



## Montgomery County's Priorities for the 2017 Session

### Education

- ***K-12 Public Education.*** Full operating funding to help support the delivery of public primary and second education services in Montgomery County, including retention of the State payment for teacher retirement, remains critically important. As the Kirwan Commission begins its review of the Final Report of consultants retained by the Adequacy of Education Funding Stakeholders Workgroup, we hope to work closely with our State Delegation on any issues that arise during the 2017 Session and beyond to ensure that the needs of the County's very large school system with swiftly changing demographics are recognized and Montgomery County is treated fairly.
- ***Public School Construction.*** Since 2008, enrollments in the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) have increased by at least 2,200 students every year. This fall, nearly 3,000 new students entered the school system. With no end in sight to this trend, trying to manage school capacity issues remains one of the County's most vexing challenges. The Knott Commission will transmit its initial recommendations this December. It will likely focus on process improvements that could create greater flexibility to manage school construction programs for large school systems like MCPS which may allow local and State dollars to go further. We hope the State Delegation will support these types of recommendations. The Commission intends to address funding issues next year. In the meantime, we urge our State Delegation members to capitalize on any opportunities that may arise during the 2017 Session to direct additional funds to public school construction.

### Economic Development

- ***Marriott.*** In October, Montgomery County, the State of Maryland, and Marriott agreed upon an incentive package that will allow Marriott, now the largest hotel company in the world, to remain in Montgomery County. We urge the State Delegation to support the package, of which slightly over half of the cost of the incentives will be underwritten by Montgomery County. The agreement will secure the continued presence of the County's largest employer and nearly \$2 billion in fiscal net benefits for Maryland and Montgomery County.
- ***Biotech, Cybersecurity, and Health IT.*** We urge the State Delegation to help the County work on establishing an active partnership with the State to unlock the County's potential as a leader in biotech, cybersecurity and health IT supported by a diverse economic base, state-of-the-art transit and digital networks, and a ready and able workforce.

## **Transportation**

- ***Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) Needs.*** The Federal Transit Administration is requiring Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia to establish a Safety Oversight Agency that complies with Federal law and can perform its WMATA Metrorail safety oversight responsibilities. The United States Department of Transportation Secretary has the authority to withhold up to five percent of the Federal transit operating support provided for all transit in Maryland if appropriate legislative measures are not taken by February 2017. We strongly encourage the State Legislature to act to establish this agency so that harmful impacts to our local transit operations can be avoided.

In addition to this immediate need, WMATA continues to struggle to maintain infrastructure and quality service. The State Legislature will be asked to address short-term and long-term funding needs for WMATA. WMATA is a fundamental component of the County's transportation system and is a critical foundation of our County's economic development plans. Restoring WMATA's safety and service reliability are essential for rebuilding public trust in the system that serves as an economic driver for the County and the region.

We urge the State Delegation to support all efforts to secure the future of Metrorail and Metrobus as critical components of the County's transportation system, without compromising funding for locally operated transit, as a top priority.

- ***Improving Safety.*** In partnership with the Maryland State Highway Administration, Montgomery County continues to work on improving transportation safety, particularly for pedestrians and bicyclists. Through our efforts we have encountered some institutional hurdles associated with implementing traffic safety measures. We request the State Delegation's support in clarifying laws associated with traffic signals and encouraging state agencies to adopt policies and regulations that facilitate rather than hinder the use of widely-accepted best practices employed by other jurisdictions. Additionally, Montgomery County has initiated a Vision Zero program aimed at reducing traffic fatalities to zero over time. Changes to various state laws associated with issues like distracted driving, among other topics, may be suggested as part of this program over the coming years.
- ***Purple Line Litigation.*** In recent months, a decision in Federal court has put Federal Transit Administration approvals and Federal funding for the Purple Line into question. We ask our State Delegation to join us in encouraging State officials to act as aggressively and swiftly as possible so that the Record of Decision can be reinstated, the Federal Full Funding Grant Agreement can be executed, and costly project delays can be avoided.
- ***Transit Operating Funding.*** To fully establish parity between the Washington and Baltimore region transit systems, we urge the State Delegation to pursue opportunities to fully fund the operating deficit subsidy for the locally operated Washington region bus systems - - Ride On in Montgomery County and TheBus in Prince George's County. Legislation was introduced last year that would have accomplished this goal by repealing

farebox recovery requirements for the Maryland Transit Authority, WMATA, and the locally operated Washington region bus systems. The bill assured full funding for Ride On and TheBus by repealing a provision in the law that allows State funding to be discretionary.

- ***Capital Funding: 2017 – 2022 Maryland Department of Transportation Consolidated Transportation Program.*** The Draft plan reflects a reduction of \$746 million in transportation funding over the six-year program. We ask for the State Delegation's assistance in working with the Administration so that we can maintain progress on our high priority capital projects. This would include securing funds to finalize the environmental studies and preliminary design of the Corridor Cities Transitway, and funds to finalize the I-270/US 15 Multimodal Corridor Study so that projects that address the needs of the I-270 corridor can advance into design, construction, and operation.

### **Health and Human Services**

- ***Forensic Behavioral Health.*** For Montgomery County's Department of Health and Human Services and Department of Correction and Rehabilitation, partnering with the State is a critical element to building a behavioral health services continuum that does not require our correctional institutions to be the primary provider of behavioral health services.

The County has many evidence-informed behavioral health interventions including: STEER (Stop, Triage, Educate and Rehabilitate), which is intended to address the heroin epidemic, one of the Governor's key priorities; Drug Court; Mental Health Court; CORP (Comprehensive Re-entry Project); CIT (Crisis Intervention Teaming between Public Safety and Behavioral Health staff from the Department of Health and Human Services); and several operational ACT (Assertive Community Treatment) teams. Many of these interventions require expansion and funding support since housing gaps remain acute for the forensically-involved population re-entering the community.

We ask for the State Delegation's help in identifying opportunities to secure State financial assistance in the form of monthly vouchers for up to 20 clients to be housed through programs offered by Housing Unlimited or a similar provider of housing services for this population.

- ***State Income Eligibility Guidelines for the Child Care Subsidy Program and Corresponding State Funding.*** The Child Care Subsidy (CCS) Program is administered by the Maryland State Department of Education and provides financial assistance for child care costs to eligible working families in Maryland. When the CCS income eligibility guidelines were last adjusted in 2002, they were set at 50 percent of the State Median Income (SMI). As the SMI continues to climb over time, CCS income eligibility has not been adjusted, which has effectively resulted in lowering the income eligibility level to around 35 percent of the SMI. We feel it is important for the income eligibility guidelines to be returned to 50 percent of the SMI. Without a corresponding funding increase in the State budget, however, adjusting the income eligibility guidelines will continue to preclude more families from accessing the Program.

We ask our State Delegation to advocate for increased funding for the CCS in the Governor's fiscal 18 budget and to support returning the income eligibility guidelines to 50 percent of the SMI. This will achieve the goals of increasing the subsidy amount for needy families and increasing the number of families who qualify for the subsidy.

- ***Opioid Abuse Prevention and Treatment.*** Along with virtually every community in the State, Montgomery County is facing an epidemic of heroin-related and prescription-opioid related intoxication deaths as opioid abuse continues to grow throughout the State and the country.

To minimize the devastating effects of opioid abuse within the State, we urge our State Delegation to support funding and initiatives related to opioid abuse, including abuse prevention education and overdose prevention training. We also ask for increased operating funds to expand the number of publicly-funded beds available to treat opioid addiction.

With approximately \$1 million from the State, and \$2 million in local funding, Montgomery County purchases addiction treatment beds at the Avery Road Treatment Center (ARTC). Currently, the ARTC has a 60 bed capacity, but at present, the funding levels permit the County's Department of Health and Human Services to only purchase 49 of those beds. To access these publicly-funded treatment beds, individuals "ready for treatment" are placed on a waiting list lasting for two to ten days. During the wait time, these potentially "ready for treatment" addicts lose an opportunity for care and often return to the spiral of addiction. An additional \$1 million in State funding- equalizing the State-County funding ratio- would allow Montgomery County to purchase an additional 15 beds at ARTC once the multi-year State commitment to replace the existing treatment facility is complete.

- ***Intergenerational Poverty.*** People who experience poverty as children are more likely to be poor as adults. This cycle of poverty indicates that the factors experienced by a child in poverty are likely to continue when the child becomes an adult unless there is an effective intervention. To address the cycle of intergenerational poverty, interventions that deliver supports to both generations within a household experiencing poverty are impactful. Connecticut has developed a school-readiness and workforce development model for intergenerational interventions using Temporary Assistance for Needy Families funds to the extent permissible, state grant incentives, and public-private partnerships.

We anticipate the introduction of State legislation this year to create a pilot program to test the Connecticut model in Maryland. We ask that the State Delegation support this legislation, which we hope will identify Montgomery County as a pilot participant, and include necessary funding.

- ***Medicaid Match for County Funds Used to Supplement Wages Paid to Developmental Disability Providers Serving County Clients.*** Montgomery County Health and Human Services (MCDHHS) received permission from the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's Developmental Disability Administration (DDA) to apply for matching

Medicaid funds. MCDHHS hopes to have its proposal ready for submission once it has the new DDA rate information which should be available in February. DDA will need to sign off before the proposal can be forwarded to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. As the State Delegation's budget committee members review the DDA budget, we ask your assistance to ensure that the State remains supportive of the County's efforts to secure federal matching funds and that the application stays on track.

- ***Inclusion of the County's Technology Modernization Program in State Medicaid's Advanced Planning Document (APD) Submission to Draw Down 90-10 Federal Matching Funds.*** The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's (DHMH) APD submission was returned to the State by the Federal government for revisions. DHMH in collaboration with the Maryland Department of Human Resources (DHR) is working on the next draft for submission. One million dollars is included in this submission for Montgomery County Health and Human Services system interfaces to help improve MCDHHS client services. As the State Delegation budget committee members review the DHMH and DHR budgets, we ask for your support of this application and your assistance in making sure it stays on track.
- ***Solutions for Hospitalized Undocumented or Homeless Patients Who Could Be Placed in Less Expensive Settings.*** Although DHMH acknowledges this problem, it has not engaged with the County to identify any systemic solution. MCDHHS believes that vacant nursing home beds or creating medical group homes might be part of the solution. Montgomery County hospitals are engaged. DHMH needs to partner as well. We ask the State Delegation, particularly those members who serve on committees with jurisdiction over health policy and funding issues, to press DHMH to engage with the County and hospitals to identify more cost-effective solutions.

### **Public Safety**

- ***Balancing the Release of Police Body Worn Camera Recordings.*** Sensible guidance is needed to clarify how body worn camera footage is treated under Maryland's Public Information Act (PIA). The PIA was largely created to handle paper documents and only recently updated to better handle static electronic records. However, as law enforcement agencies move forward with implementing body worn camera programs, the PIA still does not address the practical, technical, and privacy challenges facing Maryland law enforcement agencies from potential requests of hundreds of hours of accumulated body worn camera video, all of which must be subjected to attorney review as well as time intensive and tedious technical redaction where appropriate. The release of body worn camera recordings creates many challenges for agencies seeking to implement these important programs. We ask the State Delegation to support legislation that strikes a reasonable balance between providing proper access to body worn camera recordings for affected and involved persons while preventing overbroad, abusive, or invasive requests.



- ***Implementing Community Relations Programs.*** . Now, possibly more than ever, it is critical that Maryland law enforcement agencies focus on best practice recommendations to develop or refine effective community policing and community relations programs. These outreach programs are vital for law enforcement agencies to build trust with residents and communities, contribute to the maintenance of safe neighborhoods, and ultimately meet the mandate of reducing crime and disorder. Effective programs require a commitment of resources including staffing, training, research, and equipment. We request the State Delegation’s support for legislation that would develop best practice recommendations, including the funding for State and local agencies to develop and implement these important programs.
- ***Training Programs for Police Officers.*** Our communities legitimately expect that the police officers with whom they interact and that serve them will be well-trained. The job of a police officer is multi-faceted and varies on an hour to hour basis. Training is vital for law enforcement agencies to effectively keep up with requirements generated by evolving standards and best practices, technology improvements, and community expectations. All areas are important, but appropriate and effective training in broad topics such as community relations, use of force/de-escalation, and interacting with persons suffering from mental illness are examples of areas requiring continual training focus. Effective training programs require a commitment of resources including staffing, facilities, research, and equipment. We request the State Delegation’s support for funding to assist State and local agencies in developing and implementing improved and important training programs.

### **Other Capital Projects**

- ***Avery Road Treatment Center (ARTC) - \$1.2 million***

The County anticipates the inclusion of these funds in the Governor’s fiscal 18 capital budget request as part of a multiyear State commitment to help support the costs of replacing this facility. The ARTC provides residential substance abuse treatment for low-income County residents. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$12.5 million.

- ***Poolesville Economic Development Project - \$5 million***

The Montgomery County Revenue Authority is requesting a fiscal 18 State capital grant to help support the costs of utilizing excess land at the Poolesville Golf Course property, located in the Agricultural Reserve, to develop a custom crush facility, a wine tasting facility, and winery incubator. The State grant will leverage Montgomery County and Town of Poolesville funds. This is an innovative project that will support the winery industry Statewide, regional economic development, agricultural initiatives, and workforce development through partnerships with the State’s public higher education institutions.

- ***Montgomery County Public School (MCPS)*** -- at least \$40 million from the Statewide program and \$12 million from the Targeted Supplemental Grant program

MCPS is requesting \$119 million this year from the State to support its public school construction program. While the request is justified, given the size of the State program, it cannot be realized. A minimum of \$52 million in fiscal 18 State capital funding is necessary to move a limited program forward.

- ***Montgomery County Libraries -- \$338,000***

The County is requesting fiscal 18 State capital funding to renovate the Marilyn Praisner Library (\$214,000) and the Long Branch Library (\$124,000).

- ***Montgomery College -- \$26.5 million***

The County is supporting Montgomery College's fiscal 18 State capital request for three projects:

Germantown Campus, completion of the Science and Applied Studies building - \$2.5 million

Rockville Campus, construction of the Student Services Center - \$18.9 million

Takoma Park / Silver Spring Campus, design of the Math/Science building - \$5.1 million

- ***Universities at Shady Grove -- \$88 million***

The County anticipates the inclusion of these funds in the Governor's fiscal 18 State capital request to complete construction of Building IV. The development of the Universities at Shady Grove is important to the County's economic development strategy. For that reason, the County has also made significant financial investments in this State higher education institution, including paying for the new parking garage to allow the campus to expand.

11/16/16