

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
MEETING WITH COUNTY EXECUTIVE ISIAH LEGGETT

Patricia Gallalee, Chair
Charlie Crawford, Vice-Chair
April 3, 2013

Last year the Commission recommended to you, the County Council, and its Housing Policy Committee to develop ways to produce a substantial number of homes with basic accessibility. We partnered with the Commission on Veterans Affairs, to request your support for a County Special Hiring authority to establish a program to aid in hiring qualified disabled veterans and people with disabilities and thus, make an exception to the merit system.

We want to thank you for sending over your letter of support recommendations to the Council in support of Council Member George Leventhal's introduction of Bill 5-13 Property Tax Credit – Accessibility Features which will increase the supply of accessible homes by provide financial incentives to homeowners and builders who build or renovate homes to the Design for Life Montgomery Program. We enlisted the support of the Commission on Aging in this effort

We also want to thank you for you for urging that the County Council place a Charter Amendment on the November ballot to establish a special hiring authority within the County merit system to recruit, select and hire persons with significant disabilities that substantially limit one or more major life activities. We were pleased that 80% of the voters supported this charter amendment in the November 2012 elections and that the County has taken a leading role amongst local jurisdictions in the hiring of people with disabilities. We also commend Joe Adler, Phil Andrews and Uma Ahluwalia and their respective staff members for their leadership in this effort.

For the upcoming year, we are seek your support to re-energize the “Respect the Space” Campaign that you kicked off 2 years ago to better enforce disability parking laws.

We also want to continue to be directly involved with all employment policies and procedures the impact people with disabilities.

We also will work to support and provide advice on Bill 5-13 for the passage of financial incentives for homeowners and builders who build to meet the standards of the Design for Life Montgomery Programs.

We will be testifying before the County Council on April 11 to express our concern regarding the proposed transition of Resource Coordination funded by the Developmental Disabilities Administration from the County's Community Support Network administered in Aging and Disability Services to non-profits. We have real concern regarding the transition plan and limited timeframe to accommodate approximately 3,200 people who will now have new resource coordinators on July 1, 2013. The County's first priority must be that these individuals continue to receive the care and services without interruption and that no one is lost in the transition.

We will also be asking the Council to increase Adult Foster Care rates that include 24 hour care and supervision but have remained the same for 20 years from \$1,175 double room/\$1,375 single room to \$1650 per month. This would give Adult Foster Care providers parity with what Senior Assisted Living providers receive from the group home subsidy program. They serve 60% seniors and 40% younger adults with disabilities.

We were pleased to see that you put \$60,000 in the budget under Senior Community Services for a Mobility Management Administrator. We request that this position also include transportation coordination for people with disabilities.

The Commission has liaisons to the Commission on Aging and Commission on Health where issues are shared. Please let us know if you have any questions. And thank you for your work and leadership on behalf of people with disabilities