

REMARKS *(as prepared for delivery)*  
Gavel Exchange of Leadership  
The Honorable Todd M. Turner  
Chair, Prince George's County Council Legislative Year 2019  
Tuesday, December 4, 2018

**"SERVICE. COMMUNITY. PROGRESS."**

Good Morning and thank you for celebrating this great day with us in Prince George's County!

I am deeply humbled to be entrusted with the Council's Gavel of Leadership, and to have been chosen by my colleagues to serve as Council Chair for Legislative Year 2019.

To the residents of Prince George's County, thank you. You chose us to be your legislative team, and we will serve you to the best of our abilities, foster consensus around the issues you care about, and continue to contribute to the legacy that we as a Council are successfully building together for Prince George's County.

Please indulge me for a moment as I offer a special thank you to the leading ladies in my life - my wife Anita, our daughters Rachel and Maya, my mother Diana Turner and my sisters. As you can see I have been blessed to be raised, nurtured and surrounded by strong and smart women so I'm ready to serve.

REMARKS (as prepared for delivery)  
Gavel Exchange of Leadership  
The Honorable Todd M. Turner  
Chair, Prince George's County Council Legislative Year 2019  
Tuesday, December 4, 2018

I could not do the work of a public servant without their unwavering love, enduring patience and understanding, and their constant encouragement.

It's been said that a good leader understands that leadership is responsibility, not power, and requires compromise, not dictates. I take this responsibility and role seriously, and I extend my deepest gratitude to my colleagues for your confidence in my ability to serve you and the County Council in this capacity.

My goal is to be the bridge builder between the returning and new members of the Council, as well as with our new County Executive.

I must take a moment to acknowledge and thank our Immediate Past Chair Dannielle Glaros. Your leadership helped us to "Finish Stronger" this year. I was pleased to serve as your Vice-Chair, as you guided the Council through Legislative Year 2018, and the many issues and concerns that came before us.

REMARKS (as prepared for delivery)  
Gavel Exchange of Leadership  
The Honorable Todd M. Turner  
Chair, Prince George's County Council Legislative Year 2019  
Tuesday, December 4, 2018

Thank you for keeping the Council moving forward in a challenging year. The lessons learned from my experience as your co-leader will help to guide me on the next leg of this journey. Please help me congratulate outgoing Chair Dannielle Glaros on her service to Prince George's County this past year. *(Applause)*

Legislative Year 2019 will be a year of transition and change, and the Legislative Branch of County Government will look different as well. The members of our new 11-member Council took the Oath of Office yesterday. This body includes five new members, and for the first time since 1982, two voter-approved At-Large Members.

We are at a pivotal time in our County's history, and I am excited for the future. Like a football team preparing to take the field for the first game of the season, we are 11-members strong and ready to meet the challenges ahead.

REMARKS (as prepared for delivery)  
Gavel Exchange of Leadership  
The Honorable Todd M. Turner  
Chair, Prince George's County Council Legislative Year 2019  
Tuesday, December 4, 2018

Like a professional football team, included among those seated on the dais today are seasoned veterans and proven free-agents from other teams. We also have rookies eager to put their skills to the test, and we even have one player returning to his old team!

While our positions on the field may be different, we all share the same goal – building a strong team and winning for Team Prince George's County!

I want to thank returning Council Members Deni Taveras, Derrick L. Davis, Danielle Glaros, and At-Large Member Mel Franklin –an outstanding group of colleagues – for their hard work, conviction, diligence and leadership over the past term. Having worked with each of you, I know you are fundamentally guided by an unwavering commitment to improve the lives of our fellow Prince Georgians and will continue to serve with excellence.

REMARKS (as prepared for delivery)  
Gavel Exchange of Leadership  
The Honorable Todd M. Turner  
Chair, Prince George's County Council Legislative Year 2019  
Tuesday, December 4, 2018

I enthusiastically welcome our five newest colleagues to the dais – At-Large Council Member Calvin Hawkins; District 5 Council Member Jolene Ivey; District 7 Council Member Rodney Streeter; District 8 Council Member Monique Anderson-Walker; and District 9 Council Member Sydney Harrison.

I certainly cannot forget Council Member Thomas Dernoga, who is returning to this dais having previously served as the Council Member for District 1, from 2002 – 2010.

Each of you has a strong history of community leadership and public service, and you bring unique insight to this body. We look forward to your contributions as we work together to move our County forward.

As a former football team captain, I am grateful that Council Member Rodney Streeter, District 7, will serve as my co-leader and co-captain in Legislative Year 2019.

REMARKS (as prepared for delivery)  
Gavel Exchange of Leadership  
The Honorable Todd M. Turner  
Chair, Prince George's County Council Legislative Year 2019  
Tuesday, December 4, 2018

Council Member Streeter has had a distinguished legislative and long-serving public service career both with the District of Columbia and in Prince George's County.

Like me and several members, he has worked as a staff member in the Legislative Branch and understands the important role, perspective and responsibilities that come in serving it. I look forward to our shared leadership with our colleagues over the next year.

Working together, this Council has covered a lot of distance, but this is a marathon, not a sprint. We will continue our commitment to the legislative priorities that place at its core an enhanced quality of life for County residents.

These are the issues that are important to you, and they are equally important to us - *Education, Public Safety, Health Care, Transportation, Quality of Life, Economic Development and Transit-Oriented Development.*

REMARKS (as prepared for delivery)  
Gavel Exchange of Leadership  
The Honorable Todd M. Turner  
Chair, Prince George's County Council Legislative Year 2019  
Tuesday, December 4, 2018

We will build on the strong foundation established with legacy projects and policies that spur economic development and job growth for our residents – implementation of the recently completed Comprehensive Housing Strategy; modernization of the County Zoning Ordinance and the Countywide Map Amendment process; construction and operation of the Purple Line; and Transit-Oriented Development at our Metro Stations.

We will work hard to increase access to quality healthcare by working to strengthen the County and State partnership with University of Maryland Capital Region Health – including Cheverly, Largo, Laurel, Bowie and beyond.

There is a great deal for us to do, but this team has what it takes. I look forward to tapping into each member's talents, strengths and experiences to advance Prince George's County.

REMARKS (as prepared for delivery)  
Gavel Exchange of Leadership  
The Honorable Todd M. Turner  
Chair, Prince George's County Council Legislative Year 2019  
Tuesday, December 4, 2018

During yesterday's inaugural, County Executive Angela Alsobrooks, the first woman elected to this position in our County's history, was sworn into office.

It was an historic occasion for our County. County Executive Alsobrooks has a solid vision, and a strong passion for Prince George's County and its people. I look forward to our partnership on behalf of the residents of this County.

And our work could not be done without the strong and close collaboration with our partners in Annapolis, in municipal government, our community leaders, the non-profit community and other County stakeholders. We look forward to working with all of you, and with every County resident.

This team could not be successful without our remarkable Legislative Branch staff. This Council values your expertise and your support.



REMARKS (as prepared for delivery)  
Gavel Exchange of Leadership  
The Honorable Todd M. Turner  
Chair, Prince George's County Council Legislative Year 2019  
Tuesday, December 4, 2018

I would like to commend Council Administrator Robert Williams, Deputy Administrator Bill Hunt and Clerk of the Council Redis Floyd for their long-term, steady and measured leadership approach, especially during this time of transition.

In addition, I want to thank my own District 4 Team, and each member of the Legislative Branch staff, for continuing to bring your best every day for the Council, the County and our residents. We know you will continue to support us during this transition and beyond.

Since my first election to serve on the County Council, I have been guided by the maxim that "only through Service to the Community can we achieve Progress in Prince George's County."

**Service. Community. Progress.** That's the plan, and by consensus of my colleagues, it is my great privilege to lead this body as we continue to strive in this work and effort next year.

REMARKS (as prepared for delivery)  
Gavel Exchange of Leadership  
The Honorable Todd M. Turner  
Chair, Prince George's County Council Legislative Year 2019  
Tuesday, December 4, 2018

Thank you. May God Continue to Bless each of us and Prince George's County. Please enjoy and be safe in the upcoming holiday season.

###