

MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: Alfred D. Lott, ICMA-CM, CPM
City Manager

SUBJECT: *Status Report*

DATE: November 19, 2020

Status Report

1. Jesuit Property Retreat Center Proposal

Representatives of the Corporation of Roman Catholic Clergymen (the Jesuits) recently contacted City staff to assist in arranging a community Stakeholders Meeting for the purpose of presenting a new concept for a portion of their property: a religious retreat center. The proposal is in its early stages, and the Jesuits would like to obtain community feedback on the idea of a retreat center. At this point, all that is known is that the project would consist of approximately 45,000 square feet on about 36 acres of land located on the south side of MD 450, between Sacred Heart Church and Race Track Road. Public notice letters are being mailed this week to a broad geographic area surrounding the property and the Planning Department will post public notice signage. The Stakeholders Meeting will be held in Zoom on Tuesday, December 1st at 7:00 p.m.

2. Economic Development Committee (EDC)

The Bowie EDC held their regular virtual meeting Wednesday and heard from Walter Simmons, the CEO of Employ PG, about County workforce services for COVID impacted employees, workers, and businesses. A copy of his slides is attached. The next EDC meeting is December 9, 2020 at 7:30 AM.

3. Mill Branch Crossing Preliminary Plan of Subdivision

On November 17th, a virtual Stakeholders Meeting was held regarding the Mill Branch Preliminary Plan of Subdivision (#4-19050). The subject site contains 70.10 acres, is zoned C-S-C (Commercial Shopping Center), and is located in the northeastern quadrant of the US Route 301 (northbound)/Mill Branch Road intersection. The subdivision application proposes the creation of development lots for the construction of: 77,635 sq. ft. of retail/commercial space; a 150-room hotel; 193 residential townhouse units; and, 347 multifamily units. The subdivision application has been accepted by Park and Planning.

After brief opening remarks by City staff, the meeting was turned over to the applicant, represented by Mr. Edward Gibbs, with the firm of Gibbs and Haller. Mr. Gibbs noted that he represents the two owners in this case, and introduced other members of the development team: Ms. Kimberly Morgan with The LANDTECH Corporation; and, Ms. Jacki Chandler with Traffic Concepts. Mr. Gibbs stated that the site consists of two parcels, and has extensive frontage with US Route 301 along its western boundary and Mill Branch Road along the southern boundary. Two vehicular access points into the site are proposed: one from Mill Branch Road, which leads to a private road; and, a second access, in the form of a right-in/right-out along US Route 301. Mr. Gibbs described the proposed lot layout and the locations of the various uses. The property, annexed into the City in 2012, is currently undeveloped and has sensitive environmental features. Mr. Gibbs noted the entitlement history of the property, which included a previously-approved Preliminary Plan of Subdivision for more than 600,000 sq. ft. of retail/commercial development, including a Super Walmart store, office space and a 150-room hotel. The property was platted, but no improvements or construction ever occurred. In 2019, the County Council approved a text amendment, via CB-45-2019, which allowed in the zone, with the approval of a Detailed Site Plan, both a gas station and convenience store, and multifamily and townhouse residential units. Detailed Site Plan review would be the next step after the subdivision review and approval process.

Although five attendees were present at this virtual meeting, only one had questions:

-Please review the proposed Stormwater Management Plan. (RESPONSE: A portion of the site drains towards US Route 301, where it goes under the highway to the western side, crosses back under Route 301 in another location to the eastern side, and to the Green Branch Tributary along the northern boundary of the site. An above-ground, on-site stormwater management pond is being designed as an amenity. Other features of the proposed stormwater management system include: bio-swales; bio-retention facilities; and, permeable pavement.)

-Will any water go down Mill Branch Road? (RESPONSE: There will be less water directed to Mill Branch Road than is going there now.)

This concluded the public participation portion of the meeting.

Staff noted the dates and times of the upcoming City public hearings for this case: Bowie Advisory Planning Board on Tuesday, December 15th at 7 PM; and, Bowie City Council on Monday, January 4, 2021 at 8 PM. Both hearings will be virtual.



EMPLOY

— PRINCE GEORGE'S —

OUR MISSION

“Improve the local economy by creating a demand-driven workforce system in Prince George’s County with workforce development programs that deliver qualified workers to businesses, improves the productivity of businesses, and provides job seekers with opportunities for careers in high demand/high growth industries.”



WALTER L. SIMMONS, GCDF

President & CEO



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Where are we? Where do we go from here?

Covid-19 & Prince George's County's Workforce

From 2013 to 2018 Prince George's County jobs grew by 7.1%, or 21,236. During that same period, Prince George's County employment grew from 452,049 to 483,880. A 7% growth rate, or 31,831.

As of March 2020, Prince George's County's employment continued its upward trend and increased to 503,225. As of August, after mandatory closures and social distancing restrictions were enacted, Prince George's County employment decreased by 29,512 to 473,713, or 5.9%. Additionally, 36 WARN's were submitted.

Since March 1st, 220,410 Prince George's County workers filed for unemployment, 20.47% of Maryland's total unemployment claims.



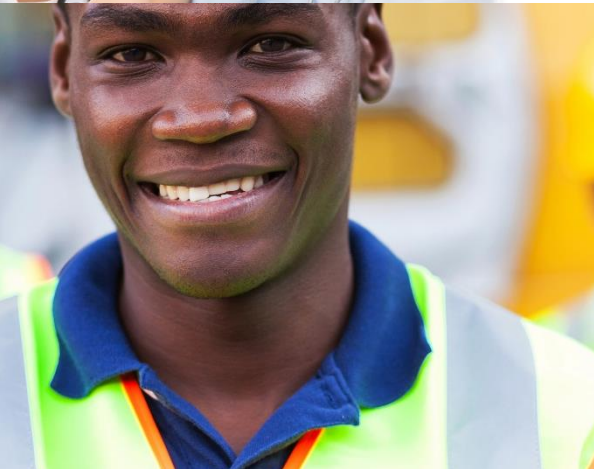
2020 Prince George's County Unemployment Data

Month	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate
March	522,403	503,225	19,178	3.7%
April	499,088	450,872	48,216	9.7%
May	498,709	444,474	54,235	10.9%
June	523,242	470,322	52,920	10.1%
July	527,465	475,673	51,792	9.8%
August	521,458	473,713	47,745	9.2%

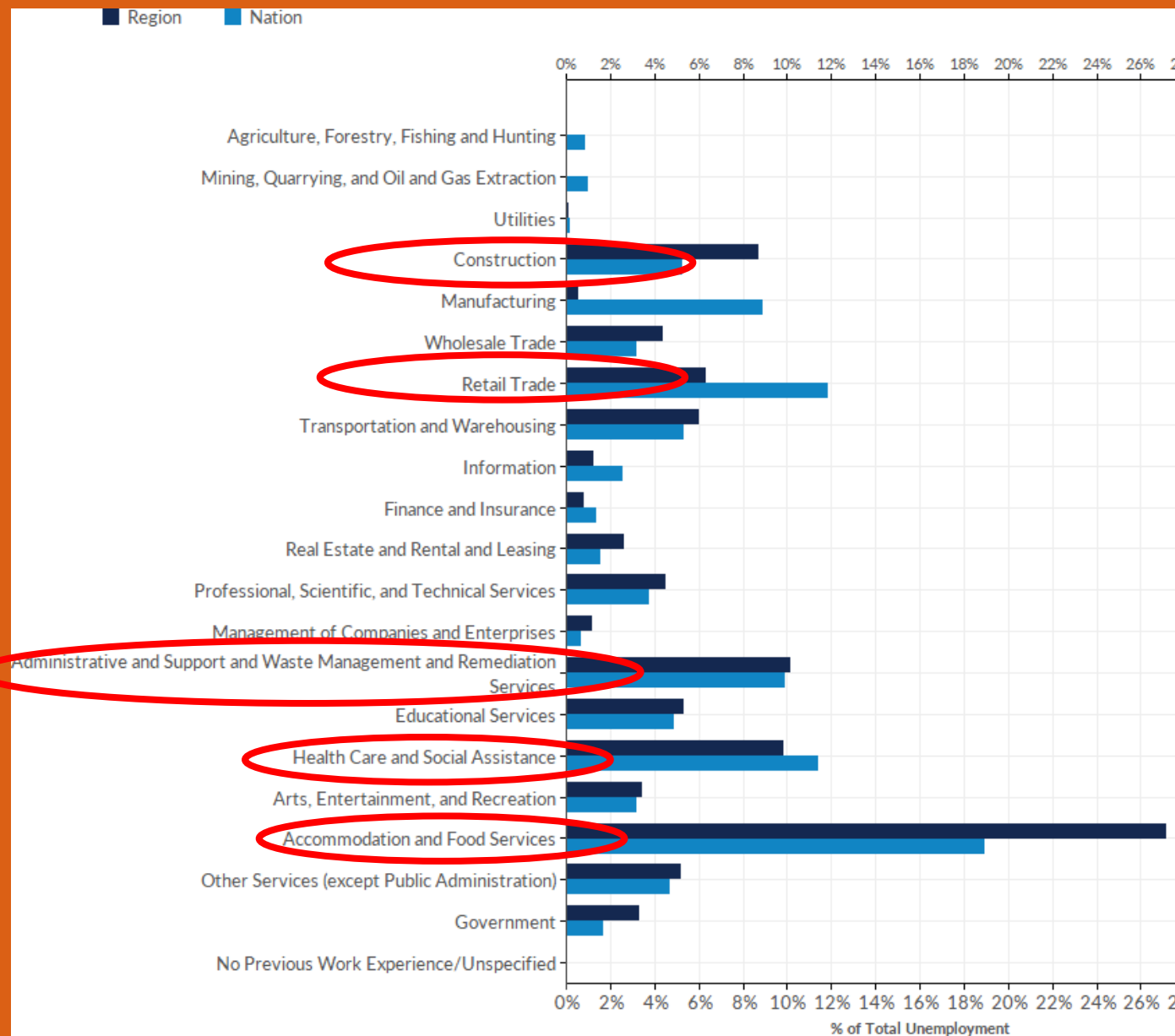
<https://www.dllr.state.md.us/lmi/areas/pgcowia.shtml>

Area	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate
Prince George's County	493,542	448,700	44,842	9.1%
Maryland	3,060,968	2,850,554	210,414	6.9%
United States	160,073,000	147,796,000	12,277,000	7.7%

Source: LAUS Unit and Bureau of Labor Statistics



Unemployment by Industry





PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HOURLY EMPLOYEE RELIEF FUND (HERF)

According to the American Payroll Association, nearly 3 in 4 American workers would have difficulty paying their bills if they missed just one paycheck. Prince George's County has had over 200,000 workers lose their job and currently we have over 40,000 unemployed workers.

In response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19), Employ Prince George's launched the Prince George's County COVID-19 Hourly Employee Relief Fund in April 2020 to provide \$200 visa cash cards to Prince George's County residents who were laid off due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
COVID-19
HOURLY EMPLOYEE
RELIEF FUND

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY RESIDENTS!

In response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19), Employ Prince George's and Prince George's County Government have partnered to provide **\$300** cash cards to **Prince George's County** residents who were recently laid off due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

How To Apply:

Step 1

Visit www.employpgedge.com and register with Employ Prince George's

Step 2

Select "Apply for Prince George's County COVID-19 Hourly Employee Relief Fund"

Step 3

Complete the required applicant questionnaire

Step 4

Upload the required documentation to confirm your layoff is due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic

Step 5

Confirm and monitor your email updates

Prince George's County residents who received a **\$200** Visa cash card previously, are eligible to reapply to receive a **\$300** cash card.

Employ Prince George's assesses all **Prince George's County** applicants of the Prince George's County COVID-19 Hourly Employee Relief Fund applications one by one. There are limited financial resources available and priority will be given to hourly workers who earned \$19 or less prior to being laid off due to the pandemic.

The Prince George's County Hourly Employee Relief Fund is made possible by generous contributions from the Employ Prince George's Board of Directors, Prince George's County Government, Prince George's County Businesses, and community members. Through these economic hardships, Employ Prince George's is dedicated to partnering with and meeting the needs of those adversely affected by this pandemic.

Join our efforts and make your donation at www.employpg.org/how-you-can-help/.



#WeAreEPG



Contact Us Today



Call: (301) 618-8403



www.EmployPG.org/COVID19



EPGCD2@co.pg.md.us

COVID-19 Relief Fund

Application Process

- Step 1
Visit employpgedge.com and register with Employ Prince George's
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- Step 3
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Recent Updates

- EPG received \$305,000 from Prince George's County for the COVID-19 Hourly Employee Relief Fund
- Increased Visa cash cards to \$300
- Residents can reapply for assistance
- Bi-weekly disbursements beginning the week of November 16th
- Increased partnerships with municipalities, state legislature and Hispanic community



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Join our efforts and make your donation at www.employpg.org/how-you-can-help/.



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EPGCD2@co.pg.md.us

DISTRICT 4 DISBURSEMENTS

Glenn Dale Community Center



Thursday, July 30th

66 RESIDENTS SERVED



Bowie Senior Center



Thursday, September 24th

115 RESIDENTS SERVED



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HOURLY EMPLOYEE RELIEF FUND

To date, we have raised **\$774,860**
distributed **\$400,600**
through **2,003 Cash Cards!**

A group of business professionals in an office setting. In the foreground, a man and a woman are shaking hands. Behind them, several other people are clapping. The entire image is covered with a semi-transparent orange filter.

COVID-19 Rapid Re-Employment Grants



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COVID-19 Rapid Re-Employment Grants

While businesses continue to struggle with rebounding from the pandemic's mandated closures, Employ Prince George's has launched the Prince George's County COVID-19 Rapid Re-Employment Grants Program to help businesses and to encourage them to hire Prince George's County Residents.

Employ Prince George's is disbursing \$550,000 in grants to businesses who hire Prince George's County residents before December 15th. Businesses who hire Prince George's County residents prior to December 15th can receive up to \$15,000 per new employee hired, supplementing 50% to 90% of an employee's salary during an agreed upon period.

Introducing: Rapid Re-Employment Grants

- Business who hire unemployed Prince George's County residents are eligible for Rapid Re-Employment Grants
- Small Business – 90%; Medium Businesses – 75%; Large Businesses – 50%
- Businesses must hire Prince George's County residents before December 15th to receive up to \$15,000 per new employee hired; maximum amount per business is \$50,000
- Businesses interested in applying should visit EPG's website, <https://www.employpg.org/rapid-re-employment-grants/>, or e-mail BusinessServices@co.pg.md.us



**PUTTING
OUR WORKFORCE BACK
TO WORK**

Due to the COVID-19, thousands of Prince George's County businesses have closed and over 100,000 Prince George's County residents have become unemployed. Employ Prince George's (EPG) has established the **COVID-19 Workforce Development Recovery Program Rapid Re-Employment Grants** to help businesses reopen and build their capacity.

What are Rapid Re-Employment Grants?

The COVID-19 Workforce Development Recovery Program was designed to prepare and connect laid off Prince George's County residents to employment opportunities, while simultaneously helping businesses reopen and rehire employees. Employ Prince George's understands that businesses are reopening, but revenues haven't reached pre-pandemic levels and many businesses are facing large financial deficits. To ease the financial burden of onboarding new employees, Employ Prince George's is offering Rapid Re-Employment Grants to local businesses. Employ Prince George's Rapid Re-Employment Grants provide funding to businesses that hire Prince George's County residents and supplement 50%-90% of their new hires salary. Grants are provided on the first day of a new employees first day of work and the maximum grant is \$50,000 per business.

Businesses who are hiring and are interested in receiving up to **\$50,000** in funding through Employ Prince George's Rapid Re-Employment Grants can apply today at

www.employpg.org/covid-19-workforce-development-recovery-program

Need More Information?

 (301) 618 - 8437  BusinessServices@co.pg.md.us  www.employpg.org

A group of four business professionals in an office setting. A man and a woman are shaking hands in the foreground, while two other people are clapping in the background. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent orange filter.

QUESTIONS?



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
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SUPPORT OUR CAUSE AT [EMPLOYPG.ORG/HOW-YOU-CAN-HELP/](https://employpg.org/how-you-can-help/)