




THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT
Office of Audits and Investigations

March 28, 2018

MEMORANDUM

TO: Andrea C. Harrison, Chair
Planning, Zoning and Economic Development Committee

FROM: Turkessa M. Green, Deputy County Auditor 

RE: People's Zoning Counsel -
Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Review

Budget Overview

- The People's Zoning Counsel appears at all hearings on zoning matters to protect the public interest and ensure the compilation of a full and complete record.
- The People's Zoning Counsel may summon and cross-examine witnesses, introduce documentary evidence, file exemptions and present arguments to a hearing examiner of the Council as the evidence and law may warrant.
- The proposed operating expenses for FY 2019 have not changed from the FY 2018 approved level of \$250,000. The FY 2019 budget supports one contract attorney.
- The People's Zoning Counsel's proposed operating expenses are budgeted in the County's General Fund, and expenses are recovered from the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) as a project charge. The project charge is budgeted in M-NCPPC's Administration Fund within the Planning Department's budget.
- The Office's workload is dependent on the number of zoning cases filed each year. The Office reported that there have not been any fluctuations in its workload during the last five years. The Office does not anticipate any increases in its workload for FY 2019.
- Historically, the Office's workload consisted of reviewing Planning Board cases, Zoning Hearing Examiner cases, District Council cases and responding to zoning issues from citizens.

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