OFFICE OF THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY EXECUTIVE ANGELA D. ALSOBROOKS

PRESS RELEASE

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COUNTY EXECUTIVE ALSOBROOKS LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN TO SUPPORT COUNTY BLACK-OWNED BUSINESSES DURING NATIONAL BLACK BUSINESS MONTH

LARGO, MD – Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks announced today that the County is launching a campaign to support local Black-owned businesses through the County's Buy Prince George's Initiative. To build on existing efforts already underway this month, the County Executive is encouraging County business owners and residents to use the hashtag #BlackOwnedPGC as a way to identify, promote and support local Black-owned businesses during National Black Business Month.

"Black-owned businesses across the nation have been hit particularly hard by this pandemic, so during National Black Business Month, we want to use our Buy Prince George's Initiative to celebrate, promote and support our local Black-owned businesses," said Alsobrooks. "Small and local businesses are the backbone of our economy, and we will continue doing everything we can to ensure they recover from this pandemic stronger than ever before."

The County's Economic Development Corporation and Experience Prince George's have been highlighting Black-owned businesses this month through initiatives such as "Takeout Tuesday." These agencies will be monitoring social media and promoting local businesses that use #BlackOwnedPGC, as well as adding them to the <u>County's list of local businesses</u> available through the Buy Prince George's Initiative. Residents will also be able to use this hashtag to search for, follow and support local Black-owned businesses now and in the future.

"Black-owned businesses are an important and driving force in our local economy, creating jobs, making investments and creating opportunities that shape the business landscape," said David Iannucci, President and CEO of the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation. "When small businesses flourish, so do their communities. It is encouraging to see

the growth and entrepreneurship represented in the Black-owned businesses in Prince George's County."

Buy Prince George's is an initiative started in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the Prince George's County business community. The goal is to support local businesses by connecting them with County residents that want to shop for goods and services while supporting the local economy. The initiative is a partnership between the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation, Experience Prince George's, and the Prince George's Chamber of Commerce.

"Entrepreneurship has long been the cornerstone of success for many African Americans within Prince George's County," said Leslie W. Graves, President and CEO of Experience Prince George's. "Black-owned businesses within our tourism and hospitality sector boast some of the most sought-after experiences, which help shape and tell the stories that our visitors often seek. We thank these business owners for their vision and impact within our communities."

Buy Prince George's maintains an online "County Cyber Mall" that lists local businesses that County residents and visitors can support. County businesses are encouraged to list their business on the County Cyber Mall by <u>clicking here</u>. Residents are encouraged to find local businesses through the County's Cyber Mall by <u>clicking here</u>.

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