



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Office of Audits and Investigations

March 27, 2019

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Dannielle M. Glaros, Chair
Planning, Housing and Economic Development Committee

FROM: Turkessa M. Green, Deputy County Auditor 

RE: People's Zoning Counsel -
Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Review

Budget Overview

- The People's Zoning Counsel appears at all hearings on zoning matters to protect the public interest and promote a full and fair presentation of relevant issues in administrative proceedings, to achieve balanced records upon which sound land use decisions can be made.
- 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 FY 2020 Proposed Budget for the People's Zoning Counsel includes funding in the amount of \$250,000 for one contract attorney, the same level of funding as the FY 2019 Approved Budget.
- 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 does not anticipate any increases in its workload for FY 2020.
- 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.