

HB1057_PGCEX_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Angela Alsobrooks

Position: FAV



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

BILL: House Bill 1057 - Prince George's County - Recreation Authority - Authorization PG 406-22

SPONSOR: Prince George's County Delegation

HEARING DATE: March 8, 2022

COMMITTEE: Environment and Transportation

CONTACT: Intergovernmental Affairs Office, 301-780-8411

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS House Bill 1057 - Prince George's County - Recreation Authority - Authorization PG 406-22**, which authorizes Prince George's County to establish a recreation authority to oversee youth sports and recreation functions in the county. The bill also establishes the Prince George's County Recreation Authority Blue Ribbon Workgroup to conduct a study and provide recommendations on the establishment of a county recreation authority.

The Prince George's County Recreation Department was brought within the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission in 1970 and Prince George's County is the only jurisdiction in the state that is organized this way.

Now, we want more local control over our Recreation Department and how services are delivered. The new Recreation Authority would exist under State and County law and will have an executive director who answers to a board of County residents. Under this bill, the Executive Director and the Board would be nominated by the County Executive and approved by the County Council.

This legislation would create an authority that is similar to a structure that has served the county well, containing both accountability and efficiency in operations. Our Revenue Authority and our Redevelopment Authority prove that this is an excellent, effective, and efficient model for the provision of service to County residents. We want to put our recreation resources on the same footing and establish a Recreation Authority that would be quasi-private, but still have a great deal of local control and accountability to residents.

Moreover, we have reason to believe that our youth sports opportunities, art, and recreational services can be delivered with greater efficiency. We believe that separating recreation services from park and planning is going to be the best way to create the efficient, effective service delivery our residents deserve.

Beyond sports, our new Recreation Authority will also handle arts, senior activities, and any other recreation services. With this new Recreation Authority, we can offer an increased array of services to County residents and respond quickly by providing new and different services that County residents want while enhancing coordination with existing service providers who already operate in the county.

It is also very clear that now is the time to complete this change. Our current system is not working as well as it should, particularly on youth sports outreach and support. With this new entity, we can quickly reinvent how we approach these offerings, helping to foster greater involvement in youth sports and other community-based activities across Prince George's County.

The legislation will also create a workgroup, that will work over the summer to make recommendations on how the authority will operate and be funded. Those recommendations will be due back to our House Delegation for final implementation by December 1, 2022, meaning you will approve of the changes that the workgroup proposes.

We will create a workgroup and give it time to deliberate on the correct orientation of the authority and those services that will remain in park and planning because we want this change to be well planned, well-coordinated and enhance service delivery.

In addition, while we're hoping to make changes to recreation, this will not impact our dedicated recreation employees or retirees. No recreation employee will lose their job, their healthcare, or their pension because of this legislation. The changes we're exploring have more to do with the structure of the entity that administers recreation services and will not, in any way, negatively impact employees.

This legislation is about ensuring that our great employees can deliver the best services in the best way for our residents. Prince Georgians deserve access to all of the wonderful recreation opportunities our County has to offer, and they deserve a greater voice in choosing what new activities we bring to life.

For the reasons stated above, the Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS House Bill 1057** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report.

Proposed Amend PGC Co HB1057

Uploaded by: Nick Charles

Position: FAV

BY: Prince George's County Delegation
(To be offered in the Environment and Transportation Committee)

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 1057
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, at the top of the page, insert "EMERGENCY BILL".

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 2, in lines 17 and 19, in each instance, strike "ONE MEMBER" and substitute "TWO MEMBERS"; in line 24, after "CLUB" insert "APPOINTED BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE"; in line 25, after "THE" insert "UFCW LOCAL 1994"; in line 26, strike "AND"; and in line 27, after "(7)" insert "ONE RECREATION EXPERT APPOINTED BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE; AND

(8)".

On page 3, in line 2, after "(C)" insert "THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE SHALL APPOINT A CHAIR OF THE WORKGROUP FROM AMONG ITS MEMBERS.

(D)";

in lines 18 and 20, strike "(D)" and "(E)", respectively, and substitute "(E)" and "(F)", respectively; in line 21, strike "PRINCE GEORGE'S" and substitute "MEMBERS OF THE PRINCE GEORGE'S HOUSE DELEGATION TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, AND THE"; in lines 25 and 26, strike "that performed a recreation function"; and in lines 30 and 31, strike "shall take effect July 1, 2022" and substitute "is an emergency measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is enacted".

3.2.2022 House Bill 1057Final.pdf

Uploaded by: Jessica Barnes

Position: FWA

TOWN OF RIVERDALE PARK

March 1, 2022

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve
Chair, Environment and Transportation
Room 251
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Support with Amendment- House Bill 1057 Prince George's County - Recreation Authority - Authorization PG 406-22

Dear Chair Barve and Committee Members:

The Mayor and Council of the Town of Riverdale Park have concerns about House Bill 1057 Prince George's County - Recreation Authority - Authorization PG 406-22, which would authorize Prince George's County to establish a recreation authority in the County; establish the Prince George's County Recreation Authority Blue Ribbon Workgroup to study and make recommendations to the Prince George's County Council regarding the establishment of a recreation authority in the County; and state the intent of the General Assembly regarding the possible transfer of employees from the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) to a Prince George's County recreation authority.

The Town supports the concept of establishing a Prince George's County Recreation Authority Blue Ribbon Workgroup to study and make recommendations to the Prince George's County Council regarding the establishment of a recreation authority in the County. However, the Town opposes the statement of intent of the General Assembly regarding the possible transfer of employees from the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission to a Prince George's County recreation authority. Additionally, the Town opposes granting the County the authority to create a County Recreation Authority that might be expected take over recreation operations from M-NCPPC.

It would be premature to make a statement of intent or to create such an Authority without first receiving and carefully considering the findings and recommendations of the Prince George's County Recreation Authority Blue Ribbon Workgroup. Furthermore, it would be crucial to also receive input from a wide range of recreation stakeholders in the County before taking action. The Town recommends amending the legislation to only authorize the creation of the Prince George's County Recreation Authority Blue Ribbon Workgroup to allow for greater input from those most impacted by any proposed changes.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this important legislation. If you require any additional information, please contact me at akthompson@riverdaleparkmd.gov.

Sincerely,



Alan K. Thompson
Mayor

HB1057_UNF_ChiangSmith

Uploaded by: Asuntha Chiang-Smith

Position: UNF



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

"Building the People's Movement"

March 1, 2022

Honorable Joanne C. Benson, Chair
Prince George's County Senate Delegation
James Senate Office Building – Room 214
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

Honorable Nick Charles, Chair
Prince George's County House Delegation
Lowe House Office Building – Room 207E
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

Re: **HB 1057/PG 406-22 – Prince George's County - Recreation Authority**

Dear Senator Benson and Delegate Charles:

I write on behalf of the Prince George's County Council to request that the above proposed legislation be held to allow for additional community and stakeholder review prior to moving forward. The Prince George's County's Senate and House consideration of this bill, in the short-period since proposed, has garnered numerous questions and concerns about its origins and potential impact on the County government, the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) and the provision of recreational services to our county residents.

As you are aware, the bill was late-filed, made available to the public on Sunday February 6th, heard during the House Delegation's Monday February 7th public hearing, considered in the County Affairs subcommittee on Wednesday February 9th and approved by the full House Delegation, with amendments, on Friday February 11th. The bill received barely a week for consideration and review by the public and other stakeholders. As amended by the House Delegation, this now emergency bill, attempts to do several things:

- Gives the County governing body (the Executive and County Council) the authority to create a Prince George's County Recreation Authority to "oversee youth sports and recreation functions in the County"
- Establishes a 10-member Prince George's County Recreation Authority Blue Ribbon Work Group to study and, prior to the establishment of a County Recreation Authority, make certain recommendations on how the Authority would operate and be funded to the County Council and Delegation by December 1, 2022
- State the intent of the General Assembly that any impacted employees of M-NCPPC shall retain the status of their current employment if they are transferred to a new Recreation Authority

It is clear to the County Council that the legislation contemplates a substantial change to how the County currently provides recreational services and opportunities for a wide range of populations. As such we believe some additional information and discussion is needed in the County prior to any actions taken by the General Assembly on the proposed bill.

These include the following fundamental questions:

- Is it necessary to authorize the establishment of the new Recreation Authority in the bill before the actual study and recommendations are completed?
- According to the County Executive’s February 7th testimony, the proposed Authority would be headed by an Executive Director and governed by a Board of Directors appointed by the County Executive and approved by the County Council? As such, it would apparently resemble the organizational structure of the County’s Revenue and Redevelopment Authorities, respectively. Why is this the preferred structure?
- Why not an Executive Branch agency, similar to structures in Montgomery, Howard, Anne Arundel, and Baltimore Counties, where the respective recreation departments are County government agencies?
- What is the cost-benefit analysis of removing and/or changing current recreational operations and services, including community and other centers, facilities and programs maintained and provided by M-NCPPC?

While the County Council is not opposed to a public Work Group process, such as the one contemplated by the bill, we believe additional information and public discussion is necessary before committing to a particular structure. Thank you in advance for your consideration of these comments and the Council looks forward to working with you, the Delegation and our community on this important matter.

Sincerely,



Calvin S. Hawkins, II
County Council Chair

cc: Hon. Bill Ferguson, Senate President
Hon. Adriene A. Jones, Speaker, House of Delegates
Members, Prince George’s Senate Delegation
Members, Prince George’s House Delegation
Hon. Kumar P. Barve, Chair, House Environment and Transportation Committee
Council Members, Prince George’s County Council
Hon. Angela D. Alsobrooks, County Executive
Ms. Elizabeth M. Hewlett, Chair, Prince George’s Planning Board
Mr. Ron Young, State Legislative Affairs Director
Mr. Ken Battle, Committee Director, General Assembly Committee

HB 1057 Testimony - PDF.pdf

Uploaded by: Brian Woodward

Position: UNF

Honorable Kumar P. Barve
Taylor House Office Building, Room 251
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

March 4, 2022

Honorable Dana M. Stein
Taylor House Office Building, Room 251
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD. 21401

RE: HB 1057: Recreation Authority – I Oppose this Legislation.

DEAR COMMITTEE CHAIR BARVE & VICE COMMITTEE CHAIR STEIN,

Please accept the following as my testimony relating to HB 1057: Recreation Authority in Prince Georges County. I oppose the legislation for the following reasons:

1. The Recreation services of the M-NCPPC are world class and operate to the betterment of the residents of Prince Georges County. I have been a County resident for over forty (40) years and both of my children have played sports, attended camps, nature centers, recreation centers and many more special, focused events put on by the Recreation Department. Always great, always safe and always affordable. We have lived in Upper Marlboro, Riverdale, Greenbelt and Bowie - and the quality, the safety, and the excellence has uniformly been great. Both my son and my daughter played several sports each season and have never had a bad experience, and both became fine athletes as teenagers.
2. It will be wasteful and challenging to create a new authority for recreation in the county because no organization can do it better than the Nation's best. Gold Medal awards, national and international recognition of excellence, M-NCPPC is the benchmark for Park and Recreation agencies all over the nation.
3. The priorities and work program of the Recreation Department are established and monitored by the County Council and the County Executive already. They make the budgets, they decide the work program, they direct the managers where to spend their time and their money. If the Commission managers do not follow the direction of the Executive and Council, they would be breaking the law. IF that were the case, a new agency is not the answer.
4. The M-NCPPC is such a unique agency, and breaking off parts of it, or even dissolving it have been studied by both Montgomery and Prince Georges Counties many, many times. Each and every time the answer is the same - no other agency can do it better, do it more efficiently. We learned that the cost, effort and damage of changing a good thing are overwhelming.
5. A new, additional "authority" will need to duplicate services already provided to the Recreation Department at greater expense. Hiring, training, salaries and benefits, certifying, background checks on coaches, purchasing, office space, administrative support, phones, computers, IT help, risk management, legal advice, supervision, accounting and auditing processes, banking – these are things that the Commission already provides to the Recreation Department, but that the new "authority" will need to pay for. This will be an exorbitant duplication of services with no direct benefit to the young athletes.

6. I have served as Director of Recreation and Parks for the City Of Annapolis, I have served as Division Chief in Anne Arundel Recreation and Parks and I have been the Acting City Manager of the City of Annapolis. I have also served as Regional Division Chief in Montgomery County (M-NCPPC). I have significant knowledge and expertise in these matters, and I am testifying that the Prince Georges part of the Commission is a standard for excellence for every agency in Maryland and the Nation. We all look up to them, and seek their expertise when we need such. It would be such a waste for us residents of Prince Georges County to lose one of the most excellent service providers in the nation.

Please do not waste my tax money on this effort. IF you want to change how the department operates, the County already has the authority to do that, we do not need another, less efficient, less effective agency.

Brian Woodward
11402 Windy Harbor Way
Bowie, MD 20720
(301) 805-5966

ENT Submission Packet.pdf

Uploaded by: Caleen Kufera

Position: UNF



POSITION STATEMENT

Bill: HB 1057 (PG 406-22) – Prince George’s County – Recreation Authority - Authorization

Position: Oppose

Date: March 4, 2022

Contact: Adrian R. Gardner, General Counsel
Caleen Kufera, Assistant General Counsel

What The Bill Does: This bill would establish a work group to make legal, policy, and fiscal recommendations on how to effectuate a transfer of existing recreation programs and personnel from the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (the “Commission”) to a new County Recreation Authority (the “Authority”). It also authorizes the governing body of Prince George’s County to create such an Authority after the work group delivers its recommendations.

Why We Oppose: The Commission opposes the current iteration of this bill because it presumes an outcome even before the first data point is considered. While the agency supports the laudable goal of reimagining how to deliver the best recreational opportunities for everyone in Prince George’s County – and assuming for discussion that a study group is necessary – the appropriate inquiry should start with a recognition that survey data shows widespread support for the Commission’s facilities and recreation programs. Indeed, the Commission regularly evaluates the community’s program needs and a recent survey suggests that County households with a favorable opinion about the value of the Commission’s recreational services outnumber those with an unfavorable opinion by 6-to-1. Unless a work group examines the right questions, our professionals have serious concerns that support for elite sports might come at the expense of other sporting, cultural, social, or leisure-, history-, senior- and health-based recreational programs so many Prince Georgians have come to love and rely on. [Spring 2022 Prince George’s County Parks and Recreation Guide](#)

Necessary Amendments: Several key amendments are essential to make it feasible for the bill to produce a “good government” outcome.

First, the bill should expressly require the group to make a threshold assessment of relative costs and benefits – both the “pros and cons” – of creating a new business model or quasi-private entity to manage the extensive portfolio of public recreation in Prince George’s County. For example, although public ecosystem needs to support elite youth sports that can yield scholarships and professional opportunities, one such potential “con” which the work group must address is the national and local trend of private pay-to-play leagues that reportedly are “leading poor and even

Office of the General Counsel

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middle-class families to hang up their cleats.” (See [Game over: Middle-class and poor kids are ditching youth sports](#), CBS News MoneyWatch, August 15, 2019, accessed February 17, 2022.).

Second, the work group composition is inadequate to lead a meaningful study. For example, the director of the Commission’s existing Department of Parks and Recreation is an essential voice to participate in the panel and their exclusion is a mistake. Similarly, the Commission supports a suggestion made by several County Council members to include additional representation for the Council or its staff. The work group should also include representatives from the Prince George’s County Public School System, Library Board and Community College – other public institutions that play an integral role in delivering a total recreational experience in Prince George’s County. Finally, the “recreation expert” proposed in an amendment adopted for the bill should be selected by the Executive Council of the [Maryland Recreation and Park Association \(MRPA\)](#), the impartial statewide organization of Maryland’s recreation and park professionals.

Third, the bill should also spell-out the appropriate qualifications for membership of a group for which “blue ribbon” acclaim is proposed. Regardless of their respective sources of appointment, each member should be appropriately credentialed, knowledgeable, and experienced in something pertinent to the group’s mission – recreation, public finance, government operations, quasi-public entities, etc.

Fourth, apart from our concerns about the proposed study, the bill also threatens our current retiree community and all the other existing retirement stakeholders. In this regard, it must eliminate any doubt that everyone’s benefits will be held harmless if any employee transfer actually ensues – not just those who ultimately transfer.

While it is impossible to predict the impact with any precision yet, transferring out a significant number of recreation personnel certainly will change the actuarial position of our agency’s pension and retiree health funds. That places taxpayers in both counties, our current employees and current retirees at risk of making up any shortfall – by more taxes, additional retiree costs, cutting benefits or a combination of all three. The General Assembly should expressly foreclose the possibility of unfairly shifting any actuarial deficiency either to the beneficiaries, who will rely on their earned pensions, or the taxpayer-bystanders.

Without appropriate amendments to address these core concerns, the Commission strongly opposes this bill and urges an unfavorable report.

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ATTACHMENT: M-NCPPC Amendment Concept/Draft for Discussion (2/18/22)

BY:

(To be offered in the Prince George’s County House Delegation)

AMENDMENTS TO HB 1057
(First Reading Bill File)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 2, in line 26, strike “AND”.

On page 3, in line 1, after “CHIEF” insert “;

(8) THE DIRECTOR OF THE PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION, OR THE DIRECTOR’S DESIGNEE;

(9) ONE PUBLIC RECREATION EXPERT APPOINTED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE MARYLAND RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION (MRPA); AND

(10) ONE REPRESENTATIVE APPOINTED BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM; AND

(11) ONE REPRESENTATIVE APPOINTED BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY MEMORIAL LIBRARY SYSTEM; AND

(12) ONE REPRESENTATIVE APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE”;

after line 1, insert:

“(C) EACH MEMBER OF THE WORKGROUP SHALL BE QUALIFIED ON THE BASIS OF KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE IN A PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINE PERTINENT TO THE PURPOSE OF THE WORKGROUP INCLUDING:

- (1) PUBLIC RECREATION OPERATIONS;
- (2) MANAGING ACTIVE AND PASSIVE CULTURE AND LEISURE PROGRAMS;
- (3) ELITE YOUTH SPORTS;
- (4) PUBLIC FINANCE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS;
- (5) GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS;
- (6) QUASI-PUBLIC ENTITIES; OR
- (7) A FIELD OF COMPARABLE RELEVANCE TO DELIVERING PUBLIC RECREATION SERVICES.”;

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 3, after line 4, insert:

“(1) THE POTENTIAL COSTS, BENEFITS, ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF TRANSFERRING THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR OPERATIONS OF THE EXISTING YOUTH SPORTS AND RECREATION FUNCTIONS FROM THE COMMISSION TO A RECREATION AUTHORITY CREATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 31-103 OF THIS TITLE”; and in lines 5, 8, 11, 12, and 15, strike “(1)”, “(2)”, “(3)”, “(4)”, and “(5)”, respectively, and substitute “(2)”, “(3)”, “(4)”, “(5)”, and “(6)”, respectively.

in lines 18 and 20, strike “(D)” and “(E)”, respectively, and substitute “(E)” and “(F)”, respectively; after line 29, insert:

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 3, in line 26-29 after “authority,” strike “any” and down through “rights,” in line 29, and substitute “any employee who accepts the transfer shall be employed by the new recreation authority created by this act on the same terms and conditions of employment enjoyed at the time of the transfer, including, without limitation, current pay, accrued leave balances, collective bargaining rights, accumulated contributions and retirement benefits.”.

“SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That it is the intent of the General Assembly that, any trust fund or other benefit plan established to support a retiree, participant or other beneficiary of a Commission post-employment benefit plan shall not suffer any actuarial deficiency as a result of a transfer of Commission employees to the new recreation authority created by this act, and that the General Assembly shall appropriate funding in such amounts as may be required to cure any such deficiency otherwise obtaining.”;

and in line 30, strike “3.” and substitute “4.”.

MEMORANDUM



EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
6611 Kenilworth Avenue, Suite 100
Riverdale, Maryland 20737

(301) 454-1415 - Telephone
(301) 454-1413 - Facsimile
<http://ers.mncppc.org>

To: Casey Anderson, Chairman
Elizabeth M. Hewlett, Vice Chairman
The Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission
Date: March 4, 2022

From: Andrea L. Rose, Administrator *Andrea L. Rose*
Employees' Retirement System

Subject: Potential Implications of HB 1057 (PG 406-22)

This letter responds to your request for information regarding the potential impact on the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (“MNCPPC”) Employees’ Retirement System (“ERS” or “System”) if the Maryland General Assembly enacts HB 1057 (PG 406-22) – Prince George’s County – Recreation Authority – Authorization (the “Bill”).

At first blush, the Bill would establish a customary work group to study a potential restructuring of recreational service delivery in Prince George’s County. However, based on its plain language, the Bill mandates that a study group make recommendations about “which functions of existing divisions of ... [the MNCPPC] could be assumed by a County recreation authority” and “all aspects of a transfer of any personnel and the responsibility for youth sports, arts, and recreation from the [MNCPPC] to a County recreation authority.” Further, in Section 2, the Bill provides:

[T]hat it is the intent of the General Assembly that... if the General Assembly passes any law providing for the transfer of any employee of the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission that performed a recreation function to the Prince George’s County recreation authority, any employee who accepts the transfer shall retain the right to retain ... participation in the transferred employee’s mandatory retirement plan...

Based on preliminary discussions about the Bill with the System’s actuaries, we strongly recommend that the MNCPPC and ERS undertake a thorough actuarial analysis of the potential financial cost impact on the ERS before making any decisions about its position, including but not limited potential costs to the MNCPPC and ERS, with respect to the proposed restructuring. To provide a reliable estimate the complex details involved in a restructuring must be settled first. The financial cost impact could be significant in a best case and grave in the worst.

Participants Covered Under the Bill

Based on the number of eligible jobs funded directly by the Prince George’s County Recreation Fund, the MNCPPC estimates that the Bill may impact more than 300 current active members of the System, which equates to roughly 13.5% of the total active membership. It is my understanding that number may increase if recreation functions, or jobs supported by the agency’s Enterprise or other funds are added to an eventual transfer.

Given the size of the group, there would be a financial impact on the System associated with a transfer of these members from the Commission to the County. However, the estimated financial impact on the System cannot be determined until our actuarial team knows the specific members involved in a transfer and precisely how the transfer will be implemented.

Remaining Participants, Plan Sponsor and Retirees

While Section 2 of the Bill declares an intent to hold employees who transfer harmless, it imparts no such assurance to the plan sponsor (MNCPPC) or the pool of existing and prospective retirees who are counting on the current actuarial health of the ERS. Depending on how any transfer is structured, there will be funding implications for the MNCPPC and ERS, which may include but are not limited to, the curtailment of future benefits, increases in employee contributions for new and existing employees who do not transfer, additional employer contributions from tax-supported sources, or a combination of changes to cover the gap. These potential disruptions do not enhance the confidence of approximately 1,750 existing retirees who currently rely on the System's stability.

Important Questions

The Bill does not clearly state how the impacted members should be treated with respect to their current and future benefits under the System, nor does it identify the funding of these benefits.

For example, among the least complex ways to approach the proposed transaction, the members' contributions and liabilities would be transferred to another retirement plan to be established by the Authority on the same terms and conditions available under the ERS. The total amount of liabilities to be transferred would be dependent on the specific member population as well as the assumptions and methods used in the calculations. Assets would also be transferred to the accepting plan; however, given the current underfunding status of the System, a determination would need to be made on whether the full value of the benefits would be transferred or only a portion transferred. As indicated above, however, this approach may still leave the ERS with an actuarial gap that requires additional funding.

Other approaches that do not involve an outright transfer to another retirement plan generally are far more complicated. For example, if transferred employees are treated as terminated vested members under the System, they could receive a retirement benefit based on their service and salary at the time of transfer after satisfying the eligibility requirements for retirement. These members could accrue new benefits under a new retirement plan but would not accrue any additional benefits under the System. As a terminated vested member, these members would have the option to take a refund of their member contributions and interest in lieu of receiving a deferred retirement benefit. Since this group makes up a significant portion of the total membership, an immediate refund of employee contributions this size may have funding and investment implications for the System. Under a second example, if impacted employees remain in the System and continue to accrue retirement benefits and make contributions, legislative clarity would be needed to identify who would be responsible for funding these benefits – both at the time of employment and in the future as ERS funding levels fluctuate. Further, if the County is responsible for funding this group, the System becomes a multiple employer plan subject to complex actuarial cost allocation analysis. Lastly, would service earned with the County be counted towards vesting and/or retirement eligibility in the System?

Conclusion

Unfortunately, for the reasons discussed above, it is not feasible to provide a meaningful estimate of the financial cost impact of the transfers proposed in the Bill. For now, all we can say for sure is that those transfers are likely to have significant implications for the ERS and the MNCPPC and impact future funding, contributions, and/or benefits.

Please let us know as you gain more insight into the process or substance of the Bill, or if we can provide any additional information for its consideration.

cc: Asuntha Chiang-Smith, Executive-Director
Gavin Cohen, CPA, Secretary-Treasurer
Adrian Gardner, General Counsel
Gerald R. Cichy, Vice Chairman, Board of Trustees
Howard Brown, FOP Represented Trustee
Pamela F. Gogol, Montgomery County Public Member
Caroline McCarthy, Montgomery County Open Trustee
Amy Millar, MCGEO Represented Trustee
Sheila Morgan-Johnson, Prince George's County Public Member
Elaine A. Stookey, Bi-County Open Trustee

The Hype (What Some Proponents Have Said.)	The Facts.
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<p><u>Existing Recreational Programs</u></p> <p>According to a video produced to promote the hype, Prince George’s County residents are “increasingly frustrated over the lack of quality [recreational] programming.” Is that true?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>• The Quality and Variety of Existing M-NCPPC Programs Are Exceptional</p> <p>While there’s always room for continuous improvement, the M-NCPPC’s Prince George’s County Department of Parks and Recreation (the “Department”) offers a breathtaking array of recreational opportunities, and survey data indicates widespread support within the community.</p> <p>While operations are still rebounding from the COVID-19 pandemic, in 2021 the Department offered <u>6,285 different programs and services</u> to a very diverse community of all ages and levels of abilities. By comparison, in 2019, before the pandemic, the Department offered about <u>11,707 comparable programs and services</u>.</p> <p>• Survey Data Indicate Broad Community Support</p> <p>According to a recent independent survey conducted by ETC Institute, 65% of Prince Georgians are satisfied with the overall value they receive from M-NCPPC, Prince George’s County Parks and Recreation.</p> <p>The same survey also showed that 63% of Prince Georgians feel the value of Parks, Trails, Open Space and Recreation increased during the pandemic, providing a balance of health and wellness at a time residents needed most.</p> <p>• No Other Organization Has Earned Greater National Acclaim</p> <p>The Department is nationally recognized for our award-winning services. We are the only agency in the nation to have received the coveted <i>National Gold Medal for Parks and Recreation</i> management <u>six times</u> with accredited programing. Additionally, the National Parks and Recreation Association awarded the Department the <i>National Excellence in Inclusion Award</i>.</p> <p>• Bottom Line</p> <p>Existing law requires the M-NCPPC to deliver a “balanced program” of recreation and it appears that the proponents of HB 1057 are focused almost exclusively on elite youth sports leagues. That focus may explain why the M-NCPPC disputes the hype -- even as our team is working right now to enhance support for elite youth sports. <i>See more below.</i></p>
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The Hype (What Some Proponents Have Said.)	The Facts.
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<p><u>Existing Recreation Facilities</u></p> <p>Certain proponents question the value to taxpayers by claiming that M-NCPPC’s Department of Parks and Recreation does not offer recreational facilities that are not comparable or equivalent to other jurisdictions in the region.</p>	<p>• The Number and Diversity of M-NCPPC Facilities are Second-To-None</p> <p>Without exhausting all the categories that are too numerous to mention here, the Department currently operates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 303 Athletic Fields ✓ 370 Parks ✓ 238 playgrounds ✓ 45 Community Centers ✓ 13 Aquatic facilities ✓ 5 Cricket fields ✓ 4 Sports Complexes ✓ 1 Boxing Center <p>That’s more variety and a bigger number than any other local agency in Maryland.</p> <p>• Our Facilities Win Awards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Public Building of the Year- <i>South County Tech Rec Center</i>- AIA Md. 2015 ✓ Merit Award- <i>Wizard of Oz Playground</i> - Maryland ASLA 2017 <p>• Great Environmental Design</p> <p>Several of the Department’s state-of-the-art facilities are LEED-certified. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The Department’s new <i>Tucker Road Ice Rink</i> features a National Hockey League-sized ice rink, 48,860 square feet for general indoor community and ice-skating recreation, figure skating, and ice hockey, with bleachers for 300 to 350 spectators. <p>• Accepting Responsibility to Improve Turf Management</p> <p>The incidence of poor turf conditions can be evidence of a vibrant demand for field time. However, <u>many</u> of the turf fields utilized by sports teams in Prince George’s County are <u>not</u> M-NCPPC facilities – so it’s wrong to presume the Department is at fault. Even so, the Department already has accepted responsibility for improving the systems for turf management at M-NCPPC facilities. Among other things, the Department is expanding the inventory of artificial turf fields through multigenerational facilities.</p>
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The Hype (What Some Proponents Have Said.)	The Facts.
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<p><u>Fiscal Responsibility</u> Some proponents raise concerns about how the “Commission spends” money on public recreation. For example, one constituent has questioned the budget process, a union advocate questioned the public’s “rate of return,” and another proponent said they had no idea where the tax funds are spent.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>• The Prince George’s County Government Controls Our Budget – Not the Agency The Department’s budget is vetted and legally adopted through a Prince George’s County legislative process that includes provisions for a veto and override. For example, the county adopted the Department’s FY 2022 recreation budget as part of Council Bill 34-2021 (May 29, 2021). The Commission and Department’s role is to offer subject matter experts and make fiscal/policy recommendations after meeting with each councilmember and county budget team.</p> <p>• We Follow the County’s Spending Affordability Budget Review Process In last year’s budget message, the County Executive “[commended] the Commission for proposing an operating budget that remains within the Spending Affordability Committee (SAC) spending ceilings and look forward to working with [the agency] and other members of the County Council to ensure that future spending plans do not necessitate future tax increases.”</p> <p>• The Public Has Multiple Opportunities to Review and Shape the Budget Each year, typically, the Department’s proposed recreation budget is open to public comment and review for almost six months before a final adoption in May. There are multiple hearings and listening sessions, some jointly with the County Council and the Planning Board.</p> <p>• Our Budget and Financial Reports Win Awards for Transparency The leading group of 21,000 finance officers across the United States and Canada – the Government Finance Officers’ Association – has awarded the M-NCPPC with its top national awards for both distinguished budget presentation and distinguished financial reporting every year over multiple decades. In fact, this winning streak makes our agency a winner for more consecutive budget awards (37) and financial reports (47) than any other government entity in its category.</p>
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The Hype (What Some Proponents Have Said.)	The Facts.
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<p><u>User Fees and Affordability</u></p> <p>Some advocates for the bill have raised concerns whether the Department’s fees and charges are too high.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some Field Usage Fees Are Less Than Other Jurisdictions <p>Comparative hourly rental fees for grass fields rented without lights are as follows:</p> <table style="margin-left: 20px; border: none;"> <tr> <td>✓ Prince George’s County</td> <td>\$10 per hour</td> </tr> <tr> <td>✓ Montgomery County</td> <td>\$18 per hour</td> </tr> <tr> <td>✓ Washington, DC</td> <td>\$5/8 per hour (residents/non)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>✓ Arlington, VA</td> <td>\$35/70 per hour (residents/non)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>✓ Howard County, MD</td> <td>\$18 per hour</td> </tr> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department Follows Fee Policies That Subsidize Public Access <p>It is important to note that the Commission’s fee policies are <u>not</u> intended to break-even on aquatics, golf, senior programs and other activities that can involve significant personal expense. Rather, with periodic approvals by the County Council, the agency sets recreation fees to make them affordable for most families in the County. For that reason, these vital enterprise fund programs are subsidized from tax supported funds totaling more than \$11 million in FY 2022.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waivers Are Available for Those in Need <p>For struggling families unable to participate in the Department’s programs – even at the subsidized rates – the agency offers a fee waiver program to ensure access. Toward this end, in FY 2019 (pre-pandemic), the Department provided \$582,586 in fee assistance support to families in need to assure access to all, regardless of their ability to pay.</p>	✓ Prince George’s County	\$10 per hour	✓ Montgomery County	\$18 per hour	✓ Washington, DC	\$5/8 per hour (residents/non)	✓ Arlington, VA	\$35/70 per hour (residents/non)	✓ Howard County, MD	\$18 per hour
✓ Prince George’s County	\$10 per hour										
✓ Montgomery County	\$18 per hour										
✓ Washington, DC	\$5/8 per hour (residents/non)										
✓ Arlington, VA	\$35/70 per hour (residents/non)										
✓ Howard County, MD	\$18 per hour										

The Hype (What Some Proponents Have Said.)	The Facts.
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<p><u>Support for Community-Based Recreation and Sports Groups</u></p> <p>Several advocates implied the Department was not providing any meaningful support for the Boys and Girls Clubs and other local sports and recreation groups. One youth sports leader mentioned fees of \$5,000 or \$6,000 to rent M-NCPPC fields.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>• The County Boys and Girls Clubs Receive Extensive Financial and In-Kind Support</p> <p>The Department provides youth sports programs both directly and in conjunction with a number of community-based groups. In particular, the Department has an existing contract to support the Prince George’s County Boys and Girls Club organization with an annual contribution of \$140,000 to defray the cost of program administration. In addition to that support, the Department provides office space, telephone service, utilities, and staff, and sponsors the club’s liability insurance coverage on an in-kind basis.</p> <p>• Local Boys and Girls Clubs Receive Additional Support</p> <p>Above the support provided to the county-wide organization, the Department provides an additional \$232,500 to support various affiliated Boys and Girls Clubs – for a total annual contribution of \$372,000 for all the clubs combined.</p> <p>• The Department Gives Boys and Girls Clubs Free Field Use</p> <p>The Department extends the PGCBGC first priority status for field/facility reservations and only charges for <u>lighted</u> field use. Contrary to what one witness said, the Department can find no instance of charging five or six thousand dollars for any Boys and Girls club field use. As indicated above, however, <u>many</u> of the turf fields utilized by sports teams in Prince George’s County are <u>not</u> M-NCPPC facilities – so the witness may have been referring to another entity.</p> <p>• Reserving Fields is Not Complicated</p> <p>The Department has assigned a single point of contact to coordinate programs and facilities for youth sports. Obtaining a permit for our fields is a very simple process. It requires an application to be completed, a completed form emailed along with proof of insurance.</p>
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Office of the Chairman
Prince George's County Planning Board

14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772
TTY: (301) 952-3796

(301) 952-3561

February 10, 2022

The Honorable Joanne C. Benson, Chair
Prince George's County Senate Delegation
214 James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Nick Charles, Chair
Prince George's County House Delegation
207 Lowe House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: PG 406-22 – Prince George's County – Recreation Authority – Authorization

Dear Chairs Benson and Charles:

On behalf of the Prince George's County Planning Board (the "Board") of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission ("Commission"), this letter is offered to clear the record and answer several important questions that warrant addressing after your hearing earlier this week on the local bill referenced above.

First, and foremost, we are compelled to clear up any confusion about how the Board allocates the public recreation budget in Prince George's County. The simple answer is: The Board doesn't allocate the recreation budget at all – the Prince George's County Government does. By law, the Board and Commission follow a completely transparent and public process, which involves direct input from the County on how Commission funding is spent. Twice annually, each and every year, the Commission consults with the Prince George's County Government's Spending Affordability Committee to ensure that we conform to their spending guidelines. This is done pursuant to County law. Additionally, the Commission's budget for the Department of Parks and Recreation is submitted to the County Executive and to the County Council, then the staff meets with each Councilmember individually, and there are several budget forums for the public, and several public Q&A budget sessions with the County Council. The Commission presents a proposed budget every January. The next step involves a series of public hearings with the Council and written comments by the County Executive.

In May, the County Council votes to adopt local legislation which becomes the Commission's annual recreation budget. The County Council can, and often does, amend the

The Honorable Joanne C. Benson
The Honorable Nick Charles
February 10, 2022
Page 2

proposed recreation budget at any time between January and May - from the time the Council holds its public hearings on the annual recreation budget until the Council votes on it. For your convenience, we have attached CB-34-2021, approved by the County Council on May 27, 2021, for FY 2022, which illustrates the detailed direction from the County on where it desires recreation funding to be spent. Under State law, the County Executive has line-item veto authority over the County Council's enactment and the Council has the ability to override that veto. We cannot recall any recent instance when the veto right was exercised. Throughout the whole process of approving the Commission's annual recreation budget, County government has multiple points at which it is aware of how the budget is allocated and can provide input to amend that budget.

Second, we want to clarify for the Delegation how the agency actually spends the recreation budget, because based on some of Monday's testimony one could infer that there may be irregularities in the spending or allocations of the Council-approved recreation spending. I reiterate that all Recreation spending has been approved by the Prince George's County Council following review by the County Executive. On that point, our agency's financial reporting has won the top national award offered by the *Government Finance Officers Association* for government transparency and full disclosure of its annual comprehensive financial reports for 47 consecutive years. In fact, our Commission is nationally known for winning more consecutive awards for financial transparency and disclosure than any similar state or local government in the United States. Further, the Commission is audited annually and submits each annual audit to the State of Maryland Office of Legislative Audits.

Beyond audits and reports, the Commission follows an important budget policy long determined by our County Executive and Legislative Branches to make recreation affordable and accessible for Prince George's residents. Specifically, our fee policies are not designed to break-even on aquatics, golf, senior programs and other activities that can involve significant personal expense. Rather, with periodic approvals by the County Council, the agency sets recreation fees to make them affordable for most families in the County. For that reason, these vital programs are subsidized from tax supported funds totaling more than \$11 million in FY 2022. Moreover, for struggling families unable to participate even at the subsidized rates, we offer a fee waiver program to ensure access. For your convenience, I have attached more information to summarize the proposed recreation budget for FY 2022.

Third, we want to be clear that we applaud and fully support the Prince George's County Boys and Girls Clubs (PGCBGC) and recognize their vital role in developing our youth. Just this year, our agency will fulfill terms of an agreement to provide an annual \$140,000 stipend to the PGCBGC. This agreement also includes office space, telephone service, utilities, and staff, and the Commission also underwrites their insurance coverage. The PGCBGC also receives priority field/facility reservations for use of M-NCPPC fields and recreational facilities. Further, an additional \$232,500 is provided by M-NCPPC to INDIVIDUAL PGCBGC through project charges, as directed by the County Council, for a total Boys and Girls Club annual contribution of \$372,000.

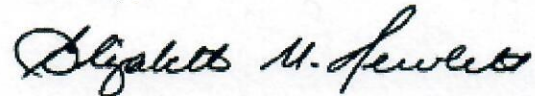
The Honorable Joanne C. Benson
The Honorable Nick Charles
February 10, 2022
Page 3

Finally, we have arranged to deliver a copy of our seasonal guide to each of your offices so that you can see the depth and variety of multi-generational activities we offer to our County residents. The Commission's ability to provide this diversity of programming year-in and year-out is precisely the reason that no other recreation program in the nation has won six (6) Gold Medal Awards for Parks and Recreation Management from the *National Recreation and Park Association* for our excellence in resource management and innovative approaches to deliver superb park and recreation services with fiscally sound business practices. We hold the National Record! This is surely something to tout for our beloved Prince George's County and is thanks to the dedicated men and women of the Commission, in conjunction with our elected officials, stakeholders, and our engaged residents. Quite frankly, Prince George's County's recreation programs under the management of the Commission are not just national but internationally known for its excellence in programming and stewardship. Recreation professionals around the nation and the globe contact our recreation experts to learn about our best practices in a variety of disciplines. Through the prudent management of the Commission and its recognized high standards in program innovation and integrity, we have been able to create something really special in recreation for the residents of our County that would be put in jeopardy if it was taken away from the stewardship of the Commission.

Thank you for your careful review – I simply felt compelled to provide this additional information for you in your decision making. We surely applaud and support youth and competitive sports, but want to emphasize that we support the ENTIRE array of recreation programs, summer camps, national award-winning therapeutic recreation programs, cultural and performing arts programs, and so much more offered to our residents, our toddlers, our seniors, all Prince Georgians and our many visiting guests.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide pertinent information for your careful review.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth M. Hewlett, Chair
Prince George's County Planning Board

CC: Members of the Prince George's County Senate Delegation
Members of the Prince George's County House Delegation

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

2021 Legislative Session

Bill No. CB-34-2021

Chapter No. _____

Proposed and Presented by Council Member Hawkins

Introduced by Council Members Hawkins, Taveras, Anderson-Walker, Glaros, Ivey,

Harrison, Turner, Streeter, Franklin, Dernoga and Davis

Date of Introduction May 27, 2021

BILL

1 AN ACT concerning

2 Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

3 For the purpose of approving the Prince George's County portion of the Maryland-National
4 Capital Park and Planning Commission budget and making appropriations and levying certain
5 taxes for Fiscal Year 2022 for the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission,
6 pursuant to the provisions of the Land Use Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, as
7 amended ("Land Use Article").

8 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED by the County Council of Prince George's County,
9 Maryland, that, in accordance with Title 18 of the Land Use Article, the annual budget
10 transmitted to the County Council by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning
11 Commission on January 15, 2021, and as amended on May 25, 2021, is approved insofar as it
12 applies to Prince George's County subject, however, to the additions, deletions, increases or
13 decreases thereto which are contained in Appendix A to this Act, attached hereto and
14 incorporated as if fully stated herein, and that the revenues to be derived from the rates herein be
15 and the same established are hereby appropriated and authorized to be disbursed for the purposes
16 specified by the provisions of the Land Use Article, as amended, and for the support and
17 maintenance of the purposes as expressed in the budget.

18 SECTION 2. ADMINISTRATION TAX. Pursuant to Sections 18-302 and 18-307 of the
19 Land Use Article, there is hereby imposed and levied for the Fiscal Year 2022 a tax of five and
20 sixty-six hundredths cents (\$0.0566) upon each one hundred dollars (\$100.00) of assessed

1 valuation of real property and fourteen and fifteen and one-half hundredths cents (\$0.14155)
 2 upon each one hundred dollars (\$100.00) of assessed valuation of personal property and
 3 operating real property described in Section 8-109 of the Tax-Property Article for property
 4 located in that portion of the Maryland-Washington Regional District lying within Prince
 5 George's County. The proceeds of the collection of such tax shall be paid to the Maryland-
 6 National Capital Park and Planning Commission and shall constitute the Administration Fund of
 7 said Commission. Of the proceeds collected, \$1,287,300 shall be allocated to the County
 8 Council for the reimbursement of the planning and zoning functions of the Legislative Branch, as
 9 described in the Regional District Act. As such, and pursuant to Sections 18-109, 20-206, 21-
 10 103, and 21-202 of the Land Use Article, as well as Section 10-112.32(d) of the Prince George's
 11 County Code, the Council hereby states, as justification for that portion of the Maryland-
 12 National Capital Park and Planning Commission Fiscal Year 2022 Operating Budget exceeding
 13 the Spending Affordability Commission's recommended overall spending ceiling of \$57.69
 14 million for planning projects by approximately \$1.07 million, such additional appropriations are
 15 the result of increases to enhance the annual workplan by advancing the pace of comprehensive
 16 planning projects for the benefit of the County.

17 **SECTION 3. ADVANCE LAND ACQUISITION FUND.** Pursuant to the provisions of
 18 Section 18-401(c) of the Land Use Article, there is hereby imposed and levied for the Fiscal
 19 Year 2022 a tax of zero cents (\$0.00) upon each one hundred dollars (\$100.00) of assessed
 20 valuation of real property and zero cents (\$0.00) upon each one hundred dollars (\$100.00) of
 21 assessed valuation of personal property and operating real property described in Section 8-109 of
 22 the Tax-Property Article, assessable according to the laws of Maryland and subject to taxation in
 23 Prince George's County, to be utilized for advance land acquisition in Prince George's County, in
 24 accordance with the terms and conditions of the above-cited statute, as amended. The proceeds
 25 from the collection of said tax shall be paid to the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning
 26 Commission for the purpose of debt service on the principal and interest on bonds issued for the
 27 Commission's land acquisition revolving fund, and any excess shall be paid into said fund.

28 **SECTION 4. METROPOLITAN DISTRICT TAX-MANDATORY.** Pursuant to the
 29 provisions of Sections 18-302 and 18-304(b) of the Land Use Article, there is hereby imposed
 30 and levied for the Fiscal Year 2022 a tax of four cents (\$0.04) upon each one hundred dollars
 31 (\$100.00) of assessed valuation of real property and ten cents (\$0.10) upon each one hundred

1 dollars (\$100.00) of assessed valuation of personal property and operating real property
2 described in Section 8-109 of the Tax-Property Article subject to assessment and taxation by
3 Prince George's County which is located in that portion of the Maryland-Washington
4 Metropolitan District lying within Prince George's County. The proceeds of the collection of
5 such tax shall be paid to the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and shall
6 be applied to the purposes set forth in Section 18-304(b) of the Land Use Article.

7 SECTION 5. METROPOLITAN DISTRICT TAX–DISCRETIONARY. Pursuant to
8 Section 18-304(c) of the Land Use Article, there is hereby imposed and levied for Fiscal Year
9 2022 a tax of eleven and ninety-four hundredths cents (\$0.1194) upon each one hundred dollars
10 (\$100.00) of assessed valuation of real property and twenty-nine and eighty-five hundredths
11 cents (\$0.2985) upon each one hundred dollars (\$100.00) of assessed valuation of personal
12 property and operating real property described in Section 8-109 of the Tax-Property Article
13 subject to assessment and taxation by Prince George's County which is located in that portion of
14 the Maryland-Washington Metropolitan District within Prince George's County. The proceeds
15 of the collection of such tax shall be paid to the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning
16 Commission and shall be applied to the purposes set forth in Section 18-304(c) of the Land Use
17 Article.

18 SECTION 6. RECREATION TAX. Pursuant to Sections 18-302 and 18-306 of the Land
19 Use Article, there is hereby imposed and levied for the Fiscal Year 2022 a tax to support
20 recreational activities in the amount of seven and eighty hundredths cents (\$0.0780) upon each
21 one hundred dollars (\$100.00) of assessed valuation of real property and nineteen and forty-nine
22 and one-half hundredths cents (\$0.19495) upon each one hundred dollars (\$100.00) of assessed
23 valuation of personal property and operating real property described in Section 8-109 of the Tax-
24 Property Article subject to assessment and taxation by Prince George's County. The proceeds of
25 such tax shall be remitted to the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and
26 shall be applied to the purposes set forth in Section 18-306(d) of the Land Use Article.

27 SECTION 7. The County Council of Prince George's County hereby adopts the schedules
28 "Revenues as to Source" as set forth in Appendix A to this enactment and incorporates said
29 Appendix herein by this reference.

30 SECTION 8. OTHER POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (“OPEB”). The budget
31 reflects funding for the annual required contribution (“ARC”) and the pay-as-you-go amount to

1 prefund retiree medical costs.

2 SECTION 9. GRANT AND SPECIAL FUNDING. All grants and Land Reclamation
3 revenue received by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission shall be
4 considered as additions to, and automatic amendments of, the Commission's Operating and CIP
5 Budgets and work programs, provided that the Commission shall have advised the County
6 Council of such revenue at the time the revenue was being sought, whether by grant application
7 or by other applicable special funding application procedures. This section does not, in any way,
8 affect the process for legislative appropriation of tax revenue to the Commission.

9 SECTION 10. PARK ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT. The Prince George's
10 County portion of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission Fiscal Year
11 2022 Capital Budget is hereby adopted and shall consist of all previously approved park
12 acquisition and development projects (as revised) with appropriations in the budget year of the
13 Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission Fiscal Years 2022–2027 Capital
14 Improvement Program as such projects are included in the adopted Prince George's County
15 Fiscal Years 2022–2027 Capital Improvement Program and the new projects listed in Appendix
16 B, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein. As such, and pursuant to Section 18-109 of
17 the Land Use Article, as well as Section 10-112.32(d) of the Prince George's County Code, the
18 Council hereby states, as justification for that portion of the Maryland-National Capital Park and
19 Planning Commission Fiscal Year 2022 Capital Budget exceeding the Spending Affordability
20 Commission's recommended overall spending ceiling of \$59.18 million for capital projects by
21 approximately \$29.42 million, such additional appropriations are the result of updated costs for
22 projects underway; funding approved by the Maryland General Assembly; and increases to
23 support new projects for the benefit of the County.

24 SECTION 11. GUARANTEE OF PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST ON BONDS. Pursuant
25 to the provisions of Section 18-204 of the Land Use Article, the payment of the principal of and
26 interest on any and all bonds sold by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning
27 Commission, the proceeds of which are to be used to finance any of the projects adopted by
28 Section 10, are hereby guaranteed by the County as provided in Land Use Article. The guarantee
29 shall be in the form described by Section 18-204 of the Land Use Article and shall be endorsed
30 on the bonds on behalf of the County by the manual or facsimile signature of the County
31 Executive. The full faith and credit of the County is hereby irrevocably pledged to the

1 fulfillment of the guarantee of the payment of interest when due and the principal on maturity
2 and taxes will be levied in accordance with Sections 18-209, 18-302, 18-304(a), 18-304(b), 18-
3 304(c), and 18-304(e) of the Land Use Article, as necessary. The County Executive and the
4 Clerk of the Council are hereby authorized to take all necessary actions to adopt and record their
5 facsimile signatures and to execute all documents required for the sale of the bonds.

6 SECTION 12. PROJECT CHARGES AND PROGRAM SUPPORT. Any revenue from
7 Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (“M-NCPPC”) funds used for project
8 charges or program support of County programs shall be based on quarterly invoices submitted
9 by the County to M-NCPPC or such other methods as the County and M-NCPPC shall mutually
10 agree upon.


11 SECTION 13. NON-DEPARTMENTAL – TAX SUPPORTED FUNDING. The
12 Commission is hereby authorized to distribute non-departmental compensation funding to the
13 applicable departments and divisions in accordance with ratified collective bargaining
14 agreements and which does not exceed the amount proposed in the FY 2022 budget.

15 SECTION 14. SEVERABILITY. If the application of this Act or any section, subsection,
16 sentence, clause, phrase, or portion thereof, as it applies in any circumstances, case, or instance
17 to any person, firm, or corporation is, for any reason, found or held to be invalid or
18 unconstitutional by any Court of competent jurisdiction, then such section, subsection, sentence,
19 clause, phrase, or portion and application thereof to such circumstances, case or instance as to
20 any person, firm or corporation, shall be deemed a separate, distinct, and independent act,
21 finding, or holding, and such act, finding or holding shall not affect the validity and application
22 of the remaining portions thereof or the particular portion as it affects other persons, firms, or
23 corporations.

SECTION 14. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act shall take effect July 1, 2021.

Adopted this 27th day of May, 2021.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: 

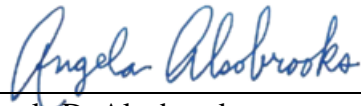
Calvin S. Hawkins, II
Chair

ATTEST:



Donna J. Brown
Clerk of the Council

APPROVED:

DATE: May 28, 2021 BY: 

Angela D. Alsobrooks
County Executive

Note: See Appendices A & B

ADMINISTRATION FUND

	PROPOSED FY 2022	NET ADJUSTMENTS	ADOPTED FY 2022
REVENUE AS TO SOURCE:			
Property Taxes	\$62,546,900	\$91,900	\$62,638,800
Service Charges and Sales	625,000	-	625,000
Non-Grant Permit Fee	55,000	-	55,000
PGC PILOT	192,517	-	192,517
Interest	1,000,000	-	1,000,000
Miscellaneous Revenue	0	-	0
Designated Fund Balance	<u>(5,258,504)</u>	<u>2,446,074</u>	<u>(2,812,430)</u>
TOTAL REVENUES	\$59,160,913	\$2,537,974	\$61,698,887
Real Assessable Base (in Billions)	102.847	0.060	102.907
Pers & Oper. Real Assess Base (in Billions)	3.177	0.042	3.219
Real Property Tax Rate (in cents)	5.66	0.00	5.66
Pers & Oper. Real Tax Rate (in cents)	14.15	0.00	14.15
EXPENDITURE SUMMARY:			
Commissioners' Office	\$3,487,679	\$150,000	\$3,637,679
Planning Department	39,720,886	1,960,145	41,681,031
Human Resources & Management	3,372,429	(34,035)	3,338,394
Finance Department	2,945,326	(40,883)	2,904,443
Legal Department	1,361,563	-	1,361,563
Office of Inspector General	364,718	-	364,718
Corporate IT	1,200,296	(24,139)	1,176,157
CAS Support Services	865,002	(72,488)	792,514
Merit System Board	83,426	(2,345)	81,081
Non-Departmental	3,059,588	335,119	3,394,707
Transfer to Capital Projects Fund	30,000	-	30,000
Reserve	<u>2,670,000</u>	<u>266,600</u>	<u>2,936,600</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$59,160,913	\$2,537,974	\$61,698,887

**ADMINISTRATION FUND
REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE ADJUSTMENT SUMMARY**

REVENUES

• Increase property tax revenue as a result of an increase in the assessable base estimates, based on March 2021 State Department of Assessment and Taxation (SDAT) Reports.	\$91,900
• Increase/Decrease Designated Fund Balance needed to bring the Fund's revenues and expenditures back into balance.	2,446,074
TOTAL	\$2,537,974

EXPENDITURES

• Decrease CAS Department expenditures per bi-county fiscal constraints	(\$173,890)
• Increase Planning Department expenditures for one new term contract position	\$110,145
• Increase Planning Department, per Council request, to enhance annual workplan by increasing the pace of comprehensive planning	\$2,000,000
• Increase Non-Departmental expenditures (increase reclass marker) due to acceleration of planner series position review and reclassification	\$335,119
• To adjust reserve level in accordance with the Commission's policy of maintaining a reserve balance that is at least 5% of the Fund's operating expenditures.	266,600
TOTAL	\$2,537,974

Approved FY 2022 Administration Fund **\$61,698,887**

Additional Work Programs & Funding Adjustments

Divisions	Proposed FY 2022	Adjustments	Revised FY 2022	Description
Director's Office	1,852,950	110,145	1,963,095	Increased Personnel Services for new term contract position to further Managed Lanes and MagLev studies
Management Services	3,061,457	176,478	3,237,935	Increased Personnel Services for two (2) new positions to enhance annual workplan
Development Review	6,591,311	124,083	6,715,394	Increased Personnel Services for one (1) new position to enhance annual workplan
Community Planning	5,454,091	1,460,100	6,914,191	Increased Personnel Services for four (4) new positions and professional services to enhance annual workplan
Information Management	6,830,133	-	6,830,133	
Countywide Planning	9,128,820	239,339	9,368,159	Increased Personnel Services for two (2) new positions to enhance annual workplan
Support Services	6,802,124	(150,000)	6,652,124	Reallocated Council Planning position project charge to Commissioners' Office
Grants	-	-	-	
Transfer to Capital Projects Fund	30,000	-	30,000	
Total Planning Dept. Activities	\$ 39,750,886	\$ 1,960,145	\$ 41,711,031	

RECREATION FUND

	PROPOSED FY 2022	NET ADJUSTMENTS	ADOPTED FY 2022
REVENUE AS TO SOURCE:			
Property Taxes	\$89,169,100	\$131,000	\$89,300,100
Intergovernmental	\$265,306	-	\$265,306
Sales/User Fees	7,442,386	-	\$7,442,386
Interest - Operating	1,000,000	-	\$1,000,000
Rentals/Concessions	997,448	-	\$997,448
Miscellaneous Revenue	78,320	-	78,320
Designated Fund Balance	<u>3,467,315</u>	<u>360,083</u>	<u>3,827,398</u>
TOTAL REVENUES	\$102,419,875	\$491,083	\$102,910,958
Real Assessable Base (in Billions)	106.412	0.062	106.474
Pers & Oper. Real Assess Base (in Billions)	3.287	0.044	3.331
Real Property Tax Rate (in cents)	7.80	0.00	7.80
Pers & Oper. Real Tax Rate (in cents)	19.50	0.00	19.50
EXPENDITURE SUMMARY:			
Operating Divisions	\$71,086,913	-	\$71,086,913
Non-Departmental	6,249,565	127,500	6,377,065
Transfer to Enterprise Fund	10,682,497	340,183	11,022,680
Transfer to Capital Projects Fund	10,000,000	-	10,000,000
Reserve	<u>4,400,900</u>	<u>23,400</u>	<u>4,424,300</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$102,419,875	\$491,083	\$102,910,958

**RECREATION FUND
REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE ADJUSTMENT SUMMARY**

REVENUES

• Increase property tax revenue as a result of an increase in the assessable base estimates, based on March 2021 State Department of Assessment and Taxation (SDAT) Reports.	\$131,000
• Decrease Designated Fund Balance needed to bring the Fund's revenues and expenditures back into balance.	\$360,083
TOTAL	\$491,083

EXPENDITURES

• Adjust project charges per County Council	\$127,500
• Increase Transfer to Enterprise Fund for Bladensburg Marina	\$340,183
• To adjust reserve level in accordance with the Commission's policy of maintaining a reserve balance that is at least 5% of the Fund's operating expenditures.	\$23,400
TOTAL	\$491,083

Approved FY 2022 Recreation Fund \$102,910,958

PARK FUND

	PROPOSED FY 2022	NET ADJUSTMENTS	ADOPTED FY 2022
REVENUE AS TO SOURCE:			
Property Taxes	\$170,630,100	\$250,400	\$170,880,500
Intergovernmental	\$542,177	-	\$542,177
Sales/Service Charges	76,100	(5,200)	70,900
Interest - Operating	2,000,000	-	2,000,000
Transfer from Capital Projects Fund	1,000,000	-	1,000,000
Rentals/Concessions	2,052,335	(46,000)	2,006,335
Miscellaneous Revenue	623,500	(10,000)	613,500
Designated Fund Balance	<u>3,479,667</u>	<u>(354,758)</u>	<u>3,124,909</u>
TOTAL REVENUES	\$180,403,879	(\$165,558)	\$180,238,321
Real Assessable Base (in Billions)	99.601	0.058	99.659
Pers & Oper. Real Assess Base (in Billions)	3.077	0.040	3.117
Real Property Tax Rate (in cents)	15.94	0.00	15.94
Pers & Oper. Real Tax Rate (in cents)	39.85	0.00	39.85
EXPENDITURE SUMMARY:			
Operating Divisions	\$123,245,627	(\$270,158)	\$122,975,469
Non-Departmental	8,935,875	112,500	9,048,375
Transfer to Debt Service Fund	13,063,277		13,063,277
Transfer to Capital Projects Fund	28,550,000		28,550,000
Reserve	<u>6,609,100</u>	<u>(7,900)</u>	<u>6,601,200</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$180,403,879	(\$165,558)	\$180,238,321

PARK FUND
REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE ADJUSTMENT SUMMARY

REVENUES

• Increase property tax revenue as a result of an increase in the assessable base estimates, based on March 2021 State Department of Assessment and Taxation (SDAT) Reports.	\$250,400
• Decrease operating revenues associated with Bladensburg Mariana; transferred to the Enterprise Fund.	(61,200)
• Decrease Designated Fund Balance needed to bring the Fund's revenues and expenditures back into balance.	(\$354,758)
TOTAL	(\$165,558)

EXPENDITURES

• Adjust project charges per County Council	\$112,500
• Decrease operating expenditures associated with Bladensburg Marina; transferred to the Enterprise Fund	(\$401,383)
• Increase Support Services Support Services for continuation of rental of EOB office space for the ITC Division.	\$131,225
• To adjust reserve level in accordance with the Commission's policy of maintaining a reserve balance that is at least 5% of the Fund's operating expenditures.	(\$7,900)
TOTAL	(\$165,558)

Approved FY 2022 Park Fund **\$180,238,321**

ENTERPRISE FUND

	PROPOSED FY 2022	NET ADJUSTMENTS	ADOPTED FY 2022
REVENUE AS TO SOURCE:			
Transfers/Subsidies	\$10,682,497	\$340,183	\$11,022,680
Fees and Charges	4,387,600	5,200	4,392,800
Concessions/Rentals	2,250,960	46,000	2,296,960
Merchandise Sales	1,960,000	-	1,960,000
Interest	200,000	-	200,000
Miscellaneous Revenue	<u>0</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>10,000</u>
TOTAL REVENUES	\$19,481,057	\$401,383	\$19,882,440
EXPENDITURE SUMMARY:			
Personnel Services	\$12,248,545	\$226,383	\$12,474,928
Other Services and Charges	3,750,815	95,400	3,846,215
Supplies and Materials	1,552,030	79,600	1,631,630
Goods for Resale	1,376,304	-	1,376,304
Chargebacks (Alloc.)	281,563	-	281,563
Capital Outlay	<u>271,800</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>271,800</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$19,481,057	\$401,383	\$19,882,440
Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	\$0	\$0	\$0

ADVANCE LAND ACQUISITION DEBT SERVICE FUND

	PROPOSED FY 2022	NET ADJUSTMENTS	ADOPTED FY 2022
REVENUE AS TO SOURCE:			
Property Taxes	\$0	\$0	\$0
Prior Year Fund Balance	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL REVENUES	\$0	\$0	\$0
Real Assessable Base (in Billions)	106.412	0.062	106.474
Pers & Oper. Real Assess Base (in Billions)	3.287	0.044	3.331
Real Property Tax Rate (in cents)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pers & Oper. Real Tax Rate (in cents)	0.00	0.00	0.00
EXPENDITURE SUMMARY:			
Debt Service	0	0	0
Contribution to Revolving Fund	0	0	0
Administrative Expenses	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$0	\$0	\$0

ADVANCE LAND ACQUISITION REVOLVING FUND

	PROPOSED FY 2022	NET ADJUSTMENTS	ADOPTED FY 2022
REVENUE AS TO SOURCE:			
Interest on Investments	\$0	\$0	\$0
Contribution from Debt Service Fund	0	0	0
Fund Balance	<u>304,715</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>304,715</u>
TOTAL REVENUES	\$304,715	\$0	\$304,715
EXPENDITURE SUMMARY:			
Land Purchases	\$304,715	\$0	\$304,715
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$304,715	\$0	\$304,715

PARK DEBT SERVICE FUND

	PROPOSED FY 2022	NET ADJUSTMENTS	ADOPTED FY 2022
REVENUE AS TO SOURCE:			
Transfer from Park Fund	\$13,063,277	\$0	\$13,063,277
Premiums on Bonds Issued	\$225,000		\$225,000
TOTAL REVENUES	\$13,288,277	\$0	\$13,288,277
EXPENDITURE SUMMARY:			
Debt Service	\$13,288,277	\$0	\$13,288,277
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$13,288,277	\$0	\$13,288,277

SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

	PROPOSED FY 2022	NET ADJUSTMENTS	ADOPTED FY 2022
REVENUE AS TO SOURCE:			
Rentals/Concessions	\$786,618	\$0	\$786,618
Sales	73,600	0	73,600
Fees	4,731,769	0	4,731,769
Interest	105,500	0	105,500
Other Revenues	157,218	0	157,218
Intergovernmental	950,000	0	950,000
Appropriated Fund Balance	<u>14,500</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>14,500</u>
TOTAL REVENUES	\$6,819,205	\$0	\$6,819,205
EXPENDITURE SUMMARY:			
Personnel Services	\$4,210,160	\$0	\$4,210,160
Supplies and Materials	1,154,405	0	1,154,405
Other Services & Charges	1,284,656	0	1,284,656
Capital Outlay	24,100	0	24,100
Chargebacks	145,884	0	145,884
Transfer to Capital Projects Fund	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$6,819,205	\$0	\$6,819,205

OTHER FUNDS

	PROPOSED FY 2022	NET ADJUSTMENTS	ADOPTED FY 2022
REVENUE AS TO SOURCE:			
Risk Management Internal Service Fund	\$4,754,100	\$0	\$4,754,100
Capital Equipment Internal Service Fund	166,250	0	166,250
CIO & IT Initiatives Internal Service Fund	<u>3,715,956</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3,715,956</u>
TOTAL REVENUES	\$8,636,306	\$0	\$8,636,306
 EXPENDITURE SUMMARY:			
Risk Management Internal Service Fund	\$5,081,313	\$0	\$5,081,313
Capital Equipment Internal Service Fund	153,804	0	153,804
CIO & IT Initiatives Internal Service Fund	<u>3,609,371</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3,609,371</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$8,844,488	\$0	\$8,844,488

PROJECT CHARGES & PROGRAM SUPPORT

The following transfers and program support items are included in the budgets of the respective funds, and should be targeted in the proposed budget to the programs and facilities specified below.

	PROPOSED FY 2022	NET ADJUSTMENTS	ADOPTED FY 2022
Administration Fund			
<u>Commissioners' Office:</u>			
Council Planning & Zoning Function	\$1,137,300	\$150,000	\$1,287,300
Total - Commissioners' Office	\$1,137,300	\$150,000	\$1,287,300
<u>Planning Department:</u>			
Council Planning Position	\$150,000	(\$150,000)	\$0
People's Zoning Counsel	250,000		250,000
Zoning Enforcement Unit	1,537,099		1,537,099
Water & Sewer Planning Unit	155,300		155,300
GIS Program	340,500		340,500
Tax Collection Fee	34,400		34,400
Economic Development Corp	65,000		65,000
DPIE Permits & Inspections	376,200		376,200
DPW&T Engineering, Inspect & Permits	205,600		205,600
Redevelopment Authority	544,000		544,000
EDC General Plan Goals	250,400		250,400
Total - Planning Department	\$3,908,499	(\$150,000)	\$3,758,499
Total - Administration Fund	\$5,045,799	\$0	\$5,045,799
Park Fund			
City of Bowie, Allen Pond Maintenance	\$115,000		\$115,000
Huntington City Community Development Corporation	0	112,500	112,500
Patuxent River 4-H Center Foundation, Inc	34,300		34,300
Earth Reports, Inc (DBA Patuxent Riverkeepers)	15,000		15,000
PGCC - Park Police/Security/Pool	300,000		300,000
Total - Park Fund	\$464,300	\$112,500	\$576,800
Recreation Fund			
100 Black Men of Prince George's County, Inc	\$25,000		\$25,000
World Arts Focus, Inc	98,000		98,000
Allentown Boys' and Girls' Club, Inc	10,000		10,000
Alliance for Innovation in Education, Inc	0	15,000	15,000
Anacostia Trails Heritage Area, Inc	40,000		40,000
Anacostia Watershed Society, Inc	50,000	20,000	70,000
Art Works Studio School, Inc	35,000		35,000
Beltsville-Adelphi Boys and Girls Club, Inc	7,500		7,500
Camp Springs Boys' and Girls' Club, Inc	10,000	(10,000)	0
Cherry Lane Boxing and Youth Fitness, Inc	10,000		10,000
City of College Park - Recreational Programming	50,000		50,000
City of College Park, Youth & Family Services	30,000		30,000
City of Greenbelt, After School Arts	15,000		15,000
City of Greenbelt, Recreation Services	70,000		70,000
City of Greenbelt, Therapeutic Program	15,000		15,000
City of Hyattsville (Recreation Services)	19,000		19,000
City of Laurel Parks Department	10,000		10,000
City of Laurel Senior Services	55,000		55,000
City of Laurel, Anderson & Murphy CC	22,000		22,000
Clinton Boys and Girls Club, Inc	0	10,000	10,000
Coalition For African Americans In The Performing Arts Incorporated	20,000		20,000
College Park Arts Exchange, Inc	5,000		5,000
College Park Boys and Girls Club, Inc	7,500	(7,500)	0
Forestville Boys and Girls Club of Prince George's County Maryland, Inc	25,000	10,000	35,000
Fort Washington Area Recreation Council, Inc	10,000	(10,000)	0
Fort Washington Pool Association, Inc	0	10,000	10,000
Gateway Community Development Corporation (previously listed as Gateway Arts Program)	45,000		45,000
Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital	10,000		10,000

PROJECT CHARGES & PROGRAM SUPPORT, cont'd

	PROPOSED FY 2022	NET ADJUSTMENTS	ADOPTED FY 2022
Recreation Fund			
Glenarden-Ardmore Boys and Girls Club, Inc	15,000	5,000	20,000
Glenarden Track Club, Inc	20,000		20,000
The Global Air Drone Academy, Inc	0	15,000	15,000
Greater Laurel United Soccer Club, Inc	5,000		5,000
Greenbelt Aquatics & Fitness Center	110,000		110,000
Greenbelt Community Center	50,000		50,000
The Ivy Community Charities of Prince George's County, Inc	10,000		10,000
Junior Achievement of Greater Washington	20,000		20,000
Kentland Boxing Association Inc	5,000		5,000
Kettering-Largo- Mitchellville Boys & Girls Club, Inc	20,000	10,000	30,000
Lake Arbor Foundation, Inc	175,000		175,000
Lanham Boys and Girls Club	25,000		25,000
Latin American Youth Center, Inc	40,000		40,000
Laurel Boys & Girls Club, Inc	50,000	5,000	55,000
Laurel Historical Society, Inc	22,500	7,500	30,000
Laurel Little League, Inc	5,000		5,000
Laurel Stallions	5,000	(5,000)	0
Making a New United People, Inc	25,000		25,000
Maryland Cheer Chargers	10,000	(10,000)	0
Maryland Buccaneers Youth Club Co	0	10,000	10,000
Marlboro Boys' and Girls' Club, Inc	0	10,000	10,000
Mentoring Through Athletics Inc	0	10,000	10,000
Millwood-Waterford Citizens Association, Inc	10,000		10,000
Oxon Hill Boys and Girls Club, Inc	7,500	2,500	10,000
Oxon Hill High School Instrumental Music Department Boosters, Inc	0	15,000	15,000
Oxon Hill Recreation Club Inc	0	15,000	15,000
Palmer Park/Landover Boys and Girls, Inc	20,000		20,000
Palmer Park Smash Corporation	10,000		10,000
PGCC - Outreach, Facilities, etc	300,000		300,000
PGCC Team Builders Program	100,000		100,000
Pi Upsilon Lambda Charitable Foundation Inc	3,750		3,750
Prince George's African-American Museum and Cultural Center at North Brentwood, Inc	25,000		25,000
Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council, Inc	120,000		120,000
Prince George's Philharmonic, Inc	100,000		100,000
Prince George's Pride Lacrosse, Inc	25,000		25,000
Prince George's Tennis and Education Foundation, Inc	30,000		30,000
Prince George's Youth Lacrosse	25,000	(25,000)	0
Pyramid Atlantic Inc	30,000		30,000
SAFE0 Incorporated A/K/A Student Athletes For Educational Opportunities	10,000	10,000	20,000
Tantallon Community Players, Inc	0	15,000	15,000
Theresa Banks Swim Club, Inc	20,000		20,000
The Training Source, Inc (previously listed as Seat Pleasant Leadership Development Program)	85,000		85,000
University of Maryland Cooperative Extension Service (4H)	208,600		208,600
White Rose Foundation, Inc	10,000		10,000
World Wide Community, Inc	25,000		25,000
In Reach, Incorporated	50,000		50,000
Youth Services Programming, City of Laurel	30,000		30,000
End Time Harvest Ministries, Inc (previously listed as Youth Wellness Leadership Institute)	50,000		50,000
Total - Recreation Fund	\$2,601,350	\$127,500	\$2,728,850
Total - All Tax Supported Funds	\$8,111,449	\$240,000	\$8,351,449

Approved FY22 - FY27 CIP (\$000)		FY22 Funding Source											
			1	2	3	4	5						
SBP Project ID	PROJECT NAME	TOTAL FY22	FY22 Funding Source POS	FY22 Funding Source PAYGO	FY22 Funding Source BOND	FY22 Funding Source GRANTS	FY22 Funding Source DEV/ OTH	TOTAL FY23	TOTAL FY24	TOTAL FY25	TOTAL FY26	TOTAL FY27	6 YR Total
4.99.0222	Countywide Local Park Acquisition	4,402	3,402		1,000			1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	9,402
4.99.0227	Historic Agricultural Resources Preservation	1,000		1,000				1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	6,000
4.99.0239	Regional/Stream Valley Park Acquisition	4,402	3,402		1,000			1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	9,402
4.99.0218	Aquatic Infrastructure Maintenance Fund	0						1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	5,000
4.99.0219	Arts in Public Spaces	250		250				250	250	250	250	250	1,500
4.99.0262	Boat Landings	175		175				-	-	-	-	-	175
4.99.0030	Central Avenue Connector Trail	19,000		7,500		11,500		-	-	-	-	-	19,000
4.99.0046	Deerfield Run Community Center	11,100		5,000	6,100			-	-	-	-	-	11,100
4.99.0056	Fairland Renovation	2,000			2,000			-	-	-	-	-	2,000
4.99.0225	Geographical Information Systems	30					30	-	-	-	-	-	30
4.99.0067	Glenn Dale Hospital Site	2,000		2,000				-	-	-	-	-	2,000
4.99.0192	Henson Creek Golf Course Plan and Renovation	200				200		-	-	-	-	-	200
4.99.0076	Herbert Wells Ice Skating Center - Rink Enclosure	1,500		1,500				-	-	-	-	-	1,500
4.99.0078	Heurich Park - Turf Field Replacement	650			650			-	-	-	-	-	650
4.99.0228	Historic Property Preservation Fund	0						1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	5,000
4.99.0230	Infrastructure Improvement Fund	7,000		7,000				6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	37,000
4.99.0265	Oxon Run Trail - Rehab & Extension in Forest Heights	200		200				-	-	-	-	-	200
4.99.0119	Peace Cross Historic Site	800		480		320		-	-	-	-	-	800
4.99.0236	Playground Equipment Replacement	3,000		3,000				2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	13,000
4.99.0200	Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex - Field House Track Replacement	0						1,000	-	-	-	-	1,000
4.99.0128	Prince George's Sports and Learning Complex Aquatics	1,500		1,500				-	-	-	-	-	1,500
4.99.0131	Prince George's Sports and Learning Complex lights on throwing fields	0						400	-	-	-	-	400
4.99.0134	Prince George's Sports and Learning Complex turf field replacement	650		650				-	-	-	-	-	650
4.99.0260	Prince George's Stadium	2,000			1,500	500		-	-	-	-	-	2,000
4.99.0238	Recreation Facility Planning	1,500		1,500				5,800	14,000	14,000	14,750	14,750	64,800
4.99.0149	Rollingcrest/Chillum Community Center	3,000		3,000				-	-	-	-	-	3,000
4.99.0155	Show Place Area - Banquet and Suite Renovation	0						300	-	-	-	-	300
4.99.0163	Storm Water Infrastructure - Prince George's Sports and Learning Complex	1,795		445	1,350			-	-	-	-	-	1,795
4.99.0245	Stream Restoration / SWM Retrofit	1,000		1,000				1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	6,000
4.99.0248	Trail Development Fund	1,000		1,000				1,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	10,000
4.99.0175	Walker Mill Regional Park - North	2,000			2,000			6,000	-	-	-	-	8,000
4.99.0181	Westphalia Central Park	2,000					2,000	-	-	-	-	-	2,000
4.99.0213	Wilmer's Park - Master Plan	0						-	-	750	-	-	750
4.99.0267	Amphitheater Design and Construction	11,000				11,000		-	-	-	-	-	11,000
4.99.0268	Lake Arbor Golf Course	1,000				1,000		-	-	-	-	-	1,000
4.99.0271	Gunpowder Golf Course	200		200				100	-	-	-	-	300
4.99.0272	Dueling Creek Heritage Trail	150		150				500	-	-	-	-	650

Approved FY22 - FY27 CIP (\$000)		FY22 Funding Source											
			1	2	3	4	5						
SBP Project ID	PROJECT NAME	TOTAL FY22	FY22 Funding Source POS	FY22 Funding Source PAYGO	FY22 Funding Source BOND	FY22 Funding Source GRANTS	FY22 Funding Source DEV/ OTH	TOTAL FY23	TOTAL FY24	TOTAL FY25	TOTAL FY26	TOTAL FY27	6 YR Total
4.99.0273	Riverdale Hiker/Biker Trail	1,000				1,000		-	-	-	-	-	1,000
4.99.0275	Tucker Road Ice Rink - Marquee	100				100		-	-	-	-	-	100
4.99.0274	Cosca Regional Park - Master Plan Implementation	0						4,500	-	-	-	-	4,500
4.99.0276	Amphitheater Operations	0						-	-	-	-	-	0
4.99.0277	Henson Creek Trail and Stream Restoration	0						4,000	-	-	-	-	4,000
4.99.0278	Glenn Dale Hospital Area Master Park Development Plan	1,000		1,000				-	-	-	-	-	1,000
	Total	88,603	6,803	38,550	15,600	25,620	2,030	37,850	30,250	31,000	31,000	31,000	249,703

questions regarding HB 1057- Darilyn Marinelli.pdf

Uploaded by: DARILYN MARINELLI

Position: UNF

To: Environment and Transportation Committee members

Subject: HB 1057

Date: March 4, 2022

House Bill 1057 (HB 1057) has great implications for the Prince George's County residents and stakeholders!

There are so many questions that need to be answered prior to this bill moving forward.

- Why is the County attempting to expedite this bill without letting people know in advance nor conducting public hearings?
- Why was this a late filed bill yet some select special interest group for elite sports had sufficient time to plan in advance a video, website and witnesses?
- Why was recreation not listed as a legislative priority in the 2022 Legislative Priorities brochure the County published on Jan. 13, 2022, and yet the bill was introduced within the next couple of weeks?
- Why is creating a Recreation Authority under the County better than M-NCPPC, the current Nationally recognized gold medal award winning Parks and Recreation Department?
- Why is the entity of a Recreation Authority deeming a best practice when there is no data that supports these being successful in parks and recreation?
- Why are the voices of the elite athletes and the private backers more important than the community at large and those that patronize the M-NCPPC Department of Parks and Recreation?
- Why has there been no study of the fiscal impacts of moving the Recreation fund to the county to ensure that property taxes will not be raised due to this action?
- Why is the Work Group comprised almost entirely of elected officials?
- Why did County Executive Alsobrooks hold a press conference on February 28 regarding youth violence and include many youth stakeholders except for M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation?

- With all the needs that exist in the County (i.e. food deserts, violent crime, schools, health disparities, homelessness, housing affordability) why is the creation of this Recreation Authority considered an emergency?

M-NCPPC, Dept. of Parks and Recreation received funding approval for a Youth Sports Division in 2020. Even amidst a once in a lifetime pandemic, the Division was formed and has undertaken the process of developing a Youth Sports Strategic Plan. They invited the entire Prince George's County community to take part in the strategic planning process by adding their voice to the conversation, taking online surveys, and contribute ideas directly through our virtual engagement platform, Social Pinpoint. Their strategic planning process is very comprehensive.

Visit <https://www.pgparks.com/4990/Youth-Sports>

GAME ON: YOUTH SPORTS STRATEGIC PLAN FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

Prince George's County has a proud legacy of youth sports. We are committed to creating even more opportunities to empower our young people. Through 2020–2021, the newly created Youth and Countywide Sports Division is developing a Youth Sports Strategic Plan to create new programs and strengthen existing ones while improving facilities for the next generation. To grow together, we need input from everyone – youth, adults, families, coaches, athletes, and community leaders. Game On!

Did the proponents of elite sports take the time to provide input to the Dept. of Parks and Recreation Youth Sports Strategic Plan? If not, why not? Have elected officials taken the time to look at the current Youth Sports Strategic Plan that is underway? If not, why not? Any identified deficiencies in youth sports programs should be addressed through the strategic plan. The Strategic Plan underway should be given sufficient time to be finalized and implemented.

In summary, HB 1057 is premature and should be stopped in committee. The Prince George's County community deserves answers to these questions and more!

Sincerely,

Darilyn Marinelli

HB 1057 Letter to Chair Kumar P. Barve (2).pdf

Uploaded by: Debbie Tyner

Position: UNF

March 3, 2022

Chair Kumar P. Barve, District 17

Taylor House Office Building, Room 251

6 Bladen Street

Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Kumar P. Barve,

I have been a resident of Prince George's County for more than 60 years and have enjoyed the benefit of working with the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission's Department of Parks and Recreation for 35 of those years until my retirement in July 2020. As a resident of the 23rd Legislative District (Upper Marlboro), **I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 1057.**

Transparency was lacking from the start when this late filed bill was hastily heard and approved by the full Delegation in less than a week with insufficient review and input from community and stakeholders. It appeared that the only community and stakeholders who knew about the hearing were members of "Team Takeover" who were responsible for producing the video which was shown at the beginning of the hearing on February 7th. I found it quite alarming that all but one of the speakers was in support of HB 1057. The one speaker who was opposed to the bill was the last speaker to be heard and expressed that had it not been for the assistance of a Delegate, her testimony may not have been heard.

If HB-1057 is passed it will establish the Prince George's County Recreation Authority and Blue Ribbon Workgroup to make legal, policy, and fiscal recommendations on HOW to transfer existing recreation programs and personnel to the County. In a nutshell, this is nothing more than a bold attempt to dismantle the Department of Parks and Recreation by moving the Sports, Arts, Youth & Teens, and Senior programs and its employees to the County.

My question is: What statistical data does the County have to support its ability to manage these programs and staff more efficiently and effectively than the Commission? Given its nationally acclaimed recognition as a Six Time National Gold Medal Award Winning Agency for excellence in parks and recreation management, there's no question that the Commission is doing a commendable job in the eyes of many. If there are changes that need to be made to programs and service delivery, then the "Commission" should be given an opportunity to meet with residents and stakeholders and determine just what those changes are and how they can best be implemented.

If not stopped, the impact of this bill may have grave repercussions on the way Prince Georgians continue to receive programs and services as we have come to know them. Let's not forget that the

dedicated staff of the Department of Parks and Recreation are stakeholders too. They work hard to provide a diverse program offering for residents to enjoy. We owe it to them to have a voice in a decision that will ultimately impact how they deliver services, as well as their own livelihood.

I urge you to VOTE NO to moving HB 1057 forward! Thank you in advance for giving consideration to my request.

Respectfully,

Debbie Tyner

Ddebbiekay1126@verizon.net

(301)580-3196 cell

writtentestimony.pdf

Uploaded by: emily rose

Position: UNF

March 4, 2022

Del. Kumar Barve, Chair

Environment and Transportation Committee

Maryland House of Delegates

Dear Del. Barve:

I am a Resident of the 26th Legislative District (Fort Washington) and am writing in opposition to HB1057 (PG406-22) that has been voted into the Environment and Transportation Committee by the PG Delegation. HB 1057 will be heard on March 8, 2022 at 1pm and I am submitting this as written testimony for that hearing.

As you know, **HB 1057** will eliminate the Recreation Department as we know it in Prince George's County and create a "quasi private" Recreation Authority to be managed under the County's authority. I am deeply concerned about the threat of dismantling M-NCPPC, a nationally recognized Parks and Recreation Department to create an organization in its place that will be: 1) less effective than M-NCPPC, 2) focused on only one special interest group's needs, 3) not based on best practices in parks and recreation and 4) hastily and surreptitiously created with little hope for long term sustainable success.

Here are my questions and concerns:

- This late filed bill was planned in advance since it had a video, website and witnesses. Why were M-NCPPC, the County Council and many delegates not briefed in advance? Why was the broader public not notified and only proponents of the Bill allowed/invited to testify?
- **PG-406-22/HB1057** has no provisions regarding public meeting or any community engagement. How will this be handled? The testimony was biased in favor of the Recreation Authority so what will ensure that the interests of people satisfied with M-NCPPC will be incorporated?
- The stated or implied expectation is that all or much of the current \$0.078 property tax rate will be transferred to the new Recreation Authority. These funds are currently used to run the community centers and recreation programs. Will property tax increases be necessary to fund the expansion of Youth Sports?
- While this bill increases services to the elite athlete, what programs and services to individuals with disabilities, seniors, youth, and the broader community will need to be eliminated to fund this special interest group's needs?
- What are the impacts to the current employees and retirees? It has been stated that nothing will change for them in terms of benefits but what studies have been done to evaluate HB1057's impact on the nearly 1200 Department employees and thousands of retirees?

- Why is the union (MCGEO) involved in such a major way when Recreation employees are not members of MCGEO with the exception of a small number of clerical (maybe 15) employees? Is the intent to make the Recreation Authority employees unionized? This would be an adverse impact for employees.
- The County Executive and County Council direct the work of the M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation through the Budget process and Planning Board. Where was the failure or break down of this system that necessitated such an intervention as this?

I have lived in Prince George's County since 1962. I attended public school in the County, graduated from University of Maryland-College Park, had a successful career in the County, and was married and raised my family here. I LOVE my life here in Prince George's. But that does not mean that I am satisfied with all aspects of living here. **We do not have sufficient shopping and dining opportunities, our County services sometimes fall short in meeting the timely needs of me and my neighbors, violent crime is on the rise, and we don't feel safe after dark. The County schools are underachieving and ranked near the lowest in the State.** Of all the areas needing elected officials' attention, the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission does not even make my Top Ten. This Gold Medal award-winning, nationally accredited Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for beautiful green and open space and a cleaner environment. For wellness opportunities, trails, classes and fitness areas. For a Park Police force that supports County law enforcement and makes communities safer. For Workforce Development and hiring the second largest number of young people (pre-covid) in the County. It is not a perfect organization, but the positives clearly outweigh the negatives and is not an organization in crisis as the emergency legislation suggests.

It is imperative that you review the impacts of this Bill and vote against it in Committee. The impacts of moving it forward will be felt beyond just the County. Nearly 2000 retirees/survivors/people on disability fear that their pensions will be adversely impacted by this Bill that is not well contemplated. Retirees live not only in the County, or in Maryland but all over the Country.

Please vote NO and allow this issue to come back to the County. There are other avenues available for the community and elected officials to address "failures" of the M-NCPPC, if they exist, that would include engaging the public in a well thought out, sustainable plan for the best of the future of Prince George's County.

I would appreciate a written response to this testimony. Thank you for your immediate attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Emily Rose, M-NCPPC Retiree

Ewrose57@gmail.com

HB 1057 testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Gul Guleryuz

Position: UNF

Dear Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

I strongly believe that HB 1057 is a recipe for disaster. The following are my reasons for objecting to this bill:

- Prince George's County already has one of the best recreation agencies in the country. The M-NCPPC Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) is the only six-time National Gold Medal Award winner for excellence in the field of park and recreation management in the nation. In addition, DPR has won numerous national, regional, and local prestigious awards. As these rewards demonstrate, DPR provides world class recreational services to the residents of the county.
- Why would anyone want to abolish a well-working agency that is run by top notch experts? Although M-NCPPC is not directly under the county government, practically, its work programs and budget are controlled by the county government. Any needed improvement or change can still be done as directed by the county government. To make improvements to better serve the county residents, there is absolutely no need for a new agency. Why ruin something good for the sake of creating "better", which most likely will end up being worse. We should not forget the saying "better is the enemy of good."
- Creating a new agency is always risky. Finding the right personnel to run the agency is the most difficult task. That is why the county government is talking about transferring the M-NCPPC staff to the new agency. So that they can use their expertise, which is most needed. This reminds me of the nightmare I personally went through in the early 2000s, when the county government established the Redevelopment Authority. In the mid-1990s, the County Executive Parris Glendening asked the M-NCPPC Prince George's County Planning Department to establish a Neighborhood Revitalization Division (NRD). NRD was established and created national award winning revitalization plans for underserved inner-Beltway communities. When Wayne Curry became the County Executive, he ordered the abolishment of this division and instead established a Redevelopment Authority (RA) to continue NRD's work. Since the county did not have the qualified staff to do the required work, they asked for the transfer of the M-NCPPC staff to RA. After painstaking negotiations, an MOU was signed, and over a dozen staff members were transferred to RA. I happened to be one of those staff members. Between 2000 and 2004, we worked for RA, but were treated like second class citizens by the county managers. As if this nightmare was not enough, in the fourth year, the county told M-NCPPC that it no longer wanted M-NCPPC staff but still needed M-NCPPC's financial support to run RA. The end result was us getting pink slips. M-NCPPC could not afford to keep us while still supporting RA. Thanks to the County Council who rescued us at the last minute. With the County Council's intervention, the deal between M-NCPPC and RA was renegotiated, and instead of an ongoing support, a one-time payment was given to RA and staff members who wanted to come back to M-

NCPPC were brought back. But in the meanwhile, several staff members found other jobs in other jurisdictions and left. A big loss for the county. This whole experience cost hundreds of thousands of dollars, if not millions. No "better" service was provided to the county residents. But I can say that lots of damage was done to some of the communities. Hundreds of families were displaced from their homes, beautiful and sturdy brick homes were demolished and a neighborhood we tried hard to revitalize had become and stayed a distressed area for more than a decade until flimsy new townhomes were built. My heart still goes to those displaced elderly people who lived in these homes almost all their lives and refused to go anywhere else. I am afraid the proposed Recreation Authority will replicate the Redevelopment Authority experience. But this time, instead of a dozen, hundreds of staff members will be affected. They will either be forced to go to the new agency, losing many benefits or quit or retire early. Is this the reward for their hard work over the years? Who can guarantee that the new agency will provide the same quality services for the residents of Prince George's County? How many families will be negatively impacted? And why, for what reason? Who will be the beneficiaries? Definitely, not me and my fellow retirees. Our pensions will more likely be cut and our benefit costs will increase. We will be the victims of this bill.

- Based on my 30 plus year experience, I can easily tell that there is only one reason behind this proposal: money. Look at the history, in the last 30 years, every new county executive attempted to abolish M-NCPPC. It is because of M-NCPPC's solid financial status due to being a well-run top notch entity. Every single time, the General Assembly refused M-NCPPC's abolishment, setting a precedent. The current County Executive proposed a creative way to get to M-NCPPC's revenues without repeating her predecessors' mistakes. With this proposed bill, the county government will be able to transfer M-NCPPC's monies to the county government. But, the end result of the removal of the recreation department will most likely be a reduction in quality of services at a greater cost to the taxpayers.

I urge you to consider the reasons mentioned above and act accordingly. The benefit of the general public, especially the underserved communities, should always be the number one priority. Secondly, the hardworking employees and retirees of M-NCPPC should not be penalized and put in financial hardship to fulfill the political agendas of county executives. We have already had enough of our share over the years by becoming victims of political agendas. In our golden years, it is our right to live a dignified life. We worked hard for decades under sometimes difficult conditions so that we could retire and obtain the wonderful benefits M-NCPPC provides. We retirees never expected that our retirement benefits would be jeopardized, and in our old age we would live in fear. This bill attempts to steal from the most vulnerable their future, security, and benefits.

Please do not waste our tax monies to make things worse. Any changes to improve the recreation services or the operations of DPR can still be authorized by the county

government without abolishing an excellent department. We do not need another less efficient and less effective new agency. We have already learned our lesson.

Please follow your predecessors who set a precedent and protected M-NCPPC from being ruined, and let the residents of Prince George's County continue to benefit from its superior recreational services. Please be sensitive to the needs of both the county residents and current and former M-NCPPC staff.

Please vote NO to HB 1057.

Respectfully,

Gül Güteryüz

HB1057_UNF_Fay

Uploaded by: Joan Fay

Position: UNF



March 3, 2022

Delegate Kumar P. Barve, Chairman of the Environment & Transportation Committee
Delegate Anne Healey, Member of the Environment & Transportation Committee
Delegate Marvin E. Holmes, Jr., Member of the Environment & Transportation Committee
Delegate Mary Lehman, Member of the Environment & Transportation Committee

Dear Committee Chair Barve, Delegate Healey, Delegate Holmes, and Delegate Lehman,

I am a tax paying resident of Prince George's County, as are the members of the Barnaby Manor Citizens Association, and I am sending this letter **to express opposition to HB 1057**. This bill is intended to dismantle the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission's Department of Parks and Recreation which will adversely impact the service delivery to our county residents. The lack of transparency and opportunity for community input raises great concern. This bill stands to impact the lives and livelihood of over 3,000 employees and retirees.

On behalf of the Barnaby Manor Citizens Association, I urge you to **VOTE NO to HB 1057!**

Respectfully,

Joan R. Fay
Corresponding Secretary, BMCA

HB1057 Baker Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Lindsey Baker

Position: UNF

March 4, 2022

Dear Delegate Kumar P. Barve and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

I am writing today in opposition to HB 1057 (PG 406-22), Prince George's County-Recreation Authority-Authorization. This is a late-filed bill that will establish the Prince George's County Recreation Authority and a Blue Ribbon Workgroup to make legal, policy, and fiscal recommendations on how to effectuate a transfer of existing recreation programs and personnel to the County.

It is my fear that this bill is intended to dismantle the M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation by moving the Sports, Arts, Youth, Teens, and Seniors programs and its employees to the County. There are many parts of M-NCPPC's work in our county, but I am most familiar with the PG Parks History division. The work of this division to expand the narratives included in the understanding of the history of Prince George's County has been intensely impactful over the years. The work of the museums in this division is held up as an example nationwide for how to work towards inclusive community engagement that strengthens communities. It is my concern that the impact of this bill could result in dismantling this important, necessary work for our community. I am very concerned that the bill seems to presume an outcome even before the first data point is considered.

I humbly request that you vote NO to HB1057. In lieu of creating a Recreation Authority, direct the County to collaborate with the M-NCPPC, do a full assessment of recreation services and programs and develop a strategic plan to address the current and changing needs of the citizens. Moving forward, community engagement at all levels of the process should be fundamental and a broader understanding of the full scope of M-NCPPC's work and the impact this change could have should be better understood.

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission opposes the current iteration of this bill. Please refer to Chairman Elizabeth Hewlett's letter and the Commission's Position Statement for more information regarding the Commission's opposition to HB 1057. Your support and involvement in the Parks and Recreation system in Prince George's has always made a tremendous difference.

Respectfully,
Lindsey Baker
15728 Ashland Drive
Laurel, MD 20707

HB 1057.pdf

Uploaded by: Nicole Lapoint

Position: UNF

03/03/2022

To whom it may concern,

My name is Nicole LaPoint and I have been a resident of Prince George's county for 24 years. I have two kids age 14 and 11 and I oppose bill HB 1057. I hear the benefits that a park and rec service would have on the community and I agree but we already have that service through MNCPPC and I see no reason to try to start over. I live on the southern side of the county which often misses out on many of the opportunities offered to the county. Thanks to MNCPPC my children over the years have had numerous opportunities afforded to them all in my budget. Starting as a teen mom that budget sometimes was close to nothing, MNCPPC was a resource that let my children have great experiences while I succeeded where many teen moms have not becoming self sufficient, a home owner and solidly middle class.

My children attended before and aftercare through MNCPPC for years, one of only two care options that serviced our rural school and the only affordable option. This is the only reason I was able to find gainful employment after my degree. My children loved going their and all the activities that were offered to them. My youngest daughter participated in prk through MNCPPC at a proportional rate to my income, prk would have been inaccessible to me otherwise. My oldest who is currently a freshman on the 1a/2a/3a varsity championship basketball team; found her love of basketball in the MNCPPC peewee league and continued playing with them, going to basketball camps, skills training, and developing her skills in the many gyms they have. At a cost of \$60 per season for team and free use of the gym for minors it was incomparable to the cost of the boys and girls club which starts at \$250 a season. Thanks to MNCPPC my children have also been exposed to many activities including dance, soccer, field trips and excursions, swimming lessons, sewing classes, art classes, summer camps, educational opportunities, various holiday activities, and a strong sense of community involvement. They consistently run into employees of MNCPPC over the various activities at different places who remember them and are invested in their development and growth. The summer playground program was another affordable lifesaver for summers while I work when the cost of childcare is so high.

MNCPPC has been an invaluable part of our everyday life and it would be a huge mistake to alter or take over this organization that already helps so many in the County.

Very respectfully,
Nicole LaPoint

MNCPPC Position Statement HB1057 - Prince George'

Uploaded by: Patricia Fenn

Position: UNF

POSITION STATEMENT

Bill: HB 1057 (PG 406-22) – Prince George’s County – Recreation Authority - Authorization

Position: Oppose **Date:** February 19, 2022

Contact: Adrian R. Gardner, General Counsel
Caleen Kufera, Assistant General Counsel

What The Bill Does: This bill would establish a work group to make legal, policy, and fiscal recommendations on how to effectuate a transfer of existing recreation programs and personnel from the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (the “Commission”) to a new County Recreation Authority (the “Authority”). It also authorizes the governing body of Prince George’s County to create such an Authority after the work group delivers its recommendations.

Why We Oppose: The Commission opposes the current iteration of this bill because it presumes an outcome even before the first data point is considered. While the agency supports the laudable goal of reimagining how to deliver the best recreational opportunities for everyone in Prince George’s County – and assuming for discussion that a study group is necessary – the appropriate inquiry should start with a recognition that survey data shows widespread support for the Commission’s facilities and recreation programs. Indeed, the Commission regularly evaluates the community’s program needs and a recent survey suggests that County households with a favorable opinion about the value of the Commission’s recreational services outnumber those with an unfavorable opinion by 6-to-1. Unless a work group examines the right questions, our professionals have serious concerns that support for elite sports might come at the expense of other sporting, cultural, social, or leisure-, history-, senior- and health-based recreational programs so many Prince Georgians have come to love and rely on. [Spring 2022 Prince George’s County Parks and Recreation Guide](#)

Necessary Amendments: Several key amendments are essential to make it feasible for the bill to produce a “good government” outcome.

First, the bill should expressly require the group to make a threshold assessment of relative costs and benefits – both the “pros and cons” – of creating a new business model or quasi-private entity to manage the extensive portfolio of public recreation in Prince George’s County. For example, although public ecosystem needs to support elite youth sports that can yield scholarships and professional opportunities, one such potential “con” which the work group must address is the national and local trend of private pay-to-play leagues that reportedly are “leading poor and even

Office of the General Counsel

221 Prince George Street, First Floor, Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410.263.1930 tel.

6611 Kenilworth Avenue, Suite 200, Riverdale, Maryland 20737
301.454.1670 tel.

middle-class families to hang up their cleats.” (See [Game over: Middle-class and poor kids are ditching youth sports](#), CBS News MoneyWatch, August 15, 2019, accessed February 17, 2022.).

Second, the work group composition is inadequate to lead a meaningful study. For example, the director of the Commission’s existing Department of Parks and Recreation is an essential voice to participate in the panel and their exclusion is a mistake. Similarly, the Commission supports a suggestion made by several County Council members to include additional representation for the Council or its staff. The work group should also include representatives from the Prince George’s County Public School System, Library Board and Community College – other public institutions that play an integral role in delivering a total recreational experience in Prince George’s County. Finally, the “recreation expert” proposed in an amendment adopted for the bill should be selected by the Executive Council of the [Maryland Recreation and Park Association \(MRPA\)](#), the impartial statewide organization of Maryland’s recreation and park professionals.

Third, the bill should also spell-out the appropriate qualifications for membership of a group for which “blue ribbon” acclaim is proposed. Regardless of their respective sources of appointment, each member should be appropriately credentialed, knowledgeable, and experienced in something pertinent to the group’s mission – recreation, public finance, government operations, quasi-public entities, etc.

Fourth, apart from our concerns about the proposed study, the bill also threatens our current retiree community and all the other existing retirement stakeholders. In this regard, it must eliminate any doubt that everyone’s benefits will be held harmless if any employee transfer actually ensues – not just those who ultimately transfer.

While it is impossible to predict the impact with any precision yet, transferring out a significant number of recreation personnel certainly will change the actuarial position of our agency’s pension and retiree health funds. That places taxpayers in both counties, our current employees and current retirees at risk of making up any shortfall – by more taxes, additional retiree costs, cutting benefits or a combination of all three. The General Assembly should expressly foreclose the possibility of unfairly shifting any actuarial deficiency either to the beneficiaries, who will rely on their earned pensions, or the taxpayer-bystanders.

Without appropriate amendments to address these core concerns, the Commission strongly opposes this bill and urges an unfavorable report.

#

ATTACHMENT: M-NCPPC Amendment Concept/Draft for Discussion (2/18/22)

BY:

(To be offered in the Prince George’s County House Delegation)

AMENDMENTS TO HB 1037

(First Reading Bill File)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 2, in line 26, strike “AND”.

On page 3, in line 1, after “CHIEF” insert “;

(8) THE DIRECTOR OF THE PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION, OR THE DIRECTOR’S DESIGNEE;

(9) ONE PUBLIC RECREATION EXPERT APPOINTED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE MARYLAND RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION (MRPA); AND

(10) ONE REPRESENTATIVE APPOINTED BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM; AND

(11) ONE REPRESENTATIVE APPOINTED BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY MEMORIAL LIBRARY SYSTEM; AND

(12) ONE REPRESENTATIVE APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE”;

after line 1, insert:

“(C) EACH MEMBER OF THE WORKGROUP SHALL BE QUALIFIED ON THE BASIS OF KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE IN A PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINE PERTINENT TO THE PURPOSE OF THE WORKGROUP INCLUDING:

- (1) PUBLIC RECREATION OPERATIONS;**
- (2) MANAGING ACTIVE AND PASSIVE CULTURE AND LEISURE PROGRAMS;**
- (3) ELITE YOUTH SPORTS;**
- (4) PUBLIC FINANCE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS;**
- (5) GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS;**
- (6) QUASI-PUBLIC ENTITIES; OR**
- (7) A FIELD OF COMPARABLE RELEVANCE TO DELIVERING PUBLIC RECREATION SERVICES.”;**

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 3, after line 4, insert:

“(1) THE POTENTIAL COSTS, BENEFITS, ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF TRANSFERRING THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR OPERATIONS OF THE EXISTING YOUTH SPORTS AND RECREATION FUNCTIONS FROM THE COMMISSION TO A RECREATION AUTHORITY CREATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 31-103 OF THIS TITLE”; and in lines 5, 8, 11, 12, and 15, strike “(1)”, “(2)”, “(3)”, “(4)”, and “(5)”, respectively, and substitute “(2)”, “(3)”, “(4)”, “(5)”, and “(6)”, respectively.

in lines 18 and 20, strike “(D)” and “(E)”, respectively, and substitute “(E)” and “(F)”, respectively; after line 29, insert:

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 3, in line 26-29 after “authority,” strike “any” and down through “rights,” in line 29, and substitute “any employee who accepts the transfer shall be employed by the new recreation authority created by this act on the same terms and conditions of employment enjoyed at the time of the transfer, including, without limitation, current pay, accrued leave balances, collective bargaining rights, accumulated contributions and retirement benefits.”.

“SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That it is the intent of the General Assembly that, any trust fund or other benefit plan established to support a retiree, participant or other beneficiary of a Commission post-employment benefit plan shall not suffer any actuarial deficiency as a result of a transfer of Commission employees to the new recreation authority created by this act, and that the General Assembly shall appropriate funding in such amounts as may be required to cure any such deficiency otherwise obtaining.”;

and in line 30, strike “3.” and substitute “4.”.

HB1057_UNF_Robinson

Uploaded by: Petrella Robinson

Position: UNF



TOWN OF NORTH BRENTWOOD

P.O. Box 196

North Brentwood, Maryland 20722

Office: (301) 699-9699 • Fax: (301) 699-1824

March 16, 2022

Hello Elected Official(s),

I am writing on behalf of citizens of the Town of North Brentwood.

HB1057 is disturbing to the citizens of North Brentwood. We already have a great relationship with MNCPPC. The town works together with the professional MNCPPC Board, Prince Georges Parks and finally with representatives of the Northern Area.

Over the years, we have gained a special relationship that is solid. The relationship focuses on being heard, quick responses, effective memorandum of understandings (GBSAC), traits of concern for our citizens and town organizations.

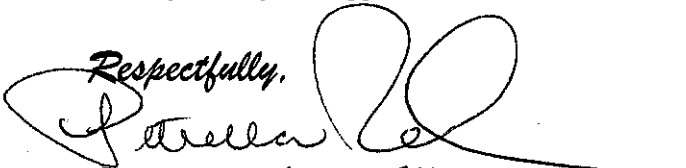
There is grave concern about how HB1057 was introduced and being managed and now with these hasty prepared updates to the bill. The citizens should have a say about changing authority. MNCPPC is not broken, so why are we trying to change or so call fix it. Why is the question?

We hate to think that our town needs to rely on the County, which as an incorporated town we do not rely whole-heartedly on the county. Why Now? Why has a potential candidate been selected to oversee this new authority? There are a lot of questions that need to be answered.

As Mayor, and I also speak for the council, we ask that you cast an **unfavorable vote** for moving HB1057 forward and force the County officials to be accountable for a fair, open and objective process. If MNCPPC are being reviewed and changes made, then it needs to be a broad, open and comprehensive process that all citizens are informed and included. The Town of North Brentwood's mission is to find ways to bring the community together and this will bring a huge strain on our community, should we lose our relationship and partnership with all at MNCPPC. Please rethink this change and your decision to this matter!

Thank you for your support

Respectfully,



Petrella Robinson, Mayor

HB1057_UNF_Dean

Uploaded by: Samuel Dean

Position: UNF



CIVIC ASSOCIATION

**12138 Central Avenue, Suite 305
Mitchellville, Maryland 20721-1932**

March 3, 2022

**The Honorable Kumar Barve
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee
Prince George's County House of Delegates
Taylor House Office Building, Room 251
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401**

**RE: HB 1057 (PG 406-22), Prince George's County-Recreation Authority-
Authorization**

Dear Chair Barve:

The Lake Arbor Civic Association, Inc., (LACA) representing the Lake Arbor Community consisting of 3,500 households in the unincorporated area of Mitchellville in Prince George's County by this letter records its opposition to HB 1057 (PG 406-22). We are requesting that you vote no on this bill. As a community we were blindsided by and question the necessity for this proposed legislation to be a late-filed bill. The current organizational structure has been in place for >50 years so what justification is there for this late filing of this bill which will dismantle and destroy the Parks and Recreation Operations of the Maryland National Parks and Planning Commission as we know it. What is abundantly clear is that the late filing effectively prevented all but one opposer to testify and that person had to come in the back door through an elected official who knew about the bill's filing. Therefore, other representatives of organizations and community groups, had they known about the bill, were not afforded the opportunity to testify on its impact to and in the community. This lack of transparency gives us great concern on what the intended purpose of this legislation is and how, if enacted, it will benefit the people of the County it is supposed to serve.

We can see no rationale contained in this proposed legislation to move Sports, Arts, Youth, Teens, and Seniors programs and its county employees out of the current Department of Parks and Recreation and establish a quasi-government agency that would, in any way, enhance the operations to the community. The Revenue Authority was cited as what this agency would compare to, which based on our knowledge of its operations in a recent independent and non-transparent operation in a recent adjacent development project regarding 20 acres of land in the County, is definitely not an example to be followed.

We have a community center within Lake Arbor and this bill threatens the removal of these community-oriented services and programs for which Lake Arbor and the surrounding communities, especially many of its seniors, have come to depend. We also believe that this legislation will bring harm to the lives of the current employees and those that have retired.

We strongly urge you to vote in opposition to this legislation, in any form, because the wellbeing of the County's Department of Parks and Recreation employees nor the County residents seems not to have been considered in the haste to get this bill filed before the current legislative session ends. Finally, an adage that remains true today states: "If it's not broken don't fix it." From our perspective the current Department of Parks and Recreation is not broken and operates very efficiently to serve the County residents of all ages.

Sincerely,

Thelma Murray Fisher

**Thelma Murray Fisher
President**

Diane Ferrell

**Diane Ferrell
Secretary**

Samuel H. Dean

**Samuel H. Dean
Vice-President**

Willie Graves

**Willie Graves
Treasurer**

HB1057_UNF_Jones

Uploaded by: Tiffany Jones

Position: UNF

NORTH BRENTWOOD CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

P. O. BOX 355

NORTH BRENTWOOD, MD. 20722



March 16, 2022

Hello Elected Official(s),

I am writing on behalf of The Citizens of North Brentwood to voice our concerns with the proposed updated language for HB1057 by the Bill sponsor Del. Nick Charles. As you know, the community is gravely concerned about how HB1057 has been introduced, is being managed and now with these hastily prepared updates to the bill.

With the many changes being forced upon us citizens, we risk losing so much support provided to our town, a tremendous partnerships that we've grown accustomed to over many years with both the staff of MNCPPC and employees with our North Brentwood Community Center. Without their yearly support, we are apprehensive to believe that our yearly events will end for the following:

- **Black History Month Events**
- **National Night Out**
- **Back-to-School Night/School Supply Distribution**
- **Summer Fun Learning Program**
- **North Brentwood Day**
- **Poinsettia Distribution for Sick and Shut in and those citizens +80**
- **Town Parades and Events in the Park**
- **Local Events held for Children of All ages**
- **Monthly Senior Events**
- **Community Center Activities for All ages**

My concerns are:

- *What measures will be taken to ensure the Blue Ribbon Work Group functions as defined?*
- *Who will ensure the credentials of those that are appointed as outlined in the amendments?*
- *There are no specific detailed guidelines for community engagement. There needs to be a detailed plan on how this will happen.*
- *There is no requirement for the Blue Ribbon Work group to share the outcome of the study with the community prior to any vote being taken. This is unacceptable.*

I ask that you cast an **unfavorable vote** for moving HB1057 forward and force the County officials to be accountable for a fair, open and objective process. If MNCPPC, are being reviewed and changes made, then it needs to be a broad, open and comprehensive process that all citizens are informed and included. The North Brentwood Citizens Association's mission is to find ways to bring the community together and this will bring a huge strain on our community, should we lose our relationship and partnership with all at M-NCPPC. Please rethink this change and your decision to this matter!

Thank you for your support.

Tiffany Jones

President Tiffany Jones

North Brentwood Citizens Association

Nbca20722@hotmail.com/<https://www.northbrentwood.com/>

A Heritage to Remember, A Future to Mold!

Opposition to HB 1057.pdf

Uploaded by: TOI BROOKS

Position: UNF

March 4, 2022

Committee Chair Barve and Members:

I am a tax paying resident of Prince George's County and I am sending this letter **to express my opposition to HB 1057**. This bill is intended to dismantle the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission's Department of Parks and Recreation, which will adversely impact the service delivery to our county residents. The lack of transparency and opportunity for community input raises great concern. This bill stands to impact the lives and livelihood of over 3,000 employees and retirees.

On behalf of my extended family and myself who use these facilities regularly, I urge you to use your influence to help your colleagues understand the situation and to **VOTE NO to HB 1057!**

Respectfully,
Toi Brooks

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