

Public Policy Committee Meeting
February 12, 2015

Attendees: Rudy Oswald; Chuck Kauffman; Noelle Ronald Heyman;
Isabelle Schoenfeld; Reuben Rosenfeld; Barbara Mulitz; DaCosta Mason;
John Honig; Odile Brunetto and Sarah Gotbaum

State Level

- Monitored over 25 bills
- Sent letters of support to various committees on six bills¹
The bills dealt with various aspects of adult abuse: increasing penalties for adult abuse, requiring a registry of abusers, preventing the pre-trial release of accused abusers, the freezing of assets of abusers, and the seizure of property of the abuser.
- Provided written and oral testimony before House and Senate Committees on four bills²
Two bills dealt with the transfer of a deed at death, and two with the provision of sick leave.
- Participated in the United Seniors Lobby Day. Questions were raised about the usefulness of the day since no legislators from Montgomery County participated because of miscommunications with USM.
- Sent a letter to the Health and Human Services Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee requesting restoration of cuts in the Governor's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene FY '16 budget regarding certain Medicaid services and non-Medicaid Adult Day Care subsidies.

County Level

- Sent letter requesting inclusion of provisions regarding discounted senior rides, disability access and limits on costs of rides in County bills seeking to regulate Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) like Uber and Lyft³

¹ HB20, HB23, HB31, HB255, HB737, SB288.

² HB186, HB385, SB40, SB101.

³ Bills 53-14, 54-14, 55-14.

- Chuck will draft letter in support of County bill to provide more specific notice and information concerning sidewalk closures before and during construction work⁴
- Provided written testimony on County bill that will provide paid sick and safe leave to employees who work in Montgomery County⁵
- Provided comments at 3 of the 5 County Executive's budget forums

Federal Level

- Isabelle will draft letter to Senators Mikulski and Cardin requesting their support for Senate Bill 192, the Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act

County Budget

The County Executive will publish his FY '16 budget on March 15. The Commission will review the budget and develop talking points, a letter to the Health and Human Services Committee and testimony for Council hearings. Tremayne will schedule meetings with Council members.

Other Business

The Committee received a request from Interages for the Commission to intervene and support a grant request that had been rejected by the Board of Education. It was recommended that the matter be referred to the Executive Committee for resolution.

Meeting Adjourned.

⁴ Bill 3-15.

⁵ Bill 60-14