

COUNCIL COMING ATTRACTIONS



Week of January 22, 2018

Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Savings Plan, Prescription Drug Affordability, Childcare Programs, Out of School Time, Spending Affordability Guidelines, Local Small Business Reserve Program and Vision Zero



Council Coming Attractions is a summary of some of the issues before the Council. All Council staff reports and additional information on each item scheduled for Council or Committee review can be viewed at:

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/ondemand/index.html> .

The Council meeting schedule may change from time to time. The current Council and Committee agendas can also be viewed at:

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/ondemand/index.html> .

The Council meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m.

COUNCIL

Zoning Text Amendment 17-06, Agricultural Zone – Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) Requirements

The Council is scheduled to vote on ZTA 17-06, which would exempt certain dwellings in the Agricultural Zone from the calculation of density under certain circumstances, change the name of “Farm Tenant Dwelling” to “Farm Labor Housing Unit”, and generally amend the provisions concerning the special requirements for the transfer of density. Councilmember Nancy Floreen is the

lead sponsor. The Planning, Housing, and Economic Development (PHED) Committee recommends approval with amendments. The staff report can be viewed at:

http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=169&event_id=7507&meta_id=148065

The recommended amendments are as follows:

- Delete the limit on the number of Farm Labor Housing Units that may be mobile homes.
- Add the following provision, consistent with the grandfathering provision for other structures: "In the event a Farm Labor Housing Unit in existence before June 1, 1958 is rebuilt, the rebuilt unit may be rented to a tenant other than an agricultural worker. The rebuilt dwelling cannot exceed the size of the existing unit."
- Revise the provision concerning the filing of a covenant so that it must be filed before the issuance of a building permit (not before an application for a building permit is filed).

Prescription Drug Affordability Initiative Resolution

The Council is also scheduled to vote on a resolution to support prescription drug affordability. Councilmember Tom Hucker is the lead sponsor. Councilmembers George Leventhal and Sidney Katz are cosponsors. The staff report can be viewed at:

http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=169&event_id=7507&meta_id=148057

The resolution supports three goals:

- allowing pharmacists to provide information to consumers about lower cost drug options;
- requiring prescription drug corporations to provide notice of new, expensive drugs, or large price increases of older drugs, as well as public justification for those pricing decisions; and,
- making expensive drugs more affordable by creating a new Prescription Drug Cost Review Commission to establish payment rates for expensive drugs that create significant affordability problems for Marylanders, building upon Maryland's successful tradition of health care cost scrutiny.

COMMITTEE

OLO Report 2018-3, Impact of Infant and Toddler Childcare Programs

On January 22 at 9:30 a.m. the Health and Human Services (HHS) and Education (ED) Committees will meet jointly to review OLO Report 2018-3, Impact of Infant and Toddler Childcare Programs. The Council tasked the Office of Legislative Oversight to develop this report describing the impact of infant and toddler programs as follow up to last year's Pre-K Report. This report synthesizes the research describing the impact of high-quality infant and toddler childcare. Three major findings emerge from OLO's review: (1) High-quality infant and toddler care can help narrow the school readiness gap by income; (2) The long-term benefits of high-quality infant and toddler programs exceed their initial costs; and (3) The return on investment for high-quality infant and toddler childcare programs is on par with other early childhood education programs, including Pre-K.

The staff report can be viewed at:

http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=169&event_id=7546&meta_id=147963

The discussion will focus on the following questions:

- What strategies can be undertaken to enhance the quality of current infant and toddler childcare slots in the County?
- If the County or the State expands publicly funded Pre-K, what strategies can be undertaken to maintain the quality and quantity of existing infant and toddler childcare slots?

OLO Report 2018-2, Local Perspectives on Out of School Time in Montgomery County

The HHS and ED Committees also will discuss OLO Report 2018-2, Local Perspectives on Out of School Time in Montgomery County, which responds to the Council's request for OLO to assess the

availability of and need for out of school time (OOST) activities locally. OOST includes any activity with adult supervision that occurs regularly outside of school hours and serves children in groups. OLO conducted online surveys of OOST providers and Parent-Teacher Association members and conducted interviews and focus groups to gather information. Overall, OLO finds that while OOST program offerings in the County generally align with parents' priorities and preferences, many families face barriers in access, and providers face numerous challenges serving low-income families.

The staff report can be viewed at:

http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/Viewer.php?view_id=169&event_id=7546&meta_id=147965

The discussion will focus on the following issues:

- opportunities to support OOST programming in high-poverty schools;
- strategies for enhancing affordability and access;
- approaches for meeting demand for more bilingual programs;
- County and MCPS roles in disseminating information on OOST programs; and
- Opportunities to make the system for reserving and using public facilities more user-friendly.

Health and Human Services (HHS) Committee

On January 22 at 10:30 a.m. the HHS Committee will continue its review of the recommended FY18 Savings Plan, which is based on Department of Finance estimates that indicate lower than expected income tax revenue. Uma Ahluwalia, Director of the Department of Health and Human Services, as well as representatives from the Office of Management and Budget, are expected to attend. The Committee will focus on five items for the Department of Health and Human Services that were reviewed at the January 18 meeting. The staff report can be viewed at:

http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/Viewer.php?view_id=169&event_id=7546&meta_id=147967

The issues to be discussed include:

- Centro Nia Pre-K Contract
- State Child Care Supplement
- Center for Adoption Support and Education (CASE) Post-Adoption Services
- Additional Personnel Lapse Savings
- Mental Health Court expansion

Spending Affordability Guidelines for the FY19 Capital Budget

On January 24 at 1 p.m. the Government Operations and Fiscal Policy (GO) Committee will discuss Spending Affordability Guidelines for the FY19 Capital Budget and other general Capital Improvements Program (CIP) assumptions. The staff report will be available on January 22.

The Committee will prepare its recommendations for the Council's February 6 review, which is the deadline for the Council to either confirm or amend the guidelines. Any February revision is supposed to "reflect a significant change in conditions" regarding affordability, and not take need into account. After February 6 the Council can adopt an aggregate capital budget that has expenditures that exceed the guidelines, but only with seven or more affirmative votes. Public hearings on the FY19 Capital Budget and FY19-24 Capital Improvements Program will be held on February 6 at 7:30 p.m. and February 7 at 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Follow-up discussion – OLO Report 2017-12, Federal Grant Administration - Amendments

The GO Committee also will hold a follow-up discussion on OLO Report 2017-12, Federal Grant Administration – Amendments, which responds to the Council's request to review the processes by which the County makes decisions to pursue federal grant opportunities and how grant applications are subsequently developed. Lenny Moore, Controller, Department of Finance, and Jelani Newton,

Operating Budget Manager at the Office of Management and Budget, are expected to represent the Executive branch at the meeting. The staff report will be available on January 22.

To better understand how departments research, apply for, and manage federal grants, OLO contacted staff from 33 departments from February through May 2017. In sum, OLO found that departments pursue grants when there is staff capacity, the grant aligns with the department's mission, and the effort is feasible in terms of cost and administrative capabilities. However, variation in department practices influences the type of grants pursued and opportunities exist to increase capacity and transparency of grant operations. The discussion will focus on the following questions:

- What opportunities exist to streamline the internal management of grants and the review process?
- What are the benefits and drawbacks of creating a central grants repository/tracking system?
- What opportunities exist to establish a central grants office or formalized grant network? How would this best serve departments?
- Are there opportunities to evaluate the hiring and procurement processes for grants with short award periods?
- What opportunities exist to research and apply for private grants? Could these methods be shared among departments? How would this be tracked and reported?

Bill 37-17, Local Small Business Reserve Program – Eligibility – Amendments

The GO Committee also will review Bill 37-17, Local Small Business Reserve Program – Eligibility – Amendments, which would increase the aggregate dollar amount of County contracts awarded to a business before the business is no longer eligible for a procurement under the Local Small Business Reserve Program. The staff report will be available on January 22.

- The Local Small Business Reserve Program (LSBRP) was established by Bill 23-04, Contracts and Procurement – Local Small Business Reserve Program, effective January 1, 2006. The legislative intent of the program is to enhance the competitiveness of County-based small businesses by creating a separate defined market in which small businesses could compete against each other for County contracts, broaden the pool of local small vendors doing business with the County, and encourage the County's economic growth by enhancing the business climate for local small businesses.
- Under current law, a local small business is no longer eligible for a procurement under the LSBRP if the business has been awarded \$10 million in the aggregate in County contracts and at least 10 separate contracts, as either a prime contractor or a subcontractor. Bill 37-17 would increase the aggregate dollar amount of County contracts a local small business can receive before "graduating" from the Program.

Briefing – Vision Zero

On January 25 at 9:30 a.m. the Public Safety (PS) and Transportation, Energy, Infrastructure and Environment (T&E) Committees will meet jointly to receive a briefing on Vision Zero. The County implemented this long-term plan to help eliminate fatalities and severe injuries on our roads by 2030. The County's plan puts resources in place to reduce severe and fatal collisions on County roads by 35 percent for vehicle occupants, bicyclists, and pedestrians, by November 2019. Action items in the plan are organized into five key areas: engineering, enforcement, education and training, traffic incident management, and law, policy and advocacy. The staff report will be available on January 23.