

Welcome to our 3rd District 3 event of 2015. It has been an honor to serve you for the past four months.

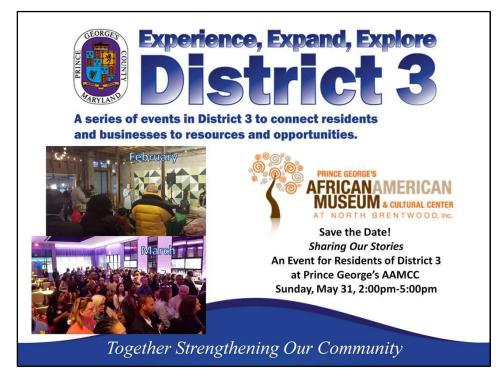
At this time I'd like to recognize our elected officials who are here this evening. Thank you to our civic leaders who are here. Thank you to our East Riverdale Bladensburg Transforming Neighborhood Initiative (TNI) team members who are here.

I am especially grateful to former Council Member and current executive director of the College Park City University Partnership, Eric Olson, who is here tonight.

Thank you to William Wirt Middle School Principal Mr. Prince and his great team of teachers and staff here at William Wirt.

Thank you to the county staff members who are here tonight to bring the county government to District 3.

And special thanks to everyone who is helping to move this county forward.



Throughout 2015 my events are part of a series to experience, expand and explore District 3 – to connect residents and businesses to resources and opportunities. In February – on the coldest day of the year – more than 100 people joined me at the pop up indoor Riverdale Park Farmers Market where we were joined by Adam Ortiz, director of the department of the environment.

In March more than 200 people joined us at one of District 3's newest restaurants, SoBe, to celebrate women leaders in non-profits, business and government for the Economic Development Corporation's Thirsty for Business Thursday.

In April we are here tonight with Dr. Maxwell and about 20 county agencies. I especially wanted to have Dr. Maxwell here because so many of you spoke to me about education when I was at your door last year. I hope you took the opportunity to visit the tables in the hallway to talk with our county agencies and gather information.

This evening I am going to talk with you about some of the progress happening in the county and District 3, give an overview of the legislation I'm working on and talk about the FY2016 budget process. Then I'll introduce Dr. Maxwell who will talk about education in the county. Then we will have 20-30 minutes for questions from the audience and Dr. Maxwell and I will stay up front after the event is over to answer additional questions.

And I hope you will save the date for our May event – Sharing our Stories – an event for District 3 residents at the Prince George's African American Museum and Cultural Center. This event will feature our District 3 residents and communities sharing their experiences, stories and history.



I'd like to share with you some of the many ways Prince George's County is making progress:

Crime is down significantly: 40% drop in homicides between 2010 and 2014, 33% drop in overall crime between 2010 and 2014.

UMD: Big Ten and Catalyst for Development—Fearless Ideas

Graduation Rates are up – last year we saw a 2.47 percentage point increase in the overall four-year graduation rate for Prince George's County Public Schools. This is the highest graduation rate on record for the school district. And Parkdale saw an even higher increase -- 4.79 percentage point increase.

We launched new innovative public-private partnership with address storm water and improve the Bay.

Our Department of the Environment is implementing unique solar energy and composting pilot programs.

Gaylord @ National Harbor is now the 25th most popular conference location in the country.

Just a few weeks ago our 1 Stop Shop Workforce Development center opened.

We ARE very focused and united on getting the FBI! We have two excellent sites on the table and that will bring 10,000 jobs to the county.

Our Regional Medical Center is moving forward – crucial funding was included in the state budget and we are making significant progress on getting our certificate of need approved. Special thanks to our county delegation for their hard work on this initiative.



And good progress is happening in District 3, too:

Revitalization and Economic Development is occurring in every corner of the District.

2 hotels: The Hotel at the UMD, Staybridge Suites in Lanham

1 State Agency Headquarters – DHCD – moving in this week, Governor Hogan will be here in May for the ribbon cutting.

1 Whole Foods

Many new restaurants and businesses including SoBe, NuVegan, Stonefish Grill and others.

There is new market rate housing across the district.

In transportation:

9 Purple Line Stations are on their way – we ARE going to get the Purple Line!

Bike Trails: Trolley Trail, WB&A

Bike Lanes

Bike racks will soon be installed on The Bus busses



There are expanded programs at Parkdale, Northwestern, and Duval – one of the most exciting is the new Aerospace program at Duval.

A feasibility study for William Wirt was completed and the school was identified as needing complete replacement.

PGCPS has also identified the need for two new middle school locations in the north area.

Real School Gardens: Beacon Heights and Templeton Elementary

TNI Investment means that 28 schools have "TNI@ School" DSS Resource Coordinators, including Parkdale and Templeton. And additional resources have been focused in this area – an imagination playground increased policing and social services and non-profit partners like Habitat for Humanity.

Updated Wells Linson Ice Rink and Pool Complex

Improvements at Riverdale Park: Dog Park, Irrigation & Parking

College Park Aviation Museum Expansion

New Carrollton Library and Hyattsville Library



Over the past three months I've been working on some important legislation We are going to join DC and Montgomery County to ban the use of polystyrene by restaurants

We are going to ban Coal Tar Sealant, which is used on asphalt. It is the worst of the worst and is already banned in jurisdictions across the country. There are better options and no reason to continue to use this in Prince George's County.

We are going to bring high-quality Food Trucks to Prince George's County in targeted Food Truck Hubs—this will encourage economic development, increase public access to healthy food options, minimize or eliminate food deserts in underserved areas of the County, and promote innovative entrepreneurship and revitalization, for example, at the College Park Metro and in New Carrollton.

We've closed the loophole on travel sites not paying hotel tax to the County and I'm working with two of my colleagues, Councilwoman Deni Tavares and Councilman Todd Turner, to increase transparency on county boards and commissions.

I'm also looking at better ways to address litter, and support local workforce development and development at our metro stations. In fact if you want to hear more about what is happening at the New Carrollton Metro, I will be speaking at a walking tour the Coalition for Smarter Growth is holding on April 25 at 10am at the station.



Several very important initiatives are under way or will soon be under way across the county. I encourage you to get engaged in these processes:

PGCPS is updating the school master plan.

The planning department is undergoing a complete rewrite of our zoning code.

The Trails Master Plan for Prince George's County is underway.

The Transit Vision Plan is launching this fall.

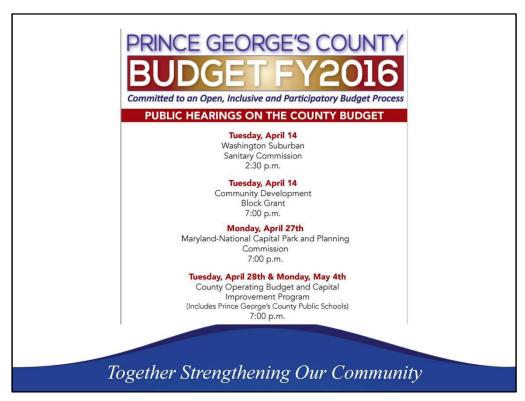
And the Riverale Park/Beacon heights sector plan update will be starting soon.



All this progress is exciting and I believe that together we can get one more great store to District 3 – Trader Joes!

Saturday, April 25 is a big day in Prince George's County with several events taking place as a day of action to support our community. There are flyers on the District 3 table with information about how you can volunteer with Clean Up Green Up, the Anacostia Watershed and Christmas in April. It's also Maryland Day at UMD with lots of great activities for your whole family.

Another way I need you to be engaged is in advocating for the complete replacement of this school, William Wirt. The recent feasibility study recommended complete replacement for this school and so we need to work to ensure it gets onto the Capitol Improvement Project list — and gets to the top. Alice Bishop is there tonight with a petition to the BOE to do just that. And I know Dr. Maxwell is here listening to us as well.



I know from the calls and emails I have received and events I've attended in the last month that the County Executive's Budget proposal is on your minds.

The County Council received the budget proposal in mid-March. We need to vote on a budget by June 1. There have been and will be many opportunities for you to engage in the process. There are several more public hearings coming up. The County Council is hosting an education forum next Tuesday and the County Executive is planning his own series of education town hall events in the next few weeks. I read every message that comes into my office and take to heart every comment shared with me.

In addition to Dr. Maxwell, tonight we have with us Mr. Tom Himler, Chief Budget Officer for the County Executive. Mr. Himler will be part of our Q&A later this evening.

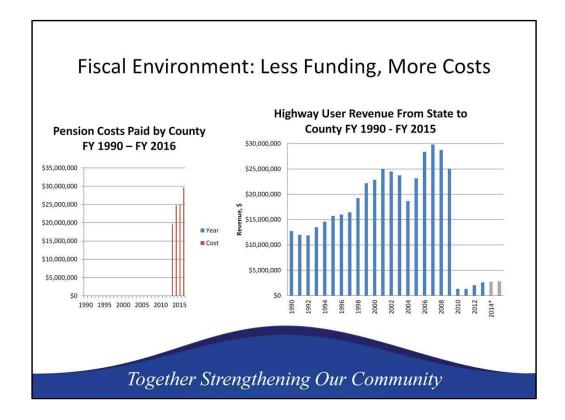


Let me take a moment to set the stage for the budget discussion. As you may know, Prince George's County is in the 3rd year of a structural budget deficit which means that expenditures are higher than revenues. That is projected to expand through 2020. This is even after new revenues from MGM are factored in.

Layer on top of that the continued cuts from the Federal Sequestration

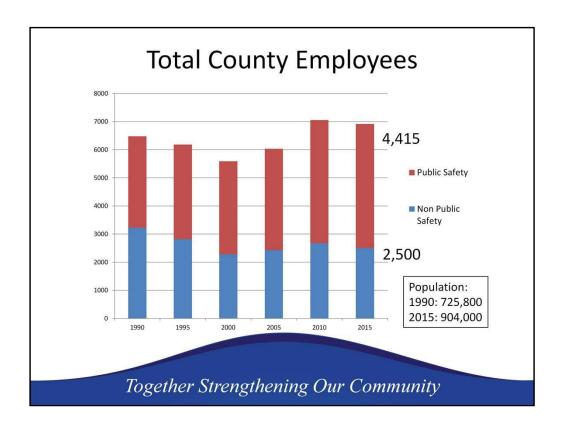
State Funding Cuts

And the continued, devastating effects of foreclosures on our county – last year Prince George's County accounted for ½ of all the foreclosures in the state – this is a challenging fiscal environment.



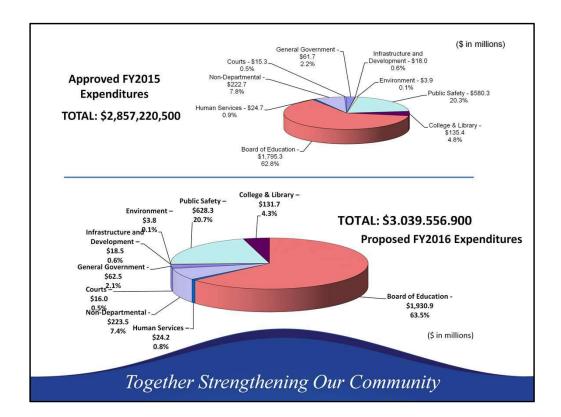
Over the past several years, the state has shifted education pension funding onto the counties. In Prince George's this means we have gone from making no pension payments to funding \$19.5 M in FY2013 and increasing to \$29.6 M in FY2016.

On the other side, we went from receiving \$30 M in Highway User Fees from the state in 2007 to \$1 - \$2.5 M in the past few years which means less money for local road repairs.

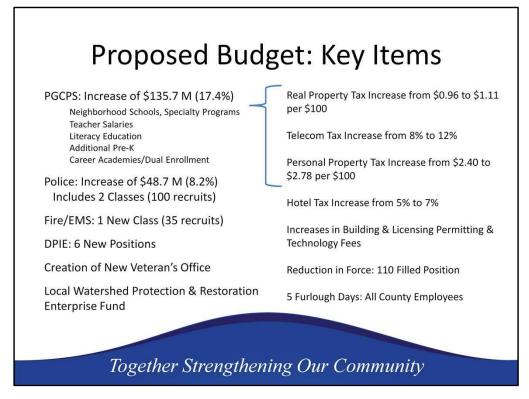


I also want to share with you a chart of the number of county employees since 1990. As you can see, we have fewer non-public safety employees than we did in 1990.

Yet, we have nearly 200,000 more people and our county government is providing more services to residents – OIT, 911 call center expansion, homeland security and additional regulation. We are working to deliver the best county services.



These charts give you an overview of the FY2015 approved budget and the FY2016 proposed budget.



Here are some key items from the County Executive's budget proposal.

On the left you see funding increases and the right outlines the tax and fee increases.

You can see that the first three proposed tax increases are to directly fund the proposed increases in the County Executive's PGCPS budget, which I know Dr. Maxwell will go into in detail. There is also a proposal to create a credit for families who make \$60,000 or less to minimize the impact of the proposed tax increase.

Let me pause here to say a few words about how I am approaching the budget. First and foremost, I want to continue to hear from you – formally at budget hearings, by email and even at the farmers' market. I also hope you will wrestle like me with the budget proposal that has been places in front of the County Council by the County Executive.

As a graduate student at UMD in Public Policy, I learned firsthand in my local budgeting class that a budget is ultimately a set of choices — each of you know that is the case with your personal household budget. What is in front of us is a bunch of choices of what will get funded and what will not and how we want to pay for it. I have no crystal ball on where this budget will land, but I will promise to you that I will weigh heavily all of your thoughts and work hard to deliver a budget that uses your hard-earned dollars wisely and continues to move this county forward.



Contact Your District 3 Team

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Sign up for the District 3 eNews or reach a staff member: CouncilDistrict3@co.pg.md.us

www.facebook.com/PGDistrict3
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Together Strengthening Our Community

Please continue to reach out to my staff or me with questions or requests.

If you haven't already signed up for our eNews, please do.

You can also follow me on Facebook and Twitter. And of course the phone works, too!



