

MOTION: BAILEY

**June 15, 2021
Regular Meeting
Res. No. 21-358**

SECOND: BODDYE

RE: INITIATE – AMENDMENTS TO – THE ZONING ORDINANCE, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, A POTENTIAL HISTORIC OVERLAY DISTRICT, AND THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS MANUAL, IN ORDER TO ADDRESS THE PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION OF HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES AND PROPERTIES IN THE THOROUGHFARE AREA, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, AFRICAN-AMERICAN AND NATIVE AMERICAN CEMETERIES AND BURIAL GROUNDS, CHAPMAN’S MILL, OAKRUM BAPTIST CHURCH, AND OTHER AFRICAN-AMERICAN AND NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL SITES; AND INITIATE AMENDMENTS TO THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR THE SAME PURPOSES – COUNTYWIDE

ACTION: APPROVED

WHEREAS, in accordance with Sections 15.2-2285 and 15.2-2286 of the Code of Virginia, Ann., the Prince William Board of County Supervisors (Board) may amend the Zoning Ordinance whenever it determines that public necessity, health, safety, convenience, general welfare, and good zoning practice necessitate such change; and

WHEREAS, Section 15.2-2306 of the Code of Virginia sets forth the powers of localities with respect to preservation of historical sites and areas through zoning; and

WHEREAS, Section 32-502.04 of the County’s Zoning Ordinance allows for the creation of Historic Overlay Districts by the Board; and

WHEREAS, on May 18, 2021, the Board, via Directive (DIR) 21-40, requested staff to prepare information for the Board to vote to initiate a Zoning Text Amendment to create a historic overlay district for Thoroughfare and come back with a presentation on what are the implications of creating that overlay district, what are the protections, and what does that mean for the people who live in the Thoroughfare area; and

WHEREAS, the goal of the Cultural Resources section of the Prince William County Comprehensive Plan is to “Identify, preserve, and protect Prince William County’s significant historical, archaeological, architectural, and other cultural resources including those significant to the County’s minority communities for the benefit of all of the County’s citizens and visitors”; and

WHEREAS, African-Americans, Native Americans, and other people of color have historically faced barriers to the preservation of fixtures in their history, including but not limited to burial grounds, cemeteries, structures, and geographical areas; and

WHEREAS, the Thoroughfare area is historically significant and has not been afforded all of the protections possible under current zoning ordinances; and

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WHEREAS, the Thoroughfare area is the site of significant African-American history;
and

WHEREAS, the Thoroughfare area is the site of Oakrum Baptist Church founded by freed slaves and still in existence today; and

WHEREAS, the Thoroughfare area was the location of the North Fork School that served as a school for children of color during the late 19th and early 20th centuries; and

WHEREAS, the Thoroughfare area is the site of significant Native American history,
and

WHEREAS, the Thoroughfare area is the site of a Civil War engagement; and

WHEREAS, the people, events, structures, and cemeteries of the Thoroughfare area in sum illustrate a pivotal moment in the history of Prince William County, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the United States of America that led to the abolishment of slavery and the establishment of a thriving community of freed people of color; and

WHEREAS, the Thoroughfare area was studied previously by the Virginia Commonwealth University and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources; and

WHEREAS, previous studies identified the existence of historic structures and recommended further study for a National Register District; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 10.1-2211.2 of the Virginia Code, allows for the disbursement of funds for the maintenance and care of Historical African-American Cemeteries that have been certified by the Department of Historical Resources and documented in the Department's cultural resources database; and

WHEREAS, The National Tribal Preservation Program helps Native American tribes protect resources and traditions important to them and funds Tribal Heritage grants for federally recognized Indian tribes to help them with cultural and historic preservation projects; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 15.2-2229 of the Virginia Code, the Board may consider amendments to the Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that amending the Comprehensive Plan for the above-referenced issue(s) guides and accomplishes a coordinated, adjusted, and harmonious development of the territory which will, in accordance with present and probably future needs and resources, best promote the health, safety, morals, order, convenience, prosperity, and general welfare of the inhabitants, including the elderly and persons with disabilities; and

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WHEREAS, amending the Zoning Ordinance for the above-referenced issue is required by public necessity, convenience, general welfare, and good zoning practice, and is consistent with the purpose and intent of Title 15.2-2283 of the Code of Virginia, Ann;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Prince William Board of County Supervisors hereby initiates amendments to - the Zoning Ordinance, including, but not limited to, a potential historic overlay district, and the Design and Construction Standards Manual, in order to address the preservation and protection of historic and cultural resources and properties in the Thoroughfare area, including, but not limited to, African-American and Native American cemeteries and burial grounds, Chapman's Mill, Oakrum Baptist Church, and other African-American and Native American cultural and historical sites;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board initiates an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan to address the preservation and protection of historic and cultural resources and properties in the Thoroughfare area, including, but not limited to, African-American and Native American cemeteries and burial grounds and other African-American and Native American cultural and historical sites;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Prince William Board of County Supervisors hereby directs County staff to work with the owner and interested parties of the Scott Cemetery, to try to help facilitate mutually agreeable access to the Scott Cemetery for all interested parties;

BE IT STILL FURTHER RESOLVED that the Prince William Board of County Supervisors hereby directs County staff to examine the African-American Cemeteries and any other burial sites located in the Thoroughfare area for eligibility and participation in the Historical African-American Cemeteries and Graves Fund pursuant to Section 10.1-2211.2 of the Code of Virginia, and any other applicable program.

Votes:

Ayes: Angry, Bailey, Boddye, Candland, Franklin, Lawson, Vega, Wheeler

Nays: None

Absent from Vote: None

Absent from Meeting: None

ATTEST: _____

Andrea P. Madden

Clerk to the Board