

# PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

*"Serving the People of Prince George's County, Maryland"*



## 2007 ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE REPORT



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

What a privilege it has been to preside over this august body in the 2007 Legislative Year!

It is with sincere gratitude to my colleagues on the Prince George's County Council – Vice-Chair David C. Harrington, and Council Members Marilyn M. Bland, Will Campos, Samuel H. Dean, Thomas E. Dernoga, Tony Knotts, Eric Olson, and Ingrid M. Turner, and to the citizens we serve, that I submit the Prince George's County Council 2007 Legislative Report, a summary of work conducted in decency, goodwill and teamwork.

There is an African proverb which reads, "When spider webs unite, they can tie up a lion." I am proud to report that, working with unprecedented collaboration through some tough challenges in the past year, this Council tied up a few lions.

Success requires a "can-do" attitude, faith that Prince George's County is capable of being the best, and an unwavering commitment by all of us to participate in long-term solutions. It is an attitude guided by the principles of Creative Problem-Solving; Fiscal Responsibility and Stewardship; Teamwork through Shared Leadership; and Professionalism.

Successful execution of our mandate for change requires unity. In the 2007 Legislative Year, this Council worked in an exceptionally collaborative manner with our County Executive Jack B. Johnson.

As two branches, but one government, we implemented the voter-approved Charter Amendment changes, addressing the need for a greater balance of power between the Executive and Legislative branches of government. Council leadership traveled together for the first time to Wall Street with the County Executive and his financial team, in support of our bond rating, in protection of the County's assets and resources, and in a renewed commitment to work together to confront the challenges before us—access to quality healthcare, a sizeable budget deficit, and structural and systemic obstacles.

The New Year will require everyone to roll up their sleeves and do the hard work to become a more proficient government organization able to identify the long-term solutions we know are necessary to sustain and thrive. The members of this body stand ready to support our new 2008 Legislative Year leadership team—Chair David Harrington and Marilyn Bland-- in the charge to tighten our belts.

Take a look inside the Prince George's County Council 2007 Legislative Report, and you'll find there's much to be proud of, but also a lot of work ahead yet to do. We thank you for your feedback on this report, available on the web at [www.princegeorgescountymd.gov](http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov), and your partnership as we continue "Serving the People of Prince George's County, Maryland."

Sincerely,

Camille A. Exum  
Chair, 2007 Legislative Year

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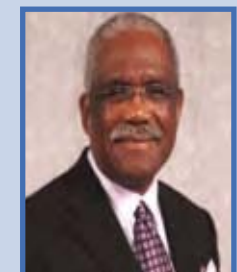
## 2007 PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL



Camille A. Exum,  
Chair  
District 7



Will Campos  
District 2



Samuel H. Dean  
District 6



David C. Harrington  
Vice-Chair  
District 5



Eric Olson  
District 3



Tony Knotts  
District 8



Thomas E. Dernoga  
District 1



Ingrid M. Turner  
District 4



Marilyn M. Bland  
District 9



## Prince George's County Councilmanic Districts

**Thomas E. Dernoga** represents Councilmanic District One which includes Adelphi, Beltsville, Calverton, College Park, Laurel, Montpelier, South Laurel, Vansville and West Laurel.

**Will Campos** represents Councilmanic District Two which includes Adelphi, Avondale, Brentwood, Carole Highlands, Chillum, Green Meadows, Hyattsville, Langley Park, Lewisdale, Mount Rainier and North Brentwood.

**Eric Olson** represents Councilmanic District Three which comprises the areas of Beacon Heights, Berwyn Heights, College Park, East Pines, Glenn Dale, Glenridge, Landover Hills, Lanham, New Carrollton, Riverdale Heights and Hills, Riverdale Park, Seabrook, Templeton Knolls, University Park, West Lanham Hills, and Woodlawn.

**Ingrid M. Turner** represents Councilmanic District Four which includes Bowie, Glenn Dale, Greenbelt, Westchester Park, parts of Lanham-Seabrook and Upper Marlboro.

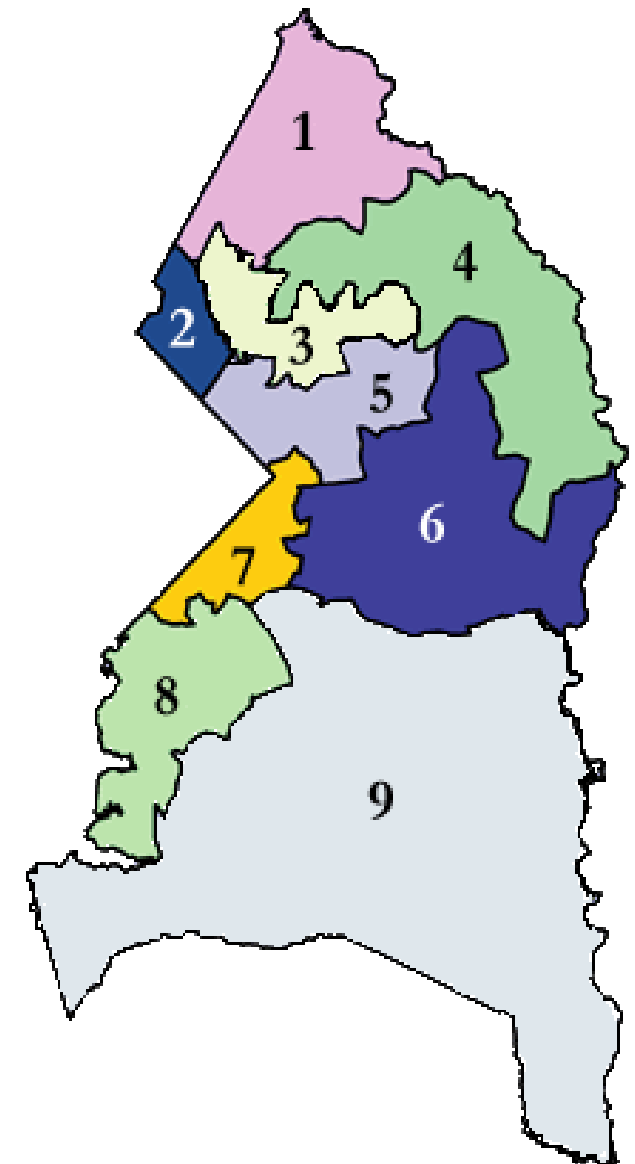
**David C. Harrington** represents Councilmanic District Five which includes Bladensburg, Cheverly, Edmonston, Fairmount Heights, Glenarden, Landover, Colmar Manor, Cottage City, and Mitchellville. (2002 - 2007)

**Samuel H. Dean** represents Councilmanic District Six which includes South Bowie, Capitol Heights, District Heights, Forestville, Kettering, Largo, Mitchellville, and Upper Marlboro.

**Camille Exum** represents Councilmanic District Seven which comprises the areas of District Heights, Bradbury/Boulevard Heights, Capitol Heights, Hillcrest Heights, Marlow Heights, Seat Pleasant and Suitland.

**Tony Knotts** represents Councilmanic District Eight which includes Camp Springs, Clinton, Forest Heights, Fort Washington, Glass Manor, Marlow Heights, Oxon Hill, and Temple Hills.

**Marilynn M. Bland** represents Councilmanic District Nine which includes Accokeek, Andrews Air Force Base, Aquasco, Baden, Brandywine, Camp Springs, Cheltenham, Clinton, Croom, Eagle Harbor, Fort Washington, Piscataway, Upper Marlboro.



*Prince George's County, Maryland is divided into nine Council districts. The boundaries of each Council district are established pursuant to the provisions of the Prince George's County Charter (Section 305). Council district boundaries were reestablished in 1982 and by Charter, are redistricted every tenth year thereafter. On November 11, 2001, the County Council of Prince George's County, Maryland, approved the Councilmanic Redistricting Plan, prepared by the Prince George's County Redistricting Commission pursuant to Section 305 of the Prince George's County Charter. For more information on your Council district, visit [www.princegeorgescounty.gov](http://www.princegeorgescounty.gov) and click on Legislative Branch or call 301.952.3700.*

### 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.

**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL  
COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS  
2007 LEGISLATIVE YEAR**

**“Teamwork Through Shared Leadership”  
Legislative Year 2007 Committee Summary**

**HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND  
HUMAN SERVICES (HEHS)**

Marilynn M. Bland, Chair  
Ingrid M. Turner, Vice-Chair  
Samuel H. Dean  
Tony Knotts  
Eric C. Olson

Sandra Eubanks - Committee Director x 5353  
Gloria Hall - Administrative Aide

**PUBLIC SAFETY AND FISCAL  
MANAGEMENT (PSFM)**

Tony Knotts, Chair  
Will A. Campos, Vice-Chair  
Samuel H. Dean  
Camille A. Exum  
David C. Harrington

Frank Porter - Committee Director x3695  
Pam Stanard - Administrative Aide

**TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND  
THE ENVIRONMENT (THE)**

Thomas E. Dernoga, Chair  
Eric C. Olson, Vice-Chair  
Will A. Campos  
David C. Harrington  
Ingrid M. Turner

Hawi Sanu - Committee Director x3698  
Mira Dwomoh - Administrative Aide

**PLANNING, ZONING, AND  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Samuel H. Dean, Chair  
Thomas E. Dernoga, Vice-Chair  
Marilynn M. Bland  
Camille A. Exum  
David C. Harrington

Jackie Brown - Committee Director x3718  
Ann Jenkins - Administrative Aide

**COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
APPOINTMENTS  
2007**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Camille A. Exum  
Tony Knotts

**TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD**

David C. Harrington  
Eric C. Olson, Alternate

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIR  
QUALITY COMMITTEE**

Will Campos

**METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT  
POLICY COMMITTEE**

Thomas E. Dernoga

**HUMAN SERVICES POLICY COMMITTEE**

Ingrid M. Turner

**PUBLIC SAFETY POLICY COMMITTEE**

Camille A. Exum

**COMMITTEE ON NOISE ABATEMENT AT  
NATIONAL AND DULLES AIRPORTS**

Marilynn M. Bland

**CHESAPEAKE BAY POLICY COMMITTEE**

Eric C. Olson

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL GREEN BUILDING  
GROUP (IGBG) (new in 2007)**

Eric C. Olson

All matters concerning Bills or Resolutions are directed by the Council Chair to one of the five standing committees established by the County Council Rules of Procedure, or the Council sitting as the Committee of the Whole (**COW**). The standing committees-Health, Education and Human Services (**HEHS**); Planning, Zoning and Economic Development (**PZED**); Public Safety and Fiscal Management(**PSFM**);Transportation, Housing, and the Environment (**THE**); and Rules and General Assembly--also guide the process for the Council budget review, as budget oversight responsibility is handled by each committee for designated County departments and agencies.

**HEHS**, chaired by Council Member Marilyn Bland with the assistance of committee vice-chair, Council Member Ingrid Turner, considered the recommendations of the February 2007 report of the Blue Ribbon Committee on High Stakes Testing (CR-042-2006), which evaluated the application and validity of the state-mandated High School Assessments slated to begin with the 2009 graduating class. Included among HEHS budget highlights was full funding of the Board of Education budget. Council members Samuel Dean, Tony Knotts, and Eric Olson served as members of the HEHS committee.

**PZED**, chaired by Council Member Samuel Dean with the assistance of committee vice-chair Council Member Thomas Dernoga, approved legislation establishing the County's Historic Agricultural Resource Preservation Program to permit the acquisition of historic conservation easements. Members of the **PZED** committee--Council members Marilyn Bland, Camille Exum, and David Harrington--also initiated a new Sector Plan and Sectional Map Amendment for the Branch Avenue Corridor; approved the Sector Plan and Sectional Map Amendment for the Bladensburg Town Center; and pledged the full support and participation of the County Council.

**PSFM**, chaired by Council Member Tony Knotts with the assistance of committee vice-chair Council Member Will Campos, established a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program to assist disadvantaged entrepreneurs in performing work for the County under certain circumstances and amending the competitive sealed bidding threshold for the cost of goods and services in procurement contract awards. Council committee members Samuel Dean, Camille Exum and David Harrington also worked with the committee chair and vice-chair to create a resolution that would amend the 2006 Telecommunications Transmission Facility Master Plan to incorporate additional proposed locations for future transmission sites.

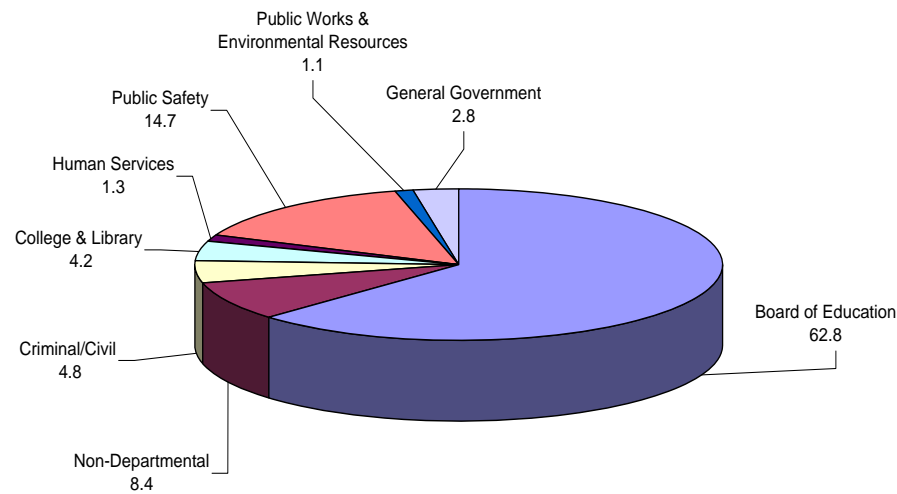
**THE**, chaired by Council Member Thomas Dernoga with the assistance of committee vice-chair Council Member Eric Olson, and committee members Will Campos, David Harrington and Ingrid Turner, voted affirmatively on legislation that reduced the number of pawn dealer licenses available in Prince George's County (CB-03-2007). **THE** also established a Common Ownership Communities Program to assist homeowners' associations and cooperative housing corporations with education, training, and alternative dispute resolution services.

**Rules and General Assembly**, Council Chair Camille Exum and Vice-Chair David Harrington, worked in concert with their Council colleagues and the State Legislature to address a wide range of issues directly impacting the residents of Prince George's County, including healthcare, education, public safety, and the environment.

# FISCAL YEAR 2008 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

*“Improving the quality of education by recognizing the bridge to continuing education and continuing education opportunities that the Prince George’s Community College represents; strengthening and improving the quality of life for many of our citizens; protecting our citizens and property; and providing the infrastructure necessary for a better quality of life for Prince Georgians, are the values that provide the foundation for this budget.”*  
 –Chair Exum  
 FY’ 08 Budget Adoption Remarks

## 2008 Budget



*During a scheduled public hearing, High Point High School students request funding from the Council to implement a “Kids Ride Free” program in Prince George’s County. For students riding the school bus, or those with limited financial means, participation in after-school activities can prove to be a problem without a guaranteed ride home.*

*Under the “Kids Ride Free” fare buy-down program, students participating in extra-curricular activities would ride free on public bus routes weekdays, between the hours of 2 and 7 p.m. The program reduces the need for parents to transport their children to and from after-school activities; encourages the transit riding habit; and provides traffic congestion relief. The Council allocated \$100,000 in the FY’08 budget to subsidize the program.*

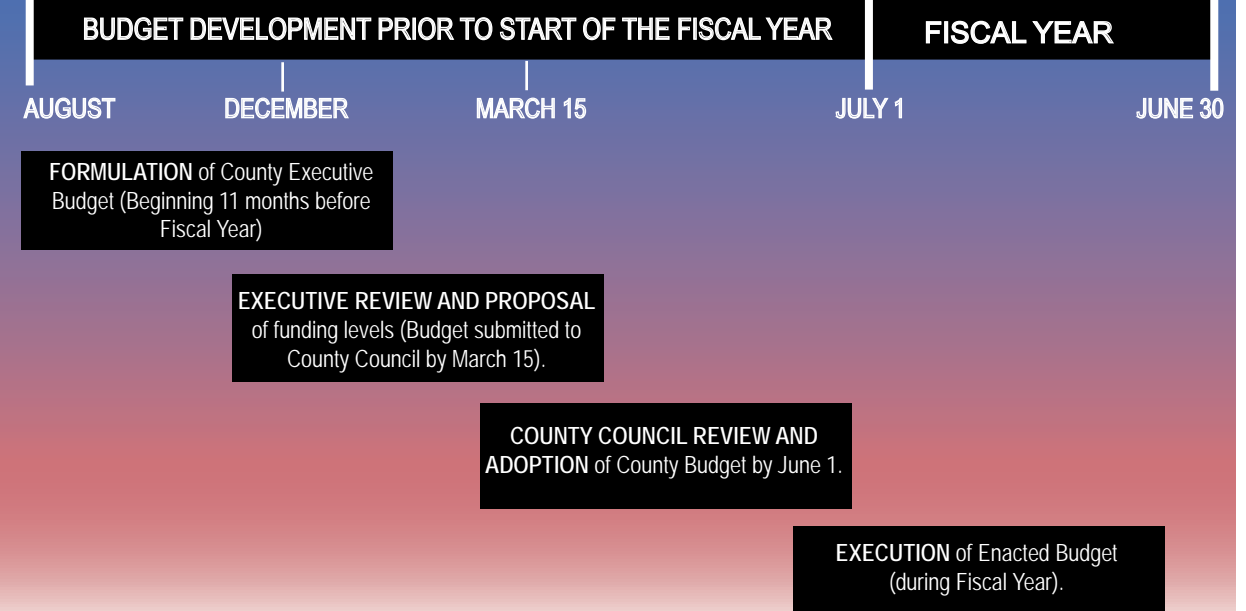
On May 23, 2007, the County Council, in one of its most important functions as the County’s fiscal authority, unanimously adopted a new \$2.6 billion balanced spending plan for Fiscal Year 2008, which began July 1, 2007.

The new plan continued to support education and public safety as budget priorities in Prince George’s County. County public schools, libraries, and the Prince George’s Community College were allotted nearly 70% of County resources in FY’08. In support of our higher education needs, the Community College received an additional \$7 million to support a new initiative which extends the perspective of education beyond the traditional K through 12, by fully funding the Community College and creating a new bridge to education. Outgoing president of the Community College, Dr. Ronald Williams called the Council action, “an extraordinary effort to help the college position itself to respond to the citizen demands.”

As new opportunities are created for our children, the Council also continued to invest in safer communities, appropriating the second largest revenue commitment, 20-percent, to fully fund criminal justice and public safety.

The Council put special emphasis on the enhancement of funding for the

# MAJOR STEPS IN THE BUDGET PROCESS



## County Council Review and Adoption:

*During April and May, County Council staff review the Proposed Capital Budget and Program with staff from the Office of Management and Budget and departmental representatives. The County Council is required to hold two public hearings on the Proposed Operating Budget and the Proposed Capital Budget. The Council, sitting as the Committee of the Whole, completes its review of the Capital Budget and Program by mid-May. The Council must adopt the Annual Budget and Appropriations Ordinance before June 1. Subsequently, it submits the Ordinance to the County Executive for signature. The Proposed Capital Budget takes effect on July 1, the first day of the new Fiscal Year.*

continued preservation of the Rural Tier and Open Space in the Park and Planning Commission’s Capital Improvement Plan, and the construction and renovation of community and recreation centers throughout the County.

Council Members worked to upgrade and build recreational facilities in many communities throughout the County, including the Riverdale Community Recreation Center; Palmer Park Community Center; Walker Mill Regional Park, and the South County Tech and Recreation Center, expanding the opportunity for gymnastics to the southern portion of Prince George’s County.

In keeping with the Council’s commitment to ensure access to quality healthcare, FY’08 spending also included an allotment to the hospital system as work continued toward a long-term healthcare solution.

This was the first Council budget process

and adoption for District 3 Council Member Eric Olson and District 4 Council Member Ingrid Turner. In her remarks upon budget adoption, Chair Exum noted that the budget reflects the competent and collective work of the entire Council and the collaborative efforts of County Executive Jack Johnson to achieve the final budget package.

Despite the County’s healthy economy at the time of the FY’ 08 Budget Adoption, the Council remained committed to conservative spending and the protection of the assets and resources of the County. We acknowledged that significant State budget shortfalls loom, and that there is hard work ahead to reprioritize expenditures. Council emphasis remains focused on sound planning, both fiscally and programmatically, so we can continue to build upon the proud legacy of Prince George’s County while creating generational wealth, economic opportunity, and sustainable communities for ourselves and for those yet to come.

# 2007 PROCLAMATIONS PRESENTED IN COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

- Proclamation presented to the Friendly High School Patriots Football Team and Coach George Early recognizing them as the winners of the "Maryland 3A State Championship".
- Proclamation presented to Karyn T. Lynch, Director, Office of Social Services, and recognizing the week of February 13-23, 2007 as "Energy Awareness Week" in Prince George's County.
- Presentation to Council Vice Chair David C. Harrington and Council Members Bland, Campos, Dean, and Knotts in recognition of their involvement in the "Public Safety Assistance Program".
- Proclamation presented to Mr. Sylvester Conyers, Principal, recognizing the academic achievements of "Eleanor Roosevelt High School" in Prince George's County.
- Proclamation recognizing Judge Gerard F. Devlin, Retired, Maryland District Court, as "Maryland's Veteran of the Year" in Prince George's County.
- Proclamation presented to Mr. Richard Jones, Founder, recognizing the "Let's Go Up to the 21st Century" Foundation in Prince George's County
- Proclamation recognizing Van and Christy Durr as "Outstanding Servants of the People" in Prince George's County.
- Proclamations presented to the Blue Ribbon Committee on High Stakes Testing recognizing the "Outstanding Contributions to the Youth" in Prince George's County.
- Proclamation presented to LaVar Arrington for his outstanding contributions in Prince George's County.
- Proclamation recognizing the Prince George's Community Federal Credit Union for its services to the citizens and residents of Prince George's County.
- Proclamation recognizing the Largo High School Girls Basketball Team as the "Maryland Class 3A Champions" in Prince George's County.
- Proclamation recognizing the Largo High School Lions Boys Basketball Team as the "Maryland 3A South Regional Champions" in Prince George's County.
- Proclamations presented to the Blue Ribbon Committee on High Stakes Testing recognizing the "Outstanding Contributions to the Youth" in Prince George's County.
- Proclamation recognizing Ms. Paula Davis for her "Outstanding Public Service" to Greater Landover Knolls Community in Prince George's County.
- Joint Proclamation presented to George Franklin, WRTC Volunteer and kidney recipient, recognizing April 2007 as "Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Month" in Prince George's County.
- Joint Proclamation presented to Teresa Gardner-Williams, Executive Director, recognizing the "25th Anniversary" of the Prince George's County Volunteer Center.
- Proclamation recognizing the Fairmont Heights Boys' Basketball Team as the "2A South Regional Champions" in Prince George's County
- Proclamation recognizing Kenmoor Middle School as the winner of the "2nd Annual Regional Middle School Science Bowl Competition" in Prince George's County.
- Proclamation presented to Alexis Revis-Yeoman, Carolyn Mills-Matthews and Latesba Allen of the CAMMAY Group recognizing the 8th Annual "Harlem Renaissance Festival" in Prince George's County.
- Presentation recognizing Principal Patsy Hosch, Heather Hills Elementary School, for being named a Maryland "Blue Ribbon School of Excellence" in Prince George's County.
- Presentation recognizing Curtis Crutchfield's nomination for the "NAMME Award of Valor" in Prince George's County.
- Proclamation recognizing the week of April 22-28, 2007 as "National County Government Week" in Prince George's County.
- Joint Proclamation presented to John J. Neville, Chairman, CCC recognizing the month of May, 2007 as "Citizens Concerned for a Cleaner County / Keep Prince George's County Beautiful Month".
- Proclamation recognizing Dante Marquis Wilson, 4th Grader, District Heights Elementary School, as the "2nd Place Winner, Prince George's County Science Fair".
- Proclamation recognizing Bowie State University MSTA Education Club for their "Community Outreach Program" in Prince George's County.
- Proclamation recognizing Leah Rempert as the winner of the "2007-2008 Prince George's County Teacher of the Year" in Prince George's County.
- Proclamation presented to the Burroughs Middle School Intermediate Band as the winner of the "Middle School Concert Band Assessment" competition in Prince George's County.
- Proclamation recognizing Deborah Griffis Whitfield for her "Outstanding Leadership" in Prince George's County.
- Proclamation recognizing Mercedes Hill for being named "Student of the Month" by Frederick Douglass High School PTSA in Prince George's County.
- Proclamation recognizing Reginald Peterson for being named "Student of the Month" by Frederick Douglass High School PTSA in Prince George's County.
- Proclamation recognizing Michelle White, President of "Psi Epsilon Omega Chapter" a new Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. in Prince George's County
- Proclamation recognizing Victor and Linda Ciccozzi on being named an "Outstanding Foster Care Family" sponsored by Freddie Mac in Prince George's County.
- Proclamation presented to J. Matthew Neitzey, Executive Director, Conference and Visitors Bureau, Inc. for Prince George's County.
- Proclamation presented to the Prince George's Falcons for their "Outstanding Community Service."
- Proclamation presented to Charles W. Wilson, Director, Department of Environmental Resources recognizing the Month of June, 2007 as "Flood Awareness Month" in Prince George's County.
- Proclamation presented to Diamond Douglas of Melwood Elementary School, recognizing her contribution to the "Jump Rope for Heart" program in Prince George's County
- Proclamation recognizing the Honorable Lillian K. Beverly for her "Outstanding Leadership" in Prince George's County.
- Proclamation recognizing the Honorable George Denny, Jr., for his "Outstanding Leadership" in Prince George's County.
- Proclamation recognizing Eleanor Traynam for her "Outstanding Service" in Prince George's County.
- Proclamation presented to Retired Corporal Anthony (Tony) Begenwald for being named the "Maryland Marine Corps League's Marine of the Year.
- Proclamation presented to Dayan (Jack) Li recognizing him as one of only three nationwide students awarded the "Intel Foundation Young Scientist \$50,000 Scholarships" for his study of tumors.
- Joint Proclamation recognizing September 18, 2007 as "Car Free Day" in Prince George's County.
- Joint Proclamation recognizing October 13, 2007 as "Gorgeous Prince George's Day" in Prince George's County.
- Proclamation presented to Myron "Mighty" Davis recognizing his achievements with the "Prince George's County Tennis and Education Foundation, Inc." in Prince George's County.
- Proclamation presented to the family of Ms. Regina Williams, recognizing Ms. Williams for her contributions to Rosaryville Elementary School and the community.
- Proclamation recognizing September 15 - October 15, 2007 as "Hispanic Heritage Month" in Prince George's County.
- Proclamation presented to Mr. James Moore recognizing his outstanding contributions and personal commitment to Prince George's County.
- Proclamation presented to the Prince George's County Business I:Jod Professional Women recognizing October 15-20, 2007 as "National Business Women's Week" in Prince George's County.
- Proclamation presented to Dr. Edna Crocker for being named the "2007 BPW Woman of the Year" in Prince George's County.
- Proclamation presented to Dr. Joelle Davis Carter for being named the '2007 BPW Woman of the Year" in Prince George's County.
- Proclamation presented to Ms. Michelle Clark and the National Federation of the Blind recognizing October 15, 2007 as "White Cane Safety Day" in Prince George's County.
- Proclamation presented to Ms. Sabrina Vann for her dedication to the "Renaissance Program and Citizens in Action, Tutoring|Mentoring Program".
- Proclamation recognizing Walter Thaxton, President, Clinton Cert Program, for his dedication to "Community Service" in Prince George's County.
- Proclamation recognizing October 15-19, 2007 as "Careers in Construction Week" and October 16, 2007 as "Careers in Construction Day" in Prince George's County.
- Proclamation presented to Mr. R. Keith Colson, Mr. Jay "Nightwolf" Winter and Ms. Dottie Bass recognizing November, 2007 as "American Indian Heritage Month" in Prince George's County.
- Joint proclamation presented to Ms. Patricia Bendross recognizing October 18, 2007 as "Conflict Resolution Day" in Prince George's County.
- Proclamation presented to Ms. Shana Powell a Prince George's County resident, in recognition of being named "2007 Miss Maryland".
- Proclamation presented to Mr. Henry W. Harris in recognition of his selection as one of 100 Top Minority Business Enterprises" in Prince George's County.
- Proclamation presented to Mr. Kenneth E. Barnes, Sr. for his non-profit organization "ROOT (Reaching Out to Others Together)" and his outstanding contributions in Prince George's County.

## 2007 Public Forums and Meetings

### Expo Latino Community Awareness Fair

Prince George's County Council Members Will Campos (D) – District 2, and Eric Olson (D) – District 3, were co-hosts of the County's first "Expo Latino Community Awareness Fair," on June 9, 2007. This cultural and business exposition was designed to connect the local Latino community with County Government resources. "Expo Latino" featured family-friendly entertainment, food, free health screenings, public safety demonstrations and information on County services. Representatives from local non-profit groups were on hand to discuss various programs and services relevant to the Hispanic community.



### Prince George's County Community Leadership Institute IV Blue Ribbon Committee Forum

Prince George's County Community Leadership Institute IV, Center for Excellence Empowering Community Stakeholders held a forum February 15, 2007 to discuss findings and recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Committee Report on High Stakes Testing and the Maryland High School Assessments (MSA). State mandated high school assessments are a requirement for graduation beginning with the Class of 2009. The Blue Ribbon Committee on High Stakes Testing was created by a Resolution of the Prince George's County Council on July 11, 2006. Under CR-62-2006, the committee examined the impact on County students, and economic development initiatives, and considered appropriate recommendations.



### Transportation Improvements and Expansions

Public Hearings on County Transportation concerns were held on January 31, and February 1, 2007. The hearings were hosted by the Prince George's County Council Committee on Transportation, Housing, and Environment (THE) and County citizens were invited to share their concerns on expanding public transit and roadway improvements. The Committee scheduled the forums in College Park and Suitland, Maryland which allowed an opportunity for citizens throughout the County to attend.



### Anacostia River Levee/Flood Protection System

The Prince George's County Council Committee on Transportation, Housing and the Environment (THE) held a public forum on April 5, 2007 to address concerns about levees along the Anacostia River in the Bladensburg and Hyattsville areas. The forum was held in response to information contained in a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers report which found deficiencies in the flood protection system requiring corrective action by Prince George's County.



### County Council Budget Hearing

The Prince George's County Council held a final hearing on the FY'08 Budget, May 8, 2007. Citizens of Prince George's County were encouraged to participate in the process and share concerns about the County Budget at the hearing. Topics voiced during that hearing included road improvements, animal control, healthcare, county schools, public safety, libraries and recreation facilities.



## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN COUNCIL MEETINGS

### COUNTY COUNCIL SESSIONS

Prince George's County Council Sessions are formal proceedings and all comments are recorded for public record. Members of the audience are provided an opportunity to address the Council prior to the close of each meeting. Participation is also welcomed during the public hearing process. Those wishing to testify during the public hearing are urged to telephone the Clerk's office at 301-952-3600 for placement on the advance speakers' list. Registrations are also accepted in the hearing room. The following information is provided as a guide to public participation in the Council Meeting. When you are called by the presiding officer, please follow these steps:

- Come forward to the speaker's podium and state your name and address.
- Relax.
- Present your comments as succinctly as possible. Avoid duplicate testimony.
- Confine your remarks to three minutes, if the presiding officer has indicated time limits would be in effect.
- If you have a written statement, give it and other supporting material to the Clerk.

In accordance with ADA Requirements, accommodations for hearing impaired, disabled persons and the visually impaired can be provided upon reasonable notice to the Clerk of the Council. Sign language interpreters and wireless receivers are also available with advance notice by calling (301) 952-3600/TDD 1(800) 735-2258. In the event of inclement weather, please call (301) 952-4810 to confirm the status of County Business.



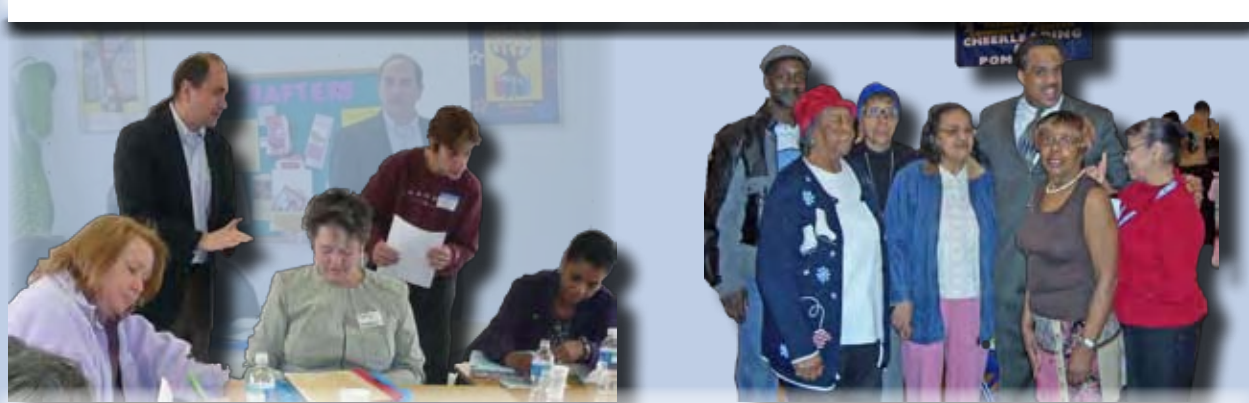
### RULES OF COURTESY

We welcome and encourage your interest and involvement in the process of representative government.

To ensure fair and orderly meetings, the Council has adopted rules which apply to all Members of the Council, administrative staff, news media, citizens and visitors. The procedures provide:

- No one shall delay or interrupt the proceedings or refuse to obey the orders of the presiding officer.
- Posters or Placards must remain outside the Council Hearing Room.
- No smoking is permitted in the County Administration Building.
- Citizens are admitted up to the Fire Safety capacity of the Hearing Room. Overflow crowds may listen to proceedings on loudspeakers provided in the lobby area.
- The use of cellular phones is prohibited in the Hearing Room.

# Council in the *Community*



## 2007 COUNCIL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

### County Council Committee Holds Public Forums on Transportation

The Prince George's County Council Committee on Transportation, Housing, and the Environment (THE) hosted two public hearings to discuss community transportation and transit priorities across the County.

### Council Member Turner Awards \$7500 in Grants to District 4 Volunteer Fire Departments

Prince George's County Council Member Ingrid M. Turner (D) - District 4, recently awarded \$2500 each to the Volunteer Fire Departments in Bowie, Greenbelt, and Glenn Dale. Council Member Turner made a personal presentation to the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department during an afternoon ceremony on Friday, January 12, 2007.

### Council Member Campos and his Saxophone Support Northwestern High School Hurricane Katrina Relief Benefit Concert

Prince George's County Council Member Will Campos (D) - District 2 will use one of his many talents to help the Colours in Arts Education program, a non-profit based at Northwestern High School in Hyattsville, raise \$15,000 to benefit the Boys and Girls Club of the Gulf Coast; the Renaissance Project; the Delta Blues Crossroads Project; and Ashe Cultural Arts Center - all victims of Hurricane Katrina and venues for young artists in the Delta region.

### Council Member Dean Presents Proclamation to Blue Ribbon Committee on High Stakes Testing

Prince George's County Council Member Samuel H. Dean (D) - District 6, presented a proclamation to the Blue Ribbon Committee on High Stakes Testing during Council session on Tuesday, March 20. State-mandated high school assessments are a requirement for graduation beginning with the Class of 2009.

### Council to Hold Public Hearing on Pawnshop Legislation

The Prince George's County Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, March 20, during Council session, to address CB-03-2007. The legislation proposes reducing the number of pawn dealer licenses available in Prince George's County.

### Council Committee Holds Public Forum on the Prince George's County Anacostia River Levee/Flood Protection System

The Prince George's County Council Committee on Transportation, Housing and the Environment (THE) will conduct a public forum to discuss issues surrounding the Prince George's County Anacostia River Levee/Flood Protection system.

### Council Members Campos and Olson Host "Expo Latino"

Prince George's County Council Members Will Campos (D) - District 2, and Eric Olson (D) - District 3, co-host the County's first "Expo Latino Community Awareness Fair," a cultural and business exposition designed to connect the local Latino community with County Government resources.

### Council Adopts \$2.6 Billion Spending Plan for FY'08

The Prince George's County Council today unanimously adopted a \$2.6 billion balanced budget for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2007. The new budget is 11% above the FY'07 spending level.

### Council Member Harrington Appointed To National Leadership Post

Prince George's County Council Vice-Chair David Harrington (D) - District 5, has been appointed the new Chair of the National Association of Counties (NACo) Steering Committee on Community and Economic Development.

### Council Member Knotts to Provide \$40,000 in Scholarships for District 8 Students

Prince George's County Council Member Tony Knotts (D)-District 8, is offering \$40,000 in scholarship assistance to District 8 students pursuing either a college degree or certification in a technical or vocational field.

### Council Member Turner Presents Proclamation To Miss Maryland

Prince George's County Council Member Ingrid M. Turner (D) - District 4, presented a Council Proclamation to Miss Maryland Shana Powell, during Council session on Tuesday, November 20, 2007. Council Member Turner spoke proudly of Powell and her many accomplishments. "Shana is a product of Prince George's County Schools and a young woman of great achievement - proof positive that graduates of our County's schools are doing great things.

### Council Members Olson, Dernoga and Campos, Hold Community Forum To Address Route 1 Development

Prince George's County Council Member Eric Olson (D) - District 3, along with Council Members Thomas Dernoga (D) - District 1 and Will Campos (D) - District 2, will sponsor a community forum to address development along the Route 1 Corridor.

### Council Unanimously Confirms Youth Commission Nominees

The Prince George's County Council unanimously confirmed 33 nominees for the Prince George's County Youth Commission during Council session on Tuesday, October 30, 2007. The Prince George's Youth Commission, an initiative spearheaded by Council Member Marilyn M. Bland (D) - District 9, was established last year by legislation, CB-19-2006.



George's County over 30 years ago, Senator Currie shared with viewers from his wellspring of knowledge on issues of the day relative to state and local government. Chair Exum and Senator Currie discussed the state deficit, education funding, rising utility rates, healthcare, and growth management in Prince George's County.



**Elsie Jacobs, President, Suitland Civic Association**

**Earle Gumbs, President, Hillcrest – Marlow Heights Civic Association Inc.**

Civic associations play an important and vital role in the success of communities in Prince George's County. With this thought in mind, Chair Exum invited Suitland Civic Association president Elsie Jacobs and Hillcrest-Marlow Heights Civic Association president Earle Gumbs to join her for an update on the progress of their respective communities. Ms. Jacobs, citing Suitland as a "Community on the Move,"



"Conversations with Camille" is a half-hour cable television program produced by the Prince George's County Council and hosted by 2007 Legislative Year Council Chair Camille Exum. Focusing on issues of importance to County citizens, the show celebrated the "can-do" attitude of residents, affirming the greatness and potential of Prince George's County.

The program aired on Government and Public Affairs Channel 70, Community Television of Prince George's - an award-winning, non-profit cable access facility serving as the media hub of information for Prince George's County. "Conversations with Camille" aired on a monthly basis and featured in-depth conversations with a host of distinguished guests:

**Jack B. Johnson, County Executive**

The premiere edition of "Conversations with Camille" featured a conversation with Prince George's County Executive Jack B. Johnson. Viewers were treated to an up-close dialogue between Chair Exum and County Executive Johnson on the proposed FY'08 County Budget; anti-crime and violence initiatives; County hospital issues; the National Harbor project, and a host of other economic development issues.

**Maryland State Senator Ulysses Currie, District 25, Prince George's County**

Chair Exum was pleased to welcome Maryland State Senator Ulysses Currie as a guest on "Conversations with Camille." Senator Currie, a member of the State Senate since 1995, serves as the Chair of the State Budget and Taxation, and Spending Affordability Committees. With a public service career that began in Prince

progress reports on the Windsor Crossing, Suitland Community Center, Suitland Elementary School and the Suitland Manor projects. Mr. Gumbs, a lifelong resident of Prince George's County, gave an overview of the Hillcrest-Marlow Heights Civic Association's citizen outreach program, and discussed the progress of the Hillcrest-Marlow Heights Community Center expansion. Both civic leaders talked about the importance of community participation in every aspect of local government process, especially consideration of the County Budget.

**Standley Brady, Director and CEO, S.B. Step Ahead Program**

**Karyn T. Lynch, Director, Department of Social Services**

Recognizing the significant contributions community programs make on behalf of

young people and their families, Chair Exum welcomed Standley Brady, Director and CEO of the S.B. Step Ahead Mentorship program for a discussion about empowering young people. For more than 16 years, Mr. Brady has provided mentoring opportunities for at-risk youth. He talked with Chair Exum about the critical role of volunteerism in Prince George's County, which he considered key to his program's success. Later on "Conversations with Camille," Karen Lynch, Director of the Prince George's County Department of Social Services, took the interview seat to talk about providing intervention services to strengthen families; protecting children and vulnerable adults; encouraging self-sufficiency; and promoting personal responsibility in Prince George's County.

**David C. Harrington, Prince George's County Council Vice-Chair District 5**

**Eugene E. Grant, Mayor, City of Seat Pleasant**

In a unique opportunity for reflection on the 2007 Legislative Year with viewers, Chair Exum shared the set with the Council Vice-Chair David C. Harrington. As their year in Council leadership drew to a close, Chair Exum thanked her colleague for his commitment to the Council vision of shared leadership over the past year, recognizing his meritorious contributions to the communities of District 5 under his "Community First" agenda. Chair Exum also congratulated Vice-Chair Harrington on his most recent accomplishment as the recipient of the Hurston-Wright Foundation Ella Baker Award for Civic



Leadership. Seat Pleasant Mayor Eugene Grant was Chair Exum's guest in the second half of the program. Mayor Grant is also founder and president of Global Developmental Services for Youth, Inc., an international non-profit he started nearly 20 years ago. Mayor Grant also shared his vision for Seat Pleasant as a "City of Excellence" in Prince George's County.

# 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:

**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

**COMCAST** Channel 70      **VERIZON** Channel 41

**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COMMUNITY TELEVISION**

**COMCAST** Channel 76      **VERIZON** Channel 42

**Chair of the County Council Show**

The County Council cable show is hosted by the presiding Council Chair and airs Thursdays at 11:30 a.m. and again 8:30 p.m. on the Government and Public Affairs channel.

The show also airs on the Community Television channel on Monday at 11:30 a.m. and again on Friday at 10:30 a.m.

**District Council Session**

District Council Session is held the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month and airs on CTV the corresponding Monday at 7 p.m. and Tuesday at noon.

**County Council Session**

The County Council Session is held every Tuesday and airs at 7:00 p.m., Wednesday at noon and 7:00 p.m. and Thursday at 12 p.m.

# 2007 HOSPITAL HEADLINES

## A Summary of Council News Releases



The Prince George's County Council is committed to providing access to quality healthcare for Prince George's County residents. The County Council has approved every funding request submitted by the County Executive on behalf of the hospital system, appropriating more than \$65 million in 2007. The Council continues to assert that a long-term, comprehensive plan for the hospital system is a necessary and achievable goal.

**02/07/07**  
**Council Adoption of CR-5-2007 Speeds Delivery of \$5 Million Emergency Appropriation**

The Prince George's County Council today considered two emergency measures addressing the ongoing financial crisis facing the County's hospital system. CB-2-2007, emergency legislation recommending a \$5 million conditional supplementary appropriation to the system was formally introduced as amended by the Council.

**04/09/07**  
**Statement From Council Chair Camille Exum Regarding County-State Hospital System Negotiations**

The Prince George's County Council is actively engaged in critical discussions around the fate of the hospital system and continues to be fully supportive of a comprehensive approach to provide quality healthcare. The current dialogue began on March 29, 2007. We remain seriously concerned however, that the long-term, comprehensive approach to this very complex healthcare issue, decades in the making, is not sufficiently demonstrated in the "deal" on the table, and cannot be negotiated in ten days.

**04/10/07**  
**Council Chair Exum Makes Opening Remarks During Council Press Conference on Hospital Situation**

Members of this County Council live here in Prince George's County. We are taxpayers. We understand the

need to provide for our families. And when we get sick, we are patients seeking quality healthcare. We share the concern of citizens, workers, and patients about the hospital system. Since most of us were elected in 2002, we have been fully supportive of a comprehensive approach to provide quality healthcare. We provided the hospital system with a cash infusion in excess of \$50 million, an unprecedented funding commitment by any County or the State of Maryland.

**04/12/07**  
**Council Update on Hospital Situation**

The Prince George's County Council is working diligently to ensure that the hospital system, a private corporation, remains open. We do not anticipate the closure of the hospital, and urge the calm, strategic and thoughtful environment necessary to accomplish a long-term, comprehensive approach to a viable healthcare system. We are still actively negotiating and will update the situation as new information becomes available.

**04/18/07**  
**County Executive, Council Chair Avert Closure of Hospital System**

Prince George's County Executive Jack Johnson and County Council Chair Camille Exum announced tonight that the County will provide funding support to sustain hospital system operations through June 2008.

**06/29/07**  
**Council Updates Position on Dimensions Healthcare**

The Prince George's County Council is committed to providing access to quality healthcare to Prince George's County residents. The County Council has approved every funding request submitted by the County Executive on behalf of the hospital system, appropriating more than \$65 million to date.



*Chair Camille Exum explains the County Council's position on the state of affordable healthcare in Prince George's County.*



### *Message from the Honorable David C. Harrington 2008 Legislative Year Chair*

Honored by the confidence of my Council colleagues, who have placed their trust in my ability and commitment to lead, I humbly accept this Gavel of Leadership. I am awed by the devotion of this Council to represent and protect the interests of our citizens at the highest level possible. I look forward to each of their ideas for steps we can take together, to fulfill our legislative mission in Prince George's County.

There are many definitions of true leadership. My own sense of leadership stems from a sense of community and family. While many of the current statistics would lead us to despair about the future of children, families, and communities -- I have a hope grounded in the desire to lead and make a difference; in my Christian faith through which all things are possible; and in my upbringing by my mom and dad, who offered a stunning example of family and resolve.

Leadership then, for me, is grounded in the belief that building community is the best place to make a positive difference in the lives of others. Such an example may be found in Camille Exum, who has served this body as its leader over the past year with distinction. To my friend, Camille...I am personally honored to have been your Vice-Chair, and to accept this gavel from you. I respect your courage and tenacity to always seek and defend what is fair and right.

As Council Chair, I will call on my colleagues to focus and prioritize, and to commit even more so to the Core Values we all agreed to at the onset of this Council's mission. We will continue to foster critical partnerships on every level and maintain open and transparent public processes.

My partnership effort begins with my co-leader, Vice-Chair Marilynn Bland. I am delighted to work with her and appreciate her affirmation of our values, especially in her work with young people.

What attracts others to Prince George's County will emerge from out of the box thinking and public discussions about higher performance in areas such as economic development; smarter planning and zoning; options that leverage public and private dollars; more diverse, quality housing; public safety, and a sustained healthcare delivery system.

We stand ready to dialogue and collaborate with our partners to arrive at win-win long-term comprehensive solutions. I ask that you keep me and every member of the Prince George's County Council in your prayers.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

**David C. Harrington**  
 Chair, 2008 Legislative Year

\*\*In February 2008, District 6 Council Member Samuel H. Dean was sworn in as Chair for Legislative Year 2008, a seat left vacant by the gubernatorial appointment of David C. Harrington to a vacancy in the Maryland State Senate. Senator Harrington was serving as his second and final term on the Council and the Council chairmanship at the time of his appointment the Maryland Legislature. Samuel H. Dean, also in his second and final term on the Council, previously served as Council Chairman in 2005.



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