



# PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

## OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Aisha N. Braveboy  
County Executive

April 1, 2026

**HB1247**  
**FAVORABLE**

The Honorable Guy Guzzone  
The Honorable Jim Rosapepe  
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
3 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe and Members of the Budget Committee,

I write to you today to provide my strongest support for HB1247, which is being considered by your committee today. This legislation will provide adjustments to the tax increment financing (TIF) definitions that will allow us to move forward with one of the largest economic opportunities for Prince George's County and for Maryland: Sphere National Harbor. This is a project that was going to go somewhere in the DMV region and, working with Gov. Wes Moore, our team was able to develop the most attractive and fiscally responsible incentive packages to bring this exciting new project to our state.

As you may know, the TIF program was used successfully to create National Harbor originally. TIF has been used across Maryland. It's a responsible way to leverage future tax dollars, while increasing the value of a specific property or district. A detailed analysis completed by Ernst and Young economists, projects that Sphere National Harbor, once operational, should bring Prince George's County an estimated \$63 million a year in tax revenue – triple the seasonal revenue from the Commanders and Six Flags combined.

In addition to the direct tax revenue, that same detailed analysis projects construction will deliver \$1.6 billion to Prince George's County in direct and indirect economic benefits – and up to \$1.85 billion statewide. Once operational, Sphere National Harbor is expected to draw 2 million visitors each year, with an economic impact of \$1.3 billion in direct and indirect spending at Sphere, as well as local hotels, restaurants, stores and other County venues. That jumps to \$1.5 billion annually statewide.

For those wondering if this is a gamble or a solid investment, please know that we have done our due diligence. The original Sphere in Las Vegas is number one on Billboard's list of top-grossing arenas its size worldwide thanks to its current "Sphere Experience" of The Wizard of Oz. In the first five months of ticket sales, it sold over 2 million tickets, and the show will run through the end of 2026 – so likely will continue to break records. Sphere National Harbor will be 6,000 seats or about one-third the size of the Las Vegas venue.

We are confident the return on investment for Prince George's County and Maryland taxpayers is solid. Through the use of the Tax Increment Financing (TIF), Sphere National Harbor is going to bring new jobs and new opportunities for local, minority businesses to Prince George's County, Maryland and the region.

I respectfully ask for your support to move HB1247 forward. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Aisha Braveboy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the "y".

Aisha N. Braveboy  
Prince George's County Executive