

MOTION:

**October 6, 2020
Regular Meeting
Res. No. 20-**

SECOND:

RE: AUTHORIZE A STUDY PERIOD FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFINING EQUITY IN HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CONCEPTS FOR CONSIDERATION IN LAND USE DOCUMENTS AND LAND USE POLICIES

ACTION:

WHEREAS, pursuant to §15.2-2223(A) of the Code of Virginia the Prince William Board of County Supervisors shall adopt a comprehensive plan prepared and recommended by the Planning Commission; and

WHEREAS, the current comprehensive plan has been adopted and amended in sections, some as recently as March 2020; and

WHEREAS, the housing plan and the environment plan of the current comprehensive plan were adopted prior to or during 2019; and

WHEREAS, there are numerous additional planning documents in the process of development or awaiting adoption including Sector Plans, Long Range Land Use Plans, Small Area Plans, and the Rural Preservation Recommendations that were initiated and/or completed during or prior to 2019; and

WHEREAS, at the June 16, 2020, regular meeting of the Prince William Board of County Supervisors, the Board unanimously approved Resolution Number 20-494, directing staff to include an equity lens in the development of the 2021-2024 Strategic Plan and all future reviews of County planning processes; and

WHEREAS, Resolution Number 20-494 further directed staff to develop an equity lens to assess programs, planning, and processes; and

WHEREAS, during the September 22, 2020, regular meeting of the Prince William Board of County Supervisors, planning staff informed the Board that no concepts of equity or environmental justice are currently part of the staff evaluation process of land use cases before consideration by the Board; and

WHEREAS, Resolution Number 20-494 did not direct staff to develop the concept of environmental justice within land use planning, land use policies, and land use documents; and

WHEREAS, the preservation of the Rural Crescent has been a long-standing environmental policy to protect open spaces, protect and enhance our environment and direct growth in housing to the most appropriate areas of the County, which has garnered bi-partisan support across more than two decades; and

October 6, 2020
Regular Meeting
Res. No. 20-
Page Two

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments published on July 27, 2017, an Environmental Justice Toolkit to serve as guidance to policymakers on incorporating social equity, cultural sensitivity, and community health consideration into air quality, climate, and energy planning; and

WHEREAS, the current ordinances and planning documents of Prince William County have no given definition for any of the following: affordable housing, affordable dwelling unit, or environmental justice; and

WHEREAS, the residents, businesses, and stakeholders of Prince William County are well served by having clear definitions of affordable housing or dwellings and environmental justice in our land use and planning documents pursuant to best zoning practices;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Prince William Board of County Supervisors hereby directs county staff to enter into a study period no greater than eighteen months to develop a well-defined policy and definitions on equity in housing, to include affordable housing/dwelling, and environmental justice to be considered for all planning documents;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Prince William Board of County Supervisors hereby directs staff to develop the aforesaid policies in consultation with stakeholders such as, but not limited to, residents, the Planning Commission, civic organizations, and relevant industry businesses as determined by the Board;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Prince William Board of County Supervisors hereby directs staff to develop and propose language for consideration of an Affordable Dwelling Unit definition pursuant to Strategy H2.10 of the current housing plan;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, unless required by Virginia law, including, but not limited to, the requirement to review the Comprehensive Plan every five years as dictated in Virginia Code Section 15.2-2230, the Prince William Board of County Supervisors hereby directs staff to cease all work on Sector Plans, Long Range Land Use Plans, Small Area Plans, and the Rural Preservation Recommendations, that include any housing elements, until properly developed equity in housing, including affordable housing/dwelling, and environmental justice policies and definitions can be considered by the Board;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, unless specifically addressed with this resolution, the Prince William Board of County Supervisors hereby directs staff to continue all work on any plan, policy, or document with the intent of achieving the 35% commercial tax base goal identified in the 2017-2020 Strategic Plan;

October 6, 2020
Regular Meeting
Res. No. 20-
Page Three

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Prince William Board of County Supervisors hereby declares its intent to defer action on any rezoning applications proposing to increase residential densities for the full, twelve-month period as set forth in Section 15.2-2286(A)(7), VA Code Ann.,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that agendas may continue to include public hearings on rezonings and special use permits that contain no housing element;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that should the directives contained herein require additional resources or outside consultants, staff will promptly make such requests to the Prince William Board of County Supervisors for the necessary appropriation.

Votes:

Ayes:

Nays:

Absent from Vote:

Absent from Meeting:

ATTEST: _____
Clerk to the Board