



# **Prince George's County Local Development Council (PGCLDC)**

## **Virtual Zoom Meeting**

**Wednesday, February 17, 2021**

**7:00 PM**

### **Minutes (Adopt)**

#### **PGCLDC Members in Attendance (Quorum):**

- Kimberly Hall
- Mary Hopkins Navies
- Rashida Jackson-McIlwain
- Toye Latimore
- Carrie Mack
- Sen. Obie Patterson
- James Robinson
- Delegate Veronica Turner
- TaKeisha Walker
- Carol Colbeth representing Delegate Kris Valderrama

#### **PGCLDC Members Absent:**

- Ernest Lewis (Excused)

#### **ATTENDING STAFF (Office of the County Executive):**

- Shaka Pack de Flores
- Ryan Middleton, Liaison to the Prince George's County Local Development Council

Approximately 7 residents participated in the virtual meeting.

#### **Call to Order/Roll Call:**

Chairman Robinson called the meeting to order at approximately 7:02 PM.

#### **Opening Remarks:**

Chairman Robinson welcomed everyone to the LDC's virtual meeting. He continued the tradition of the former Chairman and asked for a moment of silence and reflection for members of our community that have

been affected by COVID-19, those who have lost their lives and for heightened awareness of the real danger that we're living in.

### **Local Impact Grant – Request to Repurpose Grant Funds**

Two requests to repurpose FY2020 Local Impact Grant funds were received. The request will be forwarded to the newly formed Grant Oversight Committee, who will make a recommendation prior to a vote by the full LDC.

### **Adoption of Minutes – January 20, 2021**

The Chairman suggested two edits to the January 20<sup>th</sup> minutes. LDC Member Mary Hopkins Navies moved to adopt the January minutes with those suggestions. The motion was seconded by LDC Member Delegate Veronica Turner, then approved unanimously by the LDC.

### **Vice-Chair Nomination and Vote**

The Chairman shared that he had spoken with LDC Member Mary Hopkins Navies about considering the position of LDC Vice Chair. LDC Member Mary Hopkins Navies has been committed to serving the LDC and has the energy to help take the LDC to the next level. The Chairman also felt it was time to have a woman in a leadership role of the LDC. LDC Member Sen. Patterson put forth the motion to nominate Mary Hopkins Navies as Vice-Chair of the Local Development Council. The motion was seconded by LDC Member Delegate Turner, then approved unanimously by the LDC.

Vice Chair Mary Hopkins Navies accepted the nomination and introduced herself to the new LDC Members.

The Chairman then discussed the idea of staggering the terms of LDC Members so that the council is not losing so many members at one time. LDC Member Sen. Patterson pointed out that the terms were intended to be staggered but some LDC Members served more than their 3-year term, as a result more members termed at one time than should have. The policies governing the LDC will be reviewed to determine if the LDC can better stagger the terms so that it doesn't lose so many members at one time again.

### **Committee Recommendations**

The Chairman would like to establish a Grant Oversight Committee and a Community Needs Assessment Committee. The Chairman would also like to assign new members to the Public Relations Campaign Committee and the Program Priorities and Budget Committee (Grant Selection Committee) which Kimberly Hall has stepped up to head. LDC Member Toyee Latimore has been selected to head the Grant Oversight Committee.

### **Long Term Legislative Strategy**

The Chairman would like to establish long term legislative strategies for the LDC that the elected members can take the lead on. Long term legislative issues include repealing the hold harmless provision, the expansion of the 3-mile radius, recovering all or part of the funding from the route 210 project from the state,

increasing speed camera fines and capturing some of the funds from those speed camera tickets and creating a special revenue account for the VLT funds.

LDC Member Sen. Patterson has introduced [SB0045/HB0338](#) introduced in a prior session as [SB0771](#). The bill would require the State Lottery and Gaming Control Agency to conduct a study on the distribution and use of local impact grants, the use of the Problem Gambling Fund, and the use of video lottery proceeds distributed to the Small, Minority, and Women-Owned Business Account and require the Agency to report its findings to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before December 1, 2021. If passed, it would look into some of the very topics mentioned by the Chairman as long-term legislative strategies. The results of the study could then be used to recommend legislation as needed.

### **Future Presentations**

After the last presentation by Employ Prince George's, there were concerns that not enough community members in the impact area had been served in relation to the investment that has been made into the program. The Chairman has spoken with Employ Prince George's and visited the site since the last presentation and believes that the outcomes may be better than they seem given the services were being provided 20 miles outside of the impact area. Walter Simmons, President and CEO of Employ Prince George's, will be invited to present again to clarify and expound on the progress of the program.

In the LDC's response to the multi-year spending, the LDC requested \$100,000 be set aside for public safety. The Chairman would like to confirm that the request has been approved and if so, what specifically that money will be used for. The Chairman has asked Peter Campanini, the State Highway Administrator in charge of the 210 projects, David Jackson and Amy Jackson to present for the LDC to updates and issues related to 210.

Carol Colbeth commented that LDC Member Del. Valderrama has a bill that is currently in the public safety subcommittee of the Prince George's County delegation. The bill will create an enhanced fees schedule for individuals who incur multiple speed camera violations within a 2-year period. She then asked if the LDC had considered renegotiating the Memo of Understanding. The Chairman has discussed this with the Acting Chief of Police, unfortunately it seems like there won't be any consideration of that until a permanent chief is confirmed. Carol Colbeth suggested that LDC Member Sen. Patterson's staffer CJ share his presentation on route 210. with the LDC. The Chairman agreed that the presentation was informative and would like to have that shared with the LDC, however he feels that nothing will change on route 210 without a long-term sustained public safety enforcement effort. Carol Colbeth mentioned that last year Delegate Healey changed the speed camera law to reallocate the funds generated by speed camera tickets from the victims' fund to public safety enforcement on route 210 and suggested the LDC review that change. The Chairman confirmed that he and Peter Campanini had discussed this as well but that those funds just aren't being seen.

Prior to the public comments, the Chairman addressed the integration of community comments and concerns. For example, when CB-050-2020 was introduced there were strong responses from both the LDC and community members including Jay Krueger and Ron Weiss. When Sarah Cavitt testified before the County

Council, she made a statement that the bill marginalized the role of the LDC. Jay Krueger shared similar comments in a statement that mandating specific funding requirements through legislation marginalizes the role and influence of the LDC. However, when community members, specifically Jay Krueger, bypass the LDC and take concerns directly to the State, County Executive, County Council and then to the LDC the route does the same thing, it marginalizes the role of the LDC. While citizens have the right to use the Freedom of Information Act to obtain and use information, the Chairman would prefer it the community and the LDC worked together to get everyone's concerns on the LDC's letterhead and move concerns up the ladder that way. The Chairman expressed that when community members, specifically Jay Krueger, ask questions that they already have the answer to, it feels patronizing. The members of the LDC are doctors, lawyers, educators, delegates, senators, accomplished people and more; and they deserve more. It's possible that this is not intentional, however, several other LDC members felt the same way so it needs to be addressed. The Chairman decided it was important to address this publicly because it is important that the LDC and the community respect each other and work together. Of course, anybody has the option to take whatever action or route they choose with their concerns. However, the Chairman would like to see the LDC, community activist and community members work together using the LDC's letterhead to get things done.

### **Public Comments**

- Community Member Jay Krueger – 1) Commented that a full accounting of the total funds set aside for improvements related to route 210 has not been released 2) Asked if the LDC could get a dollar amount the county has received from the State in VLT Local Impact Grant funds for route 210 3) Asked if any of the funds had been spent 4) Asked why couldn't the funds be used to produce immediate improvements for pedestrian safety like lighting and safety crossings

### **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:54 PM.

Prepared and respectfully submitted by:

**Diana Léon Brown**

Director of Strategic Partnerships  
Office of the Prince George's County Executive

Minutes Approved: \_\_3/23/2021\_\_\_\_(Date)