



Prince George's County Local Development Council (PGCLDC)

Southern Regional Technology and Recreation Complex

Wednesday, March 20, 2020

7:00 PM

Minutes (Draft)

PGCLDC Members in Attendance (Quorum):

- Jeffrey Chandler
- Zeno St. Cyr, II
- Patricia Britton
- Michael Errico
- Kimberly Hall
- Mary Hopkins Navies
- Mary Larkins
- Audrey McNeill
- Senator Obie Patterson
- James Robinson
- Delegate Veronica Turner
- Kerry Watson
- Delegate Kris Valderrama (26th District)
- Sierra Hayes

PGCLDC Members Absent:

- Stephanie Stanard

ATTENDING STAFF (Office of the County Executive):

- Shaka Pack de Flores
- Ryan Middleton, Liaison to the Prince George's County Local Development Council
- Dwight Talley - Special Assistant to the Chief Administrative Officer

A number of residents participated in the virtual meeting.

Call to Order/Roll Call:

Chairman Chandler called the meeting to order at approximately 7:12 PM.

Opening Remarks:

Chairman Chandler welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the LDC's virtual meeting. He then asked everyone to take a moment of silence for those who have suffered or are suffering from COVID-19. The Chairman then announced for the record that LDC Member Kerry Watson, who has served the Council well for three years, is moving on to a new endeavor. LDC Member Watson was thanked for his service to the Council and to the county.

Adoption of Minutes – February 19, 2020

LDC Member Kimberly Hall put forth a motion to adopt the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by LDC Michael Errico, then approved unanimously by the LDC.

FY2020 Local Impact Grant Update

During our last meeting, the LDC discussed grant applicants that were originally disqualified during the original review by the Office of Management and Budget and the opportunity those organizations had to make corrections and resubmit. To reiterate, 23 applicants were given the opportunity to resubmit. Of those, 20 applicants resubmitted their application. In the end, 12 of those applicants passed the initial review and have been forwarded to the LDC's Program Priorities and Budget committee for consideration. In total, there are now 25 applicants under consideration for the FY2020 Local Impact Grant. The committee has already begun to review that second group of applicants and has established a working schedule to get those completed as quickly as possible. The Chairman invited other members of the LDC to assist in reviewing the applications.

Next, the Chairman asked the members of the LDC to review the draft Use of Funds Policy that was provided in advance of the meeting. LDC Member Senator Patterson suggested a change to the document that would clarify what a simple majority meant. The Chairman suggested adding language that stated, "so long as an official quorum is established". The Chairman accepted a motion to adopt the document with the suggested changes. The motion was seconded then approved unanimously by the LDC.

New Business

The Chairman addressed whether the LDC, as a council, could make recommendations to use some of the overage funds from previous grant cycles to help organizations or members of the community and the local impact area that have been impacted by the pandemic. For the \$907,000 in question, the Office of Management and Budget informed the Chairman that the funds have been repurposed to support FY2021 functions of the LDC because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent closing of all Maryland casinos. It appears that the hold harmless clause is still going to be intact and will impact fund that would have been generated for the LDC for use in FY2021. Although all Maryland casinos have been closed at the same time, there is currently no proration or reduction of obligation planned. The expected result is no funds will be generated to support the LDC's FY2021 functions so the overage fund will be used instead. Vice-

Chair Zeno St. Cyr asked was there anything that could be done to reverse this decision which is blatantly unfair to Prince George's County. Discussion was had about the current state of efforts to sunset the hold harmless clause but refocused to how to call attention to and request a proration for the hold harmless for this year. The suggestion was made to send a letter to the County Executive and all county legislators to garner support to oppose the hold harmless clause. LDC Member Kerry Watson pointed out that any legislative response could take a year or more and suggested that the LDC seek an official Attorney General's opinion on enforcement of the hold harmless under these circumstances. The Chairman accepted a motion giving himself and Vice-Chair St. Cyr. the authority to draft and disseminate the letter. The motion was seconded then approved unanimously.

Public Comments

- Community Member Sarah Cavitt – Comment submitted in advance via email - Regarding the discussion between Councilwoman Anderson Walker and Director Earley of the Office of Management and Budget, which occurred during the virtual budget briefing is still not online, they pertain to the hold harmless cause and the impact of funds. Does Mr. Tutt know when it will be posted? If not, can someone summarize what might have happened.
- Community Member Jay Kruger – Comments submitted in advance via email - 1.) What is the dollar amount that the state is now saying Prince George's County can anticipate, or is forecast to receive in total for their FY2020 VLT local impact grant fund distribution? 2.) What effect, if any, did the closure of the state's casinos have on the hold harmless provision base line numbers assigned to Anne Arundel County and Baltimore City? In other words, are the baseline numbers which are used to calculate the hold harmless provision going to be prorated or adjusted to account for the number of months (time) that the state's casinos were closed? Anne Arundel County's baseline was \$18.4M. Baltimore City's baseline was \$7.6M. If not, this will severely impact and greatly reduce the distribution that Prince George's County will end up receiving. 3.) We still have not heard any information regarding the \$1.7M more than forecast or budgeted for that the county received from the state in FY2019 VLT local impact grant funds. 4.) When is this going to be addressed and a plan for use of the surplus of funds discussed with the PGCLDC? 5.) Question: Is there any legislation concerning the PGCLDC or use of the VLT local impact grant funds that came about during the past legislative session in Annapolis, or that is currently being proposed or discussed at the county level? 6.) I gather that due to the pandemic and the unknown timeline for when casino operations can resume, it's very difficult to formulate a budget and the VLT local impact grant spending plan. Has the FY2021 VLT local impact grant multi-year spending plan been transmitted to the PGCLDC? If not and if the spending plan is being redrafted, how is the LDC being consulted on the development of the spending plan, especially since the needs and priorities of the local impact area may have changed dramatically in the past few months as a result of the virus pandemic?

Chairman Chandler acknowledged suggestions and stated that the LDC will work to address these concerns.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:13 PM.

Prepared and respectfully submitted by:

Minutes Approved: _____ (Date)

DRAFT