

# The Maryland General Assembly

## PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HOUSE DELEGATION

### DELEGATION MEETING MINUTES

**Friday, February 26, 2016**  
**9:30 a.m.**

Prince George's Delegation Room  
Lowe House Office Building, Room 150  
Annapolis, MD 21401

#### **Delegates present:**

Delegate Jay Walker, Chair	Delegate Anne Healey
Delegate Geraldine Valentino-Smith, Vice Chair	Delegate Marvin E. Holmes Jr.
Delegate Michael L. Vaughn, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair	Delegate Carolyn J.B. Howard
Delegate Ben Barnes	Delegate Michael Jackson
Delegate Darryl Barnes	Delegate Tony Knotts
Delegate Erik L. Barron	Delegate Joseline Peña-Melnyk
Delegate Dereck E. Davis	Delegate Susie Proctor
Delegate Diana Fennell	Delegate Carlo Sanchez
Delegate Barbara Frush	Delegate Jimmy Tarlau
Delegate Tawanna P. Gaines	Delegate Kris Valderrama
	Delegate Joseph Vallario, Jr.
	Delegate Alonzo T. Washington

#### **Delegates absent:**

Delegate Angela Angel – Excused

#### **Staff:**

Tia L. Holmes, Legislative Director  
Jodie Chilson, Delegation Counsel/Law Enforcement Committee Counsel  
Lynne Blume Rosen, County Affairs Committee Counsel  
Crystal Lemieux, Bi-County Commissions Committee Counsel

The meeting convened at approximately 9:37 a.m.

#### **I. Call to Order - Delegate Jay Walker, Chair**

Chairman Walker welcomed the group. Delegate Healey led the group in prayer.

Chairman Walker acknowledged the guests present for Tourism Day in Annapolis. Matthew Neitzey spoke on behalf of the Conference and Visitors Bureau, Inc.

**II. Subcommittee Reports:**

**A. Law Enforcement:** Delegate Alonzo T. Washington, Chair

Del. Washington gave the subcommittee report on the three bills that were considered during the week's Law Enforcement subcommittee meeting.

**PG 308-16 (HB 1135) Prince George's County – Board of License Commissioners – Budget and Funding**

Del. Washington explained the bill, explained the amendments, and reported the Committee's vote, which was Favorable with Amendments (6-0).

Chairman Walker opened the floor for questions/discussion on the bill.

Del. Healey asked for clarification on the part of the amendment that mentions the County Executive and the County Council. Del. Washington clarified the amendment.

Motion to move FAV on the amendment. Motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Motion to move FWA. Motion passed. **FWA** (21-0)

**PG 312-16 (HB 1199) – Prince George's County – Emergency Medical Services – Motorcycle Unit**

Del. Washington explained the bill, explained the amendment, and reported the Committee's recommendation, which was Favorable with Amendments.

Del. Gaines asked if the unit will transport anyone. Del. Washington answered that the bill authorizes the County to make decisions regarding the first responders.

Motion to move FAV on the amendment. Motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Motion to move FWA. Motion passed. **FWA** (21-0-1). Del. Fennell recused herself from the vote.

**PG 313-16 (HB 1094) – Prince George's County – Video Lottery Terminal Proceeds – Use of Local Impact Grants**

Del. Washington explained the bill, explained the amendment, and reported the Committee's recommendation, which was Favorable with Amendments (6-0).

Motion to move FAV on the amendment. Motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Motion to move FWA. Motion passed. **FWA** (22-0)

Del. Washington announced the next Law Enforcement meeting.

**B. Bi-County:** Delegate Michael L. Vaughn, Chair

Del. Vaughn gave the subcommittee report on the four bills that were considered during the week's Bi-County subcommittee meeting.

**PG/MC 107-16 (HB 1133) – Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Commissioners – Compensation Study**

Del. Vaughn explained that the bill had been sent back to the Bi-County committee by a vote of the full Delegation during last week's Delegation meeting. The bill was reported out of the Committee unfavorable.

Motion to move UNF. Motion passed by a voice vote. **UNF** (Del. Davis opposed)

**PG/MC 113-16 (HB 1128) – Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Drinking Water – Testing**

Del. Vaughn explained the bill and that it is a Montgomery County bill. The bill was presented by Del. Will Smith (Montgomery) during the week's subcommittee meeting.

Del. Howard asked if the bill affects Prince George's County as well as Montgomery County. Del. Vaughn confirmed that the bill does affect Prince George's County as well. Del. Vaughn reported that the committee voted the bill favorable.

Motion to move FAV. Motion passed. **FAV** (21-0)

**PG/MC 114-16 (HB 1197) – Prince George's County – Forest Conservation Act – Net Tract Area**

Del. Vaughn explained that this bill was special ordered last week so that delegates could seek the answers to their questions regarding the bill.

Del. Peña-Melnyk asked what district the bill would affect and that she had also mentioned that the testimony from the Sierra Club should be considered. Del. Vaughn answered that the bill would affect District 23 only.

Del. Peña-Melnyk asked if the Committee considered the Sierra Club's opposition to the bill, in addition to the other environmental groups' opposition. Del. Vaughn said that at the time the Committee had considered the bill, there was no opposition from the Sierra Club; however, he acknowledged that the letter was included with the information distributed today. Del. Peña-Melnyk said that she recalled that the Sierra Club had given oral testimony at the bill hearing in the County and had given the delegates a letter in opposition to the bill. Del. Vaughn said that the letter was not in the packet when the committee had the bill hearing in Annapolis, but that he realizes that there is opposition to the bill currently. Del.

Peña-Melnyk said that she recalled the Sierra Club's position from the initial public bill hearing.

Del. Tarlau said that the Sierra Club had submitted written testimony and one of the points that concerned him is that "Prince George's County will be the only local jurisdiction to be preempted by the state from excluding floodplains in implementation of the state forest conservation laws."—a point included in the Sierra Club's opposition letter.

Del. Vaughn said that he has an Attorney General's opinion on the bill. The opinion said that the bill does not violate any environmental regulations currently in place.

Del. Vaughn explained that there are amendments to the bill and he explained those amendments.

Del. Valentino-Smith explained that Charles and Harford Counties allow woodland conservation credit for trees in the 100-year floodplan.

Del. Peña-Melnyk explained that we are the only county to do this. She asked why we would allow this to move forward when the organizations that advise us on the environment are opposed to this bill. It doesn't make sense to cut trees and not replace them. It is irresponsible. She said that she will be voting no because it is the wrong thing to do.

Motion to move FAV on the amendment. Motion passed by a voice vote. (Del. Peña-Melnyk opposed)

Motion to move FWA. Motion passed. **FWA** (13-5-1)

**PG/MC 115-16 (HB 1552) – Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Polybutylene Connection Pipe Replacement Loan Program**

Del. Vaughn explained the bill. Del. Holmes asked how the loan program works. Del. Walker explained that WSSC would set up the loan program through this bill. Del. Holmes asked whether WSSC has an opinion on the bill. Del. Walker explained that WSSC approved of the bill last year but that they oppose the bill this year. Del. Holmes asked about the nature of the opposition. Del. Walker explained that WSSC would rather see the County use a different type of insurance program. Del. Pena-Melnyk thanked Del. Walker for accepting her amendment to the bill.

Motion to move FAV on the amendment. Motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Motion to move FWA. Motion passed. **FWA** (19-0)

**C. County Affairs:** Delegate Carolyn J. B. Howard, Chair

**PG 414-16 (HB 1200) – Prince George's County – Community-Based Developmental Disabilities Services Providers – County Minimum Wage Reimbursement**

Del. Howard explained the bill and explained the committee's vote, which was favorable.

Del. Valentino-Smith explained that there may be amendments to the bill and asked that the bill be special ordered. The motion was seconded by Del. Howard.

Motion to Special Order the bill by Del. Valentino-Smith. Motion passed. **Special Ordered to March 4.**

**PG 439-16 (HB 1138) – Prince George's County – School Facilities Surcharge – Student Housing Exemptions**

Del. Howard explained the bill. Lynne Rosen, County Affairs Committee counsel, explained the amendments to the bill. Del. Valentino-Smith asked whether there is a time limit on the surcharge designation. Del. Knotts asked whether there are protections in the bill that would prevent redlining. Del. Peña-Melnyk explained that she does not believe that the Council would allow redlining. She trusts that the community would do the right thing.

Motion to move FAV on the amendment. Motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Motion to move FWA. Motion passed. **FWA** (20-0)

Del. Walker welcomed Chair of the Prince George's County Council, Derrick Leon Davis for a presentation.

**III. Announcements:**

None.

**IV. Adjourn**

The meeting concluded at approximately 10:44 a.m.