

2005 Council Accomplishments

- Banned water and sewer hook-ups for Private Institutional Facilities in RDT zones in order to protect the Agricultural Reserve
- Approved a 12-point action plan to examine development approvals and the development approval process in the wake of the violations in Clarksburg Town Center
- Commissioned and released an Independent Fact-Finding Review of Clarksburg Town Center by the Office of Legislative Oversight
- Appointed Royce Hanson and Robert Kendal to work with the Council and Park & Planning, respectively, to implement actions to strengthen the development approval process
- Approved height restrictions on the construction of single-family homes to address the issue of “mansionization”
- Approved Local Small Business Reserve Program to reserve 10 percent of County government procurement opportunities for county small businesses
- Approved Clean Energy Awards Program to rebate amount of County energy tax increase to users of clean energy
- Extended protections for developmentally disabled families living in rental housing being converted to condominiums
- Reestablished the Office on Consumer Affairs as a separate County department
- Strengthened the powers of the County Office on Human Rights to deal with predatory lending
- Approved increase in penalties for violations of the Forest Conservation Law
- Approval of InterCounty Connector along the Master Planned route
- Approved Animal Control law revisions that included leashing of dogs in public and microchipping of strays
- Approved changes in the County’s yard signs ordinance
- Approved a tax credit for businesses for computers purchased for their telecommuting employees
- Resolution to preserve as green space 10 acres of the 19 acre site just north of the Strathmore Arts Center
- Release of report on Backlogs in County Maintenance and Infrastructure
- Approved Olney Master Plan, which included for the first-time development of affordable housing on County-owned land
- Confirmation of new County WSSC Commissioners

- Approved Master Plan of Bikeways
- Approved process to establish Budget Priorities and Performance Measures each October in advance of the agencies' budget submissions
- Approved Grants Process to make the process more accessible, inclusive, and transparent by establishing an application and review process
- Approved ban of disposing of recyclable material at County garbage facilities by trash haulers
- Appointment of Thomas Dagley as new County Inspector General
- Approval of new Firefighters contract
- Approved interim Fire & Rescue facility for Clarksburg and \$2.7 million more for new Fire & Rescue apparatus
- Prohibited public urination in the County
- Established a Domestic Violence Coordinating Council
- Tentatively approved the Shady Grove Sector Plan and the Woodmont Triangle Amendment to the Bethesda Sector Plan

- **BUDGET:**

- \$86 million in property tax relief, an average of about \$300 to the average County homeowner, which meets the Charter Limit and includes a four-percent cut in the property tax rate.
- Expanded "circuit-breaker" tax credit for homeowners with incomes lower than \$55,000 annually – an average of \$900 per household, three times the current average credit
- Public schools funding at \$1.6 billion – a 7 percent increase
- Expanded full-day kindergarten to 20 additional schools
- Reduced class size guidelines in elementary schools by two students
- Reduced over-sized classes in secondary schools
- Added assistant principals in 15 elementary schools
- Increased Montgomery College funding by 10.7 percent
- Expanded Montgomery College's College Institute Program
- Increased "Montgomery Cares" program, which provides health care to the uninsured, by \$3 million
- Expanded programs for rental assistance, in-home aides and respite care for seniors,
- Boosted police spending by \$18 million -- or 11 percent – including monies for gang prevention and enforcement
- Increased staffing and improved response times at three County fire stations
- \$7 million down payment on backlog of infrastructure and maintenance needs, including road resurfacing, sidewalks, streetlights, and parks
- Ended the "Carry In, Carry Out" policy and returned trash cans to County parks
- Added two new "Linkages to Learning" sites
- \$53 million in budget cuts from County Executive's proposed budget

- Approved feasibility study on expansion of school health centers