

COUNCIL COMING ATTRACTIONS



Week of October 10, 2016

Mental Health Court, Community Grants Process, Family Leave Policies for County Government & Subdivision Staging Policy



Council Coming Attractions is a summary of some of the issues before the Council. All Council staff reports and additional information on each item scheduled for Council or Committee review can be viewed at: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/packet/index.html> .

Also the Council meeting schedule may change from time to time. The current Council agenda can always be viewed at:

http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/resources/files/agenda/col/current_agenda.pdf .

The Council will not meet on Tuesday, Oct. 11 but there are plenty of items up for discussion in Committee meetings scheduled Oct. 10-13. Summary information and links to the staff reports are provided below.



STEER Arrest Deflection Program

On Oct. 10 at 9:30 a.m. the PS and HHS Committees will meet jointly to discuss the Stop, Triage, Educate, Engage and Rehabilitate (STEER) Program. The staff report can be viewed at:

http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/cm/2016/161010/20161010_PSHHS1.pdf .

The goal of the deflection model is to deflect low-risk individuals with substance use disorders (SUDs) away from the criminal justice system and directly into community-based treatment. This model presents an evidence-based approach to provide individuals with treatment for substance use and abuse.

- Deflection occurs far earlier in the criminal justice case flow. Rather than identifying individuals after arrest and in jail, deflection takes place during the initial encounter between the police and a suspect. Police officers conduct standardized drug screenings with individuals resulting in either prevention or intervention strategies.

- The grant-funded County STEER program began in March to deflect individuals, who present as substance abusers to County police officers, from arrest and into treatment.

CORP

The Committees also will receive an update on the Comprehensive Reentry Project (CORP), which finds stable housing and services for people with substance abuse or co-occurring disorders as an alternative to jail. The staff report can be viewed at:

http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/cm/2016/161010/20161010_PSHHS2.pdf .

Mental Health Court

On Oct. 10 at 9:30 a.m. the PS and HHS Committees will meet jointly to discuss the County's new Mental Health Court. The staff report can be viewed at:

http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/cm/2016/161010/20161010_PSHHS3.pdf .

On July 6, the Court of Appeals of Maryland issued an administrative order implementing a Mental Health Court in the Circuit and District Courts for Montgomery County. The creation of this specialized court, which is geared toward treatment instead of punishment, was in response to the increase in the number of individuals arrested with acute mental illness.

- In the past three years, the number of people booked at the Montgomery County Detention Center who needed immediate mental health services increased 61 percent.
- Prince George's County, Harford County and Baltimore City also have mental health courts.
- Montgomery County Circuit Administrative Judge John W. Debelius III organized a Mental Health Court Planning and Implementation Task Force, chaired by former Councilmember Phil Andrews to determine how to set up the County's Mental Health Court.

The full report can be viewed at:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/circuitcourt/Resources/Files/MentalHealthCourt_TaskForce_Report.pdf

- John McCarthy, State's Attorney for Montgomery County, has been working on this issue with his staff for several years because of the number of homicide cases that also have a mental health component.

State Hospitals for Seriously Mentally Ill Inmates

The Committees will receive an update on access to State hospitals for seriously mentally ill inmates. The staff report can be viewed at:

http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/cm/2016/161010/20161010_PSHHS4.pdf .

According to recent data by Maryland's Department of Health and Mental hygiene (DHMH), 84 jail inmates are awaiting court-ordered bed space. With the number of State hospital beds for treatment remaining static, individuals who are mentally ill are being housed by correctional facilities throughout Maryland. Some of the barriers to providing services for the mentally ill include: a lack of funds; staff recruitment for these positions; and problems finding community treatment programs to take hospital patients once their conditions improve. Currently the County has only one person in jail awaiting hospital placement. Eight months ago, the County had 26 people in jail awaiting placement.

Executive Regulation 10-16, Comprehensive Economic Strategy

On Oct. 10 at 1 p.m. the PHED Committee will meet to review Executive Regulation 10-16. The staff report can be viewed at:

http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/cm/2016/161010/20161010_PHED1.pdf .

The Comprehensive Economic Strategy (CES) in Executive Regulation 10-16 proposes strategies to promote the County's future economic prosperity. The goal is to increase access to jobs, enhance the success of County businesses and expand the County's tax base. According to the CES, "The vision for the County's economic prosperity is to be a global magnet for creative companies, technologies and people." The CES is intended to provide a guide for the County's next four years.

- The CES provides:

- ✓ an evaluation of the County's economic challenges and opportunities;
- ✓ a set of guiding principles; and
- ✓ a holistic set of goals and strategies designed to ensure economic vitality.
- The County Code requires the Executive to propose and update an economic development strategic plan, which is subject to Council approval

Subdivision Staging Policy

The Committee will continue their review of the Subdivision Staging Policy (SSP). The staff report can be viewed at:

http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/cm/2016/161010/20161010_PHED2.pdf .

The latest version of Montgomery County's Subdivision Staging Policy, formerly called "Growth Policy," is being updated. The PHED Committee is scheduled to make recommendations to the Council for review and approval by Nov. 15, 2016. The goal of the SSP is to ensure that there is adequate public facilities infrastructure, schools and roads associated with new development and growth. This SSP update is an opportunity to revise the rules for how the County grows over the next four years.

Community Grants Process

On Oct. 13 at 9:30 a.m. the GO and HHS Committees will meet jointly to discuss the County's community grants process. The staff report will be available on Oct. 11. The Committees will discuss the relationship between the Executive and Council's grants process and the growth in the number of grant applications and awards. The Committees will discuss if changes are needed for the FY18 Council Grants process including the limitations of the Council's Grants Advisory Group. The Committees also will look at options for changing the grants process beyond FY18 including the possibility of transitioning to awarding some categories of grants on a cycle that is different than the County's Operating Budget cycle.

Disposition of Avery Road Treatment Center

The Committees will also review a resolution to approve the Executive's Declaration of No Further Need for the Disposition of Avery Road Treatment Center. The resolution, which would dispose of this property through a long-term lease and a public-private partnership, was introduced on Sept. 13. The staff report will be available on Oct. 11.

- The Avery Road Treatment Center property disposition is not related to any proposal to relocate the Montgomery County Public Schools Bus Depot.
- Avery Road Treatment Center provides residential, non-hospital detoxification and intermediate care services for adults. The existing facility provides 20 medical detox and 40 intermediate care facility beds.
- The Executive is proposing the disposition of the Avery Road Treatment Center through a long-term lease with Potomac Health Care Foundation.
- Potomac Health Care Foundation is seeking to finance, design, construct, maintain, operate and manage a new Avery Road Treatment Center over a 30-year lease with a program operation service delivery agreement.
- The new Avery Road Treatment Center will provide 64 beds for residential substance abuse treatment.
- The Council previously approved the plan to replace the existing Avery Road Treatment Center, with one constructed and operated by a private partner, through a 30-year lease and service contract as part of the FY17-22 Capital Improvements Program.

Family Leave Policies for County Government

On Oct. 13 at 10:45 a.m. the GO Committee will continue their review of family leave policies for County Government. The staff report will be available on Oct. 11. The Committee will continue

discussing issues associated with the categories of leave that the County provides to its employees and review the potential impacts associated with potentially creating a new category of leave for employees. The Committee also will discuss Councilmember Navarro's proposal on family leave that would provide all County employees with six weeks of paid family leave for the birth or adoption of a child. Other recommendations by Councilmember Navarro are listed below.

- As recommended by OHR, the program should:
 - ✓ Be part of the current eighteen week parental leave program;
 - ✓ Have an eligibility requirement of six months of continuous County employment;
 - ✓ Be requested at least thirty days before the birth or adoption of a child; and
 - ✓ Be used within twelve weeks of the birth or adoption.
- The County should amend its sick leave policy to allow for an employee to use up to six weeks of accrued sick leave as family sick leave to care for an immediate family member. Currently the County only allows fifteen days for this purpose.
- OHR should provide the GO Committee with an annual report detailing the use and cost of these new family leave policies.

OLO Report 2016-5, MCPS Pension Plan Supplement

On Oct. 13 at 3 p.m. the ED Committee will review OLO Report 2016-15. The full report can be viewed at:

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OLO/Resources/Files/2016%20Reports/OLOReport2016-5.pdf> .

This memorandum report responds to the Council's request that OLO prepare a report that examines the cost of the current pension benefit offered to employees of the Montgomery County Public Schools. Report 2016-5 describes the design, history and annual operating budget costs of the State Teachers' and Local MCPS pension plans. The report also introduces several potential options to reduce MCPS pension costs including: eliminating the pension supplement; reducing the pension supplement to level specified in State law; increasing the employee cost share for the pension supplement; and amending the core and supplement pension for non-teachers to integrate with Social Security.

MCPS Group Insurance

The Committee also will have a broad discussion about MCPS group insurance benefits, which are negotiated through the collective bargaining process and are subject to the Board of Education's approval. The staff report will be available on Oct. 11. This discussion is part of the Committee's ongoing efforts to examine options that could channel more tax dollars into initiatives that reduce class size and target the opportunity gap. The Committee will review recent changes MCPS has made to its group insurance benefits, including changes to the cost share structure; the potential agency savings from further aligning MCPS group insurance cost share with the cost share established for County Government employees; and the potential impact on employees from any cost share changes.

Advance Taking: White Flint Work Around

On Oct. 13 at 3 p.m. the T&E Committee will discuss an advance taking for the White Flint Work Around. The staff report will be available on Oct. 11. The White Flint West Workaround project provides for land acquisition, site improvements, utility relocations, construction of a new road and bikeway, relocation of one road, and an intersection realignment improvement in the White Flint District area. Various improvements to the roads include new traffic lanes, shared-use paths, undergrounding of overhead utility lines, utility relocations and streetscaping. The projects include:

- Main St./Market St. - Old Georgetown Rd. to Woodglan Dr. - new two-lane, 1,200-foot roadway and bikeway.

- Executive Blvd. Extended – Marinelli Rd. to Old Georgetown Rd. – 900 feet of relocated four-lane roadway.
- Intersection of Hoya St., Old Georgetown Rd. and Executive Blvd. – access to new development.
- Hoya St. – Montrose Pkwy. to the intersection of Old Georgetown Rd. – 1,100 feet of reconstruction four-lane roadway.

 Transportation Management Task Force

The Committee will receive an update from the Transportation Management Task Force. The staff report will be available on Oct. 11. The Task Force is an interagency staff group, which is chaired by DOT and includes M-NCPPC, DPS, OMB and Council staff. The group is working on streamlining the process of developing traffic mitigation agreements. These type of agreements are often conditions of subdivision approval that require a new development to mitigate (i.e., reduce) auto trips to meet its adequate public facilities requirement. Typically these agreements take a long time to develop and negotiate. The Task Force has been coming up with a model to make the process simpler and less time-consuming.

 OLO Report 2016-9: Performance Review of Transportation Management Districts

The Committee also will review OLO Report 2016-9. The full report can be found at:

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OLO/Resources/Files/2016%20Reports/OLO%20Report%202016-9%20Performance%20Review%20of%20Transportation%20Management%20Districts.pdf>

This OLO report responds to the Council's request to examine the performance of the County's transportation management districts (TMDs); in particular by reviewing how the County establishes performance goals for TMDs and how it collects and reports data to measures effectiveness in achieving those goals. DOT implements transportation demand management programs and services through the TMDs.

- OLO finds that DOT has a commitment to performance monitoring and data collection for the TMDs. In particular, the County's data collection structure generally aligns with research-based best practices needed for effective performance evaluation. At the same time, OLO's review illustrates opportunities to build up on the current TMD performance measurement efforts.