

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2015 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-26-2015

Proposed by Council Members Franklin, Davis, Glaros, Harrison, Lehman, Patterson,
Taveras, Toles and Turner

Introduced by Council Members Franklin, Davis, Glaros, Harrison, Lehman, Patterson,
Taveras, Toles and Turner

Date of Introduction May 28, 2015

RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 The Blue Ribbon Commission on Addressing Prince George’s County’s
3 Structural Deficit

4 For the purpose of establishing a Blue Ribbon Commission on Addressing Prince George’s
5 County’s Structural Deficit.

6 WHEREAS, Prince George’s County has experienced perennial budget challenges with
7 balancing its key priorities, long-term fiscal obligations, and constrained tax revenues amidst a
8 slowly recovering regional and national economy; and

9 WHEREAS, Prince George’s County’s tax base is overly reliant on residential property
10 taxes, which limits revenue growth for essential public services like public education and public
11 safety; and

12 WHEREAS, Prince George’s County and jurisdictions around the country are grappling
13 with growing fiscal obligations, like fringe benefit and overtime costs, which are outpacing
14 revenue growth, creating a “structural deficit” where annual projected revenues will be outpaced
15 by growing expenditures for the foreseeable future; and

16 WHEREAS, annual fiscal uncertainty has resulted in Prince George’s County using fund
17 balances, enterprise funds, and other short-term revenue sources to balance its budget; and

18 WHEREAS, Prince George’s County’s growing population has increasing expectations of
19 broader and higher quality delivery of important public services; and

20 WHEREAS, Prince George’s County should fundamentally review its government
21 structure, revenue sources, expenditure patterns, and overall fiscal health over a continuous

1 period to make reforms that will substantially improve its fiscal stability, eliminate its structural
2 deficit, and increase its capabilities to deliver high quality services to its constituents; and

3 WHEREAS, Prince George's County is home to many talented and experienced
4 stakeholders with considerable expertise in matters of budget, finance, and public policy;

5 WHEREAS, Section 506 of the County Charter provides that the County Council may
6 appoint, for designated periods, temporary citizen advisory boards to assist in the consideration
7 of County policies and programs.

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's
9 County, Maryland, that the Blue Ribbon Commission on Addressing Prince George's County's
10 Structural Deficit is hereby established.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Blue Ribbon Commission on Addressing Prince
12 George's County's Structural Deficit (the "Commission") shall be composed of fifteen (15)
13 voting members appointed by the County Council in consultation with the County Executive,
14 one of which shall serve as the Chair of the Commission. The Council Chairman shall appoint a
15 Council Member to be an ex-officio (non-voting) member of the Commission. The County
16 Executive shall appoint a representative to be an ex-officio (non-voting) member of the
17 Commission. The voting membership of the Commission shall consist of:

18 (1) The Commission Chair, who shall be a county resident with significant expertise in
19 matters of budget, finance and public policy;

20 (2) The County Auditor or his designee and one (1) additional representative of the
21 County Office of Audits and Investigations;

22 (3) The Director of the Office of Management and Budget or her designee and one (1)
23 additional representative of the Office of Management and Budget;

24 (4) One (1) representative selected by the Prince George's Chamber of Commerce;

25 (5) One (1) representative selected by the Greater Prince George's Business Roundtable;

26 (6) Two (2) representatives from affiliates of organized labor in the County;

27 (7) Five (5) county residents with expertise in matters of budget, finance or public policy;

28 and

29 (8) One (1) representative selected by the Prince George's County Association of
30 Realtors.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission will collect, review and discuss (i)

1 comparative budget data and information regarding Prince George's County's fiscal health and
2 similar jurisdictions, (ii) policies and practices that affect Prince George's County's revenue
3 structure and the strength of its tax base, (iii) the structure and fiscal dynamics of Prince
4 George's County's government, (iv) feedback from stakeholders in the community concerning
5 the County's budget and tax structure, and (v) any other items which the County Council deems
6 appropriate and relevant.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission may also review and consider issues
8 recommended by members of the County Council, the County Executive, or the general public.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission shall meet publicly at least monthly
10 (once every month), as determined by the Commission Chairperson, and, upon an affirmative
11 vote of a majority of its members present at a public meeting, the Commission may make formal
12 recommendations or proposals and conduct public hearings. The Commission Chairperson may
13 request information on the Commission's behalf or at the Commission's direction. The
14 necessary quorum for the Commission to hold a public meeting is eight (8) voting members.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission shall transmit to the Clerk of the
16 Council for delivery to the members of the County Council and the County Executive a written
17 report approved by an affirmative vote of a majority of its members present at a public meeting
18 making preliminary recommendations to the County Council and County Executive to address
19 the County's long-term structural deficit and fiscal health (the "Preliminary Report"). The
20 Preliminary Report shall be transmitted by January 15, 2016 and be followed by a public briefing
21 to the County Council by the Commission. The Commission shall also submit a final-written
22 report (the "Final Report") by July 1, 2016, making comprehensive recommendations to the
23 County Council and County Executive to address the County's long-term structural deficit and
24 fiscal health followed by a public briefing to the County Council by the Commission. The
25 County Council may request and receive more frequent feedback or briefings from the
26 Commission at the Council's discretion.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the term of service for voting members of the
28 Commission shall be one (1) year, subject to reappointment to additional one (1) year terms of
29 service, if deemed necessary.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council Administrator shall assign appropriate
31 technical and administrative support personnel or consultants to assist the Commission in its

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work.

Adopted this 16th day of June, 2015.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Mel Franklin
Chairman

ATTEST:

Redis C. Floyd
Clerk of the Council