

Resolution No.: 18-546  
Introduced: June 28, 2016  
Adopted: June 28, 2016

**COUNTY COUNCIL  
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

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Lead Sponsor: County Council

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**SUBJECT:** Approval of Montgomery County Fire, Rescue, Emergency Medical Services, and Community Risk Reduction Plan

**Background**

1. County Code Section 21-12 requires the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service (MCFRS) to maintain, review, and amend as necessary a Master Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Services Plan.
2. The existing Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Medical Services Master Plan, adopted by the Council in October 2005, was scheduled to expire in December 2015.
3. County Code Section 21-12 (c) provides that the Master Plan must serve as a guideline for the Executive, Council, and Fire Chief in making decisions regarding the delivery of fire and rescue services, does not have the force of law, and does not impose any legal obligations on any party.
4. County Code Section 21 (b) states that the Council may approve the Master Plan as proposed or with amendments.
5. County Code Section 21-12 (b) requires the Fire Chief to hold a public hearing on any significant amendments to the plan. The Fire Chief held a public hearing on August 26, 2015.
6. On October 20, 2015, the County Executive transmitted to the Council the 2016-2022 Fire, Rescue, Emergency Medical Services, and Community Risk Reduction Plan, as well as the Public Hearing Record from the Fire Chief's August 26, 2015, public hearing.
7. The time frame for the new Master Plan is six years. The Fire Chief determined that another ten-year plan period, as was the case for the two previous Master Plans, would be too long given the fast pace of change in the County's growth, demographics, service needs, and other characteristics. In addition, a six-year time frame is aligned with the County's six year Capital Improvements Plan time frame. The new Master Plan will sunset on June 30, 2022.

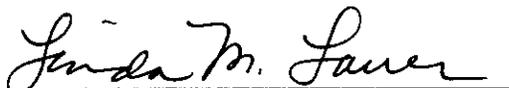
8. Although a hearing was not required, the Council scheduled and advertised a public hearing on the Master Plan for November 12, 2015. Given that a low number of individuals expressed interest in speaking at the public hearing, the Council solicited written input and comments in lieu of holding the scheduled public hearing.
9. The Public Safety Committee held two worksessions to review the Fire, Rescue, Emergency Medical Services, and Community Risk Reduction Plan, on November 9, 2015, and on February 1, 2016. The Committee received from the Fire Chief an overview of the initiatives and recommendations in the Master Plan. The Committee also discussed the Plan's proposed Advanced Life Support (ALS) service delivery model and the impact on the operational structure of MCFRS. The Committee also discussed the proposed new fire stations in the Master Plan, and how these proposed new stations relate to the proposed ALS service delivery model and fire protection services.
10. The Public Safety Committee did not recommend or request any amendments to the Fire, Rescue, Emergency Medical Services, and Community Risk Reduction Plan.

**Action**

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

The 2016-2022 Fire, Rescue, Emergency Medical Services, and Community Risk Reduction Plan is approved. A copy of the Plan is on file in the Council's Office of Legislative Information Services.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

  
Linda M. Lauer, Clerk of the Council