



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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INTERPRETIVE GUIDANCE

Number: OOL Interpretive Guidance No. 2
Date: August 4, 2020
Re: Health Officer Directive and Order for Enhanced Consumer and Employee Safety issued on August 4, 2020

Interpretive guidance was requested as to whether the above-referenced Directive and Order amends any provision of Council Resolution 64-2020. By way of background, Prince George's County Executive Order No. 15-2020 was issued on June 25, 2020 and then incorporated into Prince George's Council Resolution, 64-2020. Council Resolution, CR-64-2020, that is titled, "Prince George's County, Maryland's Third Continued Declaration of Emergency—Coronavirus (COVID-19)," was adopted by the Prince George's County Council on July 7, 2020 and is in effect through September 16, 2020. The above-referenced Directive and Order was issued by the Prince George's County Health Officer, Dr. Ernest L. Carter, MD, PhD, on July 31, 2020 and then reissued with amendments on August 4, 2020. Interpretive guidance was requested as to the following provision:

Unless specifically otherwise stated in Council Resolution 64-2020, which specifically incorporates Executive Order No. 15-2020 (dated June 25, 2020) social, community, spiritual, religious, recreational, leisure, and sporting gatherings and events ("large gatherings and events") are limited **to one person/family unit per 200 square feet, or a maximum of 50 persons - whichever is lower - at all locations and venues**, including but not limited to: private residences, parades, festivals, conventions, and fundraisers. Planned larger gatherings and events must be canceled or postponed. CDC and MDH social distancing protocols must be followed.

The Prince George's County Office of Law ("OOL") recommends that the Prince George's County Government interpret the above-referenced Directive and Order to amend Section VII of Executive Order No. 15-2020/Council Resolution 64-2020 to the extent it decreases the maximum capacity limit of persons at a large gathering or event to **one person/family unit per 200 square feet, or a maximum of 50 persons - whichever is lower - unless specifically otherwise specified in Council Resolution 64-2020**. The qualifying statement, "unless specifically otherwise specified in Council Resolution 64-2020," was included to maintain all other capacity or occupancy limits listed in the below sections of Executive Order No. 15-2020/Council Resolution 64-2020:

1. Section V - Businesses, Organizations, Establishment and Facilities That May Open
2. Section VI – activities listed

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Therefore, all other capacity or occupancy limits provided in Executive Order No. 15-2020/Council Resolution 64-2020 remain effective unless amended or terminated sooner by the County Executive or as extended by a subsequent resolution of the governing body. This Interpretive Guidance may be revised or rescinded at any time. Citizens and businesses are urged to consult with their own legal counsel for advice about the application of the Order and this Interpretive Guidance to their particular facts and circumstances.