



# WOODS END NEWS

March 27, 2023

## PG County Legislative Update

### **COUNTY COUNCIL APPROVES NEW PRIVATE SECURITY CAMERA INCENTIVE PROGRAM LEGISLATION IN RESPONSE TO FATAL SHOOTING OF 13-YEAR-OLD JAYZ AGNEW**

#### *“Jayz Agnew Law” Receives Unanimous Council Support*

The Prince George’s County Council unanimously passed Council Bill CB-008-2023, also known as the “Jayz Agnew Law,” during session on Tuesday, March 21, 2023.

The People’s Council championed this new law in honor of 13-year-old Jayz Agnew, who was fatally shot in front of his home while raking leaves. To date, no arrests have been made in the case.

Jayz Law, which establishes a Private Security Camera Incentive Program in the County, encourages businesses and homeowners to increase security surveillance in the surrounding community with the installation of cameras. District 7 Council Member Krystal Oriadha, proposer of the legislation, says the Jayz Agnew Law is yet another tool to keep communities and families safe.

“It has been four months since Jayz Agnew was fatally shot in his front yard while raking leaves and to date, there has been no arrest in the crime. Security cameras could have led police to finding those responsible for this tragic loss. Juanita Agnew, Jayz mother, has been working with my office to find a solution so this doesn’t happen to another family, which is what we hope to accomplish with this bill. I want to thank Ms. Agnew and her family for their perseverance and advocacy around this bill.”

Juanita Agnew testified in support of the measure, urging Council passage.

“I stand in support of this piece of legislation. Jayz Agnew was my 13-year-old son that was shot in his front yard while raking leaves. Jayz was shot on November 8 - Election Day. On the day of the shooting myself nor my immediate neighbors had surveillance cameras. I do believe that if we cameras, we would have been able to, by now, have some leads. At this time, four months later, there are no arrests or leads in the case. I appreciate Council Member Oriadha - when I reached out to her to talk about my concerns, she listened. There is definitely a need, and I would really appreciate it, as a resident, if you could consider it. Think about the impact.”

CB-008-2023 requires the County to establish the new Private Security Camera Program under a partnership between the Office of Community Relations and the Prince George’s County Police Department. Eligible residents and businesses will receive a camera, rebate or voucher to have cameras properly installed and operating at their properties. The maximum amount of a rebate or voucher under the program is \$200 for cameras purchased and \$100 for subscription costs.

The measure will take effect 45 calendar days after it is signed into law.

**DISTRICT 7 COUNCIL MEMBER KRYSTAL ORIADHA INTRODUCES LEGISLATION ESTABLISHING THE PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY SENIOR HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ACT OF 2023**

*Measure Would also Establish the Prince George’s County Senior Housing Assistance Fund*

Prince George’s County Council Member Krystal Oriadha (District 7), during Council session on Tuesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, introduced [Council Bill-042-2023](#), legislation establishing a program that provides temporary financial assistance up to twice a year, to low-income senior residents of Prince George’s County who are 62 years or older for rent, mortgage or property tax payment relief.

Council Member Oriadha, a member of the Council’s Planning, Housing and Economic Development (PHED) committee, says the measure, which also seeks to establish a Prince George’s County Senior Housing Assistance Fund, will relieve a financial burden and enable seniors to age in place.

“One of the most vulnerable populations in our County are senior citizens, who too often face financial hardship and are forced into bad living conditions, even homelessness. We should be doing everything in our power to protect our senior residents and ensure that they are aging in place and with dignity. This bill will allow us to have a set amount of funds yearly so that we are able to assist our senior population when they are in most need.”

CB-042-2023 has been referred to the Planning, Housing, and Economic Development (PHED) committee for legislative review.

**DISTRICT 7 COUNCIL MEMBER KRYSTAL ORIADHA PROPOSES LEGISLATION  
CREATING GUARANTEED BASIC INCOME PILOT PROGRAM**

*Measure to Help Fight Poverty and Increase Equity in Prince George's County*

Prince George's County Council Member Krystal Oriadha (District 7), during Council session on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, introduced CR-018-2023, legislation creating a Guaranteed Basic Income Pilot Program modeled after the Stockton Economic Empowerment Demonstration (SEED) program in Stockton, California.

Under the measure, low-income families would be given direct cash benefits to support their basic needs, such as food and utilities. 200 families would be chosen to participate in the program to receive monthly cash stipends for 24 months. This financial assistance, provided with no strings attached, will ensure the financial security of families, reduce debt, and increase financial equity. The Guaranteed Basic Income Pilot Program would be tailored to the needs and resources in the County, with aid from the Greater Washington Community Foundation.

Council Member Oriadha says the legislation will increase equity and lift residents out of poverty.

“With this resolution, we hope to bring the Guaranteed Basic Income Program to Prince George's County. This is something being done in many jurisdictions around the country, including our neighboring jurisdictions, and I believe that bringing it to Prince George's will be beneficial for our families. It will help us in fighting poverty and increase equity across the county.”

CR-018-2023 has been referred to the Health, Human Services, and Public Safety (HHSPS) committee for legislative review.

**COUNTY COUNCIL TO CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR RENT STABILIZATION ACT OF 2023 AND LEGISLATION CONCERNING REPORTING OF TENANT'S RENTAL PAYMENTS TO MAJOR CREDIT BUREAUS DURING SCHEDULED SESSION TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28<sup>th</sup> – MEASURES ELIGIBLE FOR FINAL COUNCIL VOTE**

The Prince George's County Council will convene Tuesday, February 28, 2023.

Council session scheduled for Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. will include a public hearing for [CB-007-2023](#), the Rent Stabilization Act of 2023, proposed legislation to temporarily stop excessive rent increases and help residents stay in their homes. A public hearing will also be held for [CB-006-2023](#), proposed legislation creating a pilot program that will require landlords with a certain amount of dwelling units to give their tenants the option of having their rental payments sent to one of the three major credit bureaus. Both measures are eligible for a final Council vote.

For those interested in providing testimony during the public hearing, comments/written correspondence, and requests to speak may be emailed to: [ClerkoftheCouncil@co.pg.md.us](mailto:ClerkoftheCouncil@co.pg.md.us) or faxed to (301) 952-5178. Citizens may also register to testify on-site prior to the hearing; however, advance registration is strongly encouraged.

Measures will also be presented and introduced during Tuesday's session, including [CB-024-2023](#), an Act concerning the Prince George's County Rental Assistance Act of 2023.