

COUNCIL COMING ATTRACTIONS



Week of November 12, 2018

Pedestrian Safety, Compensation Cost Trends, Homestay Rental License Appeals, Environmental Sustainability and Special Appropriations for M-NCPPC



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. on Tuesday, November 12 with proclamation presentations.

-  Council President Hans Riemer will recognize the 40th Anniversary of the Commission on People with Disabilities
-  Riemer also will recognize the Jewish Social Service Agency (JSSA) for being named the best employment program for people with disabilities in the State of Maryland

COUNCIL

-  **Amendment to the FY19-24 Capital Improvements Program and Special Appropriation to the FY19 Capital Budget, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Department of Parks - \$1,000,000 for Small Grant/Donor-Assisted Capital Improvements (Source: Contributions)**

On Tuesday, November 13 at 10 a.m. the Council is scheduled to review and vote on a \$1 million special appropriation and a CIP amendment for the Department of Parks for Small Grant/Donor-Assisted Capital Improvements. The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) has requested this supplemental appropriation and CIP amendment so staff can spend the funds raised by the Montgomery Parks Foundation and through other non-County sources. The Council staff report can be viewed at:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2018/20181113/20181113_3.pdf

 **Amendment to the FY19-24 Capital Improvements Program and Special Appropriation to the FY19 Capital Budget, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Department of Parks - \$116,562 for Acquisition: Local Parks (Source: State Aid)**

The Council is scheduled to review and vote on \$116,562 special appropriation and a CIP amendment for the Department of Parks - Acquisition: Local Parks. This action is needed to allow M-NCPPC to use State Program Open Space (POS) funds. The Council staff report can be viewed at: https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2018/20181113/20181113_4.pdf

 **Amendment to the FY19-24 Capital Improvements Program and Special Appropriation to the FY19 Capital Budget, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Department of Parks - \$99,500 for ADA Compliance: Non-Local Parks (Source: State Aid)**

The Council is scheduled to review and vote on a \$99,500 special appropriation to the CIP for ADA Compliance: Non-Local Parks. This project gives the Parks Department the means to ensure that all park facilities meet the requirements of Title II of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design. This action is needed to allow M-NCPPC to spend funds from a State of Maryland grant. The Council staff report can be viewed at: https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2018/20181113/20181113_5.pdf

 **Amendment to the FY19-24 Capital Improvements Program and Special Appropriation to the FY19 Capital Budget, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Department of Parks - \$180,000 for Minor New Construction - Non-Local Parks (Source: GO Bonds)**

The Council is scheduled to review and vote on a \$180,000 special appropriation and CIP amendment for Minor New Construction – Non-Local Parks to make renovations and other improvements to the Maydale Nature Center. The Council staff report can be viewed at: https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2018/20181113/20181113_6.pdf

 **Amendment to the FY19-24 Capital Improvements Program and Special Appropriation to the FY19 Capital Budget, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Parks Department, \$680,000 for Josiah Henson Historic Park (Source: Program Open Space/GO Bonds/Contributions/State Aid)**

The Council is scheduled to review and vote on a \$680,000 special appropriation and a CIP amendment for Josiah Henson Historic Park. This special appropriation is necessary to allow the Parks Department to use \$500,000 from State Program Open Space funds; switch \$200,000 from Contributions to State Aid; and allocate \$630,000 to G.O. Bonds. The Council staff report can be viewed at:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2018/20181113/20181113_7.pdf

 **Expedited Bill 36-18, Transportation Management – Transportation Demand Management Plan – Amendments**

The Council will introduce Expedited Bill 36-18, Transportation Management – Transportation Demand Management Plan – Amendments. Council President Hans Riemer is the lead sponsor, at the request of the County Executive. Expedited Bill 36-18 would do the following:

- expand transportation demand management to reduce traffic congestion and automobile emissions, support multi-modal transportation and non-automobile travel goals, enhance the efficient use of transportation infrastructure and promote the sustainability of existing and future development; and
- establish the requirements for a transportation demand management plan for development in certain areas of the County.

The goal of this legislation is to reduce traffic congestion and automobile emissions and to support multi-modal transportation. A public hearing is tentatively scheduled for December 4 at 1:30 p.m. The Council staff report can be viewed at:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2018/20181113/20181113_8A.pdf

Key search terms for Expedited Bill 36-18 on the Council’s website include: traffic, transportation, transportation demand management and multimodal transportation. #TrafficRelief is being used for this item on social media.

 **Expedited Bill 37-18, Transient Housing – Short Term Rental License - Appeals**

The Council will introduce Expedited Bill 37-18, Transient Housing – Short Term Rental License – Appeals. Councilmember Nancy Floreen is the lead sponsor. Expedited Bill 37-18 would amend the appeal process for short-term rental licenses. The goal of this bill is to help ensure that residents aggrieved by an approval, denial, revocation or suspension of a bed and breakfast license or homestay rental license can quickly and efficiently appeal and receive a decision from the Board of Appeals. A public hearing is tentatively scheduled for December 4 at 1:30 p.m. The Council staff report can be viewed at:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2018/20181113/20181113_8B.pdf

Key search terms for Expedited Bill 37-18 include: homestays, short-term rentals, home rental and license appeal. #HomestayLicenses is being used for this item on social media.

 **Expedited Bill 38-18, Weapons – Urban Area – Boundary**

The Council will introduce Expedited Bill 38-18, Weapons – Urban Area – Boundary. Council President Hans Riemer is the lead sponsor, at the request of the County Executive. A public hearing is tentatively scheduled for December 4 at 1:30 p.m. Expedited Bill 38-18 would change the boundaries of the urban area which has remained the same for 20 years. The boundary change includes nine dwellings and vacant property west of Kruhm Road in Burtonsville. The discharge of firearms is prohibited in the urban area. The goal of this bill is to extend the urban area to increase public safety. An increase in the number of firearm discharges in this area has prompted the introductions of this bill. The Council staff report can be viewed at:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2018/20181113/20181113_8C.pdf

Key search terms for Expedited Bill 38-18 include: urban area, firearm discharge and weapon discharge. #GunSafety is being used for this item on social media.

 **Expedited Bill 39-18, Domestic Violence Coordinating Council – Membership - Amendments**

The Council will introduce Expedited Bill 39-18, Domestic Violence Coordinating Council – Membership – Amendments. Councilmember Sidney Katz is the lead sponsor. Expedited Bill 39-18 would add two members to the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC), extend the term of the chair of the Council and modify the requirements for the student member. The goal of this legislation is to enhance the ability of the DVCC to accomplish its mission. The Council staff report can be viewed at:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2018/20181113/20181113_8D.pdf

 **Bill 34-18, Human Rights and Civil Liberties – County Minimum Wage – Definitions – Employer**

The Council is scheduled to vote on Bill 34-18, Human Rights and Civil Liberties – County Minimum Wage – Definitions – Employer. Council President Hans Riemer is the lead sponsor. Councilmember Tom Hucker is a cosponsor. Bill 34-18 would modify the definition of “employer” in the County’s minimum wage law, so that employers of “one or more persons in the County” would be required to pay the County minimum wage. The bill does not change the rate of the minimum wage, nor does it change any of the scheduled increases under the existing law. The goal of the bill is to require payment of the County minimum wage to workers who are the sole employee of their employers and make the applicability of the County minimum wage consistent with the County Sick and Safe Leave law. The Health and Human Services (HHS) Committee recommends enactment. The Council staff report can be viewed at:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2018/20181113/20181113_9A.pdf

 **Bill 33-18 Environmental Sustainability - Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy Program (C-PACE) - Property Tax Surcharge**

The Council is scheduled to vote on Bill 33-18, Environmental Sustainability - Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy Program (C-PACE) - Property Tax Surcharge. Councilmember Roger Berliner is the lead sponsor. Councilmembers Sidney Katz, Marc Elrich, Council President Hans Riemer, Councilmember Tom Hucker, Council Vice President Nancy Navarro and Councilmember Craig Rice are cosponsors. Bill 33-18 would require the County to add the property tax surcharge to the property tax bill within a certain timeframe. Under current law, the County places the tax surcharge to collect a C-PACE loan after the project is completed. Bill 33-18 would require the surcharge to be placed on the following July 1 after the execution of a clean energy loan financing agreement. The Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy and Environment (T&E) Committee recommends with an amendment to:

- remove the requirement that the surcharge be placed on the July 1 property tax bill after the execution of a clean energy loan financing agreement; and
- allow the placement of the surcharge at project approval instead of project completion by removing the requirement that the property owner had already obtained permits and that the improvement had been already permanently affixed to the property and instead requiring the owner to confirm that the improvements will be permitted and will be permanently affixed to the property.

The Council staff report can be viewed at:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2018/20181113/20181113_9B.pdf

 **Compensation Cost Trends**

At 11 a.m. the Council will receive an update on trends in the cost of County government compensation. The Council President requested this briefing as a continuation of previous Office of Legislative Oversight and Council staff work and in alignment with the Council’s request during the FY19 budget deliberations that staff “continue to review the long-term sustainability of all agency compensation and benefits costs in the context of continued slow revenue growth and the potential impact of fiscal decisions by the federal government.” The briefing will examine the sustainability of employee compensation and benefits in the context of the County’s overall budget. The Council staff report can be viewed at:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2018/20181113/20181113_10.pdf

 **Pedestrian and traffic safety along State highways**

At 2 p.m. the Council will receive a briefing on pedestrian and traffic safety along State highways. This briefing is the result of an October 16 letter spearheaded by Council Vice President Nancy Navarro, in which the Council requested that Governor Larry Hogan and Maryland Department of

Transportation (DOT) Secretary Pete Rahn provide immediate pedestrian safety relief along Georgia Ave. (MD 97). The letter requests that the speed limit, which is currently 45 miles per hour, on Georgia Ave. be reduced. The letter also calls on the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) to take a more proactive approach to protecting pedestrians along state highways to reduce accidents. The letter followed the October 9 motor vehicle accident in which four young students were struck by a vehicle while walking to a school bus stop on northbound Georgia Ave. in the Aspen Hill community. Those expected to attend include the following: Captain Thomas Didone, Traffic Division Director, Montgomery County Department of Police; Todd Watkins, Transportation Director, Montgomery County Public Schools; Wade Holland, CountyStat, who is serving as the interim Vision Zero Coordinator; Al Roshdieh, Director, Montgomery County Department of Transportation; Christopher Conklin, Deputy Director for Transportation Policy, MCDOT; and Kristy Daphnis, Chair, Pedestrian, Bicycle and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee. The Council staff report can be viewed at:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2018/20181113/20181113_11red.pdf

COMMITTEE

Amendment to the FY 19-24 CIP and Special Appropriation to the FY19 Budget, Department of Police, \$6,550,000 for the Public Safety Communications Center

On November 15 at 2 p.m. the Public Safety (PS) Committee will meet to review a special appropriation of \$6,550,000 for the purchase of the Public Safety Communications Center, which is currently in leased space. The source of the funds is G.O. Bonds. The Council staff report will be available on November 13.

Office of Legislative Oversight Report 2018-10: Evictions in Montgomery County

The PS Committee will close out its meeting by reviewing Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) Report 2018-10: Evictions in Montgomery County. This report reviews the eviction process in the County and evictions data to help the County understand how it might better assist low-income households facing eviction and prevent homelessness. Overall, this report finds that the County funds several programs that assist households facing eviction, and that the Sheriff's Office collaborates effectively with those efforts. However, this report identifies several opportunities to better help households avoid eviction and prevent homelessness. The report makes the following recommendations:

- Request that the Executive revise the County's plain-language lease summary to more clearly define a tenant's rent obligations and to provide contact information for eviction assistance programs.
- Request that the Executive report to the Council on opportunities to work with the landlords of high-writ, high-eviction multi-family properties to develop strategies to reduce evictions.
- Request that the Executive collect and report data on emergency financial assistance grant recipients including: zip code, gender, race, household income, and repeated use of the program.

The full report can be viewed at:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OLO/Resources/Files/2018%20Reports/2018_10EvictionsMontgomeryCounty.pdf

The Council staff report will be available on November 13.