

Good afternoon, my name is Darlene Douglas. I am President of an elected M-NCPPC Retirement Association Board. I represent 709 retirees in the agency's Employee Retirement System, as of June 2024.

1. Within the first week of our notice about the legislation, our Planning Boards took differing positions: Montgomery County voted to oppose it on Thursday, March 12th. Prince George's County voted to approve on March 19th.
2. Prince George's vote happened in a hastily called ten-minute emergency, virtual meeting.
3. The timing is also troubling: New Commissioner Brittany Jenkins was sworn in on March 18th, and new Commissioner Lori Matthews was sworn in on March 19th. They were called upon to vote on a public policy with long-term consequences on an agency a century old. It is hard to believe there was enough time for a full review.
4. This is especially concerning, given a March 16th letter from TEN former Prince George's Planning Board members. They opposed this measure. And they have deep institutional knowledge. That letter was provided to the Rules Committee and all the members of the House and Senate Delegations of Montgomery & Prince George's.
5. There also appears to be no public discussion of fiscal impact. Advancing legislation of this scale without financial transparency is concerning. If analysis occurred only in the Executive Session, that raises further concerns about transparency.
6. M-NCPPC's regional structure was designed as a safeguard. It helps balance developers' pressures and political influence. Weakening that structure risks losing that balance.
7. There is little evidence that bifurcation will better serve residents.
8. Dismantling the agency's Central Administrative Services (CAS), will reduce oversight and accountability.
9. CAS provides consistency and discipline within the agency's merit rules & regulations & General Counsel's direction about laws.
10. The fiscal impact of this move should be carefully evaluated, including its long-term effects on the residents the Commission serves.

Thank you.

Darlene Douglas, President

M-NCPPC Retirees Association

