



BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ON ADDRESSING PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY'S STRUCTURAL DEFICIT

OCTOBER 19, 2015
MINUTES

The following Blue Ribbon Commission members were present at 10:47 a.m.

Blue Ribbon Commission Members:

Earl Adams, Jr.
Terri Bacote-Charles
Desiree Callender
Council Member Derrick Davis
James R. Estep
Turkessa Green
Amber Hendricks
Jamal I. Miller

Henry W. Mosley, CPA
Sherman L. Ragland, II
Gino Renne
John Rogard Tabori
Mark E. Tomassoni
David Van Dyke
Ron L. Watson, Ph.D

Council Members and Staff:

Edwin H. Brown, Jr
Aimee Olivo
Colette R. Gresham

William M. Hunt
Catherine A. Lynch
Howard Stone

Other Attendees:

Sarah Cavitt
Susan Redmond Moore

Ernest Brice
Joseph Adler

OPENING REMARKS/REVIEW OF MINUTES:

Chair Earl Adams, Jr. opened the meeting at 10:47 a.m. The Chair welcomed everyone and introduced new members and guests. He gave an overview of the agenda and the Commission reviewed the minutes from the September 14, 2015 meeting.

BINDING ARBITRATION PRESENTATION:

Joseph Adler gave a presentation on collective bargaining and binding arbitration. Commission Member Terri BaCote-Charles answered questions regarding the binding arbitration decision involving the FOP over merits and the financial implications. The Commission requested information on how many collective bargaining units we have in the County and the impact per year of each units' collective bargaining agreement.

County Administration Building – Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772

TRIM/QUESTION I/RAINY DAY FUND/2% OPERATING RESERVE PRESENTATION:

Commission Member Dave Van Dyke gave an overview of the legislative tax limitations involving Tax Reform Initiative by Marylanders (TRIM), Question I on the 1996 General Election Ballot, and the Contingency and Operating Reserves. The Commission requested a sample tax bill with the list of taxes features. There was discussion on contingency reserves and what other jurisdictions currently have and what percentage they use.

HOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAX CREDIT PRESENTATION:

The Office of Management and Budget gave a presentation on the Homestead Tax Credit Program. The law was established to help homeowners deal with significant increases in the annual assessments of their principal residence. The program caps the increase in taxable assessments at 10%. Charter Section 812 requires that the homestead tax credit percentage be no greater than 100% plus the annual percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) but not more than 105%. The Commission wanted to know the percentage of homeowners in the County who are taking advantage of the tax credit.

Meeting adjourned - 12:51 p.m.

Next Meeting – November 16, 2015 at 11 a.m.