

COUNCIL COMING ATTRACTIONS



Week of June 10, 2019

Racial Equity Profile for Montgomery County and Update on Racial Equity and Social Justice Initiative, Interviews for Planning Board, Tenant Health and Safety, and Sealants and Stormwater Management

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> .

- 🕒 On Tuesday, June 11 at 9:30 a.m. the Council will honor Steve Goldstein, Ph.D, former chief of staff to Councilmember Craig Rice.
- 🕒 Councilmember Rice will present a proclamation recognizing Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week.
- 🕒 The Council will hold interviews for the Planning Board at 2:15 p.m. on Tuesday.

COUNCIL

Racial Equity and Social Justice Initiative

On Tuesday the Council will receive an update on the Racial Equity and Social Justice Initiative. The Government Alliance on Racial Equity (GARE) defines racial equity as “when race can no longer be used to predict life outcomes and outcomes for all groups are improved.” Racial equity and social justice are urgent moral and socioeconomic endeavors for our community. Montgomery County’s population has changed, both in numbers and in diversity. Addressing issues of racial equity is not only an ethical obligation; it is essential to ensure the continued economic vitality of our community.

Montgomery County leaders recognize that government at all levels has helped to create and maintain systemic racial inequality. These same leaders and community members have committed themselves to envisioning and operationalizing policies to institutionalize new models of governing that use the lessons from the past to create a more equitable future.

This process began in 2018 with a Montgomery County Council resolution, which was spearheaded by Council President Nancy Navarro and co-sponsored by County Executive Marc Elrich. This process includes reports on racial equity and racial disparities by the Council's Office of Legislative Oversight; leadership training through the Racial Equity Institute and Leadership Montgomery; and ongoing work among government leaders and staff to create a Racial Equity and Social Justice Policy for Montgomery County Government.

In Jan. 2019, as part of the County leadership trainings on racial equity, which included leaders from the Executive Branch, Montgomery County Public Schools, Montgomery Planning and other agencies, Council President Nancy Navarro shared the Council's timeline for developing a Racial Equity and Social Justice Policy with legislation being introduced in the fall of 2019. Council President Navarro also invited other agencies to join in the process of creating and applying a racial equity and social justice lens to decision-making. Council President Navarro and County Executive Marc Elrich launched a community engagement campaign on March 13 at the Silver Spring Civic Center that included the release of Community Conversation Toolkits in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

The Council President with support from the Executive Branch also launched the ["Equity Matters" website](#). Its contents are updated by the Legislative Information Office, including a calendar for upcoming activities that will culminate in the development of a Racial Equity and Social Justice Policy for the County. Activities undertaken to date include:

- March 13 Press Conference and Community Conversation in Silver Spring;
- April 1 launch of community-based Community Conversations and surveys; and
- April 8 Youth Forum on Racial Equity and Social Justice in Gaithersburg.

A second County Government community conversation is scheduled for June 26 in Germantown at the BlackRock Center for the Arts. Individuals and community-based organizations have been asked to complete their community conversations by July 15 to inform the Council's development of a proposed Racial Equity and Social Justice Policy in the fall. The Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) will develop a report summarizing feedback received from the community conversations.

The discussion will include a briefing on OLO Report 2018-8, Racial Equity in Government Decision Making: Lessons from the Field, and a briefing on the more recent OLO Report 2019-7, Racial Equity Profile for Montgomery County, which will be released at the Council meeting. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2019/20190611/20190611_3.pdf

OLO Report 2019-7, Racial Equity Profile for Montgomery County

The Jupiter Independent Research Group compiled the Racial Equity Profile for Montgomery County, which provides benchmarking data that describes how racial and ethnic groups in the County are meeting expected levels of performance. This report will be released on June 11.

OLO Report 2018-8, Racial Equity in Government Decision Making: Lessons from the Field

The Council will receive a briefing on OLO Report #2018-8, Racial Equity in Government Decision Making: Lessons from the Field. In April 2018 Council President Nancy Navarro asked the Office of Legislative Oversight to develop a report describing current disparities in education, employment, housing, health, employment, land use, and other measures of opportunity by May 31, 2019. She introduced a resolution, which was passed in April, calling on County leaders to look at disparity data and work with community leaders and the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE), which is a national network of government representatives working to achieve racial equity, to establish an equity policy framework that will be used to make future decisions.

The Council asked OLO to develop this report as part of the FY18 OLO Work Program in July 2017. This report describes promising practices for advancing racial equity in government decision-making based on a review of the research and local practices. Four findings emerge from OLO's review:

- Racial disparities are pervasive, creating burdens for communities and people of color.
- Narrowing racial disparities requires focused attention on race, addressing institutional racism, and public policies and practices targeting institutions and systems rather than individuals.
- Best practices for advancing racial equity suggest that local governments jurisdictions should focus on three goals: normalizing, organizing, and operationalizing for racial equity.
- Leading jurisdictions have taken multi-pronged approaches to advancing racial equity that align with best practices. However, there is no one way for jurisdictions to advance racial equity.

Based on these findings, OLO offered a list of recommendations for County action to prioritize racial equity in government decision-making in Montgomery County, and some of these efforts have already been completed. The full report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OLO/Resources/Files/2018%20Reports/OLOReport2018_8.pdf

PUBLIC HEARINGS

All public hearings will be held on June 11 at 1:30 p.m.

Resolution to Amend 2016-2020 Subdivision Staging Policy (SSP) Regarding Blighted/Condemned Buildings or Affordable Housing

The Council will hold a public hearing on a resolution to amend the 2016-2020 SSP regarding blighted and condemned buildings or affordable housing. Councilmembers Craig Rice and Hans Riemer are the sponsors of this amendment, which would allow a project with housing to be approved in a cluster or individual school service area that is in moratorium, if the project would generate ten or fewer school students (among other conditions). The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2019/20190611/20190611_4.pdf

Declaration of No Further Need: Disposition of Darnestown Telecommunications Tower

The Council will hold a public hearing and vote on a Declaration of No Further Need: Disposition of Darnestown Telecommunications Tower. This resolution would approve the disposition of space on the telecommunications tower located at 12100 Darnestown Road, the site of Rockville Fire Station #31, and use of adjoining land for a 2,000 square foot base station. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2019/20190611/20190611_5.pdf

Bill 10-19, Legislative Branch - Economic Impact Statements – Amendments

The Council will hold a public hearing on Bill 10-19, Legislative Branch - Economic Impact Statements - Amendments. Councilmember Andrew Friedson is the lead sponsor. All other Councilmembers are cosponsors. The goal of this bill is to ensure that the economic impacts of new legislation on residents, on the County's budget and on businesses and other stakeholders is thoroughly assessed. A Government Operations and Fiscal Policy (GO) Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 15. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2019/20190611/20190611_6.pdf

Key search terms for this legislation on the Council's website include: economic impact statements, Office of Legislative Oversight and legislative analysis. #MoCoEconomicImpact is being used for this bill on social media.

Bill 11-19, Administration - Internal Audit - Inspector General – Amendments

The Council will hold a public hearing on Bill 11-19, Administration - Internal Audit - Inspector General - Amendments. The Audit Committee is the lead sponsor. The goal of this bill is to improve the legislative

oversight of the County's internal accounting and contracting processes. A GO Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 15. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2019/20190611/20190611_7.pdf

COMMITTEES

Department of Housing and Community Affairs (DHCA) Tenant Advocacy Services

On June 10 at 9:30 a.m. the Planning, Housing and Economic Development Committee will review DHCA's tenant advocacy services. DHCA is responsible for inspecting apartment buildings for certain safe housing conditions, promoting tenant rights and maintaining a marketplace that is fair to both tenants and landlords. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/cm/2019/20190610/20190610_PHED1.pdf

Bill 6-19, Landlord-Tenant Relations - Termination of Lease - Tenant Health and Safety

The PHED Committee will review Bill 6-19, Landlord-Tenant Relations - Termination of Lease - Tenant Health and Safety. Councilmember Tom Hucker is the lead sponsor. All other Councilmembers are cosponsors. Bill 6-19 would require each lease for rental housing located in the County to allow the tenant to terminate the lease if the landlord does not correct a violation of applicable law that adversely affects the immediate health and safety of the tenant in the tenant's unit or a common area available for use by the tenant within 30 days after being ordered to do so by the Department. The goal of this bill is to allow tenants to protect their health by providing them an opportunity to terminate their lease if there are serious health and safety violations that remain uncorrected. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/cm/2019/20190610/20190610_PHED2.pdf

Key search terms for this legislation on the Council's website include: renter, tenant, lease, health and safety. #MoCoRentersRights is being used for this bill on social media.

Executive Regulation 3-19, Position Description: Deputy Director of DHCA

On June 10 at 2 p.m. the PHED Committee will close out its meeting with a review of Executive Regulation 3-19, Position Description: Deputy Director of DHCA. This regulation establishes the position description for the deputy director of DHCA, which is a non-merit position. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/cm/2019/20190610/20190610_PHED3.pdf

Executive Regulation 10-19, Position Description: Deputy Director of Operations, Department of Transportation (DOT)

The T&E Committee will review Executive Regulation 10-19, Position Description: Deputy Director of Operations, DOT. This regulation establishes the position description for Deputy Director of Operations, DOT, which is a non-merit position. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/cm/2019/20190610/20190610_TE2-3.pdf

Executive Regulation 4-19, Position Description: Transportation Policy Officer, DOT

The T&E Committee will review Executive Regulation 4-19, Position Description: Transportation Policy Officer, DOT. Under the executive appointment of the County Executive and reporting to the Director, Department of Transportation, the Transportation Policy Officer (TPO) is responsible for shaping and implementing a complex transportation network for the County. This is an appointed, non-merit position in the County Government. The TPO is also responsible for ensuring the alignment and integration of strategies for the transportation, transportation planning, public works and municipal parking functions. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/cm/2019/20190610/20190610_TE2-3.pdf

Facility Planning Review: Dale Drive Pedestrian Improvements Project

The T&E Committee will close out its meeting with a review of the Dale Drive Pedestrian Improvements Project. The Council has programmed \$450,000 under this project to conduct facility planning for pedestrian safety and other improvements on Dale Drive/Columbia Boulevard between Georgia Avenue and Colesville Road. The Facility Planning Study for this project includes long-term pedestrian facility improvements on Dale Drive, such as concrete sidewalk, shared use path and various traffic safety measures. DOT staff will provide an update on this project. The Council staff report can be viewed here: https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/cm/2019/20190610/20190610_TE4.pdf

PHED Business Advisory Roundtable

On June 12 at 8:30 a.m. the PHED Committee will hold a business advisory roundtable. Topics that will be discussed include private-sector job growth, how to best use government partners to expand the local economy and growth strategies and County assets to be leveraged. Those expected to attend include David Petr, president and CEO of the Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation (MCEDC), Bill Tompkins, chief operating officer of MCEDC; and corporate leaders. The Council staff report will be available on June 10.