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STEUART PITTMAN
County Executive

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 15

**TO CREATE THE ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY
IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS COMMISSION**

WHEREAS, Anne Arundel County has welcomed an increasingly diverse population that parallels statewide demographics; and

WHEREAS, Anne Arundel County recognizes the importance of cultivating a culture of inclusion; and

WHEREAS, Anne Arundel County ensures that all people in the County receive equal protection under the laws and respectful treatment without regard to confirmed or suspected race, creed, religion, color, sex, age, national origin, economic status, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, status as a veteran, physical or mental disability, immigration status, and/or language ability; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, there were an estimated 47,810 immigrants in the County, which accounts for 8.3% of the total County population, and this population continues to grow; and

WHEREAS, immigrants in Anne Arundel County contribute approximately \$282.2 million in state and local taxes, which positively impacts government finances and increases opportunities for innovation; and

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Executive Order No. 15, originally signed on December 20, 2019, was modified in July 2020 to:

- (1) changes the name of the Commission to the Immigrant Affairs Commission.
- (2) amend paragraph 3 to increase the number of voting members to thirteen; to increase the number of non-voting members to eight; and to provide that the eight members of the Commission representing County agencies, Anne Arundel County Public Schools, Anne Arundel Community College, Anne Arundel County Circuit Court Clerk, and City of Annapolis Hispanic Community Services Specialist would be non-voting members.
- (3) add paragraph 4 to establish terms for voting members.
- (4) amend paragraph 7 to modify the annual report date of the Commission to no later than July 31, 2021.

WHEREAS, immigrants make significant contributions to every facet of the County's economic, educational, and cultural life; and

WHEREAS, the public health, safety, and general welfare of the County will be furthered by promoting access by all residents to County programs, services, and activities; and

WHEREAS, County government seeks to maintain positive relationships with members of the immigrant community, and seeks guidance on policies, practices, and services that impact immigrant health, well-being, economic success, and safety; and

WHEREAS, the authority is vested in the County Executive by Section 405 of the Charter of Anne Arundel County, Maryland, to supervise, direct, and control the executive branch of the County government and to issue, or cause to be issued, all executive orders, and otherwise perform the duties of the County Executive, as prescribed, or necessarily implied, by the County Charter.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Steuart Pittman, County Executive, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Charter and laws of Anne Arundel County, Maryland, hereby order and direct on this 20th day of July, 2020, as follows:

1. The Anne Arundel County Immigrant Affairs Commission is hereby created; and
2. The Commission shall meet with the frequency it determines necessary to perform its functions under this Executive Order, but there shall be no less than six meetings annually.
3. a. The County Executive shall appoint no more than thirteen (13) voting members, as follows:
 - i. Two immigrants residing in the County;
 - ii. Three representatives of the business community who are immigrants and who reside in the County;
 - iii. Two representatives of community-based organizations serving immigrant populations in the County who reside in the County;
 - iv. Two representatives of faith-based organizations who are immigrants and who reside in the County;
 - v. Two attorneys with experience in immigration law;
 - vi. One representative of the Annapolis City Council;
 - vii. One City of Annapolis resident representing a community-based organization that primarily serves immigrants and resides in the City;
- b. The County Executive shall appoint no more than eight (8) non-voting members, as follows:

- i. One representative of the County Executive's Office;
- ii. One representative of the County land use departments;
- iii. One representative of the County public safety departments;
- iv. One representative of the County health and human services departments;
- v. One representative of Anne Arundel County Public Schools;
- vi. One representative of Anne Arundel Community College;
- vii. Anne Arundel County Circuit Court Clerk; and
- viii. One Hispanic Community Services Specialist of the City of Annapolis.

4. The initial terms of voting members shall be staggered so that five members shall serve initial terms of three years, four members shall serve initial terms of two years, and four members shall serve initial terms of one year. After the expiration of the initial terms, all members shall serve three year terms. A member whose term has expired holds over until a successor is appointed.

5. The County Executive shall designate one member as Chair and one member as Vice Chair.

6. The Commission shall act as an advisory body that serves as a means for immigrant voices to be heard and understood, facilitates civic engagement among immigrants, and recognizes and legitimizes issues of importance to immigrants arriving in Anne Arundel County. Specifically, the Commission shall:

a. Advise the County Executive and County departments and offices on ways to: enhance and improve immigrant access to County services and resources; strengthen opportunities for immigrants to participate in civic life; encourage dialogue and understanding among immigrant communities and the non-immigrant community; advocate on behalf of immigrants; and provide outreach from and community feedback to the County Executive and County departments and offices for immigrants.

b. Monitor, analyze, and make recommendations for existing or proposed policies and actions, at all levels of government, for their impact on immigrants.

c. Assess, research, and compile data related to immigrant affairs in Anne Arundel County, including:

- i. the wellbeing of immigrants;
- ii. immigrant needs and concerns;
- iii. engagement of immigrant communities;
- iv. access to and delivery of services and information to immigrants;

- v. immigrant awareness of civil rights protections and related laws; and
- vi. economic and workforce development opportunities for immigrants.

7. The Commission shall submit an annual report, which should include assessment findings and recommendations, to the County Executive and County Council no later than July 31, 2021.

This Executive Order shall be archived at the Office of Law and remain in existence until altered or terminated by a subsequent Executive Order.



STEUART PITTMAN
County Executive

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency:



Gregory J. Swain
County Attorney