced by the Prince George's County Council and hosted by Council Chair Todd Turner, aired during Legislative Years 2019 and 2020.

Focusing on transformational leadership in Prince George's County and its impact, Chair Turner welcomed a series of history-makers to the set of Around the County for discussions on their ground-breaking roles; how their work is impacting residents; and plans for the future.



The premiere edition of "Around the County" featured a conversation with County Executive Angela Alsobrooks, the first woman elected to the office in Prince George's County.



Bowie State University President Dr. Aminta Breaux, the first woman President, welcomed Chair Turner to campus for a conversation focusing on Bowie State's rich history, higher education, and the significance of public universities.



Healthcare was the topic for the final episode of "Around the County." Pictured (L-R) are guests, Dr. Terrance Fullum, Prince George's County Board of Health consultant and Dr. Joseph Wright, Interim President/CEO, Sr. VP, and Chief Medical Officer, University of Maryland Capital Region Health.



LEADING THROUGH CRISIS

COUNCIL WORKS TOGETHER TO MITIGATE IMPACT OF COVID-19



To address the surge in COVID-19 patients, Maryland officials reopened Laurel Hospital, adding 135 beds. Council Members Hawkins, and Dernoga joined Chair Turner for the official reopening.

Council Members and staff support residents impacted by COVID-19 crisis.

SERVICE

FORGING A PATH FORWARD FOR OUR CHILDREN

FUNDING AND BUILDING NEW SCHOOLS WITH INNOVATION



Council Members Harrison, Franklin, Streeter, Glaros and Hawkins, join Chair Turner, Prince George's County Public Schools CEO Dr. Monica Goldson, Prince George's Chamber of Commerce CEO David Harrington, and County Executive Angela Alsobrooks to express support for the Alternative Construction Financing program at Drew Freeman Middle School.

Prince George's County Alternative Construction Financing and the Blueprint for Maryland's Future (Kirwan Commission)

The County received strong support from our partners in Annapolis during both the 2019 Maryland General Assembly Session, and the abbreviated 2020 Maryland General Assembly Session, particularly with the enactment of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future for Education Funding, and the Prince George's County Alternative Construction Financing (ACF) Program. The ACF Program is a unique first-of-its-kind public-private partnership in the country, to finance, build, renovate and maintain six middle schools in the County. This is an exciting, history-making undertaking!

The new schools built under the Prince George's County ACF program model will result in upgraded learning environments for approximately 8,000 students. Over the next four years, the developer will build new Drew-Freeman, Hyattsville, Kenmoor and Walker Mill middle schools; an Adelphi area middle school and a South County

kindergarten through eighth grade school. Under the traditional process, it would have taken at least 12 years to design, approve and build these new facilities.

With the adoption of Council Resolution 100-2020, the County Council approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), governing the ACF program, and guiding each role and responsibility on this path to academic excellence in Prince George's County.

In Legislative Year 2020, amid the pandemic, the County Council worked with County Executive Angela Alsobrooks; Schools CEO, Dr. Monica Goldson; Board of Education Chair Dr. Alvin Thornton and school board members; and community stakeholders, to advance the County's education interests in Annapolis while navigating closed schools, distance learning and virtual operations.



ADAPTING IN CHANGING TIMES

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS STATUS



Following Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations and County Health Department guidelines, the County Council instituted social distancing practices on the dais to prevent the spread of coronavirus and keep members safe.

The Prince George's County Council has met virtually since March 2020, throughout the continuing state of emergency, establishing an eComment Portal in April 2020, to facilitate public participation in all virtual Council sessions. The portal enabled residents to register electronically to speak on agenda items scheduled for public hearing, or to submit comments and letters into the official public record, in lieu of verbal testimony. Written testimony or comments are accepted in electronic format. All testimony and comments received become part of the public record of the meeting. Given the economic impact of COVID-19 in Prince George's County, public input in Council processes is critical. eComment has provided residents with an opportunity to participate in virtual Council sessions, and important budget public hearings, while adhering to social distancing guidelines." For more information, visit: <https://pgccouncil.us/458/Public-Hearing-Notices-Sign-Up-to-Speak>.



Town Hall meetings, now held by live streaming, offered residents the opportunity to provide testimony and interact with Council Members virtually.

The Prince George's County Council's Emergency Operations Procedures became effective pursuant to CR-10-2020, adopted on March 17, 2020, and amended pursuant to CR-35-2020, adopted on May 18, 2020. The Rules of Procedure for the County Council and District Council have been amended, pursuant to CR-57-2020 and CR-58-2020, respectively, adopted on July 21, 2020, for virtual and remote public participation before each body.

SERVICE







SOCIAL JUSTICE:

ADDRESSING WEALTH, OPPORTUNITIES,
AND PRIVILEGE

INCLUSION AND FAIRNESS – IT'S THE LAW

In 2019, the Council worked to more effectively respond to concerns around inclusion and fairness in County policies, with enactment of the Community Inclusiveness Act, adopting policy as law, and the Fair Housing Act, banning discriminatory questions about source of income, immigration or citizenship status, to renters or potential homebuyers. In 2020, the Council celebrated Supreme Court rulings protecting the rights of the LGBTQ and immigrant communities – landmark decisions supporting workplace diversity that protected LGBTQ workers from job discrimination based on sexual orientation or transgender status under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; and a ruling protecting nearly three-quarters of a million undocumented immigrants brought to the U.S. as children, also commonly known as “Dreamers,” from deportation. On October 1, 2020, following adoption of Council Bill 09-2019 renaming Columbus Day to Native American Day, Prince Georgians celebrated “Native American Day,” for the first time as an official holiday, accurately reflecting our fuller story in Prince George’s County.



Engaging Community Partners

Over the last two years, the Council continued to provide opportunities to engage in important national and local conversations around the future of policing, dismantling the legacy of systemic racism and injustice, and addressing other critical issues.



Responsible Legacy Task Force

Established by Council Resolution-81-2019, the Responsible Legacy Task Force is charged with reviewing all County monuments, parks, street names, County buildings and other places of honor, and creating a process to determine the future of names linked to a prejudiced past. The Prince George's County Responsible Legacy Task Force is working to ensure that the County's legacy is one of equality, diversity and inclusion.

Learn more at <https://pgccouncil.us/806/Responsible-Legacy-Task-Force>



Re-Entry Advisory Board

The 21-member Prince George's County Re-Entry Advisory Board, established by Council Resolution 49-2019, is charged with implementing a comprehensive re-entry program and re-entry services in the County to aid formerly incarcerated persons with acclimating back into society. Preliminary Advisory Board reports are due on or before June 15, 2021. A final report is due on November 1, 2021.

Learn more at <https://pgccouncil.us/747/Reentry-Advisory-Board>



Food Security Task Force

Established by Council Resolution CR-62-2020, the Food Security Task Force will provide recommendations for creating a healthy, equitable, and sustainable food system to ensure every Prince Georgian has access to nutritious, affordable, sustainably grown, safe and culturally appropriate food. County leaders recognized the problem of food security in our communities even before the COVID-19 global pandemic, when 62% of the County's public-school children were already receiving free and reduced lunch. Such issues have lasting, far-reaching impacts on health outcomes and the long-term wellbeing of our residents and communities.

Learn more at <https://pgccouncil.us/809/Food-Security-Task-Force>

Climate Action Commission

Established by Council Resolution 07-2020, the Climate Action Commission will develop a Climate Action Plan for the County, prepare for and build resilience to regional climate change impacts that are already starting to occur, and to set and achieve climate stabilization goals.

Learn more at <https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/3741/Climate-Action-Commission>



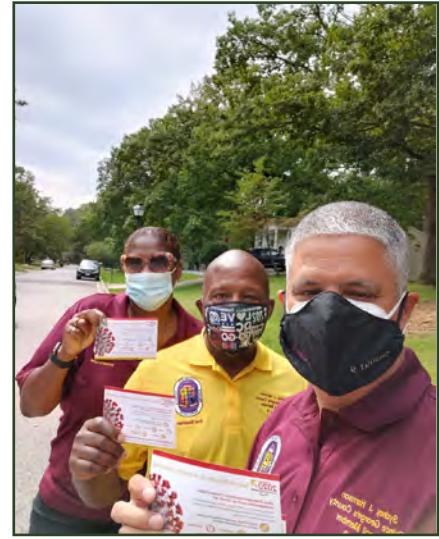
COMMUNITY

CENSUS 2020

COUNCIL ENERGIZES COMMUNITIES TO BE COUNTED



Council Chair Turner and Council Member Hawkins join City of Greenbelt Council Members Mayor Colin Byrd, Mayor Pro Tem Emmett Jordan, Judith Davis and Office of Community Relations staff to speak with residents during Census 2020 Proud to be Counted community event.



Council Member Sydney Harrison and his District 9 team members encourage County residents to participate in the 2020 Census.



District 3 Council Member Dannielle M. Glaros worked with community members to get citizens signed up.



District 2 Council Member Deni Taveras, named a Maryland Census Champion by the Maryland Department of Planning – Census 2020, was noted as an “energetic voice in messaging the crucial need of a complete Census count.” Recognized in part, for her efforts to educate constituents in hard-to-count communities; and for making achieving an accurate Census count a major priority, demonstrated by the bilingual phone bank training she and her Council office conducted for community volunteers

Starting in spring 2019, and continuing through the Census 2020 completion in October 2020, the County Council was pleased to partner with the Office of the County Executive, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Prince George’s County Complete Count Committee, and many dedicated community volunteers, to achieve a milestone 70% Census 2020 self-response rate! In the 2010 Census, Prince George’s County had a 2.3 percent undercount of its population and as a result, the County’s estimated loss was \$363 Million in federal funds. Our Census 2020 success, which was achieved despite a global pandemic, ever-changing deadlines and many hard-to-count communities in the County, will make a critical difference in our communities with more federal funding to support important needs to include job creation, housing, emergency preparation, and the building of schools, roads and hospitals



ELECTION 2020

COUNCIL ENCOURAGES CITIZENS TO VOTE



The 2020 Election promised to be one for the history books, and Council Members Calvin Hawkins, Jolene Ivey and Rodney Streeter were among their Council colleagues who encouraged residents to vote, either by mail or in person, and let their voices be heard.

Conducting a Presidential Primary and General Election in a global pandemic was no small feat, but our County's Board of the Elections, under very new and challenging circumstances, had great success in the 2020 election cycle. Utilizing vote by mail, reduced polling sites and the use of drop boxes to keep our voters and elections staff safe from COVID-19, Board of Elections staff, volunteers and County voters responded exceptionally well. The Prince George's County Council remains extremely proud of our County's historic participation, in the 2020 Presidential Primary and November General Election.



Fed Ex Field in Landover, Maryland opened up to voters during the 2020 Election

COMMUNITY

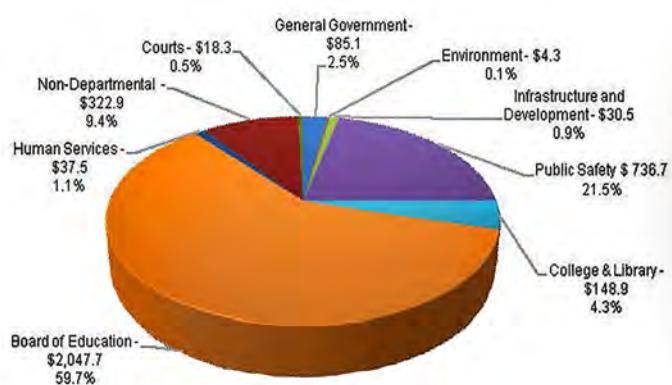
BUDGETS FY 2020 AND 2021

BALANCING IN CHALLENGING TIMES

FY 2020 COUNTY BUDGET

The County Council adopted a \$3.6 billion balanced County General Fund Budget in May 2019, for Fiscal Year 2020 beginning July 1, 2019. The total County budget for all funds was \$4.3 billion. The Council appreciated the great vision, focus and diligence of County Executive Angela Alsobrooks and her Executive Budget Team, in formulating the proposed spending plan submitted to the Council in March – the first of her Administration. As the County's Fiscal Authority, the Council, through its Budget and Adoption Review Process, continued to work with the Administration, community stakeholders and residents, to approve a new budget, supporting shared priorities, especially for education, youth initiatives, beautification, and improving public roads and safety.

FY 2020



\$3, 631, 989, 800

Over 60% of the County's General Fund spending was appropriated for education. The approved Board of Education Operating Budget of \$2.1 billion fully funded the proposed spending plan submitted to the Council. Additional education funding also included \$7.8 million to renovate the Largo Student Center at Prince George's Community College, and \$850,000 in added funding to expand Sunday and Friday hours at select County libraries and support bilingual outreach programs.

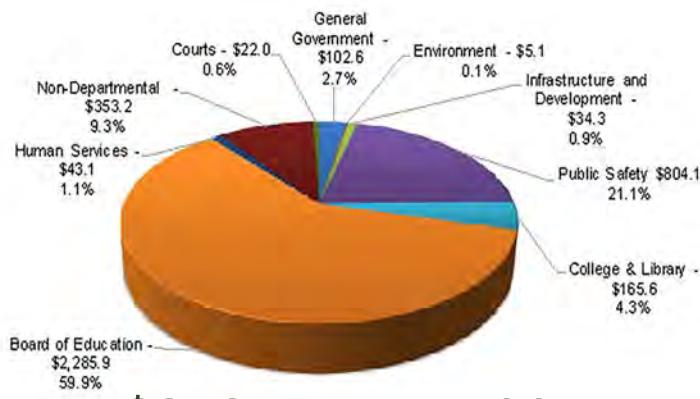
- \$90 million in additional education funding for Prince George's County Schools with the enactment by state lawmakers of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.
- Council continued investment in infrastructure improvements; added \$3 million (for \$30 million total in FY 20) for road resurfacing and repairs.
- Council added funding support for implementation of the Comprehensive Housing Strategy initiative, "Housing Opportunities for All."
- Council added funding support for Employ Prince George's to support employment services and \$100,000 to support the work of the five Youth Services Bureaus in the County.
- Fully funded the County Executive's public safety budget; agreed to additional funds to conduct more community outreach and emergency preparedness education, hire more Fire Department recruits and provide additional uniforms for Volunteer Firefighters.



FY 2021 COUNTY BUDGET

The County Council adopted a \$4.48 Billion total County balanced budget, including \$3.7 billion in County General Funds, in May 2020, for the new Fiscal Year 2021, beginning July 1, 2020. The Council began its Budget Review and Adoption Process, after receiving the Proposed FY 2021 County Budget from County Executive Angela Alsobrooks on March 11th. Following the COVID-19 outbreak, and subsequent County State of Emergency, County Executive Alsobrooks submitted an amended FY 2021 budget proposal to the Council on April 22, including an estimated \$134 million revenue reduction and proposals for compensation changes and delays in capital projects. Pledging to continue working with the Administration, residents and stakeholders, Council Chair Turner said County revenue collections and overall economic trends would be closely monitored for further threats to the County's fiscal health, and fluctuations addressed. "The recommendations included in the approved budget document take serious steps to address what we know will be a substantially weaker economic environment for the foreseeable future, while still mindful that much of the long-term impact from the pandemic is uncertain."

FY 2021



\$3, 815, 774, 700



- Nearly 66% of the FY 21 Budget was appropriated for education - Board of Education; Prince George's Community College; and the Prince George's County Memorial Library System.
- Council reaffirmed its commitment to immigrant residents with additional funding for the Immigrant Services and Language Access (ISLA) initiative, started in FY 2018 to provide free legal services to eligible County residents who have been detained and are facing deportation.
- The FY 21 spending plan did not include a tax rate increase; applied County reserve funds to fill revenue gaps this year and in the new fiscal year; offset severe revenue erosion; addressed the immediate COVID-related needs of residents; maintained core government services; managed the impacts of the pandemic and fostered recovery; implemented significant spending controls; and retained the County workforce, as we worked with our unions and staff to avoid layoffs by implementing hiring and salary freezes.
- The adopted budget also included Federal Coronavirus Aid Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding to support the growing concerns around food insecurities; business and employment assistance; rental and mortgage housing relief; and COVID-related health services.

PROGRESS

FUTURE GOALS

THE COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE REWRITE AND COUNTYWIDE MAP AMENDMENT



ZONING ORDINANCE AND SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS

The Prince George's County Zoning Ordinance Rewrite is the first revision of the County's Zoning Ordinance in 50 years. The Zoning Rewrite seeks to implement nationwide best practices to streamline the County's development review process, making it simpler and more user-friendly; and to provide greater public input, maximize smart growth economic development and advance a sustainable environment to achieve a competitive edge in the Metropolitan Washington Region.

With the adoption of the County's General Plan (Plan 2035) in 2014, the County and Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) began the process for updating the County's Zoning and Subdivision ordinances. Following more than four years of community, stakeholder and consultant input, the Prince George's County Council adopted the new Zoning Ordinance in 2018, new laws that support our shared vision for the future of our County, including smart growth, economic development, citizen engagement and a better quality of life.

In 2019, the Council authorized M-NCPPC to prepare a Countywide Map Amendment or CMA, to implement the new zones. The new Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Regulations would become effective upon

the completion of the CMA process, which had been expected to be adopted in late 2020.

In March 2020, a scheduled in-person Joint Public Hearing on the CMA was postponed for COVID safety, in alignment with the advice of public health officials and Phase II COVID-19 public health emergency operations in Prince George's County. In November 2020, the District Council and Prince George's County Planning Board Joint Public Hearing on the proposed CMA, was again postponed, to seek a determination from state legislators that it was appropriate to proceed in accordance with State law. In December 2020, the County proposed State legislation for the 2021 General Assembly Session to allow the CMA to proceed, if approved.

To ensure full consideration and opportunity for public comment, as well as an orderly implementation of the new Zoning Ordinance, additional notification will be provided for the proposed CMA hearing, once it can be scheduled safely and appropriately.

We look forward to re-engaging our citizens in this important process as we move forward together over the next year. To learn more about the Zoning Rewrite and CMA process, please visit the County's Zoning Ordinance Rewrite Portal or M-NCPPC online.

“THE COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE REWRITE – “We continue to provide opportunities for Prince George's County and its residents, by engaging in the second phase of the new Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances – the Countywide Map Amendment – to complete the first update of the County Zoning Code in over 50 years.”



BUILDING THE BLUEPRINT

COUNTY COUNCIL BRIEFINGS



The Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments (COG) Executive Director Chuck Bean joins the Council for a briefing to discuss the mission, programs and priorities of the regional governmental organization and its impact in Prince George's County. COG, an independent, nonprofit association, with a membership of 300 elected officials from 24 local governments, the Maryland and Virginia state legislatures, and U.S. Congress, connects leaders across borders to help shape strong communities and a better region.



WMATA General Manager/CEO Paul Wiedefeld; Board Member Thomas Graham; Real Estate and Parking VP Nina Albert present 2019 briefing to the Council on WMATA's efforts to increase safety and reliability of service, Transit Projects, and Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) in the County. The County has focused on Metro stations for TOD, including New Carrollton, Largo, Suitland, College Park and Greenbelt.



The members of the Housing Opportunities for All Workgroup brief Congressman Steny Hoyer (MD-05), on its work to implement the County's Comprehensive Housing Strategy Report, discussing affordable housing options for Prince George's County residents. The Housing Opportunities for All Workgroup, established by CR-16-2019, set priorities and implement the Comprehensive Housing Strategy Report, entitled "Housing Opportunity for All" for Prince George's County.



The County Council received briefings and hosted the annual transportation meetings with the Maryland Department of Transportation Secretary Pete Rahn and State Highway Administration head Gregory Slater to discuss the County's transportation priorities and impacts of proposed projects, including Managed Toll Lanes on I-495 and I-270, and Superconducting Maglev train.



In 2019, the County Council and Council and Venture Philanthropy Partners (VPP) announced the expansion of the Ready for Work Nonprofit Capacity Building Initiative, a six-year \$15 million investment by VPP to strengthen the capacity of nonprofits to better serve youth in Prince George's County, and successfully transition young people to college and career readiness. The Nonprofit Capacity Building initiative launched with a special partnership grant from the County Council in FY2018 as part of Ready for Work.

PROGRESS

GROWING OUR COUNTY

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND FISCAL IMPACT

The Purple Line Project

The completion of the critically important Purple Line, a 16-mile light rail project that will directly address mobility and accessibility in the corridor between New Carrollton in Prince George's County and Bethesda in Montgomery County, advanced in 2019, but was threatened in 2020 by a dispute between the state and P3 project contractors over project delays and cost overruns. This project will connect to MARC, Amtrak and local bus service, and to major activity centers in the region including the University of Maryland. With significant jobs and local contracting tied to the project, the Council emphasized its commitment to completion of the Purple Line project, by strongly urging the State to move forward with progress for the economic wellbeing and transportation needs of Prince Georgians and for those across the region and the State. The Purple Line, officially breaking ground in Prince George's County in August 2017, is now scheduled for completion in 2023.





A ROBUST LOCAL ECONOMY JOBS, GROWTH, OPPORTUNITY

The Council has continued its work with legacy projects and policies that spur economic development and job growth to provide jobs, create contracting opportunities, attract new business, support existing businesses, improve our quality of life, and enable all Prince Georgians in the progress of major projects in the County, such as Hampton Park. This remains a Council priority.

Hampton Park

Hampton Park, the redevelopment of the 25-acre Hampton Mall, will include a \$35 million, 115,000-square-foot office building slated to house the Prince George's County departments of Health and Human Services, Veteran Affairs and Family Services. The new development will also house a 17,000-square-foot senior day center. The project has received numerous federal, state and county designations that should ease its path to viability. It has been designated part of Maryland's Sustainable Communities, as a Primary Investment District and, most recently, as an opportunity zone. It is also boosted by incentives, including \$14 million in tax increment financing, Moral Obligation Bond Financing and \$1.8 million from the Prince George's County Economic Development Incentive Fund.



Beltway Plaza

Beltway Plaza in Greenbelt has served as a shopping, dining, entertainment, essential services and community center for Prince George's residents for nearly six decades. Over the past several years, Beltway Plaza's ownership, in conjunction with the City of Greenbelt and the County, have worked actively to plan a multi-use, pedestrian and bicycle-friendly, environmentally sustainable and community connected redevelopment of the shopping center. In 2019 the County Council approved a multi-phased Plan drawn in accordance with the vision and standards of the Greenbelt Sector Plan. The first phase of the Plan, is for 750 multi-family housing units, a hotel and a 27,000 square foot Community Recreation Center is currently under review. For more information go to: <http://www.rodgers.com/project/beltway-plaza-mall/>.



Towne Square at Suitland Federal Center

The Towne Square at Suitland Federal Center will be a mixed-use development, encompassing over 1 million square feet and will include: 895 residential apartment housing units and single-family attachment homes; 98,000 sq. ft. of retail; and a 50,000 sq. ft. Performing Arts Center. This project is being hailed as a premiere example of sustainable master planning, and recently won an award from the American Society of Landscape Architects for Master Planning and Landscaping. Visit: <https://townesquaresfc.com/>



PROGRESS

HEALTH IN ALL POLICIES

COUNCIL PREPARES FOR GROWTH AND NEW HOSPITAL

THE RAND 2.0 REPORT

In September 2020, the County Council, sitting as the Board of Health, was briefed on the updated RAND Corporation report ***“Assessing Health and Human Services Needs to Support an Integrated Health in All Policies Plan for Prince George’s County, Maryland,”*** a comprehensive study commissioned by the Council, focusing on health and healthcare-related issues and the full extent of human services that influence health outcomes in the County. RAND is a nonprofit institution that helps improve decision-making through research and analysis. Council Chair Todd M. Turner stated, *“COVID-19 has transformed how we address healthcare in our communities, and the effects of this pandemic extend beyond its physical health impact. As the Council considers future policies, plans, funding and resources to improve health outcomes, we need a fuller understanding of the current and future health and human service needs of residents and communities.”*

Visit the Council’s Board of Health at <https://pgccouncil.us/309/Board-of-Health> to view the RAND report and related information.



Council Members joined other local and state leaders, and hospital officials for the 2019 groundbreaking celebration of the \$34 million expansion project at Medstar Southern Maryland Hospital in Clinton.



LEGISLATION

The Council’s adoption of CR-127-2020, established an approach to recognize health factors outside of clinical settings and require communities to carefully consider their investment choices for health. The legislation, which references the recommendations in the most recent RAND report, states in part, “The Prince George’s County Council, sitting as the Board of Health, believes in Health in All Policies as a collaborative approach that integrates and articulates health considerations into policymaking across all sectors to improve the health of all communities and people.” Additionally, the Council passed first in the nation Healthy Kids meal requirements (CB-71-2020), and approved legislation providing incentives to establish grocery stores in targeted areas (CB-3-2020 & CB-75-2020) of the County to provide healthier food options for County residents.

In 2019, Prince George’s County Councilmember Dannielle Glaros, led a collaborative effort to feed members of the community, dubbed the Greater Riverdale Cares initiative.



In 2019 Council Members participate in a guided hard-hat tour of the new University of Maryland Capital Region Health (UMMS) under construction in Largo. Following a briefing by on the mission and vision of the new hospital by Interim President and CEO, Dr. Joseph L. Wright, MD, MPH, Council Members donned hard hats and other safety gear, for a tour that began on the roof where two helipads are located. The tour also included views of the atrium, patient rooms, operating room, labor and delivery, and the emergency room.

The Council, as the County's Board of Health, committed to strengthening the partnership between the County and State, continued to increase access to quality healthcare for our residents over the last two years, particularly during the ongoing public health crisis. As we move closer to the June 2021 opening, we look forward to joining with the University of Maryland Capital Region Health to welcome the new Regional Medical Center in Largo and expanding health services in Laurel, Bowie and beyond. Faced with the first pandemic to impact us in 100 years, never has it been more important than now, to build on our strong relationships with healthcare partners in the County – including Kaiser Permanente, Luminis Health at Doctors Health Center, MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital and Fort Washington Adventist Hospital.



HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES

FOR *All* WORKGROUP

The County Council adopted legislation in 2019, establishing a Housing Opportunities for All Workgroup to assist the County with setting housing priorities, and implementing the Comprehensive Housing Strategy Report, entitled **"Housing Opportunity for All"** for Prince George's County. The Work Group also provides advice on any proposed legislation and/or changes to the County policies, regulations, procedures and distribution of County resources, under consideration. Utilizing the **Comprehensive Housing Strategy Report** and other data resources, the Work Group provides the framework for a Countywide housing policy; benchmarks to be monitored and distributed; regular updates, and an annual report. Council Chair Todd M. Turner (D) – District 4, notes the value of a Housing Opportunities for All Workgroup. "Developing an effective housing policy, comprised of strategies that develop housing for all, benefits the healthy, social and economic development of the entire County. The Housing Opportunities for All Workgroup will assist us with creating a Countywide Housing Policy that promotes and preserves housing, while meeting the existing and future needs of the County's diverse populations. We look forward to their work."

Transit Oriented Development (TOD) near the New Carrollton Metro station attracted Federal and State government offices along with mixed-use projects featuring innovative housing options. It is home to new multi-family building Kaiser-Permanente, U.S. Internal Revenue Service, 2U, the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development and the future home to the WMATA Prince George's Headquarters.



Developing an effective housing policy, comprised of strategies that develop housing for all, benefits the healthy, social and economic development of the entire County. The Housing Opportunities for All Workgroup is charged with assisting the County with setting priorities and implementing the Comprehensive Housing Strategy Report, entitled "Housing Opportunity for All" for Prince George's County. The purpose of the Workgroup is to provide advice on any proposed legislation and/or changes for consideration by the County to the County's policies, regulations, procedures, and distribution of County resources.



2021 LEADERSHIP TEAM

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES



**Calvin S. Hawkins, II, Chair
At-Large Member**

**Deni Taveras, Vice Chair
District Two**

The Prince George's County Council, in its first virtual Gavel Exchange Ceremony on Tuesday, December 1, 2020, unanimously elected At-Large Council Member Calvin S. Hawkins, II, to serve as Chair for Legislative Year 2021. District 2 Council Member Deni Taveras, the first Latina to serve as Council Vice-Chair, was also unanimously elected to the leadership position. They will serve in Council leadership through December 7, 2021.

Chair Hawkins noted the challenges and opportunities ahead, promising to lead with integrity, prudence and clear purpose. "Our country is facing extremely difficult times, and Prince George's County is no exception. Even into the new year, COVID-19 remains the greatest challenge across our country and in Prince George's County. Prince Georgians have lost loved ones. Additionally, COVID has claimed jobs, businesses, and our local economy must travel a long road back to return to where it once was. Yet, with each challenge comes the opportunity to be innovative and industrious as we work to meet the needs of the citizenry, and effectively address our post-pandemic reality."

Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks, who attended the virtual Gavel Exchange Ceremony, welcomed the new Council Leadership Team and thanked the entire Council for its partnership and commitment to public service.

"I want to congratulate the incoming Chair and Vice-Chair. As you take over, you are inheriting a strong legacy. I know that even though we will face many difficulties together, if we stand together, we will continue to be successful. As we prepare for the 2021 new Legislative Session, we will continue to make those who sent us here, proud."

SPECIAL EDITION LEGISLATIVE ANNUAL REPORT

LEGISLATIVE YEARS 2019 AND 2020

PRINCE GEORGE'S **COUNTY
COUNCIL**

14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive
2nd Floor
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772
Phone: 301.952.3600
Web: pgccouncil.us
Email: CouncilMedia@co.pg.md.us

Follow us on Social Media

