

**MOTION:**

**June 15, 2021  
Regular Meeting  
Res. No. 21-**

**SECOND:**

**RE: BUDGET AND APPROPRIATE \$765,000 FOR HISTORICAL PRESERVATION AND INTERPRETATION AT THE THOROUGHFARE AND SETTLEMENT COMMUNITIES AND UPDATES TO THE PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY CEMETERY DATABASE - COUNTYWIDE**

**ACTION:**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Supervisors (BOCS) aims to eliminate the unlawful disturbance of cemeteries in Prince William County through accurate record keeping and internal process improvements; and

**WHEREAS**, the BOCS desires to further research, preserve, and interpret the cultural resources within the Thoroughfare and Settlement communities; and

**WHEREAS**, staff identified the need to update the County's existing cemetery database by reconciling County records with those maintained by other entities at a one-time cost of \$5,000; and

**WHEREAS**, staff recommends the County conduct comprehensive architectural and archeological surveys for the Thoroughfare and Settlement communities, which will require \$120,000 in one-time contracted services costs; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to African American settlements, the scope of the survey work will include a Native American component, which is typical of the County's comprehensive approach to all research, in adherence to the Virginia Department of Historic Resources' standards; and

**WHEREAS**, staff recommends the creation of a full-time Archeologist to manage the aforementioned survey contracts and later transition to manage a new Historic Communities Program at an ongoing cost of \$100,000 annually; and

**WHEREAS**, staff recommends the creation of public interpretive areas within the Settlement and Thoroughfare communities to tell their stories using the information collected during the aforementioned survey work at a one-time cost of \$540,000; and

**WHEREAS**, staff shall share the design for both public interpretive areas with the BOCS for feedback prior to construction; and

**WHEREAS**, the Fiscal Year 2021 Third Quarter Revenue and Expenditures Report identifies a projected general revenue surplus of \$10,800,000 and a projected net general fund operating surplus of \$9,000,000;

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**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Prince William Board of County Supervisors hereby budgets and appropriates \$765,000 from Fiscal Year 2021 net general fund operating surplus for historical preservation and interpretation at the Thoroughfare and Settlement communities and updates to the County cemetery database;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that \$540,000 of the \$765,000 shall be transferred, budgeted, and appropriated for a new capital project to develop Thoroughfare and Settlement interpretive areas;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Prince William Board of County Supervisors hereby authorizes the Director of Finance to reappropriate unspent operating funds for the purposes contained in this resolution in Fiscal Year 2022 and 2023;

**BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED** that the Prince William Board of County Supervisors hereby authorizes the creation of a full time Archaeologist position to manage the new Historic Communities Program.

**Votes:**

**Ayes:**

**Nays:**

**Absent from Vote:**

**Absent from Meeting:**

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Clerk to the Board**



# STAFF REPORT

## The Board of County Supervisors

Hon. Ann B. Wheeler, Chair  
Hon. Victor S. Angry, Vice Chair  
Hon. Andrea O. Bailey  
Hon. Kenny A. Boddye  
Hon. Pete Candland  
Hon. Margaret Angela Franklin  
Hon. Jeanine M. Lawson  
Hon. Yesli Vega

<b>Board Meeting Date:</b>	June 15, 2021
<b>Agenda Title:</b>	Budget and Appropriate \$765,000 for Historical Preservation and Interpretation at the Thoroughfare and Settlement Communities and Updates to the County Cemetery Database
<b>District Impact:</b>	Countywide
<b>Requested Action:</b>	Approve the resolution and budget and appropriate the funds.
<b>Department / Agency Lead:</b>	Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism
<b>Staff Lead:</b>	Seth Hendler-Voss, Director

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Staff is seeking approval to budget and appropriate \$765,000 from Fiscal Year 2021 net general fund operating surplus for historical preservation purposes in response to the Board of County Supervisors (BOCS) Directive #21-35 to prepare a plan "to protect and preserve cemeteries, grave sites, and historic communities within Prince William County."

## **BACKGROUND**

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On May 4, 2021, following the disturbance of the Scott Cemetery by a private property owner, the BOCS issued Directive 21-35 to “prepare a plan on how to implement a program, to include costs and head count, on how we are going to protect and preserve cemeteries, grave sites, and historic communities within Prince William County.”

During the May 18, 2021 BOCS meeting, staff presented a plan to protect and preserve cemeteries and historic communities within Prince William County, which entailed the following priority initiatives totaling \$765,000 in one-time and on-going costs:

### One Time Costs

- Hire a limited term employee to update the county cemetery database (\$5,000)
- Contract out an archeological survey for the Thoroughfare Community (\$60,000)
- Contract out an architectural survey for the Thoroughfare Community (\$30,000)
- Contract out an architectural survey for the Settlement Community (\$30,000)
- Develop Thoroughfare and Settlement Interpretive areas (\$540,000)

### On-Going Costs

- Hire a full-time Archeologist to manage the survey contracts and stand-up the Historic Communities Program in FY22 (\$100,000)

Some stakeholders have expressed interest in the Native American history of the Thoroughfare Community. The scope of the survey work will include a Native American component, which is typical of the County’s comprehensive approach to all research, in adherence to the Virginia Department of Historic Resources’ standards.

Staff presented additional initiatives during the May 18, 2021 BOCS meeting including the creation of a Cemetery Preservation Program and expanding operating hours at African American Historic Properties, which staff intends to include in the Fiscal Year 23 budget.

In anticipation of BOCS approval, staff is currently working to secure the limited term employee to update the county cemetery database. Staff has also begun the recruitment process for an additional full-time Archeologist, which may take up to 120 days. Staff will begin the archeological and architectural survey work once the full-time Archeologist is hired. In the interim, staff will continue discussions with members of the Thoroughfare and Settlement Communities and assemble steering committees to help shape the scopes of work and guide the design of the public interpretive areas.

Work on the public interpretive areas within the Settlement and Thoroughfare communities will commence once the survey work is complete. County staff will engage stakeholders in the scope and design of the public interpretative areas, which will be representative of all cultures and demographics that have a nexus the area.

The \$540,000 will be placed in a capital project account until such time the projects are ready for construction. The BOCS directed staff to share all plans for the proposed interpretive areas with the BOCS for approval prior to implementation.

The Fiscal Year 2021 Third Quarter Revenue and Expenditures Report identifies a projected general revenue surplus of \$10,800,000 and a projected net general fund operating surplus of \$9,000,000. Staff recommends using the projected net general fund operating surplus as the funding source for these immediate initiatives.

Staff will use the surplus for the \$765,000 in expenses.

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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Staff recommends that the BOCS budget and appropriate \$765,000 for historical preservation and interpretation at the Thoroughfare and Settlement Communities and updates to the County cemetery database.

### **Service Level / Policy Impact**

The database update will yield the most accurate account of private cemeteries located throughout the County, which—in concert with internal process improvements—will better position the County to reduce unlawful cemetery disturbances. The new full-time Archeologist and archeological and architectural survey work will help the county understand the full extent of the cultural resources contained within the Thoroughfare and Settlement communities, which in-turn will inform the appropriate measures for their interpretation and protection.

### **Fiscal Impact**

There is sufficient funding for this initiative. The projected Fiscal Year 2021 net general fund operating surplus will be reduced by \$765,000. The Archeologist position will require \$100,000 in on-going operating costs beyond Fiscal Year 2022.

### **Legal Impact**

The BOCS has the legal authority to budget and appropriate funds.

## **STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION**

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Seth Hendler-Voss | (703) 792-4284  
SHendler-Voss@pwcgov.org