

**AGENDA
PPC MEETING
NOVEMBER 10, 2020
TELECONFERENCE**

- BALTIMORE CITY
 - Aerial Surveillance
 - The six-month pilot program concluded operations at the end of October. A previously released preliminary report on the program’s effectiveness concluded that the program helped close a number of homicide cases and that more arrests were made in cases with air evidence than without. However, the overall effectiveness of the program was limited since many crimes occurred outside of the flight hours and coverage range of the aircraft. Further evaluation of the program is continuing and a final decision on the future of the program will be made by the Mayor.
 - 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 identified three legislative priorities for the General Assembly Session beginning in January 2021. All are pertinent to Baltimore City businesses,
 - Liability Protection—Businesses will require protection from unreasonable exposure due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Unemployment Insurance—State funding is necessary to ensure that businesses are not subject to increases in insurance premiums due to employee claims arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Economic Sustainability—The State must implement measures to support businesses financially as they work to recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - 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; currently in review in Senate Budget and Taxation Committee and in House Ways and Means Committee.*

Adjournment

Next Meeting: January 12, 2021