

Prince George's County House Delegation

MINUTES

January 24th, 2014

Delegation Room
House Office Building Room 150
Annapolis, MD

Delegates present:

1. Delegate Jolene Ivey, Delegation Chair
2. Delegate Benjamin Barnes
3. Delegate Aisha Braveboy
4. Delegate Dereck E. Davis
5. Delegate Barbara Frush
6. Delegate Tawanna Gaines
7. Delegate Melony G. Griffith
8. Delegate Anne Healey
9. Delegate Marvin Holmes
10. Delegate Carolyn J.B. Howard
11. Delegate James Hubbard
12. Delegate Doyle Niemann
13. Delegate Joseline Peña-Melnyk
14. Delegate James Proctor
15. Delegate Michael Summers
16. Delegate Darren Swain
17. Delegate Veronica Turner
18. Delegate Kriselda Valderrama
19. Delegate Geraldine Valentino-Smith
20. Delegate Joseph Vallario
21. Delegate Michael Vaughn
22. Delegate Jay Walker
23. Delegate Alonzo Washington

Absent:

Staff:

Daniel Valentine, Legislative Director
Jodie Chilson, Delegation Counsel

Meeting convened approximately 930 am.

I- Speakers

U.S. Senator Benjamin Cardin addressed the delegation, noting that after last year's sequester, the federal government has passed a budget.

On the pending FBI location contract with GSA, Cardin spoke in favor of the Prince George's County site: "I think by far it is the best (site) to offer in Prince George's County."

Applauded the work done in the Prince George's Delegation and took questions.

Delegate Braveboy noted the benefits of the Mortgage Relief Act and noted that many Realtors and others believe that there would be a benefit to renewing that. She asked if Cardin had discussed the possibility

A: Cardin said they had not, and that while it remains an issue, it would be the first time the bill would be extended, which is a hurdle at the federal level.

Delegate Swain followed up on what Delegate Braveboy said.

Delegate Howard thanked Sen. Cardin for his assistance in locating WMATA Senior Card service in Prince George's County the previous year and asked for additional resources for seniors. Sen. Cardin said staff would follow up.

Delegate Niemann also noted the Foreclosure effects on the county which he said is "in a crisis."

40 – 50 percent of homes are underwater, he said.

Cardin said that he will bring it up.

Delegate Washignton asked for information on the Purple line at the federal fund level. Cardin said that the project has no specific earmarks due to new budget rules but that it qualifies for funding and is a priority.

Cardin noted that there is a 2-year service reauthorization in the federal highway budget, but that a 6year reauthorization is needed, and there is no word on any revenue source.

Delegate Pena-Melnyk thanked Senator for a letter on the lack of minorities in public safety and asked for his help at a Jan 31st hearing in the Anne Arundel Delegation.

Cardin said it is "an issue that requires leadership in the county to do something about."

Dr. Joseph Wright, VP Govt relations, Children's Hospital, addressed the delegation on the need to create primary care networks for the county healthcare model.

Children's is a 303 bed facility in the county

Children's is seeking to build an outpatient ambulatory specialty treatment center in the Bowie area (at Fairwood, between the Safeway and Soccer Complex).

Wright said the facility could help in the county needs for improving health care, which hinges on attracting at least 61 new primary care physicians in the county to avoid clogging

emergency rooms with regular patients. 9,000 children go to the children's hospital ER annually from Prince George's County that could have been served by regular doctor visits.

"We're very interested in working with the county to shore up that shortage (of physicians)" he said. "We need to be addressing these deficits now. We can't wait til (the new hospital opens)."

Chair Ivey said that the county has serious health care needs. She asked why the facility was in Bowie instead of the Beltway area.

Wright responded that the center in Bowie is for specialty care like orthopedics, nuerology or ear nose & throat specialty. Childrens is also working on a primary care clinic in the Capital Heights area.

Delegate Griffith spoke of the need to educate the community on options already available in addition to emergency care rooms for health care.

Delegate Niemann asked for specific information on what Childrens must do to build the clinic in Capital heights.

Wright said that to make a primary care pr4actice work in the Beltway, it requires capital investment in the first few years, as well as changes to the Medicaid reimbursement system structure.

"I'm under the impression that the source (of capital) is at the county level" Wright said.

Bottom Line:

\$3 million capital (at least) to replicate a large primary care practice in prince George's

Delegate Valentino-Smith asked if this aspect was in conjunction with University of Maryland Medical School -- it is not.

Delegate Healey noted that Children's is a wonderful facility, but that her district is closer to Michigan Avenue than to Bowie. What is really needed are more walk-in availabilities, she said.

II - Subcommittee Reports /Bills For Discussion:

1. Law Enforcement & State-Appointed Boards: Delegate Kriselda Valderrama, Chair

- **PG XXXXXX: TITLE**

Members adopted a XXXXX Report in a XXX vote.

2. County Affairs: Delegate Jay Walker, Chair

- **PG 404: City of College Park Employees - Participation in the Employees' Pension System**

Passed favorably in a 21-1 vote

- **PG 408 - School Facilities Surcharge Exemption - Capitol College Student Housing**

Passed Favorably, unanimously

- **PG 413 - Deferred Water and Sewer Charges Homeowner Disclosure Act of 2014**

Passed Favorably Unanimously

- **PG 417 - Watershed Protection and Restoration Program - Report on County Funding Plan**

Passed Favorable with Amendments

3. Bi-County Affairs: Delegate Joseline Pena-Melnyk, Chair Announced upcoming meeting and agenda

Meeting concluded at approximately 11 a.m. for session

III. Other:

Public Hearing held for two late filed bills:

PG 309 - Board of License Commissioners - Membership

[PG 310-14](#) - Prince George's County - State's Attorney - Salary

Terry Speigner, Chair of the Democratic Central committee spoke in favor of PG 309.

County executive Rushern Baker III spoke on behalf of PG 310, accompanied by State's Attorney Angela Alsobrooks, who did not testify.

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