

# PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

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

## LEGISLATIVE POWER

*All legislative powers which may be exercised by  
Prince George's County under the Constitution and laws of Maryland,  
including all law making powers heretofore exercised by the General Assembly  
of Maryland but transferred to the people of the County by virtue of the  
adoption of this Charter, shall be vested in the Council.*

Section 302 of the Prince George's County Charter



## 2008 ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE REPORT



**Message from the Honorable Samuel H. Dean  
2008 Legislative Chair**

I am richly blessed to serve the great people of Prince George's County and in Legislative Year 2008, to have served for a second time as Council Chairman. I am humbled by the confidence of my Council colleagues, who again entrusted me with the Gavel of Leadership. I also continue to be honored by the faith of the citizens of District 6, who twice elected me as their representative. For these and all my blessings, I thank my God.

Admittedly, a second round as Chairman resulted from what was probably the shortest chairmanship in Council history—the tenure of my former colleague, now State Senator David Harrington. In February 2008, Senator Harrington resigned the chairmanship and the Council upon his appointment to the State Senate seat left vacant by the passing of the Honorable Gwendolyn Britt. In addition to my second year as Chairman, Senator Harrington's elevation also presented an opportunity for the Special Election of the Council's newest member and the first woman elected to serve District 5 on the Council, Andrea Harrison.

Always committed to our Core Values and Guiding Principles, this Council is a courageous assembly of local legislators gifted with a vision for the future—willing to do the hard work and not afraid of tough decisions. I am proud to present to our citizens, The Prince George's County 2008 Legislative Annual Report, a summary of our service to you over the past year. It was a difficult year as the County continued to grapple with fiscal challenges of enormous proportion, but whether the issue was furloughs or foreclosures, this Council courageously

stepped up to the plate. I am especially grateful for the exceptional partnership of my co-leader Council Vice-Chairperson Marilyn Bland, and the tenacity of all of my colleagues—Will Campos; Thomas Dernoga; Camille Exum; Andrea Harrison; Tony Knotts; Eric Olson; and Ingrid Turner.

Included among the many hallmarks of the 2008 Legislative Year was the strong collaboration between the Executive and Legislative branches of government. Over the years, the relationship between the two branches has evolved into a true partnership built on a common mission to serve the people of Prince George's County. Working together with County Executive Jack Johnson, we passed a balanced budget in this really tough economy; achieved for the County, a coveted Triple-A bond rating from Wall Street executives; worked with the Governor to reach a funding agreement for the hospital system; and approved a Neighborhood Stabilization Program to restore our neighborhoods and the County tax base.

This Council has always been committed to promoting economic development opportunities in Prince George's County, with a particular focus on ensuring local and minority participation in projects in which the County is involved.

I am especially proud of our momentous work with the County Executive on new laws that set a policy direction for economic development and minority business participation. The legislation, which approved a bond bill to pay for

public facilities and improvements at National Harbor, also provided for local minority participation in projects associated with the project. As a result of the new policy initiative, minority contractors now receive at least 15-percent of the work from new construction and operations. In addition, the legislation appropriated \$5 million to Prince George's Community College to fund the new Center for Minority Business Development, which will train local, small and minority-owned businesses and ensure a quality pool of contractors from which to choose.

The 2008 Legislative Year was marked by an historic season of change. What comes immediately to mind is the election of the nation's first African-American President Barack Obama. The changes ushered into our Nation's Capitol will greatly assist us all as we work to meet the challenges posed by the current economic crisis being faced in Prince George's County and across the country.

I agree with President Obama...this is our time! It's our time to emerge a stronger, wiser, more courageous and vibrant Prince George's County, and that will be accomplished in the coming year, under the new 2009 Council leadership team of Chairperson Marilyn Bland and Vice-Chairman Thomas Dernoga. Despite the awesome tasks ahead, what a privilege it is to be in public service at this moment in history!

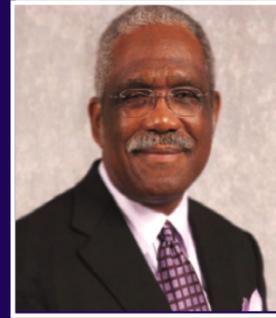
There's so much more to the story. Thank you for visiting us online at [www.princegeorgescountymd.gov](http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov) and viewing The Prince George's County Council 2008 Legislative Annual Report.

We appreciate the continued support and partnership of our citizens. Please continue to keep us in your thoughts and prayers. God bless Prince George's County. And God bless this Council as we continue to be "Servants of the People."

Sincerely,

Samuel H. Dean  
Chairman, 2008 Legislative Year

**2007 PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL**



SAMUEL H. DEAN, Chair



WILL CAMPOS



ANDREA HARRISON



MARILYNN M. BLAND, Vice Chair



ERIC OLSON



CAMILLE EXUM



THOMAS E. DERNOGA



INGRID M. TURNER



TONY KNOTTS

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# CORE VALUES



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.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

### 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.

## Councilmanic Districts

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

**Marilynn M. Bland, Vice Chair,** 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.

**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.

**Andrea Harrison** represents Councilmanic District Five which includes Bladensburg, Cheverly, Edmonston, Fairmount Heights, Glenarden, Landover, Colmar Manor, Cottage City, and Mitchellville.

**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.

# County Council Committees

This Council conducts our most important work, including budget review and adoption, through five standing committees established as part of the County Council Rules and Procedure—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. In addition, the entire legislative body may also sit as the Committee of the Whole (**COW**). The County Council's application of its Guiding Principles and Core Values, in particular "Creative Problem-Solving," is evident in Council work achieved through the committee process.

All legislative matters, Bills and Resolutions, are directed by the Council Chair to one of the standing committees or the **COW** for consideration. Budget oversight responsibility for designated County departments and agencies is assigned to the appropriate committee for review. Council Members who served in committee leadership, as well as those who comprised committee membership during Legislative Year 2008, worked diligently to guide critical legislation and initiatives, as well as the County Budget, through the committee process.

**HEHS**, chaired by Council Member **Will Campos** with the assistance of committee vice-chair **Ingrid Turner**, ensured that public education maintained its priority funding status, with a \$1.65 billion Board of Education investment. Education was allotted the majority (63%) of FY'09 County resources, an appropriation that included funding for salary improvements, maintaining current class sizes, opening one new elementary school, and Alternative Governance and the High School Assessment Bridge Plan. **HEHS** also continued to support the County's commitment to higher education, approving increased funding to Prince George's Community College. Council Chairman Samuel Dean, Vice-Chairperson Marilynn Bland, and Council Member Andrea Harrison also served on the **HEHS** committee.

**PZED**, chaired by Council Member Camille Exum with her colleague Council Member Eric Olson serving as committee vice-chair, established

an Historic Property Grant Program in the County, administered in partnership with the Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission. This program offers grants up to \$100,000 for the acquisition, preservation, restoration or rehabilitation of historic properties in Prince George's County. Additional **PZED** highlights include approval for the Prince George's County Public Safety Facilities Master Plan, and approval of legislation improving the design, content, and posting requirements for public hearing signs for development applications. During Legislative Year 2008, **PZED** very actively initiated a host of Master Plans and Sector Plans for communities across Prince George's County. Council Chairman Samuel Dean, joined by Council Members Thomas Dernoga and Tony Knotts served on the **PZED** committee.

**PSFM**, chaired by Council Member Tony Knotts with the assistance of committee vice-chair Ingrid Turner, and committee members Samuel Dean, Camille Exum, and Will Campos, approved all Collective Bargaining Agreements for all bargaining Units within the County; amended all Public Safety Pension Plans to increase the amount of the line of duty death benefits; approved Energy Services and Lease Financing agreements for the purchase, installation and financing of certain energy consumption and maintenance cost at County buildings; established a tax credit for real property used for publicly supported business incubator programs; adopted a County Debt Management Policy to provide guidelines for the issuance of bonds and other forms of indebtedness; and increased the cost of marriage licenses to finance Battered Spouse and Domestic Violence programs in the County. The Council, through its work in **PSFM**, and later in the **COW**, adopted CR-23-2008, originally proposed by PSFM Chair Tony Knotts. A significant piece of legislation, CR-23-2008, is a \$35 million Bond Bill financing certain infrastructure improvements at National Harbor. The approved legislation with amendments that included provisions for at least 15-percent of the work from new construction at National Harbor reserved for local, small and minority-owned businesses; \$5 million to Prince George's Community College for a new training center for local, small and minority-owned businesses; and the establishment of a County Compliance Manager position to assure compliance with the terms of the agreement. CR-23-2008 is far-reaching legislation that sets a new course for minority business participation in Prince George's County.

## The Committee System

*The Council has imposed upon itself a committee system, which operates pursuant to the County Council Rules of Procedure. The committee system operates prior to the introduction of a bill, and when determined to be appropriate by a majority of the Council members present, after introduction to permit further study or modification to a bill. It should be noted that, notwithstanding, the establishment of the committee system, the Council may waive the Rules of Procedure and alter the committee process for a particular bill and that the Charter permits any Council member to introduce any bill on any legislative session day.*

*The chairman of each committee shall prepare and distribute an agenda of items to be considered at each committee meeting.*



**THE**, chaired by Council Member Thomas Dernoga, with the assistance of committee vice-chair Eric Olson, voted to formally support the Purple Line as a light rail option and to begin construction in the Prince George's section of the proposed project, with a letter to Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley. **THE** committee members, including Council Vice-Chair Marilynn Bland and Council Members Camille Exum and Andrea Harrison, expressed Council support for the environment with the use of alternative reusable bags by businesses and citizens; worked to provide resources to County residents to ease foreclosure and housing problems in an economic downturn, adopting Council Resolution-97-2008 in support of the County's application for \$10.8 million in Federal funding under the Neighborhood Stabilization Program. In addition, **THE** held an expansive discussion regarding towing issues, drafting comprehensive legislation to address significant concerns and including towing operators, and adopted Council Resolution-27-2008 to repeal the Bradford Pear Tree as the official tree of Prince George's County and establish a workgroup of interested stakeholders to recommend a new County tree to the County Executive and County Council.

**RULES AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY**, led by Council Chairman Samuel Dean and Council Vice-Chair Marilynn Bland, continued its work in collaboration with the State Legislature, to address issues directly impacting the County, including the economy, education, public safety, and healthcare. Among the key achievements resulting from such collaboration was the March 2008 announcement of a joint agreement between the County Executive, County Council, and the Governor, to fund the County's hospital system. Chairman Dean remarked during the announcement, "Together, we have created the framework for a long-term solution to providing access to the quality healthcare that our citizens deserve and that is so important to a vital economy."

**COW** reviewed the Prince George's County portions of the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, and County Capital Budgets and Capital Improvement Programs.

# The Chairman's Budget Message

## "Tough Times Test Our Character and Will"

The Prince George's County Council, after two months of tenacious hard work, reviewed the County Executive's proposed spending plan, and adopted an Operating Budget in the amount of \$2.7 billion for Fiscal Year 2009.

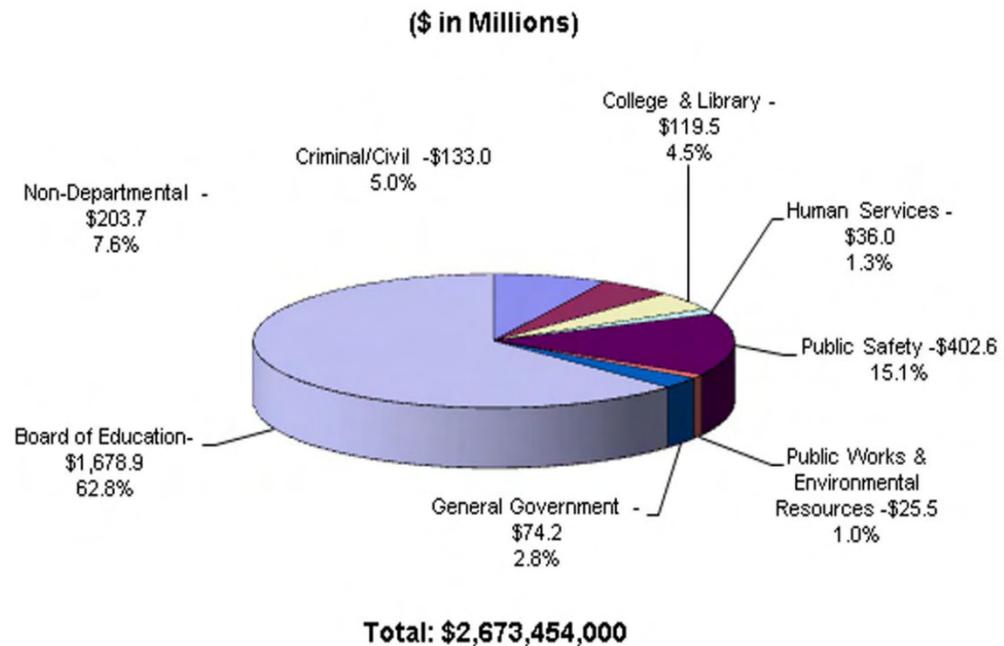
The lion's share of county spending remained dedicated to education. We cannot expect to grow a stronger economy if we do not invest in producing educated minds.

These are lean times and everyone must tighten their belts, but the Council remains committed to public safety as a spending priority, and we have passed a budget without resorting to reduction in force or services.

I had the privilege of joining County Executive Jack Johnson and the county's team of financial experts for a trip to Wall Street to discuss the county's bond rating. Wall Street analysts inquired if the County Government had the "courage" to make the very difficult decisions necessary to bring our budget into alignment. We answered with a resounding Yes!

There's no denying it. This has been a difficult budget year. We addressed a shortfall of more than \$100 million. State revenue projections fell short and the county lost important support from the state of Maryland. Like most of you in your homes across the county and throughout our country, County Government continues to struggle with the effects of the housing market downturn and the increased costs of daily living including food, utilities, insurance, and fuel. Prince George's County is not immune.

Understanding these challenges,



we continued our fiscally conservative approach, and implemented spending controls. Even so, we expected to have to fine-tune this spending plan throughout the year.

The County Executive and I agreed to meet with budget professionals to discuss expenditures and revenues on a regular basis. We placed \$20 million of our appropriations for FY'09 in a contingency fund for use as necessary. Regular agency spending reviews formed the basis for decisions regarding release of these funds. We wanted to be certain we are closely monitoring County income and expenses in this budget year, so we are positioned to act quickly when the need arises for fiscal adjustments.

The Wall Street trip was fruitful and affirming. I was reading the Business Wire's account of Fitch Ratings' assignment of a double A-Plus rating for Prince George's County, confirming our outlook as "stable." Who doesn't celebrate a level of economic stability in times like these? It's good news because it affirms this

Council's effective stewardship over County resources. According to Business Wire, "Through the implementation of tax rate increases and stringently controlled expenditures, Prince George's county projects a balanced General Fund budget in Fiscal 2009....Economic prospects are strong....and the County's debt burden should remain affordable."

This budget, which meets the critical needs of the County, reflects tough decisions and demonstrates solid leadership. We stand ready for times such as this. Over the last six years, Council budget decisions have positioned the County weather financial storm with sound financial management, greater efficiency and accountability in government, and responsible spending. We know tough decisions are not always the popular decisions, but we are working diligently to do more with less, and looking for creative ways to cut spending so



we can lighten the burden on residents as much as possible.

I want to thank the County Executive for his exemplary leadership. Together with this Council, he has been an able navigator through a terrible economic storm. I am awed by the wisdom, hard work and sacrifice my colleagues have brought to the budget review process. I appreciate the selfless partnership and thoughtful service of my co-leader, Council Vice-Chairperson Marilynn Bland, and Council Member Camille Exum, for her work on this budget. Council Committee Chairs also did an exceptional job—Committee Chair Will Campos and Vice-Chair Ingrid Turner (Health, Education, and Human Services); Committee Chair Camille Exum and Vice-Chair Eric Olson (Planning, Zoning, and Economic Development); Committee Chair Tony Knotts and Vice-Chair Ingrid Turner (Public Safety and Fiscal Management); and Committee Chair Thomas Dernoga and Vice-Chair Eric Olson (Transportation, Housing, and the Environment).

Tough times test our character, strength, and will. The FY' 09 budget is a true testament to the character of leadership in Prince George's County. It proves we are sustained in good times and in bad. It is the spending plan our current economic situation demands. Moreover, we are reminded that we serve a great County that is equal to its greatest challenges.

Thank you. God bless you all and may God bless Prince George's County.

-Council Chairman  
Samuel H. Dean, 2008 Legislative Year

## CHARTER NOTES

### Public Budget Hearings and Action on the Budget by the Council, Sec. 809

The Council shall have no power to change the form of the budget as submitted by the Executive or to alter the revenue estimates except to correct mathematical errors, or, by a vote of two-thirds of the members of the full County Council, adjust the revenue estimates by an increase or decrease of no more than one-percent (1%).

The adoption of the operating budget, the capital budget and the capital program shall be by the affirmative vote of not less than a majority of the full Council by a law to be known as the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance of Prince George's County.

The Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance shall be adopted by the Council on or before June 1 of each fiscal year, and if the Council fails to do so, the proposed operating budget submitted by the County Executive shall stand adopted, and funds for the expenditures proposed in the current expense budget shall stand appropriated as fully and to the same extent as if favorable action thereon had been taken by the Council.

*Want to know more about the Prince George's County Charter and the Budget? Visit [www.princegeorgescountymd.gov](http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov)*

## 2008 COUNCIL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



### COUNCIL CHAIR DAVID C. HARRINGTON RESIGNS COUNCIL CHAIRMANSHIP; COUNCIL MEMBER SAMUEL H. DEAN ELECTED TO CHAIR LEGISLATIVE YEAR 2008

Prince George's County Council Member David Harrington (D) – District 5, in preparation for his swearing-in to the Maryland State Senate, resigned as Chair of the County Council on Tuesday, February 5, 2008. Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley affirmed the recommendation of the Prince George's County Democratic Central Committee to appoint Council Member Harrington to the seat representing the 47th Legislative District, which was vacated by the passing of State Senator Gwendolynn T. Britt. County Council Members unanimously elected colleague Samuel H. Dean (D) – District 6, to serve out the remainder of the chairmanship for Legislative

Year 2008. Mr. Dean also served as Council Chair in Legislative Year 2005.

### BIZ 2008: A SUMMIT AND SHOWCASE FOR YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS— A HUGE SUCCESS IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

Prince George's County Council Member Ingrid M. Turner (D) – District 4, in partnership with The Prince George's Community Foundation, awarded \$10,000 in scholarships during BIZ 2008: A Summit and Showcase for Young Entrepreneurs, the County's first educational summit designed to showcase Prince George's County high school and college student entrepreneurs on March 1, 2008, at the Camelot of Upper Marlboro.



### COUNTY COUNCIL, COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND YOUTH COMMISSION FOCUS ON ISSUES FACING YOUNG PEOPLE DURING COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP SESSION

The Prince George's County Council, Prince George's Community College, and the Prince George's Youth Commission, joined educators, parents, students and community leaders for a special session of the Prince George's Community Leadership Institute on Thursday, March 13, 2008. Session VI, "Teen Talk: An Open Forum on Issues Facing Young People," was held at 7:00 p.m. at the Community College.

### COUNCIL CHAIR OFFICIALLY WELCOMES AMISH FARMERS MARKET TO PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

Prince George's County Council Chairman Samuel H. Dean (D) – District 6, participates in the grand opening ceremony officially welcoming the Dutch Village Farmers Market to Prince George's County on Friday, April 11, beginning at 10:00 a.m.



### COUNCIL SUPPORTS FORMATION OF YOUTH AND GANG VIOLENCE PREVENTION TASK FORCE

The Prince George's County Council, during a scheduled session Tuesday, April 22, 2008, unanimously adopted Council Resolution 25-2008, establishing a Youth and Gang Violence Prevention Task Force in Prince George's County.

### COUNCIL MEMBER KNOTTS AND COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT HOST COMMUNITY FORUM ON CRITICAL HOUSING ISSUES

Prince George's County Council Member Tony Knotts (D) – District 8, and the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), will host the "Community Homeownership Preservation Forum," focusing on the critical housing issues of refinancing, sustaining homeownership, and the legal process of foreclosure. Maryland Department of Housing Secretary Raymond Skinner will also participate. The forum will be held on April 30, 2008, from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., in the Harmony Hall Multi-Purpose Room, 10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, MD.



### COUNCIL MEMBER EXUM HONORED WITH PROMINENT 2008 CIVIC LEADERSHIP AWARD

Prince George's County Council Member Camille Exum (D) District 7, was the honored recipient of the 2008 Prince George's Community Foundation Civic Leadership Award for "meritorious contributions toward building a vibrant, thriving civic life in Prince George's County." Council Member Exum accepted the award on April 30 during the 2008 Civic Leadership Awards Dinner at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center on the Potomac, National Harbor in Oxon Hill.

### PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER CAMPOS PARTNERS WITH MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER ERVIN FOR BI-COUNTY TOUR OF INTERNATIONAL CORRIDOR

Prince George's County Council Member Will Campos (D) District 2, and Montgomery County Council Member Valerie Ervin (D) - District 5 will co-host, in partnership with CASA de Maryland, a bi-county, multi-jurisdictional tour of Long Branch and Langley Park's "International Corridor" from Noon until 1:30 p.m. on Friday, June 13, 2008.

### PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY ADOPTS \$2.7 BILLION FY '09 BUDGET

The Prince George's County Council today unanimously adopted a \$2.7 billion balanced budget for Fiscal Year 2009. The budget becomes effective with the new Fiscal Year which begins July 1, 2008. In bi-county budget action earlier this month, Prince George's and Montgomery lawmakers unanimously adopted a total water and sewer operating budget of \$482.2 million for the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) for FY '09, agreeing to an eight-percent increase rather than the 11% proposed by WSSC.

### COUNCIL SUPPORTS LEGISLATION ESTABLISHING ENERGY CONSERVATION TAX CREDIT

The Prince George's County Council voted 8 - 0 on Wednesday, July 23, 2008, to enact CB-11-2008, a bill which establishes a tax credit for residential homeowners who utilize solar or geothermal energy conservation devices.

### COUNCIL MEMBER OLSON ANNOUNCES CONFLICT RESOLUTION CENTER'S FACILITATORS WORKSHOP

Prince George's County Council Member Eric Olson (D) – District 3, announces the Conflict Resolution Center's (CRCs) Facilitators Workshop, a one-day training session developed to prepare community leaders and law enforcement personnel to head Conflict Resolution Centers in Prince George's County. The workshop session will take place on Saturday, August 16, 2008, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Bladensburg Town Hall, 4229 Edmonston Road in Bladensburg.

### COUNCIL VICE-CHAIR BLAND ANNOUNCES CSX RAILWAY IMPROVEMENTS IN BRANDYWINE

Prince George's County Council Vice-Chair Marilyn Bland (D) - District 9 announced the installation of a more efficient drainage facility in the right-of-way on Cherry Tree Crossing Road in Brandywine, Maryland on Thursday, September 4, 2008. The repair was completed following contact with CSX Railway from Vice-Chair Bland and the Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T).

### COUNCIL MEMBER DERNOGA CELEBRATES IN THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF COUNTY'S FIRST "GREEN" SCHOOL

Prince George's County Council Member Thomas Dernoga (D)-District 1, joined students, staff and other elected officials for the ribbon cutting and official dedication of Vansville Elementary School, Prince George's County's first 100-percent LEED gold certified "green" school on Friday, October 3, 2008.

### COUNTY COUNCIL APPROVES LEGISLATION SUPPORTING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAMS

The Prince George's County Council, during a special session on Wednesday, November 5, unanimously adopted Council Resolution 93-2008, which raises Marriage License fees to provide additional funding for domestic violence programs in Prince George's County. CR-93-2008 increases the County's additional fee for Marriage Licenses from 45-dollars to 60-dollars. The increase is expected to generate over \$75,000 per year in additional revenue for the Family Crisis Center of Prince George's County.

## A Familiar Face Takes Over the Helm in District 5



Council Member Andrea Harrison is sworn in by Peggy Magee, Clerk of the Court, as the new District 5 representative.

Council Member Andrea C. Harrison (D) – District 5 was sworn in as the newest member of the Prince George’s County Council in 2008 by Clerk of the Circuit Court Peggy Magee. While her election as the first woman to serve in District 5 was historic, it was also a place she was quite familiar with. The Council seat she now occupies was once held by her father, the late Honorable James C. Fletcher. Council Member Harrison shared, “This seat certainly has special meaning for me, and I am honored to serve in it.”

A special election won by Council Member Harrison in May, 2008 filled the Council seat in District 5 left vacant by the gubernatorial appointment of David C. Harrington to a vacancy in the Maryland State Senate.

Council Member Harrison stepped into her new role with confidence and a pledge to “Keep Community First.” Her office has worked to develop a number of programs in District 5 including Approval of the Subregion 4 Master Plan and Landover Gateway Sector Plan and Sectional Map Amendment, Newton Green Senior Housing and the Jericho Residences

Council Member Harrison has served as a community activist in Prince George’s County for over 15 years. A lifetime resident, she attended Prince George’s Community College and earned her undergraduate degree in Public Policy from Bowie State University. Council Member Harrison is also a graduate of Leadership Prince George’s and a Fellow in the Academy of Excellence in Governance at the Institute of Governmental Service of the University of Maryland.

Council Member Harrison and her staff spend a great deal of time serving the constituents of District 5 which includes the areas of Bladensburg, Cheverly, Edmonston, Fairmount Heights, Glenarden, Landover, Colmar Manor, Cottage City and portions of Mitchellville.



Former District 5 Council Member David Harrington, now serves as a Maryland Senator

## Four Women on Council Make History



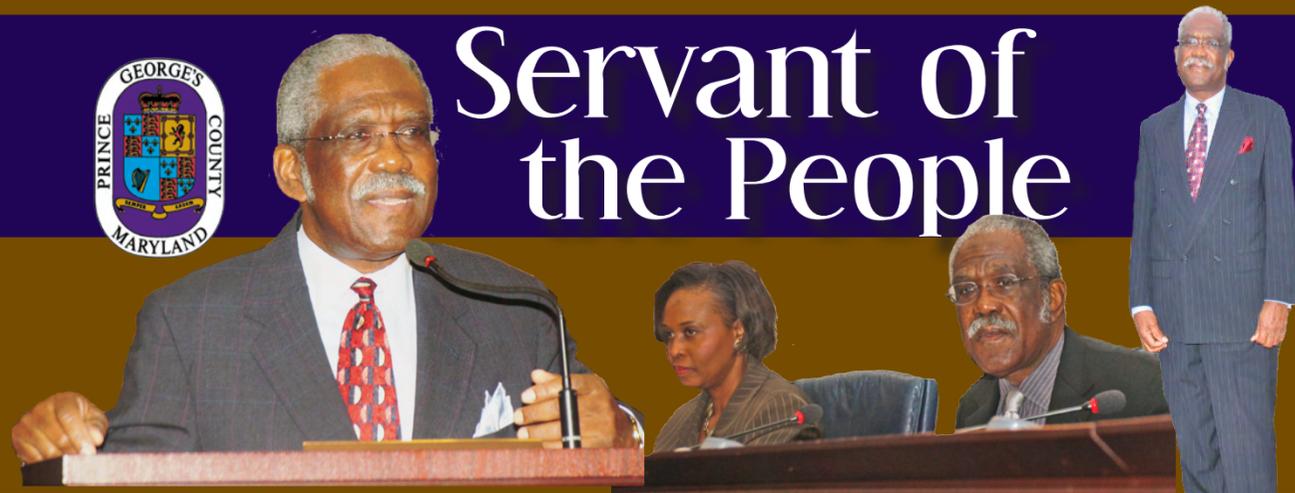
For the first time in the history of Prince George’s County, the Council is graced with the presence of four women serving a broad area of constituents. What a statement this makes for the young women of the community who may not have considered community service as a viable career choice. These Council Members are working alongside their male colleagues to provide the very best of service to the citizens of their districts. Represented from left to right are: Council Member Camille A. Exum (D) District 7; Andrea C. Harrison (D) District 5; Chairperson Marilynn M. Bland (D) District 9; and Ingrid M. Turner (D) District 4.

# Council Members *at Work*





# Servant of the People



*"Servant of the People" is a half-hour cable television program produced by the Prince George's County Council and hosted by 2008 Legislative Year Council Chairman Samuel H. Dean. The show title is reflective of Chairman Dean's long-standing commitment to service for the citizens of Prince George's County. "Servant of the People" first aired in 2005, during Mr. Dean's first term as Council Chairman.*

*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 Prince George's County since 1989. "Servant of the People" aired each month from March to November 2008, and featured a host of distinguished guests.*

**Craig C. Price**, Council Administrator  
**Margaret White**, President, *Millwood-Waterford Civic Association*

In response to a rapidly shifting economy, Chairman Dean invited Prince George's County Council Administrator Craig Price to join him for the premiere edition of "Servant of the People." The discussion targeted the Council's role as the County's Fiscal Authority, and the implementation of the budget process. The dialogue addressed critical budget process questions including how the County generates income, and the impact of local spending on the economy. Recognizing the importance of a thriving civic life in a successful budget process, Chairman Dean invited Millwood-Waterford Civic Association President Margaret White as a guest for the second half of the program. Ms. White, a long-time resident of Prince George's County, shared her ideas for increasing community participation in local governance, especially consideration of the County Budget.



**Robert J. Williams**, Deputy Council Administrator  
**The Honorable David C. Harrington**,  
*Maryland State Senator*

Chairman Dean welcomed Deputy Council Administrator Robert

Williams to the set of "Servant of the People" for a lively discussion about the role of the Maryland General Assembly in the County's budget process. Mr. Williams provided an overview of the 2008 General Assembly Session in Annapolis, highlighting State legislation with direct County impact. For the second-half of "Servant of the People" Chairperson Dean was joined by former Council colleague, Senator David C. Harrington for a discussion on his transition from Council Member to State Senator. Senator Harrington was serving his second and final term on the Prince George's County Council at the time of his gubernatorial appointment to the Maryland Legislature.

**Donald Shell, M.D.**, Health Officer  
**Joan Branch**, Psychologist & CEO,  
*Interdynamics, Inc.*

Chairman Dean invited Prince George's County's foremost authorities on the subject of autism to join him on Servant of the People for a discussion about the impact of autism on Prince Georgians. County Health Officer, Dr. Donald Shell began the segment by giving viewers a clear definition of autism, and discussing how autism affects the future of children, youth and families in Prince George's County. Later in the program, Psychologist, and Interdynamics, Inc. CEO Joan Branch, took the interview seat to discuss the wide range of services provided by Interdynamics, Inc. for families affected by autism.

**The Honorable Andrea C. Harrison**  
Council Member, *District 5*  
**The Honorable Gail Parker Carter**  
Mayor, *City of Glenarden*

Chairman Dean welcomed his newest colleague, Council Member Andrea Harrison to the set of "Servant of the People" for a segment on local governance. Council Member Harrison, the first woman elected to serve District 5 on the County Council, occupies the seat once held by her late father, the Honorable James C. Fletcher. A civic activist and District 5 Council employee

prior to her election, Council Member Harrison shared her transition experience from activist to elected official, and legislative priorities for District 5. City of Glenarden Mayor Gail Parker was Chairman Dean's guest in the second half of the program. With a well-earned reputation as a "neighborhood champion," Mayor Parker shared her vision of working diligently towards a fresh approach to making a real difference in the community.

**Dr. Charlene Dukes**, President, *Prince George's Community College*  
**Dr. Mickey Burnim**, President, *Bowie State University*

Higher education was the topic of the day during a September segment of Servant of the People. Prince George's Community College President Dr. Charlene Dukes and Chairman Dean discussed new development at the college, as well as immediate and long-term goals for the institution's future. Dr. Dukes is the eighth president of Prince George's Community College and the first female to hold the post in the college's 50-year history. President of the oldest Historically Black University in the state of Maryland, Dr. Mickey Burnim shared his thoughts on how institutions like Bowie State play a pivotal role in workforce and economic development. Before leaving, Dr. Burnim encouraged aspiring college students to "take the next step" toward realizing their goals.

**Pamela Piper**, Director, *Office of Central Services*  
**Arhelia Finnie**, Coordinator, *D.C. Central Kitchen*

For questions about contract opportunities in Prince George's County, Chairman Dean turned to Pamela Piper who served as the Director of the Office of Central Services. Chairman Dean and Ms. Piper focused their conversation on the County's Minority Business Certification Program and various outreach programs offered by the Minority Business Development Division to train and educate vendors who want to compete for contracts in Prince George's County. D.C. Central Kitchen Coordinator Trainee Arhelia Finnie joined Chairman Dean for the second half of the program. With over 30 years of experience in the non-profit sector, Ms. Finnie shared with viewers, ways to reach across jurisdictional lines and rid communities of hunger and homelessness.



**Jack B. Johnson**, County Executive

The final edition of "Servant of the People" featured a conversation with Prince George's County Executive Jack B. Johnson. Viewers were treated to an up-close dialogue between Chairman Dean and County Executive Johnson on the economy and its impact on County government. The County's coveted Triple-A bond rating, the resolution of County hospital issues; and National Harbor project were also among the topics discussed between the County's top leaders.

## 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	VERIZON
Channel 70	Channel 41

### PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COMMUNITY TELEVISION

COMCAST	VERIZON
Channel 76	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.*



## The County Council as the Board of Health: 2008 Hospital Report

*County Council, County Executive, and Maryland Governor Achieve Hospital Solution*

The Prince George's County Council, especially in its capacity as the County's Board of Health, is committed to access to quality healthcare for the residents of Prince George's County. In Legislative Year 2008, under the leadership of Council Chairman Samuel H. Dean, the Council continued to work diligently with the County Executive and other stakeholders to achieve a long-term, comprehensive plan for the hospital.

In March 2008, Chairman Dean and members of the Council joined County Executive Jack Johnson and Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley to announce an agreement between the County and the State to stabilize the hospital system. Under the agreement, the County and the State each committed \$24 million to the hospital system over the next two years, while an independent Hospital Authority solicits bids for new ownership of the system currently owned and operated by Dimensions Health Care, a private corporation.

Maryland Governor O'Malley signed House Bill 1039 in May 2008, creating the seven-

member Hospital Authority. Three of the members were appointed by the Prince George's County Government; three were appointed by the Maryland Governor; and one member was appointed by the Prince George's County Senate Delegation. All members were appointed to serve a one-year term.

"The appointment of the Hospital Authority offers another encouraging step forward toward establishing a world-class hospital system in Prince George's County," said Chairman Dean.

"This is a great day for Prince George's County and the State of Maryland, as we celebrate this successful, collaborative effort," Dean said. "Together, we have created the framework for a long-term solution to providing access to quality healthcare that our citizens deserve, and that is so important to a vital economy."

### Prince George's Hospital Authority Members:

**Kenneth Glover**, Chair, appointed by Prince George's County Executive Jack Johnson and the Prince George's County Council. Kenneth Glover currently serves as Senior Vice President of State and Local Banking at PNC Bank and formerly served as Chief Administrative Officer for Prince George's County.

**Donald Wilson, MD**, Vice-Chair, appointed by Presiding Officers. Dr. Wilson is Director of the University of Maryland's School of Medicine Program in Minority Health and Health Disparities Education and Research.

**Stanley Brown, Esq.**, appointed by Prince George's County Executive and the Prince George's County Council. Mr. Brown is a practicing attorney in Largo and serves as the People's Zoning Counsel for Prince George's County.

**Andrea Leahy Fuchek, Esq.**, appointed by Maryland Governor O'Malley. Andrea Fuchek is a former Assistant United States Attorney and currently serves as a Prince George's County Associate County Attorney.

**Thomas Himler**, appointed by Prince George's County Executive Jack Johnson and the Prince George's County Council. Mr. Himler has served as the Director, Office of Management and Budget, for Prince George's County. In his role as Director, he oversaw the development and implementation of a \$2.5 billion operating budget and a \$1.9 billion capital improvement program.

**Karen Johnson Shaheed**, appointed by Maryland Governor O'Malley. Ms. Shaheed is Vice-President and General Counsel for Bowie State University.

**Joseph Wright, MD, MPH**, appointed by Maryland Governor O'Malley. Mr. Wright is Executive Director of the Child Health Advocacy Institute at Children's National Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

## Message from the Honorable Marilyn M. Bland 2009 Legislative Year Chairperson



"To whom much is given, much is required." With this sentiment as my guide, I have accepted the charge to lead this team of dedicated, intelligent, compassionate, and resourceful advocates for Prince George's County and its citizens in the 2009 Legislative Year!

America cast a vote for change when Barack Obama was elected the 44th President of the United States of America. As the electorate, we believe that President Obama stands for Change that Meets Our Challenges. What is this Change? This Change is not about any one person. This Change is a movement that encompasses civic participation, accountability, and forward thinking. This change is going to require each of us to roll up our sleeves and simply do the work.

First on the list is our declining economy, a national concern, and perhaps Prince George's County's greatest challenge. As we work to address our fiscal issues, I have asked Council Member Camille Exum to continue in her role in this effort with the budget. People are losing their homes and jobs; retirement funds are disappearing; businesses are going bankrupt; infrastructure is deteriorating; and education is becoming unaffordable and unattainable for many. Prince George's County faces additional challenges, including aging school buildings in need of repair or replacement; engaging our youth in productive activities; and the ill effects of domestic violence. Like our nation, Prince George's County must confront our challenges head on.

With each challenge comes opportunity—an opportunity to become a more efficient and effective government; to be creative, innovative, and industrious as we work to meet the needs of our citizens and quite frankly, do more with less. General George S. Patton once said, "Accept the challenge so that you may feel the exhilaration of victory." It will take hard work. Yet, we as a committed County council accept the challenge to lead. We will be deliberate and make a conscience effort to legislate the Change to Meet Our Challenges.

We will do this as a team. In the words of Andrew Carnegie, "Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision; the ability to direct individual accomplishments toward organizational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results."

My partnership and team efforts begin with my Vice-Chairman, the honorable and talented Thomas E. Dernoga. Because of his expertise and tenacity, I have asked him to lead efforts to help find creative, new ways to partner with the State and other stakeholders as we attempt to advance the vast infrastructure needs upon which our future economic viability lies. We will receive input from our Youth Commissioners, working alongside the Council to advocate for the youth of this County.

This Council has everything it takes to meet and conquer our challenges. We have the experience, innovation, business sense, sensitivity, flexibility, and yes, the determination. I am humbled and excited about the opportunity and possibilities stemming from the Change that Meets Our Challenges. I urge every Prince Georgian to join us in this effort. Together we shall not fail. For if God be for us, who can be against us?

The work begins.



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