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The Prince George's County  
Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement  
**Business Development Section**



Angela D. Alsobrooks  
County Executive



DEPARTMENT OF PERMITTING,  
INSPECTIONS AND ENFORCEMENT  
Melinda Bolling  
Director

December 6, 2019

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***Business Development Officers Nicole Reece and Tanya Hedgepeth on the job: from left to right, top: with County Council Member Jolene Ivey, with County Council Member Deni Taveras, with a business owner and DPIE Inspector Walter Jordan; bottom: at the Gaylord National, and with PhysioCare management.***

## **New DPIE Business Development Officers Assist Entrepreneurs with Permitting and Licensing**

It's a Monday in early November and DPIE's newest staffers, Nicole Reece and Tanya Hedgepeth, are among a team sent to the Gaylord National in Oxon Hill to do a preview of the facility's annual ice show. On this day, Reece and Hedgepeth accompanied DPIE Inspections Division Supervisor Walter Jordan, who shared with them steps the agency takes during such visits to ensure compliance with Prince George's County Code.

The trip to National Harbor was among several for Reece and Hedgepeth last month. Within a month of the October 2019 start of the new DPIE Business Development Section (BDS), the two "officers" who make up the BDS team traveled to everything from a physical therapy business in Lanham to the site of a yet-to-open restaurant in Suitland.

"As Business Development Officers, we are tasked with assisting existing and future entrepreneurs," said Hedgepeth. "In this role, we have been educating them about department requirements and procedures and coordinating with agency personnel to facilitate correspondence and document review."

DPIE Director Melinda Bolling created the BDS after determining that some business owners and entrepreneurs needed assistance with the permitting and licensing process.

“Our mission is to help business owners and those who aspire to become part of the Prince George’s County business community with whatever they need to acquire the licenses and permits they need to legally operate,” Bolling said. “Tanya and Nicole each bring rich experience that helps them understand the needs of the business community and the appropriate responses to those needs.”

Reece and Hedgepeth also have met with several County Council members. They sat down with District 5 Council Member Jolene Ivey to discuss the County’s Business Improvement Districts (BIDs). District 1 Council Member Thomas Dernoga discussed the concerns of minority business owners in his district. District 2 County Council Member Deni Taveras showed Reece and Hedgepeth sites for upcoming projects in the Northern Gateway area.

“Meeting with the Council members and other stakeholders provides us with information about the challenges business owners and entrepreneurs face in opening and operating their businesses,” Reece said. “That helps inform us about steps we need to take in each area to respond.”

For more information, contact **Nicole Reece** at 301-636-2035 and **Tanya Hedgepeth** at 301-636-2058, or e-mail them at **DPIEBizDev@co.pg.md.us**.

The Business Development Section will assist you by:

- Coordinating with agency personnel to facilitate completion of paperwork and document review
- Educating business owners about DPIE requirements and processes
- Liaising with entrepreneurs and other government agencies

#### Helpful DPIE Links for Businesses

Homepage

<https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/1024/Permitting-Inspections-and-Enforcement>

Permits Information

<https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/1497/Permits>

Permit Fee Schedule

<https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/documentcenter/view/10403>

Online Permit Services (ePlan/Trade Permits)

<https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/1578/Online-Permit-Services>

Commercial Building Permit Information

<https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/1527/Commercial-Building>

Licensing Information

<https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/1214/Licensing>

State Business License Information

<https://businessexpress.maryland.gov/start/licenses-and-permits>

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## Reminder: ePlan is Down for the Weekend

### **System Alert — ePlan Maintenance!**

ePlan will be down for a system upgrade:  
**Friday, December 6, 5:00 PM – Monday, December 9, at 7:00 AM**



We apologize in advance for any inconvenience. Please plan accordingly.

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## 2020 Census

### WHAT IS THE U.S. CENSUS?

By law, every 10 years the U.S. Census counts every resident in the United States. Your participation determines representation and how billions in federal funds are distributed. If our community is undercounted, friends and neighbors miss out on an estimated **\$18,250 per person over a 10-year period**. Prince George's County lost an estimated **\$363 million in federal funding due to an undercount in 2010**.

<https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/3233/2020-Census>

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