

**AGENDA  
PPC MEETING  
OCTOBER 13, 2020  
TELECONFERENCE**

- BALTIMORE CITY
  - Preakness/Pimlico
    - The Racing and Community Development Act of 2020 authorizes the Maryland Stadium Authority to issue bonds to fund the rehabilitation of Pimlico and ensure that the Preakness remains in Baltimore. However, opposition—largely on financial grounds—continues to exist without recognition of the cultural, traditional, and historical importance to Baltimore. See [http://digitaledition.baltimoresun.com/infinity/article\\_share.aspx?guid=8de0507b-b613-4348-8b62-6d11509fe514](http://digitaledition.baltimoresun.com/infinity/article_share.aspx?guid=8de0507b-b613-4348-8b62-6d11509fe514), for example.
  - Aerial Surveillance
    - An interim report on the pilot program indicates a “minimal” effect on crime-fighting in Baltimore, helping to increase arrests by about five percent. The Baltimore Police Department (supported by independent researchers) will continue the evaluation process. Opposition to the program continues to exist, however, by advocates of civil liberties who believe the planes to be an invasion of privacy. (*Baltimore Sun*, 9/12/2020)
  - Council Bill 20-0488 – Construction Projects—Project Labor Agreements
    - This Bill would require, for large construction projects, that a collective bargaining agreement be established between the contractor and “a labor organization.” The Bill would apply to all subcontractors on the project and may have an adverse on small and minority companies unable to meet, for example, the pay scale established in the agreement. *The Bill is in the Labor Committee, although no action has been reported since 3/9/2020.*
  - Council Bill 20-526 – Baltimore City COVID-19 Renter Relief Act
    - This Bill prohibits increasing rents and assessing late fees during Governor-declared periods of emergency and for 90 days after its expiration. *The Bill has been signed by the Mayor and is enacted (Ordinance 20.364).* Concern, however, has been raised about the post 90-day potential effect of the Bill.
  - Council Bill 20-535 – COVID-19 Relief – Premium Pay for Essential Workers
    - Essential employers of 100 employees or more will be required to pay its employees a premium of between \$10 and \$25 per shift, depending upon the length of the shift. *The Bill is in the Labor Committee, although no action has been reported since 5/21/2020.*
  - Council Bill 20-543 – COVID-19 Employee Retention
    - This Bill would require certain new (successor) business employers (such as hotels and commercial property employers) to retain certain employees designated by the incumbent employer. *Passed by City Council; sent to Mayor.*
  - Council Bill 20-544 – COVID-19 Laid-Off Employees Right of Recall
    - This Bill would require employers to recall certain employees who have been laid off after the imposition of the COVI-19 state of emergency. *Passed by City Council; sent to Mayor.*

- MARYLAND
  - The Maryland Chamber of Commerce has released its 2021 Legislative Session “Legislative Priorities and Anticipated Critical Issues.” Which of these items are most relevant to Baltimore City? [Document included in email transmitting this agenda.]
  - HB 732 –Tobacco Tax, Sales and Use Tax, and Digital Advertising Gross Revenues Tax
    - The Digital Advertising Tax was added to this Bill as the General Assembly rushed to early adjournment due to COVID-19. The purpose of the tax is to generate revenue required to support Kirwan (see HB 1300 below.) The sponsors of HB 732 argue that the tax will affect only large social media companies (Facebook, Amazon, Google, etc.); however, the Bill is opposed on economic impact, legal, and constitutional grounds. Advertising and media companies are urging Gov. Hogan to veto it. *Vetoed; subject to override.*
  - HB 1354—Sales and Use Tax and Personal Property Tax – Services, Aircraft Parts and Equipment, and Data Centers
    - This Bill would place a tax on selected services including cell phone services, telephone answering services, credit reporting, pay per view television services, and various construction and commercial cleaning services. *Passed both Chambers.*
  - HB 1300—Blueprint for Maryland’s Future – Implementation
    - Commonly known as the “Kirwin Bill,” this legislation establishes the infrastructure for implementing the Kirwan Commission plan for school improvement, but does not include funding. *Vetoed; subject to override.*
  - HB695/SB002—Digital Advertising Gross Revenues - Taxation
    - This Bill is currently in the House Ways and Means Committee. *Passed both Chambers.*

Adjournment

Next Meeting: November 10, 2020