

# Prince George's County House Delegation

## MINUTES

### January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014

Delegation Room  
House Office Building Room 150  
Annapolis, MD

#### **Delegates present:**

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

#### **Absent:**

- Delegate Carolyn J.B. Howard
- Delegate Joseph Vallario
- Delegate Jay Walker

#### **Staff:**

Daniel Valentine, Legislative Director  
Jodie Chilson, Delegation Counsel

Meeting convened approximately 9 a.m. with recognition of visitors, including a contingent from the Prince George's Conference and Visitors Bureau.

## **I- Subcommittee Reports /Bills For Discussion:**

### **1. Bi-County Affairs: Delegate Joseline Pena-Melnyk, Chair**

- **PGMC 101-14** - WSSC - Budget Approval, Rates and Front Foot Benefit Charge (**UNF/Withdrawn**)

Members voted unanimously Unfavorable

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

- **PG 301-14** - Alcoholic Beverages - Transfer of Beer, Wine or Liquor Licenses - Repeal of Prohibition **(FAV)**

Delegation voted 15-1 FAVORABLE

- **PG 309-14** - Board of License Commissioners – Membership **(FAV)**

Delegation voted 15-1 FAVORABLE

## 2. County Affairs: Delegate Jay Walker, Chair

- [PG 410-14](#) - Election Law - Polling Places – Accommodations for Disabled Voters **(FAV)**

Delegation unanimously voted FAVORABLE.

## Speakers

### II – Donna Cooper, PEPCO Region

Ms. Cooper, the new president of the utility, introduced herself to the delegates and spoke of their efforts to increase reliability and service. She encouraged anyone who encounters a problem with electrical delivery via PEPCO to contact her on her direct number, 202-872-2477

Delegate Niemann encouraged Ms. Cooper to improve coordination of utility pole replacements with Comcast & Verizon, a recurring issue. PEPCO rep Charles Washington said they have struck an agreement to eliminate the backlog of replacements, and are about halfway through now.

Chair Ivey asked about any fees that are applied to people who elect to opt-out of the new smart meters.

Statewide, 2,213 people have opted out of smart meters, including 430 in Prince George's. "1/3<sup>rd</sup> of one percent" of the base.

Chair Ivey asked if the opt-outs will be charged a fee. Ms. Cooper said no – mainly because the Public Service Commission has not rendered a decision on that question.

### **III. Hospital ./ Healthcare briefing:**

- Brad Seamon, Chief Administrative Officer, Prince George's County Office of the County Executive
- John Ashworth, Senior Vice President, Network Development
- University of Maryland Medical System Associate Dean, University of Maryland School of Medicine
- Dr. Joshua Sharfstein, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
- Maia Estes, Deputy Chief of Staff for Lt. Governor Anthony Brown
- Neil Moore, Dimensions

Panel outlined the process of bringing a new medical center and potential hurdles to clear in the process, including:

- Regulatory approval from MD Healthcare Commission – likely to be contested by competing facilities
- Resolving pension liability of old system – was \$160 million, now reduced to \$71 – set to pay off in 4 years
- OVERHAUL and IMPROVE performance: Operationally, facilities, culture change in facilities
- Must build a network of primary care practitioners in the county
- Rate overhauls must be part of the planning.

**(More details are available via a handout provided to the delegation)**

Delegate Swain expressed confusion about the information he was given by the hospital. Asked for clarification.

Delegate Niemann told the panel to emphasize and improve the primary care network cultivation, which is key to success, including suggesting more work with children's hospital, etc.

Delegate Griffith emphasized the need for a public education component to ensure that residents know of the resources available and can use them as needed and designed.

Delegate Healey suggested a representative from the hospital's employee community for solidarity in future presentation.

Delegate Valentino-Smith urged the hospital to seek private partnerships for funding as well.

Meeting concluded at approximately 11 A.M.

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