



## PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY UNIVERSAL DESIGN IMPLEMENTATION WORK GROUP

### DRAFT MINUTES

NOVEMBER 8, 2023

#### Attendees:

Council Member Jolene Ivey, Chair  
Council Member Ingrid S. Watson, Vice Chair  
Jim Chandler, Office of the County Executive  
Griffin Benton, Maryland Building Industry Association (MBIA)  
Marcus Monroe, American Institute of Architects – Potomac Valley  
Sarah Reddinger, Habitat for Humanity  
Sarah Basehart, Independence Now  
Charlesetta Griffin, American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)

#### Members Absent:

Lori Parris, Prince George's County Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement (DPIE)  
Brooke Larman, Maryland - National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC)  
Dwight Joseph, Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPWT)

#### Council Staff:

Amy J. Fry, Chief of Staff, Council District 5  
John W. Sheridan, Policy Director, Council District 5  
Kathleen H. Canning, Legislative Officer  
Shirley M. Anglin, Administrative Aide  
Sharon Savoy Williams, Administrative Assistant  
Rhonda Riddick, Administrative Aide  
Aminah Bushrod, Council Technical Services

#### Welcome and Introductory Remarks

The first regular meeting of the Universal Design Implementation Work Group (Work Group) was called to order at 9:15 a.m. on Wednesday, November 8, 2023, by Chair Jolene Ivey. Chair Ivey introduced Vice Chair Watson.

## Work Group Membership Introductions

Work Group Members and Council Staff introduced themselves and identified their affiliation.

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## Work Group Mission

Chair Ivey indicated that the focus of the Work Group would be to work with the law that we have and to implement what we have. She indicated that with big changes we need to make sure what we have can be implemented. If there are tweaks that need to be done, it is better to do them before the new requirements start.

## Discuss Meeting Preparation, Meeting Dates

Chair Ivey discussed meeting dates and meeting formats. Chair Ivey indicated that the Work Group would not be meeting in December 2023 and August 2024. She further indicated that Work Group meetings were currently scheduled for 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on the second Wednesday of the month, from November 2023 through November 2024, except for December 2023 and August 2024. She provided that due to room location constraints, the two possible days of the week to meet were Wednesday and Friday but that Fridays were not preferred. It was agreed that the Work Group would meet on the second Wednesday of the month, as noted, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Chair Ivey discussed the two meeting formats that were possible; namely, in-person meetings and virtual meetings but not hybrid meetings. Marcus Monroe indicated that due to scheduling an occasional virtual meeting would be preferred. Chair Ivey indicated that virtual meetings were possible and could also be utilized in the event of inclement winter weather.

## Additional Discussion

Chair Ivey opened the floor for additional discussion of items which the Work Group members found to be most significant for Work Group deliberations.

Griffin Benton stated items for consideration which the Maryland Building Industry Association found to be most important. He indicated that the no-step entry requirement was significant. Further, he indicated that the implications of the administrative process of obtaining a waiver were important. He indicated that the waiver percentage should be unspecified, rather than fifty percent (50%). He asked that the timing of the waiver, currently placed at the time of the building permit, be reconsidered, as it places a challenge on financing.

Jim Chandler of the Office of the County Executive indicated that the framework for the timing of the implementation date of January 1, 2026, should be evaluated.

Marcus Monroe of the American Institute of Architects - Potomac Valley provided that an area of review should be the issue of the conflict of laws pertaining to the County's Universal Design law and the Federal Fair Housing Act. Chair Ivey indicated that the County's Universal Design law is already in compliance with the applicable County Codes and that the County is not trying to make

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the County's Universal Design law Federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant at this time.

Charlesetta Griffin, American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) said that the focus of Universal Design should be on outreach and education. In particular, the senior community should know what to expect about the County's Universal Design law. She indicated that seniors moving from their current homes into senior housing can experience some impediments to Universal Design such as walk-in showers that are not wheelchair accessible. Chair Ivey indicated that the County's Universal Design law exempts retrofitting and that there are some State funds available in the amount of up to \$10,000 to assist persons in staying at home. Chair Ivey said that senior housing might need additional legislation.

Chair Ivey summarized that there are three big topics for review; namely, the no-step entry, the waiver, and the implications of implementation. She indicated that the no-step entry would be discussed at the next Work Group meeting.

Next Meeting:

January 10, 2024, In-Person

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m. on Wednesday, November 8, 2023.