



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

BILL: HJ 4 - Locating the New Federal Bureau of Investigation Headquarters in Maryland

SPONSOR: The Speaker

HEARING DATE: April 5, 2023

COMMITTEE: Rules and Executive Nominations Committee

CONTACT: Intergovernmental Affairs Office, 301-780-8411

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS HJ 4 - Locating the New Federal Bureau of Investigation Headquarters in Maryland**, which urges the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) to select for the new Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) headquarters one of the two finalist sites located in Maryland.

On March 8, Governor Moore and I made the case to locate the new Headquarters for the FBI in Maryland to the General Services Administration. Our sites in Prince George's County, at both the Landover and Greenbelt, exceed the FBI's mission requirements for a new facility. Over this lengthy process, our sites have become clear frontrunners to serve the nation's top law enforcement agency. That case has only grown stronger under President Biden.

In a set of Executive Orders, the Commander-in-Chief called equal opportunity the bedrock of American democracy. He also touched on entrenched disparities in laws, public policies, and in public investment that deny equal opportunity to individuals and communities. President Biden declared that our nation deserves an ambitious whole-of-government equity agenda that matches the scale of the opportunities and challenges we face.

From fiscal year 2008 to 2023, Prince George's County received over \$121 billion dollars in federal spending. Fairfax County received over \$460 billion. Prince George's County has 29,720 federal jobs, while Fairfax has over 48,000. When combined with Arlington and Alexandria, the Northern Virginia number grows to 89 thousand.

In terms of federal office space, Fairfax County has over 7.5 million square feet of office space, while Prince George's has over 8.2 million. However, Fairfax receives

payment for over 6.5 million square feet of office space because it is leased, while Prince George's County only has 3.3 million square feet of leased space.

Prince George's County has always been a good neighbor to the Washington region. All around us, we've watched communities prosper with federal investment—investment that we have not received. Even though the president takes off and lands in Prince George's, the numbers tell a story.

I think about the history of our nation, and I find great hope in this moment. I see a national conversation that includes equity, and a president who has made that a priority for the federal government. Equity is a moral imperative broadly supported by the American people. And now, it's a directive from the President.

With newfound awareness comes the opportunity to make change. This is more than a chance for Prince Georgians to benefit from federal investment, it is an opportunity for the FBI to move on from the 20th century and into the 21st century.

It would be a powerful statement to the American people, of every color, religion, and creed, for the FBI to locate their headquarters in Prince George's County. An opportunity for the FBI to declare that, today, they are a law enforcement agency that works for all Americans. I cannot imagine a better message than for a federal law enforcement agency with a history of persecuting black leaders, wiretapping black communities, and making up crimes about black rights advocates, than relocating their headquarters in the most prosperous, large black community in the nation. The FBI can go to work with my community.

Prince George's County is home to Maryland's flagship university, The University of Maryland. Together with Bowie State University, they have assets that the FBI can use to develop a robust talent pipeline, one that includes technology and cybersecurity experts ready to investigate federal crimes.

Beyond equity, Prince George's County is the best option for the site. We have the easiest sites to build, at the lowest cost, with the best access to metro, and to all of downtown Washington DC. The FBI can't stay in the district, but that doesn't mean they need to be all the way out in Franconia. Day 1, Prince George's County is ready to be home for the FBI. We will turn a vision for a 21st century headquarters into a reality.

Thank you again to my colleagues here in Annapolis for the opportunity to provide this testimony in support of HJ4.