

Appointment

MEMORANDUM

December 3, 2009

TO: County Council  
FROM: Justina J. Ferber, Legislative Analyst  
SUBJECT: Appointment - Merit System Protection Board

The term of Merit System Protection Board member Bruce E. Wood (Democrat) expires December 31, 2009. Mr. Wood has served one full term on the Board and has applied for reappointment. The appointee can be a Democrat, Republican, or decline to affiliate with a party, or a member of another party officially recognized by the Board of Elections. By law, no more than two of the three members of the Merit System Protection Board may be of the same political party. Current Board members are Rodella E. Berry (Democrat), Charla Lambertsen (Declined to Affiliate) and Bruce E. Wood (Democrat). Mr. Wood currently serves as Chair.

The Council received one application for this vacancy from Mr. Wood. The application was reviewed by the Management and Fiscal Policy Committee (MFP). MFP Chair Trachtenberg recommends Mr. Wood for reappointment and committee members support the recommendation. Attached is a draft resolution for the reappointment of Mr. Wood as a member of the Merit System Protection Board.

<u>This packet contains:</u>	<u>Circle #</u>
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Resolution No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Introduced: \_\_\_\_\_  
Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_

**COUNTY COUNCIL  
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

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By: County Council

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**SUBJECT:** Appointment of Member to Merit System Protection Board

Background

1. Section 403 of the Montgomery County Charter requires the appointment of a Merit System Protection Board.
2. The term of Bruce E. Wood (Democrat) expires on December 31, 2009, or until a successor has been appointed and has qualified.
3. Mr. Wood has served one full term on the Merit System Protection Board.

Action

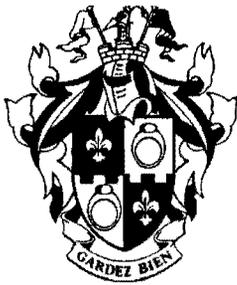
The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland, approves the following resolution:

Effective January 1, 2010, Bruce E. Wood is appointed to serve as a member of the Merit System Protection Board until December 31, 2012, or until a successor has been appointed and has qualified.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

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Linda M. Lauer  
Clerk of the Council



# Montgomery County Council

For Immediate Release

September 23, 2009

FOR INFORMATION: Justina Ferber, 240-777-7938 or 240-777-7900  
justina.ferber@montgomerycountymd.gov

## Montgomery County Seeks Applicants For Merit System Protection Board

*Applications Will Be Accepted Through Wednesday, Nov. 4,  
For Appointment to Three-Year Term That Begins in  
December*

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ROCKVILLE, Md., October 13, 2009—The Montgomery County Council is accepting applications from qualified voters of the County for appointment to a three-year term on the Merit System Protection Board. Generally, the board is expected to oversee the Merit System and to protect employee and applicant rights guaranteed under the County Merit System.

Applications must be received in the Council office by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 4.

The term of board member Bruce E. Wood (Democrat) will expire in December 2009. Mr. Wood has served one full term and has indicated that he will apply for reappointment.

The appointee to this term may be a Democrat, Republican or someone who declines to affiliate with a party. In addition, the appointee may be a member of another party officially recognized by the Board of Elections. By law, no more than two of the three members of the Merit System Protection Board may be of the same political party. Current board members in addition to Mr. Wood are Rodella Berry (Democrat) and Charla Lambertsen (declined to affiliate).

The County Merit System Protection Board's mission is to oversee the Merit System for the protection of employee's and applicant's rights guaranteed under the Merit System. There are two methods in which the board processes appeals:

- A written decision issued after a review and discussion of a written record
- A written decision issued after a pre-hearing conference and a formal hearing in cases involving a suspension, demotion or dismissal

(MORE)

The board, on a periodic basis, conducts special studies, audits or inquiries of the administration of the merit and retirement pay systems and, in this effort, may compel the attendance of witnesses. Written reports of its findings and recommendations are filed with the County Executive and the County Council. The board also provides comments on any proposed changes in Merit System law or regulations.

The board holds hearings during the day, which can take the full day or be scheduled for the evening. Also, the board normally meets for approximately four hours in the evening once every two weeks. Additional time is also required for preparatory work. Members of the board receive \$7,448, which is adjusted annually to reflect 50 percent of the percentage change in the Washington Area Consumer Price Index.

Board members are restricted in political activity while serving. Section 403 of the County Charter states in part "... No member shall hold political office or participate in any campaign for any political or public office during the member's term of office." Members of County boards, committees and commissions may not serve on more than one such group at a time.

Letters of application are made public as part of the appointment process. Letters expressing interest, including a resume listing professional and civic experience, should be addressed to: Council President Phil Andrews, Montgomery County Council, 100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, MD 20850.

For more information on the Merit System Protection Board appointment, call 240-777-7938 or 240-777-7900.

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