



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL
2006 ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE REPORT



Message from the Honorable Thomas E. Dernoga 2006 Legislative Year Chair

I am honored to have served as Chair of this noble body over the past year, and very pleased to recount our successes in this “Prince George’s County Council 2006 Legislative Report.”

At the top of my list of people to boast about in Prince George’s County are my Council colleagues – Marilynn Bland, Will Campos, Samuel Dean, Camille Exum, David Harrington, Thomas Hendershot, Tony Knotts, and Douglas Peters. I am deeply humbled by their vote of confidence in my leadership ability, and eternally grateful for their steadfast support, diligence, and hard work throughout the year. I have tremendous respect for my leadership partner, Vice-Chair Camille Exum, who was indispensable in moving the Council forward.

2006 marked the second and final term for Council Member Thomas Hendershot, and in the November General Election, voters wisely elevated Douglas Peters from his Council seat to the Maryland State Senate. Mr. Hendershot and Mr. Peters have been valuable assets to the County and this Council, especially to our legislative and budget processes and we wish them well.

This past year has been among the best Prince George’s County has ever seen. We are proud of our accomplishments, especially voter approval of every one of the Charter Amendments we placed before them in the November General Election, most of which address the need for a greater balance of power between the Executive and Legislative branches of government.

This legislative body knows that real change comes from collective action and that advocacy is not a solitary task. We extend our gratitude to County Executive Jack B. Johnson, state legislators, stakeholders in education, public safety and quality healthcare, county businesses, community organizations, and citizens, for the partnerships that ensured success this past year.

Our work, however, is not done. Together, all of us can work even harder and do an even better job of reducing crime, improving schools, caring for our vulnerable, and creating economic opportunity. We have already begun the process by passing the torch to the new leadership team charged with maintaining the momentum of our work in Legislative Year 2007 - Chair Camille Exum and Vice-Chair David Harrington.

Beyond a useful and informative summary of Legislative Branch activities, I hope you will find that the “Prince George’s County Council 2006 Annual Legislative Report”, reflects accomplishments achieved through visionary leadership and effective partnership. Thanks for a great year!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Thomas E. Dernoga", written in a cursive style.

Thomas E. Dernoga
Chair, 2006 Legislative Year

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Legislative Initiatives

County Council Core Values and Guiding Principles



CORE VALUES & GUIDING PRINCIPLES

All legislative powers of the Prince George's County Council, Maryland, are vested in the Prince George's County Council. The County Council sits as the District Council on matters of zoning and land use policy, and as the Board of Health to govern and guide health policy.

The Prince George's County Council adheres to a set of Core Values which define us as a legislative body, and as individual Council Members. Our Core Values pledge this County Council to foster partnerships and encourage public involvement with our citizens, community leaders, and other elected officials. Our values require openness, honesty, and efficiency in every deliberative process, and an unbiased approach to the needs of the County as a whole.

We are guided in our decision-making by these Core Values and the principles of Creative Problem-Solving; Fiscal Responsibility and Stewardship; Teamwork through Shared Leadership; and Professionalism.

Creative Problem-Solving

The Council will strive to find creative solutions to issues and concerns in order to enhance the quality of life for Prince George's County citizens and residents of both present and future generations.

Fiscal Responsibility and Stewardship

The Council bears fiduciary responsibility for stewardship of the County's resources. The Council will support efforts to ensure County tax dollars are spent in a prudent and efficient manner.

Teamwork Through Shared Leadership

The Council operates as a team in a spirit of shared leadership, and will resist any effort to usurp its collective, statutory authority. Council Members represent Prince George's County as a whole and make decisions considering first the good of the County, and second, the good of their individual geographic districts and the constituents of those districts.

Professionalism

The Council will endeavor to work with integrity and professionalism in a collaborative and cooperative manner with local, state and federal governmental branches or entities as well as elected and appointed officials from neighboring jurisdictions.



Committee Summary

Guided by our principle of Teamwork through Shared Leadership, most County Council work is accomplished through our committee process. The County Council Rules of Procedure establishes five standing committees: Health, Education, and Human Services; Public Safety and Fiscal Management; Planning, Zoning, and Economic Development; Transportation, Housing, and the Environment; and the Rules and General Assembly.

At the time of presentation of a Bill or at the introduction of a Resolution, the Chair refers the matter to a standing committee or to the Council sitting as the Committee of the Whole. The Council budget review process is also conducted through the standing committees, with each committee maintaining budget oversight responsibility for assigned County departments and agencies.

In Legislative Year 2006, Council Member Samuel Dean and Vice-Chair Camille Exum teamed up on General Assembly issues, closely interacting with the State Legislature on issues critical to the County – lobbying for such concerns as enhanced teacher pensions; additional funding to modernize school system Library Media Centers; relocating State offices to Prince George’s County; exempting non-profits that provide youth recreational activities from the Systems Development Charge; and the monitoring and licensing of group homes.

Council Members Marilyn Bland, Samuel Dean and Douglas Peters joined Chair Thomas Dernoga to work on the issue of Transfer Development Rights and other Rural Tier initiatives. Council Member David Harrington continued to target important housing issues while working with Council Member Will Campos on livable community concerns, including the evaluation of the County’s multi-agency services team, and enforcement improvements in the Department of Environmental Resources.

Council Member Tony Knotts handled initiatives aimed at providing quality education for our young people, especially new school construction, and the repair and renovation of aging school buildings. While every Council Member participated in the formation of economic development initiatives, Vice-Chair Exum and Council Members Dean and Harrington concentrated their efforts in specific areas such as tax increment financing and enhancing the County’s Minority Business Efforts (MBE) program on major tax-funded development projects.



Working collaboratively, this Council has strengthened the Legislative Branch and forged a new way of governing in Prince George’s County. This effort has led to renewed focus on public safety, education, controlled growth, transportation and the environment as we remain focused on the collective good and our fiduciary responsibility to advance Prince George’s County.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL
2006 COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND THE ENVIRONMENT (THE)

David C. Harrington, Chair
Thomas E. Dernoga
Thomas R. Hendershot

Marilynn M. Bland, Vice-Chair
Camille A. Exum

Oversight Responsibilities:

Dept. of Environmental Resources (DER)

Animal Control
Capital Budget and Capital Improvement Program
Enterprise Funds
Solid Waste Plan (Landfills, Refuse Collection, Recycling)
Stormwater Management
Water and Sewerage Plans

Dept. of Housing and Community Development (DH&CD)

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
Redevelopment Authority

Dept. of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T)

Capital Budget and Capital Improvement Program
Stormwater Management
Soil Conservation
Transportation Oversight

Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission Operating Budget

Washington Suburban Transit Commission (WSTC)

HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND HUMAN SERVICES (HEHS)

Tony Knotts, Chair
Will Campos
Douglas J.J. Peters

David C. Harrington, Vice-Chair
Thomas R. Hendershot

Oversight Responsibilities:

Office of Community Affairs

Community College
Citizens Complaint Oversight Panel
Dimensions Healthcare Corporation (Certificate of Need Reviews)

Board of Education (BOE) – Transfers and Budget Amendments

Board of Elections

Family Services – Americans with Disability Act related items
Health Dept. and all Board of Health Issues

Human Relations Commission

Board of License Commissioners

Library
Social Services

RULES, GENERAL ASSEMBLY & COW

Thomas E. Dernoga, Chair

Camille A. Exum, Vice-Chair

Oversight Responsibilities:

General Assembly Legislation
County Council & District Council Rule Changes

PUBLIC SAFETY AND FISCAL MANAGEMENT (PSFM)

Douglas J.J. Peters, Chair
Will Campos
David C. Harrington

Tony Knotts, Vice-Chair
Samuel H. Dean

Oversight Responsibilities:

Office of Central Services (OCS):

Industrial Development Authority (IDA)
Minority Business Development

Circuit Court

Office of Community Relations

Department of Corrections

Office of Finance

Fire/EMS Department/Volunteer Fire

Office of Homeland Security

Office of Human Resources Management

Personnel Board

Office of Information Technology and Communications (OITC)

Office of Law

Board of Ethics

Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

Orphan's Court

Police Department

Office of the Sheriff

Office of State's Attorney

Bond Issues

Budget Transfers and Supplemental Appropriations (Grants;
General Funds)

Cable Television and Telecommunications

Labor Agreements

Municipal Tax Differential

Personnel Law

Pension Plans

Property Tax Credit

Revenue Authority (Parking Authority)

PLANNING, ZONING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (PZED)

Samuel H. Dean, Chair
Marilynn M. Bland
Camille A. Exum

Douglas J.J. Peters, Vice-Chair
Thomas E. Dernoga

Oversight Responsibilities:

Economic Development Corporation Budget & Issues

M-NCPPC

(Bi-County, Planning Department, Parks & Recreation and
Planning Board)

People's Zoning Counsel

Zoning Bills/Subdivision Bills

2006 Budget Highlights



The County Council celebrated significant budget successes this year. County Executive Jack Johnson submitted a solid Livable Communities financial plan to the Council. Together, with Council-initiated enhancements, the Council approved a budget that demonstrates sound financial management, with record public school spending, and significant provision for public safety and growth management initiatives.

Vice-Chair Camille Exum skillfully guided the Council through the budget review process to the final adoption of the \$2.37 billion County spending plan, which reflected the hard work, dedication, and contributions invested by the entire legislative body. Council Members studied all major components of the County Government and communities in a page-by-page committee review of the proposed budget and conducted public budget hearings, in the process for determining the greatest needs of the County. The result was a spending plan that translated public interest into public policy, through a complete and inclusive process for meeting competing needs with available resources.

Among Council-initiated enhancements to the FY 2007 County Budget:

- Adding \$2 million to the Board of Education Capital Improvements Plan for renovation work to upgrade the conditions of County schools, including the Croom Vocational Center.
- Supporting higher education needs with an additional \$2.5 million for required technology improvements.
- Benefiting libraries with support for increased staffing and a new library in the Capital Budget for the Seat Pleasant/Capitol Heights area.
- Facilitating much-needed repairs to each police district station with a \$600,000 boost to capital spending.
- Recognizing the critical role of Volunteer Firefighters with a \$600,000 allotment to support station management at Volunteer Fire Departments.
- Making provisions to implement the transition of responsibility for school security from the Police Department to the Office of the Sheriff, facilitating the return of sworn police officers to street duty.
- Funding the Preservation of Development Rights Program with \$5 million to implement Transfer Development Rights, Rural Tier Preservation, and county land purchases for preservation.

2006 Public Forums and Meetings

Council and the Community Work Together to Form Important Legislation in 2006

JANUARY

- Westphalia Comprehensive Conceptual Planning Study
- Economic Development Corporation – International Foreign Trade Zone Issues

FEBRUARY

- Waldorf Bypass/Southern Maryland Rail Transit
- Compensation Review Board

MARCH

- Urban Land Institute - Reality Check Plus

APRIL

- Industrial Development Authority
- Maryland Department of Planning

MAY

- Security Upgrades
- Council of Governments Services Update
- Charter Review Commission Report
- Senior Living Market Study

JUNE

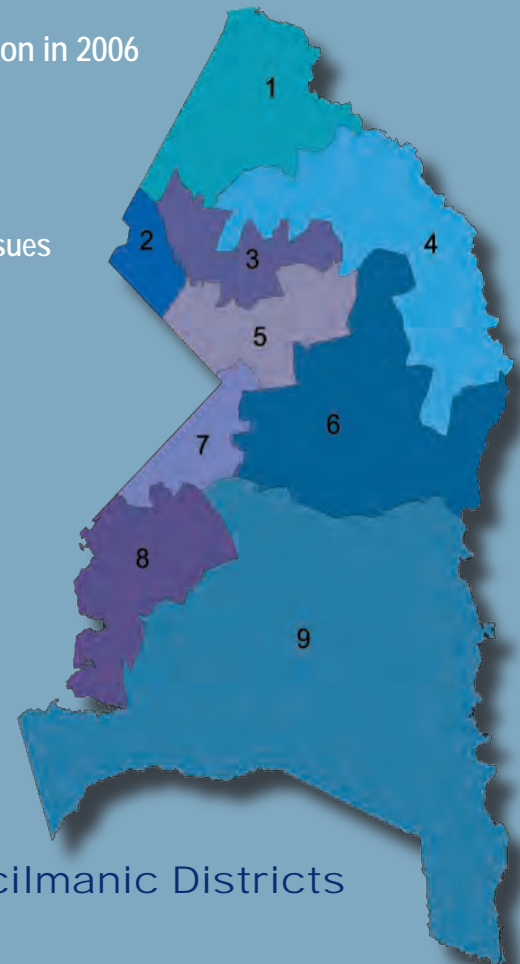
- Adult Entertainment Impact Study – Public Input Process

SEPTEMBER

- Base Realignment and Closure Process
- Maryland

OCTOBER

- Status of the Election Board
- Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)



Councilmanic Districts



On April 11th, the County Council held a public safety briefing highlighting crime statistics, policing, emergency response and new laws designed to make our communities safer.

COUNCIL TASK FORCES

Towing Task Force

The Prince George's County Council established the Towing Task Force with the adoption of Council Resolution-19-2006 on April 18, 2006. The task force is responsible for reviewing and evaluating the County's towing regulations and the impact on County residents, agencies, and the industry, and recommending appropriate amendments to the towing regulations. The Towing Task Force is comprised of individuals representing a variety of stakeholders in the county including a representative from the Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources; the Prince George's County Attorney's Office; the Prince George's County Police Department; the Apartment and Office Building Association of Metropolitan Washington; towing industry representatives; and citizen representatives from each of the nine Council districts.

Gas Safety Policy Task Force

The Prince George's County Council "Gas Safety Policy Task Force," was established under the authority of Council Resolution-65-2005 and Council Resolution-50-2005, adopted September 19, 2005 and July 5, 2005 respectively. Chaired by former Council Member M.H. Jim Estep, the task force was created "For the purpose of establishing a community advisory committee to assist the County Council in monitoring the efforts of Washington Gas to address the problem of gas leaks in the county and making recommendations to the Council for future action." The task force is charged with making periodic reports to the County Council.

Public Safety Briefing and Public Discussion on Public Safety Issues

The Prince George's County Council Public Safety and Fiscal Management Committee held a Public Safety Briefing and Discussion on Public Safety Issues on April 11, 2006. Briefing objectives included:

- Providing a historical perspective on County crime statistics
- Police, Fire/EMS, and other public safety agencies' staffing levels for sworn personnel
- Identifying a potential approach for determining future Police and Fire/EMS sworn staffing goals through FY 2011
- Identifying future staffing and operational challenges for selected Public Safety/Criminal Justice agencies
- Identifying recruitment and retention challenges
- Reviewing future public safety infrastructure needs
- Providing an overview of recent legislation concerning Public Safety Response Times and Minimum Staffing Levels; Public Safety Facilities Mitigation Guidelines; and a Public Safety Surcharge.

Blue Ribbon Committee on High Stakes Testing

The Blue Ribbon Committee on High Stakes Testing was created with County Council adoption of Council Resolution-42-2006 on May 23, 2006, to further examine state-mandated High School Assessments (HSA's) required for graduation from high school beginning with the Class of 2009; the impact on students and on the economic health of Prince George's County. The Blue Ribbon Committee is also charged with making recommendations to the County Council. In 2008, the State Board of Education is slated to revisit this mandatory requirement to either make revisions or leave it unchanged. The Blue Ribbon Committee Report on High Stakes Testing urges quick action by our leaders and all stakeholders in the County's education system; addresses the future of our students and provide a solid path to economic, social and educational progress.



2006 Proclamations Presented in Council Chambers (Select Listings)



JOINT PROCLAMATION recognizing the week of January 16-20, 2006 as **"Accounting Awareness Week"** in Prince George's County.

PROCLAMATION recognizing the Prince George's County Fire/EMS personnel deployed to assist with the victims of the Gulf Coast hurricanes.

PROCLAMATION recognizing the outstanding contributions of the Prince George's County Sheriff Department's Canine Unit.

PROCLAMATION recognizing the achievements of **"Glassmanor Elementary School"** in Prince George's County.

PROCLAMATION recognizing the outstanding contributions of the Riverdale Volunteer Fire/EMS Department assisting with the victims of the Gulf Coast hurricanes.

PROCLAMATION recognizing the outstanding contributions of the Prince George's County Fourth Battalion Fire/EMS Department assisting with the victims of the Gulf Coast hurricanes.

PROCLAMATION recognizing the week of February 19-25, 2006, as **"Energy Assistance Week"** in Prince George's County.

JOINT PROCLAMATION recognizing the week of March 13-17, 2006 as **"Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week"** in Prince George's County.

PROCLAMATION recognizing the Office of the Sheriff's **"Motorcycle Unit"** in Prince George's County.

PROCLAMATION recognizing the **"National Association of Black County Offices, Inc. Conference"** in Prince George's County.

PROCLAMATION recognizing the outstanding contributions of the **"Prince George's Employees Federal Credit Union"** in Prince George's County.

PROCLAMATION recognizing June 19, 2006 as **"Juneteenth Independence Day"** in Prince George's County.

PROCLAMATION recognizing **"History Day At Home"** in Prince George's County.

PROCLAMATION recognizing the outstanding contributions of the **"Capitol Heights Fire Station #5"** in Prince George's County.

PROCLAMATION presented to Thomas E. Stommel recognizing his many years of service as the **"District Heights Volunteer Fire Chief"** in Prince George's County.

PROCLAMATION recognizing Eric Aiken as the **"World Featherweight Champion"** in Prince George's County.

PROCLAMATION recognizing the outstanding community service of **"Bladensburg High School Volunteers"** in Prince George's County.

PROCLAMATION presented to William M. Griffin, recognizing the outstanding contributions of a **"Prince George's County Entrepreneur"** in Prince George's County.

JOINT PROCLAMATION recognizing October 19, 2006 as **"Conflict Resolution Day"** in Prince George's County.

PROCLAMATION recognizing October 15, 2006 as **"White Cane Safety Day"** in Prince George's County.

PROCLAMATION recognizing October 16-21, 2006 as **"National Business Women's Week"** in Prince George's County.

PROCLAMATION recognizing Dr. Tammie L. Page as the **"2006 Woman of the Year"** in Prince George's County.

PROCLAMATION recognizing Old Line Bank as the **"2006 Employer of the Year"** in Prince George's County.

JOINT PROCLAMATION recognizing Germaine Lawrence as **"Prince George's County's Most Gorgeous Youth"** in Prince George's County. PROCLAMATION presented to Fred Nordhorn recognizing November 2006 as **"National American Indian Heritage Month"** in Prince George's County.

PROCLAMATION presented to Linda Daulthin, Hospice of the Chesapeake, recognizing November 2006 **"National Hospice/Palliative Care Month"** in Prince George's County.

JOINT PROCLAMATION presented to Gwendolyn T. Clerkley, recognizing the month of April 2006 as **"Public Health Month"** in Prince George's County.

PROCLAMATION recognizing Largo Senior High School for participation in the **"Accreditation for Growth"** program in Prince George's County.

PROCLAMATION presented to Patricia Webb, Business and Professional Women/USA recognizing April 25, 2006 as **"Equal Pay Day"** in Prince George's County.

PROCLAMATION presented to the Prince George's County Office of the Sheriff Landlord and Tenant Unit, recognizing the contributions of the Prince George's County Office of the Sheriff in Prince George's County.

PROCLAMATION presented to Acting Battalion Chief Dennis C. Wood, recognizing the contributions of the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department in Prince George's County.

PROCLAMATION recognizing the week of April 23-29, 2006 as **"National County Government Week"** in Prince George's County.

PROCLAMATION recognizing the month of April 2006 as **"Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month"** in Prince George's County.

PROCLAMATION recognizing Kenmoor Middle School Science Bowl Team as the winners of the **"First Annual Regional Maryland Middle School Science Bowl Competition"** in Prince George's County.

PROCLAMATION recognizing Miss Jessica Reed as **"Miss Bowie State University"** in Prince George's County.

PROCLAMATION presented to Mr. James "Jimmy" Gavin in recognition of his induction into the **"African American Golfers Hall of Fame"**.

PROCLAMATION presented to Mr. Jorge Ribas, Prince George's Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and Ms. Wanda Ramos, Regional Director, M-NCPPC - Northern Area, recognizing September 15 - October 15, 2006 As **"Hispanic Heritage Month"** in Prince George's County.

PROCLAMATION presented to the following individuals recognizing September, 2006 as **"National Alcohol And Drug Addiction Recovery Month"** in Prince George's County.

PROCLAMATION presented to the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Medical Services Department recognizing the implementation of the **"Ambulance Replacement Program"** in Prince George's County.

PROCLAMATION presented to Dr. Germon Miller recognizing **"The National Student Pledge against Gun Violence Campaign"** in Prince George's County.

PROCLAMATION recognizing Mr. Calvin Hawkins for his outstanding achievements in Prince George's County.

PROCLAMATION and Commendation recognizing Marye Wells-Harley, Director, Parks and Recreation, for her outstanding contributions to Prince George's County.



Council in the *Community*



2006 COUNCIL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER WILL CAMPOS ASKS IMMIGRANT POPULATION NOT TO BOYCOTT ON MAY FIRST *(English)*

Prince George's County Council Member Will Campos (D) - District 2 will meet with other Latino elected officials in the Washington Metropolitan Metro region on Wednesday, April 26, 2006, at 10:30 a.m. to address the issue of proper federal immigration reform. The meeting will take place at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, 777 North Capitol Street, N.W., Suite 300, in Washington D.C.

EL CONCEJAL DEL CONDADO DE PRINCE GEORGE PIDE A LA COMUNIDAD INMIGRANTE QUE NO HAGAN HUELGA (GRAN BOYCOTT) EL PRIMERO DE MAYO *(Spanish)*

El Concejal del Condado de Prince George Will Campos con los lideres Latinos del area Metropolitana, pidera a los lideres Federales por reforma migratoria adecuada . En adicon, pidera a la comunidad inmigrante de no participar en la huelga nacional ("gran boycott") propuesta por organizaciones en contra de legislacion federal anti-inmigrante. La fecha de esta huelga esta coordinada para el primero de Mayo.

COUNCIL MEMBER HARRINGTON MAKES "COMMUNITY FIRST" WITH PROCLAMATION AND DONATION TO KENMOOR MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE BOWL WINNERS

Prince George's County Council Member David C. Harrington (D) – District 5 presented a proclamation and a \$600.00 check to Kenmoor Middle School students during Council session on Tuesday, May 16, 2006. The students were joined in the presentation by Kenmoor principal Diana Mitchell Saulsberry, science bowl coach and mentor Karen Watson, and parents following breakfast with Council Member Harrington.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL ADOPTS \$2.37 BILLION FY 2007 BUDGET

The Prince George's County Council today unanimously adopted a \$2.37 billion balanced budget for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2006. The new budget is \$196 million or 8.2% above the FY'06 spending level.

JOINT AGREEMENT REQUIRES MINORITY BUSINESS PARTICIPATION IMPOSES PENALTIES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE

The Prince George's County Council voted unanimously on Tuesday, July 18, 2006 to approve CB-14, 2006, a \$50-million bond financing bill that includes a joint agreement between County Executive Jack B. Johnson, the County Council, and Gaylord Entertainment on the issues of minority business participation and related penalties.

HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE CHAIR TONY KNOTTS HOSTS COUNCIL RECEPTION FOR DR. JOHN DEASY

The Prince George's County Council will formally welcome new Prince George 's County Schools CEO Dr. John Deasy during a reception in his honor, hosted by Council Member Tony Knotts (D) - District 8, Chair of the Council Committee on Health, Education and Human Services. The reception will be held on Tuesday, July 18, 2006, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m., at the Tantallon Country Club in Fort Washington .

DISTRICT 9 COUNCIL MEMBER MARILYNN BLAND LEADS INITIATIVE TO GIVE YOUTH A VOICE IN COUNTY GOVERNMENT

The Prince George's County Council has given final approval to a bill establishing the Prince George's County Youth Commission. CB-19-2006, spearheaded by Council Member Marilyn M. Bland (D) - District 9, received unanimous support from the Council during Legislative Session on Tuesday, June 20, 2006.

COUNTY COUNCIL TOWING TASK FORCE HOLD PUBLIC FORUMS ON CITIZEN COMPLAINTS

The Prince Georges'c County Council and the Towing Task Force established by the Council Resolution 19-2006, will provide an opportunity for County residents with complaints about towing companies and practices to express their concerns at a pubic forum on Thursday, July 27, 2006, at 6 p.m. in the First Floor Hearing Room of the County Council Administration Building in Upper Marlboro.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL LEADS SUCCESSFUL EFFORT FOR PUBLIC WATER AND SEWER SERVICE IN MARLBORO MEADOWS COMMUNITY

The Prince George's County Council has fulfilled a long-standing commitment to connect the Marlboro Meadows community to the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC), with the recent signing of an agreement between WSSC and Utilities Incorporated of Maryland.

Advocate for the People

Council Cable Show



CTV



“Advocate for the People” is a half-hour cable television program produced by the Prince George’s County Council and hosted by 2006 Legislative Year Council Chair Thomas E. Dernoga. The show title reflected Chair Dernoga’s career as an attorney for civic and environmental groups.

The program aired on the Government and Public Affairs Channel 70 of Community Television of Prince George’s, an award-winning non-profit cable access facility serving Prince George’s County since 1989. “Advocate for the People” aired on a monthly basis from April to November 2006, and featured a host of distinguished guests.

Distinguished Guests

Fred Tutman, Patuxent Riverkeeper

John McDonough, Esq., John P. McDonough, LLC

In celebration of Earth Day, the first half of Chair Dernoga’s premiere edition of “Advocate for the People” featured Patuxent Riverkeeper Fred Tutman, among the men and women around the globe who serve as principle advocates for local waterways. Attorney John McDonough joined Chair Dernoga for the second half of the program. His law practice specializes in land use, zoning, and government issues. The topic of discussion centered around a very important land use issue – Transfer Development Rights.

John E. Deasy, Ph.D

Chief Executive Officer

Prince George’s County Schools

Viewers were treated to an up close and personal conversation on the critical topic of public education in Prince George’s County between new Schools CEO Dr. John Deasy and Chair Dernoga. Dr. Deasy leads Maryland’s second largest school system and the nation’s 18th largest district. It receives the lion’s share of County revenue appropriated by the County Council during budget adoption. Chair Dernoga and Dr. Deasy discussed issues including the controversial state-mandated High School Assessments; school construction; school security; teacher retention and recruitment; and community involvement.

Sheriff Michael A. Jackson

For questions about public safety in our communities – solutions to domestic violence or keeping our schools safe – Chair Dernoga turned to native Prince Georgian Sheriff Michael A. Jackson in a half-hour discussion about safe communities. Chair Dernoga and Sheriff Jackson also talked about the Child Support Enforcement Unit; the School Resource Deputy Program; the Domestic Violence Intervention First Responders Program; community partnerships, and the future goals of the Sheriff’s Department.

COUNTY COUNCIL ON-THE-AIR:

Programs produced by the Prince George's County Council may be viewed by the public on Prince George's County Government and Public Affairs Channels.

Comcast Cable Channel 70

District Council Session.....Monday @ 7:00 PM

County Council Session.....Tuesday @ 7:00 PM

Council Cable Show.....Wednesday @ 6:30 PM

County Council Session.....Wednesday @ 7:00 PM

Council Cable ShowThursday @ 11:30 AM
& 8:30 PM

Council Cable Show.....Friday @ 1:30 PM & 7:00 PM
Comcast Cable Channel 76

Council Cable ShowMonday @ 11:30 AM

Council Cable Show.....Friday @ 10:30 AM

David A. Turner

Like thousands of Washington city dwellers drawn to Prince George's County in the last 15 years, Dave Turner, enjoys the woodlands, historic farms and waterways offered to County residents. He has emerged as one of the area's leading stewards of such resources, and was picked by the County Executive and County Council to Chair the important Historic Preservation Commission in 2003. He also accepted an invitation to join Chair Dernoga for an "Advocate for the People" discussion on historic preservation efforts in Prince George's County.

The Honorable Nathaniel Exum 24th Legislative District

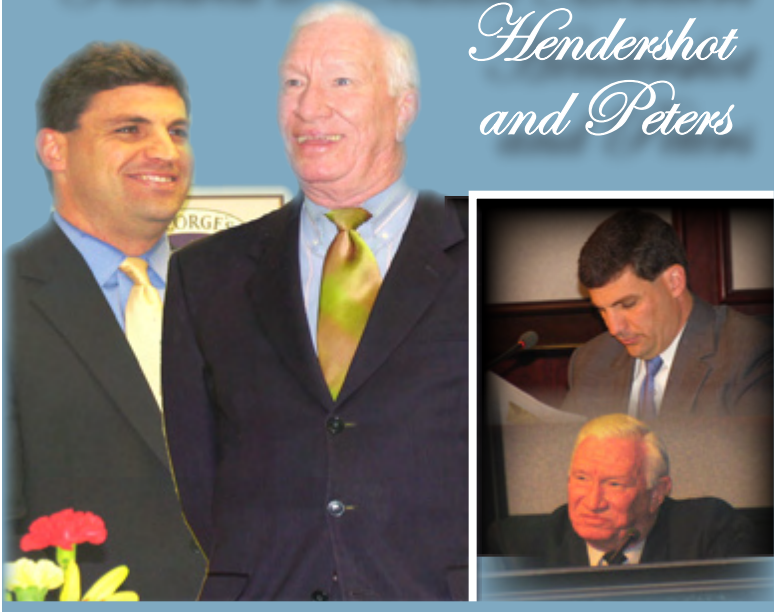
When Chair Dernoga wanted to discuss the history, evolution, and impact of African-Americans in politics in Prince George's County, he invited Maryland State Senator Nathaniel Exum to join him on the set of "Advocate for the People." Senator Exum is a former member of the Maryland House of Delegates, where he served as Deputy Majority Whip and Chair of the Prince George's County Delegation. As a member of the Maryland State Senate, he serves on the powerful Finance Committee and he is Treasurer of the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland. Senator Exum provided powerful insight into the political power of African-American voters in Prince George's County.

Ingrid M. Turner, Esq.

Chair Dernoga was pleased to welcome his newly-elected colleague, Council Member-Elect Ingrid M. Turner as a guest. A product of Prince George's County Schools, Ms. Turner is a graduate of the United States Naval Academy, retiring as a Commander in the Judge Advocate General's Corps of the U.S. Navy after serving her country for 20 years. A trailblazer, Ms. Turner was the first African-American selected for the Navy's fully Funded Law Education Program; the second African-American female to ever obtain the rank of Commander as an active duty judge advocate. She is also the first African-American elected to serve District 4 on the County Council.



Farewell to Council Members Hendershot and Peters



Adoption of the County Budget is among the most far-reaching and significant decisions made by the County Council. Council Chair Thomas Dernoga, during his May 2006 budget remarks, acknowledged the contributions of two departing colleagues - District 3 Council Member Thomas R. Hendershot (D) , and District 4 Council Member Douglas J.J. Peters (D).

“Mr. Hendershot is serving his final term under term limits, and Mr. Peters has set his sights on higher office. Each of you is a tremendous asset to this County, and certainly to this budget process, and I thank you.”

In November 2006, Members of the Prince George’s County Council said a formal farewell to their colleagues, Mr. Hendershot and Mr. Peters.

After 22 years in public service, Council Member Hendershot, serving on the County Council under voter-imposed term limits, concluded his second and final term of office in 2006. Mr. Hendershot was first elected to the Prince George’s County

Council in September 1997, to finish an unexpired term, and was re-elected to a four-year term in 1998 and 2002. In Legislative Year 2006, he served as a member of the Health, Education and Human Services Committee, and the Transportation, Housing and the Environment Committee. In addition, he represented the Council on the Mental Health Advisory Board; the Prince George’s County Conference and Visitors Bureau; and the Council of Governments’ Human Services Policy Committee.



Mr. Hendershot also served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Prince George’s County Workforce Services Corporation, the Commission for Children, Youth and Families, and the Community and Economic Development Steering Committee of the National Association of Counties. In addition, Mr. Hendershot was appointed by County Executive Jack Johnson to serve as a member of the Dimensions Oversight Committee.



Douglas J.J. Peters, elected in November 2002 to serve a four-year term representing District 4 on the Prince George’s County Council, did not seek a second term. In November 2006, Council Member Peters was elected to the Maryland Senate 23rd District seat.

Mr. Peters previously served as a two-term member on the Bowie City Council and as the City’s Mayor Pro Tem. During his term, the City Council created stakeholders meetings that allowed citizens to provide front-end input on developments planned in their neighborhoods. He also designed a program for young leaders called Youth Leadership Bowie, supported a Public Safety Officer position and assembled a Financial Advisory Committee that assisted the City Council in budget decisions.

New Council Members

Eric Olson won the Democratic primary for the Prince George's County Council, District 3 seat, on September 12, 2006. He was elected to the County Council in the November 7, 2006 general election.

Mr. Olson serves as Vice Chair of the County Council's Transportation, Housing and the Environment Committee.

Prior to his election to the County Council, council member Olson served on the College Park City Council from 1997 – 2006. During his time on the City Council he served on several boards including the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee, the Metropolitan Washington Transportation Planning Board, and the Coalition to build the Inner Purple Line. He is former Chair of the University Communities Caucus of the National League of Cities and served as a member of the University of Maryland's Master Planning Committee.

Most recently, Council Member Olson directed the national Sierra Club's Healthy Communities Campaign, where his work included promoting public transportation, creating more walkable, vibrant communities and combating sprawl. He has previously worked as Deputy Director of the Center for Voting and Democracy, a national organization committed to election reform and voting rights. Council Member Olson also has four years of Capitol Hill experience as an aide to Congressman Bernie Sanders (I-VT), where he also served as staff coordinator for the Congressional Progressive Caucus.

Council Member Olson has a B.A. in history from Elmira College, and earned a Master's degree in American Studies from the University of Maryland in 1995.



On December 4, 2006 Ingrid M. Turner was sworn in to the Prince George's County Council representing District 4.



Ms. Turner serves as the Vice Chair of the Health, Education and Human Service (HEHS) Committee. She is a member of the Transportation, Housing and the Environment (THE) Committee and has been appointed to the Council of Governments Human Service Policy Committee. Council Member Turner has also been appointed to the Prince George's County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors.

Ms. Turner was raised in Prince George's County, Maryland. She is a graduate of the United States Naval Academy, with an MBA from Golden Gate University and a Juris Doctorate from The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law.

Council Member Turner is a retired Commander in the Judge Advocate General's Corps, United States Navy having served her country for 20 years. Additional organization affiliations include: Ivy Community Charities of Prince George's County, Inc., Iota Gamma Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Adjunct Professor of Health Policy, George Washington University, Maryland Bar Association, Health Lawyers Association, Prince George's County Bar Association, NAACP, and the United States Naval Academy Alumni Association.

“EVEN BETTER!”

(Excerpt from Chair Dernoga's Inaugural Address Delivered December 4, 2006)

The oath we took to uphold our County Charter is not an individual ceremony of triumph, but a solemn covenant to serve the great people of Prince George's County. Be assured that this Council is determined to fulfill the promises to which we have been sworn and which you have witnessed. Our County offers one of the greatest collections of people ever assembled, with family ties, business connections, and cultural histories extending globally. Our citizens deserve the very best we have to give.

Thank you to each and every employee of Prince George's County, especially those in the Legislative Branch. You are true public servants and your work speaks loudly to the success of good and effective government. None of us would be here without the uncompromising, steadfast, lifelong, love and support of our families. They are gratefully acknowledged. A special thanks to my wife, Lenora, and our children, Matthew and Danielle, who are a tremendous source of pride and an awesome inspiration. My colleagues and I owe a huge debt of gratitude for the confidence of the citizens who elected us to serve. Thank you for your optimism and your hope.

With the trust and faith citizens have demonstrated in our leadership and this partnership, we are well on our way to recognizing a shared vision for Prince George's County. The Honorable Jack B. Johnson took the oath of office to serve a second term as Prince George's County Executive. I extend the congratulations of the Legislative Branch, and renew our commitment to an effective working relationship between our two branches of government. Such a partnership is critical to moving our County forward to promote redevelopment – revitalization – education - economic development - and safe communities.

As we tackle the issues that face us, the members of this County Council will not be concerned about who puts the most points on the board. We know that real change comes from collective action. We have renewed our commitment to fostering partnerships and encouraging public involvement with our citizens, community leaders and other elected officials to work even harder and to do an even better job. We remain committed to decision-making in an open, honest and efficient manner. And we will continue to be guided by the principles of creative problem-solving; stewardship; teamwork through shared leadership; and professionalism.

Our challenge in the second term is to continue building upon the foundation that we set—completing the course in the same bold, proactive manner that has reaped such tremendous results on behalf of our citizens thus far. There are nine skillful, transformational leaders on this County Council, who with your partnership, dare to make this County as great as its people. This team is building on a foundation of

effective leadership, and possesses the vision and courage to make Prince George's County even better. These last four years have been the best the County has ever seen. We are proud of our accomplishments – for schools, transportation, parks and recreation, healthcare, growth management, public safety, and economic development. But our work is not done. There have been some lessons learned. In spite of all of our accomplishments, We can do better. I am proud of my work the past five years, but I know I can do better. I will do even better. I can be a better advocate for the people of Prince George's County. The Citizens of this County should demand better from us, and I challenge my colleagues on the Council to join me in this next four years to give the citizens the best legislative body in the State of Maryland.

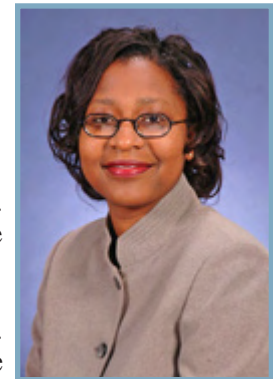
The County Executive, has served this County well, and he can point to numerous areas of success, but we have faith that he can do even better. The Citizens of this County should demand better from him, and I challenge him to be the best County Executive in the State of Maryland. I know he can do it. I see a fantastic body of citizenry, a splendor in its diversity and its unparalleled abilities. You too have had a great four years, but, wonderful citizens I know you can do better, too. You should demand better of your leaders and we should deliver. But you should look within, and demand better of yourselves. Be the best that you can, and Prince George's County will be an even greater place than it is today.

It is the wisdom of the Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Junior who encourages us. “Everybody can be great...because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.” Together, all of us can do better to reduce crime, improve schools, care for our vulnerable, and prosper. We can do better with the passion and the dedication that Prince George's County demands from each of us. With respect and appreciation for all who embraced this task in earlier times, let us rise up and embrace the mission for our time— Let's create a Prince George's County that is bigger and better than ever. Dream big. Do better. Do your best. We are the best.



Thomas E. Dernoga, Chair

*Message from the Honorable Camille A. Exum
2007 Legislative Year Chair*



“Another year is dawning. Dear Father, let it be. In working or in waiting, another year with Thee. Another year of progress. Another year of praise. Another year of proving Thy presence all the days.”

I want to thank my colleagues for electing me to serve as Council Chair for Legislative Year 2007. Guided through my days by the words of Mary McCleod Bethune, “Faith is the first factor in a life devoted to service. Without it, nothing is possible. With it, nothing is impossible,” I humbly ask your continued prayers for our collective leadership, especially during this second term and Chairmanship.

I am reminded of the public service of the Honorable Debra Marshall, the first African-American female County Council Member. Today, we have three African-American females on the Council and I am proud to be among them.

This Chairmanship will receive my highest priority in the 2007 Legislative Year. I am humbled by the privilege to accept the gavel from outgoing Chair Thomas Dernoga, and to serve together with Vice-Chair David Harrington. Between the two of them, I am covered. I applaud Mr. Dernoga for his outstanding performance as Chair and I welcome the partnership of Vice-Chair Harrington in this leadership capacity. I congratulate Council Members Knotts, Dean, and Bland upon their return to second terms in office. I also congratulate Council Member Campos, who after serving an unexpired Council term, will now serve his first full term in office, and I welcome our newcomers—Eric Olson and Ingrid Turner.

This Council will continue to strive to speak truth to power and act in a collective voice. What is good for our respective districts is good for Prince George’s County, and what hurts our districts, hurts our County. And so we begin, where we left off---with a clear direction to do right, do well, and do our best as we continue our mandate for change—together.

Success will require a “can-do” attitude; faith that our County is capable of being the best Prince George’s County; and an unwavering commitment by all to participate in long-term solutions. We will work well with one another; with the non-profit, financial, business and faith communities; and collaboratively with County Executive Jack Johnson as well as public and elected officials at every level to make the transformation of Prince George’s County a reality.

We’ve been on this journey for a while now. It’s time to bring it home. For as long as this gavel is entrusted to me, every time it sounds....it will mean the work of this Council is being conducted with decency and goodwill, integrity and fair play, and teamwork. The people of our County expect and deserve that. We will deliver.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Exum', written over a light-colored rectangular background.

Camille A. Exum
Chair, 2007 Legislative Year



*This report is written and produced by the
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