

PEOPLE FOR CHANGE COALITION www.pfccoalition.org	9500 Arena Drive, Suite 460 Largo, MD 20774
CONTACT: SANDRA PRUITT 301-772-1552 office or 301-509-9643 cell sandy@pfccoalition.org	FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 3:00pm EST, Monday, November 27, 2017

Press Release

“PFC Coalition to hold Emergency Press Conference to address Race Discrimination Complaint filed against Prince George’s County Department of the Environment”

Prince George’s County, MARYLAND Monday, November 27, 2017: The People for Change Coalition (PFC Coalition) is bringing attention to the huge disparities that have occurred over the past 4 years in the awarding of \$5.838 million in grants by the [Chesapeake Bay Trust](#) (CBT), who is contracted by the [Prince George’s County Department of Environment](#) to administer the Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program.

The purpose of the stormwater stewardship grant is to **fund projects throughout the County** that aid the community while treating and controlling stormwater. The goal is to improve communities, improve water quality in County’s waterways, and engage County residents in stormwater issues.

The [PFC Coalition](#) recently brought our concerns to the [Human Relations Commission of Prince George’s County](#), Michael Lyles, Executive Director. As a result, a discrimination complaint was filed against Prince George’s County Department of Environment, Adam Ortiz, Director. A **press conference** will be held **Friday, December 1, 2017 at 10:00am in front of 1801 McCormick Drive, Largo, MD.**

We have also enlisted the support of the Prince George’s County NAACP who sent a letter to Jana Davis, Executive Director of the CBT, requesting a breakdown of entities who have been [awarded](#) and [declined](#) grants over the past 4 years under the stormwater stewardship fund.

Just recently in FY 2018 **out of \$1,388,080, only 1 black nonprofit was the recipient of less than 4% of the stormwater grants awarded.** Yet, grants were awarded to white entities headquartered in Reston, Annapolis, Montgomery County, Baltimore, DC, College Park, Riverdale,

and Edmonston to perform projects in the County. ([see list of grantees](#))

One project declined by CBT in FY 2018 was for outreach, installation and maintenance of pet waste stations for 9 predominantly African American communities in Capitol Heights, Fairmount Heights, Bladensburg, Hyattsville, Landover Hills, and Upper Marlboro.

The disparities occur in who is awarded the grants, who gets the opportunity to perform the work, where the projects are being implemented, and outreach efforts. How can we allow a majority African American County that requires home owners, churches, businesses, and nonprofits pay a Clean Water Fee via their property tax bill, yet **cannot participate and reap economic benefits and jobs?**

Concerns of disparity were brought to the attention of County Executive, Rushern Baker, Head of Public Infrastructure, Barry Stanton, and Deputy Director of the Prince George's County Department of the Environment, Joe Gill within the past year. We also informed the Baker Team of unfair treatment, retaliation, bullying and harassment from the Dept. of Environment, its employees, and CBT.

Letters were sent to Council Chair, Derrick Davis, Vice Chair, Danielle Glaros, and Mary Lehman, Vice Chair of the Environment Committee. Despite major environmental problems of litter and pet waste expressed by the African American community, [our Council](#) has failed to respond. We feel the County Council is afraid to address issues concerning race, disparity, and discrimination.

Please join us on **Friday, Dec 1 at 10:00am** if you are tired of your government giving away your tax dollars to entities that hide behind a diversity and inclusion initiative with no accountability. [View the Chesapeake Bay Program Diversity Outcome Strategy.](#)

The [PFC Coalition](#) is one of the largest and fastest growing nonprofit membership organizations in Prince George's County with over 350 members. Formed in 2011, our mission is to develop the capacity of nonprofit and minority businesses by providing assessment, support and expansion services.