



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Office of Audits and Investigations

April 7, 2022

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mel Franklin, Chair
Planning, Housing and Economic Development (PHED)

THRU: Turkessa M. Green, County Auditor *TMG*

FROM: Jisun Ahn, Staff Auditor *JA*

RE: People's Zoning Counsel
Fiscal Year 2023 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 2023 Proposed Budget for the People's Zoning Counsel includes funding in the amount of \$250,000 for one (1) contract attorney, the same level of funding as the FY 2022 Approved Budget. The budget for the People's Zoning Counsel has not increased since FY 2014.
- 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 in the Planning Department's budget.
- 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.