



BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ON ADDRESSING PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY'S STRUCTURAL DEFICIT

APRIL 28, 2016
MINUTES

The following Blue Ribbon Commission members were present at 5:14 p.m.

Blue Ribbon Commission Members:

Earl Adams, Jr.
Amber Hendricks
Turkessa Green
Mark Tomassoni
James R. Estep
Gino Renne
Desiree Callender

Jamal Miller
John Rogard Tabori
David Van Dyke
Henry Mosley

Council Members and Staff:

Howard W. Stone
Colette R. Gresham

Other Attendees:

Dwayne Mingo
Jackie Philson

OPENING REMARKS/REVIEW OF MINUTES:

Chair Earl Adams, Jr., called the meeting to order at 5:14 p.m. The Commission reviewed and approved the minutes from the April 15th meeting. The Chair welcomed everyone and gave updates on future meetings. He would like for the Commission to host two working sessions and the last public hearing in May.

LAND USE POLICY AND THE STRUCTURAL DEFICIT PRESENTATION:

Derick Berlage, Chief of Countywide Planning, Prince George's County Planning Department, gave a presentation on the County's land use policy and the structural deficit. Mr. Berlage gave a brief overview of Plan 2035, the County's approved General Plan. He discussed the new geography of economic development and that the targeted places for future growth should happen in and around 8 places, which include 3 downtowns (Prince George's Plaza, New Carrollton, and Largo), 2 future downtowns (Suitland and Branch Avenue), and 3 additional targets (College Park, Greenbelt and National Harbor).

County Administration Building – Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772

Mr. Berlage noted that the new economic development is harder, more complicated and takes longer, for example, beginning in the 1970s, Montgomery County focused on transit oriented development and developed one station every 10 years in places that were already dense. The County's strategic plan for economic development centers around four targeted business sectors, which are 1) information, communications, and electronics; 2) healthcare and life sciences; 3) business services; and 4) federal government, as well as two additional targets involving 1) travel and tourism and 2) transportation, distribution, and logistics. Mr. Berlage reports that in order to grow the targeted places and attract the target industries the County has to focus on 16 specific actions with the most important being 1) maintain focus over the long-term; 2) leverage public dollars; 3) partner with the University of Maryland; 4) aggressively market the County; 5) educate the work force; and 6) regulatory reform. The Commissioners discussed simplifying the development approval process, creating public/private partnerships, and enhancing industrial land to increase the County's tax base.

The Chair announced that the Blue Ribbon Commission's public hearing will begin at 7 p.m. after the meeting is adjourned.

Meeting adjourned - 6:53 p.m.

Next Meeting – TBD