



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

## DECEMBER 14, 2015 MINUTES

The following Blue Ribbon Commission members were present at 10:06 a.m.

### Blue Ribbon Commission Members:

Earl Adams, Jr.  
Terri Bacote-Charles  
Turkessa Green  
Amber Hendricks  
Jamal I. Miller  
Desiree Callender  
David Harrington (via phone)

Council Member Derrick Leon Davis  
Gino Renne  
John Rogard Tabori  
Mark E. Tomassoni  
David Van Dyke  
Sherman Ragland II

### Council Members and Staff:

Council Member Dannielle Glaros  
Council Member Todd Turner  
Colette R. Gresham  
Alicia Stanford  
Inez Claggett

William M. Hunt  
Catherine A. Lynch  
Howard W. Stone  
Sylvia King  
Matt Dernoga

### Other Attendees:

Sarah Cavitt Mike Graziano

## OPENING REMARKS/REVIEW OF MINUTES:

Chair Earl Adams, Jr., opened the meeting at 10:06 a.m. by welcoming everyone and introducing members and guests. He gave an overview of the agenda and the Commission reviewed and approved the minutes from the November 16, 2015 meeting. Chair Adams stated that the public hearing date as noted in the minutes was postponed until after the interim report is released. He explained that the Blue Ribbon Commission will prepare an interim report which is due in January pursuant to CR-26-2015 and a public hearing will be scheduled in February. There will be 2 meetings in the months of February and March. The Commission wants staff to reach out to the business community to make sure they are aware of the public hearing dates when they are scheduled.

WORKING SESSION:

The Chair began the discussion by giving an outline of the interim report which will focus on the state of the County's current fiscal condition, lay out the presentations and the information learned over the last 4 months, and give interim findings and recommendations. Commissioners discussed the information that had been presented over the course of the meetings. Based on the data received it appears that the revenue sources in the County went flat around 2006 and there has been an increasing reliance on outside aid. We are fourth from the bottom in the State for income taxes paid on returns over \$150,000. The County is looking at economic development as part of the solution to grow, bringing in higher income projects and targeting transit oriented development to make the income levels increase. The County is also looking at alternative funding/new model for building schools similar to the charter schools being built in the State.

The Commission also discussed the impact on foreclosures in the County on the revenue. Even though the County leads the State in foreclosures, they have not had a significant impact on County revenue collection. The County has continued to receive property tax payments for most homes in the foreclosure process because the vast majority of foreclosures in the County are not the result of unpaid property taxes but mortgage defaults. The Commission wants to explore personnel costs and the fact that it is a significant portion of the County's expenditures as well as the impact of the limitations statutory mandated on the County, i.e. Homestead Property Tax Credit, TRIM and Question I, on the County's revenue.

The Chair will work with staff to compile an outline to guide drafting the interim report. The outline will be circulated for comment prior to the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned - 11:37 a.m.

Next Meeting – TBD