

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
SITTING AS THE DISTRICT COUNCIL
2020 Legislative Session**

Bill No. CB-33-2020

Chapter No. 14

Proposed and Presented by Council Member Turner

Introduced by Council Members Turner, Davis, Hawkins, Harrison, Franklin and Glaros

Co-Sponsors _____

Date of Introduction June 16, 2020

ZONING BILL

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning

2 Virtual Hearings

3 For the purpose of establishing authority for hearings held pursuant to Subtitle 27 to be held
4 virtually, including public participation and providing alternative filing requirements.

5 BY repealing and reenacting with amendments:

6 Sections 27-108.01, 27-131, and 27-229,

7 The Zoning Ordinance of Prince George's County, Maryland,

8 being also

9 **SUBTITLE 27. ZONING.**

10 The Prince George's County Code

11 (2019 Edition).

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED by the County Council of Prince George's County,
13 Maryland, sitting as the District Council for that part of the Maryland-Washington Regional
14 District in Prince George's County, Maryland, that Sections 27-108.01, 27-131 and 27-229 of the
15 Zoning Ordinance of Prince George's County, Maryland, being also Subtitle 27 of the Prince
16 George's County Code, be and the same are hereby repealed and reenacted with the following
17 amendments:

18 **SUBTITLE 27. ZONING.**

19 **PART 2. GENERAL.**

20 **DIVISION 2. INTERPRETATIONS AND RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.**

1 **Sec. 27-108.01. Interpretations and rules of construction.**

2 (a) Words and phrases are to be interpreted as follows:

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4 (8) Time Computation: In computing periods of time, the day of the act (after which
5 the designated period of time begins to run) is not to be included. The last day of
6 the period computed is to be included unless:

7 (A) It is a Saturday, Sunday, or County legal holiday, in which case the period
8 runs until the end of the next day that is neither a Saturday, Sunday, nor
9 County legal holiday; or

10 (B) The act is the filing of a paper in a court or County office, and the offices on
11 the last day of the period are:

12 (i) Not open;

13 (ii) Closed for a part of that day, in which event the period runs until the
14 end of the next day that is neither a Saturday, Sunday, nor County legal
15 holiday; or

16 (iii) Not open the entire day during ordinary business hours. When the time
17 is more than seven (7) days, intermediate Saturdays, Sundays, and
18 County legal holidays shall be considered as other days, if the period of
19 time is seven (7) days or less, intermediate Saturdays, Sundays, and
20 County legal holidays shall not be county.

21 (C) Notwithstanding subsections (A) through (B), herein, where County
22 offices provide for electronic or drop box filings, absent a showing of
23 good cause, the last day of the period computed is included whether the
24 County office is open, closed for part of the day, or not open the entire
25 day. When the time is more than seven (7) days, intermediate Saturdays,
26 Sundays, and County legal holidays shall be considered as other days. If
27 the period of time is seven (7) days or less, intermediate Saturdays,
28 Sundays, and County legal holidays shall not be counted.

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30 (27) Any document required to be submitted in writing pursuant to this Subtitle may
31 be submitted electronically.

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SUBTITLE 27. ZONING

PART 3. ADMINISTRATION.

DIVISION 1. GENERAL ZONING PROCEDURES.

SUBDIVISION 3. DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Sec. 27-131. Virtual hearings.

Upon notification, the District Council may hold the entire hearing or a portion of the hearing virtually and provide for virtual public participation. Notice and procedures for the hearing shall be in accordance with the District Council Rules of Procedure.

Sec. 27-131.01. Oral argument and appeals from Zoning Hearing Examiner’s decision.

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SUBTITLE 27. ZONING.

PART 3. ADMINISTRATION.

DIVISION 5. APPEALS AND VARIANCES.

SUBDIVISION 2. BOARD OF ZONING APPEAL.

Sec. 27-229. Powers and duties.

(a) The Board of Zoning Appeals (known in this Division as the “Board”) shall have the following powers and duties:

- (1) To hear and decide appeals involving variances from the strict application of this Subtitle (commonly known and referred to in this Division as variances);
- (2) To hear and decide appeals where it is alleged that, in the administration of this Subtitle, there is an error in the refusal of a building or use and occupancy permit, or in any other decision of the Department of Permitting, Inspections, and Enforcement, the Planning Board, or any other person or body authorized to administer this Subtitle;
- (3) To reverse, affirm, or modify any decision upon which the appeal is made;
- (4) To compel the attendance of witnesses at hearings. The Chairman or other officers of the Board may administer oaths; and
- (5) To grant additional time to cease violations of this Subtitle, except violations of Section 27-261(b), (c), (d), (h), and (j).
- (6) To hold an entire hearing or a portion of a hearing virtually and provide for virtual

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participation. Notice and procedures for the hearing shall be in accordance with the District Council Rules of Procedure.

SECTION 2. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that this Ordinance shall take effect on the day of its adoption.

Adopted this 21st day of July, 2020.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE’S
COUNTY, MARYLAND, SITTING AS THE
DISTRICT COUNCIL FOR THAT PART OF
THE MARYLAND-WASHINGTON REGIONAL
DISTRICT IN PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY,
MARYLAND

BY: _____
Todd M. Turner
Council Chair

ATTEST:

Donna J. Brown
Clerk of the Council

KEY:
Underscoring indicates language added to existing law.
[Brackets] indicate language deleted from existing law.
Asterisks *** indicate intervening existing Code provisions that remain unchanged.

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