



# WOODS END NEWS

October 4, 2023

## Prince Georges Council Connections

FISHER OLSON WATSON IVEY DERNOGA Chair BLEGAY Vice-Chair ORIADHA BURROUGHS HARRISON FRANKLIN At-Large HAWKINS At-Large

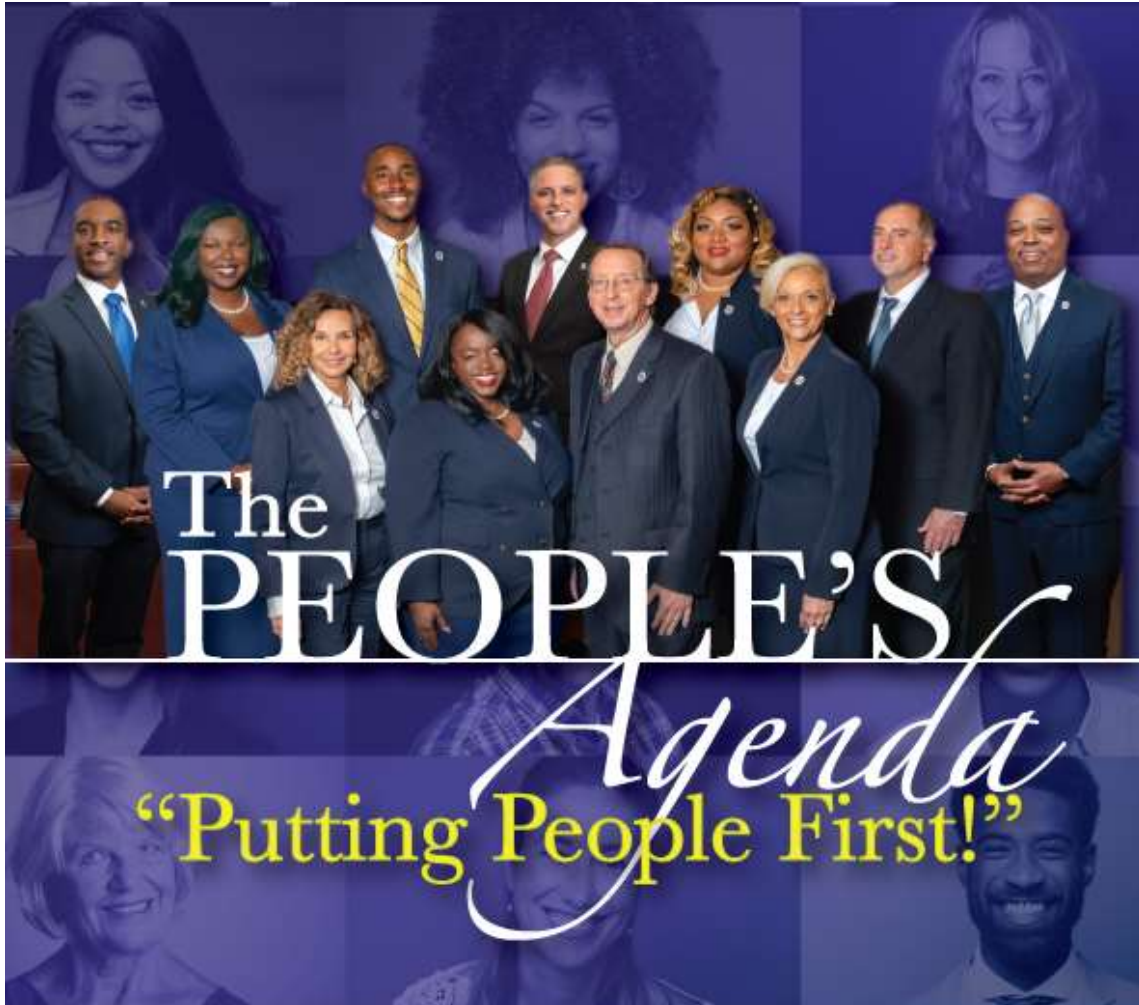
# COUNCIL CONNECTION

*The People's Agenda*

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PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

pgccouncil.us  
"Connections Start with Us!"



It is a New Day. We are charting in a new course, a new direction, toward a Council evermore committed to service to the People - The People's Council. We pledge to a new day where transparency and accountability are the watchwords that guide our Council and our commitment to the People's Agenda.

**The PEOPLE'S AGENDA** is bringing the Council to the people and committed to the following focus areas:

- Ensure Transparency in Our Government
- Increase Services for Our Residents
- Preserve our Green Space and Protect Our Environment
- Support Smart and Quality Development for Our Community
- Support Our Working Families
- Increase Opportunities for Our Local Minority Businesses and Nonprofits
- Bring Access to Quality Healthcare to Our Communities

In the words of one of the greatest authors of our time, Dr. Maya Angelou, "Nothing will work unless you do." And nothing will work unless we do.



# PRINCE GEORGE'S | COUNTY COUNCIL

## LEGISLATION ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO ADDRESS HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM WAIT TIMES IS INTRODUCED



Council Vice Chair Wala Blegay introduced legislation during session on Tuesday, September 26 establishing a Task Force to address Emergency Room Wait Times. The measure ([CR-082-2023](#)), charges the proposed 11-member task force with evaluating best practices and making recommendations for reducing emergency department wait times in the County. As Chair of the Council's Board of Health and considering resident complaints about excessively long wait times, Vice Chair Blegay convened a July briefing to discuss the matter with hospital executives. The discussion spurred Blegay to establish the task force to identify root causes and recommend effective solutions.

WATCH TUESDAY'S COUNCIL SESSION

# COUNTY COUNCIL COMMITTEE UPDATE



TRANSPORTATION, INFRASTRUCTURE,  
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT  
COMMITTEE ADVANCES PACKAGE OF  
WALKABLE URBAN STREETS BILLS



District 3 Council Member Eric Olson chairs the Council's [Committee on Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy and Environment \(TIEE\)](#), is the lead sponsor on a trilogy of legislative measures aimed at improving safety and walkability on more urbanized County roads, sidewalks and bikeways, by addressing their construction and design. On Thursday, with unanimous committee approval, [CR-67](#), [CR-68](#), and [CB-69](#), as amended, were all moved forward for council vote.

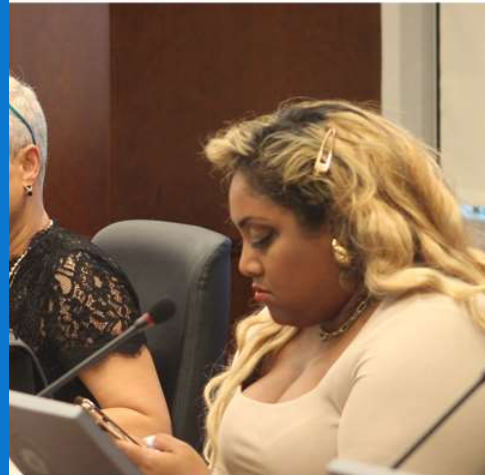
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WATCH



EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
ADDRESSES TRUANCY AND RECEIVES  
EMPLOY PRINCE GEORGE'S UPDATES





District 7 Council Member Krystal O'Connell, after learning that many repeat juvenile offenders in the County are also chronic truants, presented legislation establishing a Truancy Study Commission to examine the correlation and identify goals and strategies for reducing over 100 days of truancy across the County. On Tuesday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, the Council's **Educational Workforce Development Committee (EWD)** reviewed the measure, which was unanimously approved for Council consideration. EWD also received an **Employ Prince George's County Briefing** which included a presentation from President and CEO Walter Simms on several key areas, including the Virtual Career Center, the new Job Center Community Network Job Center and Resource Lab Municipality Partnership, updates on the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, Career Advising and the Prince George's County

on learning that many repeat juvenile offenders in the County are also chronic truants, presented **CR-74-2023**, legislation establishing a Truancy Study Commission to examine the correlation and identify goals and strategies for reducing over 100 days of truancy across the County. On Tuesday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, the Council's **Educational Workforce Development Committee (EWD)** reviewed the measure, which was unanimously approved for Council consideration. EWD also received an **Employ Prince George's County Briefing** which included a presentation from President and CEO Walter Simms on several key areas, including the Virtual Career Center, the new Job Center Community Network Job Center and Resource Lab Municipality Partnership, updates on the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, Career Advising and the Prince George's County

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## PLANNING, HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE ADDRESSES LEGISLATION TO IMPROVE SECURITY AT APARTMENTS AND SENIOR HOUSING RESIDENCES



The Council's **Planning, Housing and Economic Development Committee (PHED)** also convened Tuesday and Wednesday to discuss legislation proposed by Council Member Wala Blegay, Esq. (District 6) requiring surveillance at high occupancy dwellings and security guards at age-restricted senior housing residences. It was favorably considered with amendments. PHED also addressed legislation concerning cannabis dispensaries, which was the subject of a robust dialogue and public comment and held for further discussion.

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## GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND FISCAL POLICY COMMITTEE ADVANCES CANNABIS REINVESTMENT AND RESTORATION COMMISSION AND GROCERY STORE TAX CREDIT



The Council's **Government Operations and Fiscal Policy Committee (GOFP)** convened on Thursday, September 10, 2020, to review several pieces of legislation, and voted to advance an **Act concerning the creation of a Police and Fire Reinvestment and Restoration Commission**; an **Act concerning the creation of a Police and Fire Tax Credits**; and an **Act concerning the creation of a Police and Fire Revision of the Fair Election Fund**. The hearing on legislation regarding the **Police and Fire Towing Contract** was held for further consideration of amendments.

and **Fiscal Policy Committee** review several pieces of legislation, and **his Reinvestment and Restoration Tax Credits**; and an **Act concerning** the **Police and Fire Towing Contract**. That bill was

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## COUNCIL HOSTS MEET AND GREET EVENTS



On Tuesday, September 19, the Council met with the County Executive's new Latino Affairs Liaison, Samantha Howard. Noting the County's rich diversity, she shared her plans to host listening sessions across the County to address community needs and concerns. Born in Puerto Rico and a resident of the County since childhood, she also discussed plans to advocate for the community. "Part of what I hope to bring to this position is to empower the community to see my face and my story and say, 'She is going welcome me in and be

**COUNCIL IN THE COMMUNITY**  
ADVOCACY FOR THE PEOPLE

COUNCIL MEMBER EDWARD BURROUGHS III

## RECEIVES LABOR UNION AWARD



Congratulations to Council Member Edward Burroughs (District 8) for his award from LiUNA!, the Laborers' International Union of North America. The Laborers' African American Caucus gave him the award "In Recognition of your Exemplary Leadership, Dedication and Commitment to Labor." Burroughs has been a long time champion of the labor movement since his time on the Prince George's County Board of Education.

## COUNCIL MEMBER INGRID WATSON LAUNCHES DISTRICT 4 'PICK IT UP' ANTI-LITTER AND BEAUTIFICATION INITIATIVE





District 4 Council Member Ingrid Watson thanks everyone who joined her and the District 4 Team for Saturday's successful kickoff of the inaugural District 4 "**Pick It UP!**" Anti-Litter and Beautification Initiative. They held clean-ups throughout District 4, and residents, joined by partners DPW&T and the Office of Community Relations, got to work! The Pick It UP! Initiative, and accompanying anti-litter campaign are ongoing efforts to encourage clean, litter-free District 4 communities; raise awareness around the harmful impacts of litter and illegal dumping; promote community involvement; and encourage civic pride through ongoing clean-up drives and prevention education efforts.

## CELEBRATING HISPANIC HERITAGE



The Council was honored to have Pastora Iluminada Gomez from Centro de Apoyo Familiar and Walkira Pool, President & Founder of CAF join them on Tuesday for Invocation before Council session. District 2 Council Member Wanika Fisher notes that Pastora Gomez and Mrs. Pool have made significant contributions to the community, especially in the areas of substance abuse and mental health. "Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month while recognizing their dedicated work is a great way to honor their contributions to District 2," Fisher said.

Fue mi honor que Pastora Iluminada Gómez del Centro de Apoyo Familiar y la presidenta y fundadora de CAF Sra. Walkiria Pool se unieran a nosotros hoy para abrir con una oración en el Consejo del Condado de Prince George's. Pastora Gómez y la Sra. Pool han hecho contribuciones significativas a la comunidad, especialmente en las áreas de abuso de sustancias y salud mental. Celebrar el Mes de la Herencia Hispana mientras reconociendo su trabajo es una excelente manera de honrar sus contribuciones al Distrito 2.



## JOIN THE COUNCIL AND CELEBRATE HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH!!





**Click image above to watch the video**

The Prince George's County Council will host its Hispanic Heritage Month 2023 celebration on Tuesday, October 3 at 1:30 PM, at the Wayne K. Curry Administration Building in Largo, Maryland (1301 McCormick Drive, 1st Floor Tech Lounge). Join us in observing the rich history, heritage, culture, and contributions of Hispanic Americans in Prince George's County with musical and poetry performances. For more information, please email [SpecialEvents@pgccouncil.us](mailto:SpecialEvents@pgccouncil.us)

## UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS



October 2 - **Sitting as the District Council** - 10:00 AM - [DETAILS](#)

No Council Session; **Rescheduled to October 10**

October 2 - **Sitting as the Committee of the Whole** - [DETAILS](#) - 10:30 AM

October 2 - [EWD Committee](#) - 10:30 AM

October 3 - **County Council** - 10:00 AM - [DETAILS](#)

October 4 - **Board of Appeals** - 6:00 PM - [DETAILS](#)

October 5 - [PHED Committee](#) - 10:00 AM

October 5 - [HHSPS Committee](#) - 1:30 PM

**Archived Meetings can be viewed on [Council Livestream page](#)**

# EVENTS