

COUNCIL COMING ATTRACTIONS



Week of December 9, 2019

Great Seneca Science Corridor, Tree Canopy Fees, Update on County Revenues, Compensation Cost Trends, Ballfield Renovations & Maintenance, OLO Report on Performance and Opportunity Gaps in Education & Public Education Fund

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 will meet on Tuesday, December 10 at 9:30 a.m.

COUNCIL

Amendment to Montgomery County Planning Department's Work Program: Addition of Great Seneca Science Corridor Minor Master Plan Amendment

On Tuesday, December 10 the Council will review an amendment to the Montgomery County Planning Department's work program to add a minor master plan amendment for the Great Seneca Science Corridor. The Great Seneca Science Corridor Master Plan, approved in 2010, set limits on how much development is allowed according to four stages. The minor master plan amendment would evaluate the staging elements of the plan. Currently, Stage 2 has not been met, preventing approval of additional development in the master plan area until certain transportation thresholds can be achieved.

In October, Councilmember Hans Riemer, chair of the Planning, Housing, and Economic Development Committee, sent a letter to his Council colleagues requesting that a Great Seneca Science Corridor Minor Master Plan Amendment be added to the Planning Department's work program. During discussion of this proposal at the Planning Department's Semi-Annual Report, the Council requested that Planning Director Gwen Wright consider the amendment and provide the Council with her thoughts on the timing, scope and coordination of such an amendment with other work program items. The Planning Department supports adding the work program item, suggesting a 12-month schedule to begin in May 2020 with plan review before the County Council in the Spring of 2021. The following individuals are expected to attend the Council meeting on this issue: Casey Anderson, chair, Montgomery County Planning Board; Gwen Wright,

director, Planning Department; Robert Kronenberg, deputy director, Planning Department; and Carrie Sanders, chief Area 2, Planning Department. The Council staff report can be viewed here:
https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2019/20191210/20191210_4.pdf

Bill 41-19, Tree Canopy Fees - Exemptions

The Council will introduce Bill 41-19, which would amend tree canopy fees exemptions to include land disturbances by any public use airport, and generally amend the provisions for tree canopy fee exemptions. Councilmember Craig Rice is the lead sponsor. The goal of this legislation is to assist airport operations by eliminating future tree canopy fees for public airports and refund any fees paid since January 1, 2017. A public hearing is scheduled for January 21, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. The Council staff report can be viewed here:
https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2019/20191210/20191210_5A.pdf

Update on County Revenues

Each December the Council receives an update from the County's Department of Finance and the Office of Management and Budget about the County's revenues. Tuesday's discussion will focus on the revenue revisions since the Council approved the budget at the end of May. Council President Sidney Katz will be scheduling an additional discussion in January to further explore these revenue revisions and potential budgetary impacts. It is important to note that the County's Fiscal Plan does not provide a granular preview of the upcoming fiscal year's operating budget, as these expenditures and available revenue come into focus when the Council receives the Executive's recommended budget and begins its process of review in April. The following individuals are expected to attend the meeting: Mike Coveyou, acting director, Department of Finance; Rich Madaleno, director, Office of Management and Budget; and David Platt, chief economist, Department of Finance.

Some of the key points of the report are as follows:

- Fiscal year (FY) 2021 revenues are estimated to decrease by 0.2 percent from FY20. The County's total revenues for FY21 are \$99.8 million less than the approved Fiscal Plan. The Department of Finance estimates a continued downward revision for property tax revenues and a downward revision to the income tax revenues to offset the one-time increase in FY20.
- Beginning general fund reserves are less than the FY20 approved amount. The County ended FY19 with fewer resources than estimated in March. The result is that FY20 began with \$60.1 million less in reserves than approved. The updated Fiscal Plan displays FY20 ending with reserves at 8.9 percent below the Council's policy level.
- The FY19 closeout shortfall and reductions in revenue estimates for FY21 lead the Office of Management and Budget to conclude that agency spending needs to be reduced by 2.8 percent or \$130.1 million.
- The FY20 revenues are slightly above June's estimate. The County's total revenues are estimated to end FY20 with an additional \$17.7 million when compared to the June approved Fiscal Plan. The County experienced a one-time increase from income tax revenues, which is mostly offset by a downward revision from the property and transfer tax revenues.
- Non-agency allocations are at the policy level for FY21 and beyond. The updated Fiscal Plan continues to fund these items (e.g., debt service, additions to reserves, etc.) at the Council's recommended policy level and sets aside \$20 million for contingencies for FY21-26.

The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2019/20191210/20191210_6.pdf

Compensation Cost Trends

The Council will review compensation cost trends with a focus on long-term compensation cost sustainability. This review will include a review of updated one-year and six-year compensation cost trend data; a comparison of cost projects with updated revenue projections through FY25; and a recommendation that the Council adopt a policy statement relating to how long-term compensation cost sustainability is addressed as part of the County Executive's recommended operating budget. Key takeaways from prior reviews of compensation cost trends and a summary of current issues under review can be found on pages one through four of the Council staff report, which can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2019/20191210/20191210_7.pdf

Resolution to amend Resolution 19-128, Section G, FY20 Designation of Entities for Non-Competitive Contract Award Status: Montgomery County Renters Alliance, Inc.

The Council is scheduled to vote on a resolution that would authorize the Department of Housing and Community Affairs to enter into a new contract with the Renters Alliance with a maximum amount of \$70,000 to provide matching funds for a \$100,000 grant from the State of Maryland for education and outreach events in coordination with Montgomery County's strategic plan to ensure an accurate U.S. census count. The contract will be funded through the existing General Fund appropriation. No new appropriation is required. Council staff recommends approval. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2019/20191210/20191210_7-1.pdf

PUBLIC HEARINGS

All public hearings will be held on Tuesday, December 10 at 1:30 p.m.

Supplemental appropriation to the County Government's Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20) Operating Budget, Department of Finance - \$500,000 for the Economic Development Fund Grant and Loan Program

The Council will hold a public hearing and vote on a supplemental appropriation of \$500,000 to the FY20 Operating Budget for the Department of Finance for the Economic Development Fund Grant and Loan Program. This appropriation would support the expansion of Supernus Pharmaceuticals in Montgomery County. The County Executive must fund all business incentive packages that are valued at more than \$500,000 through a supplemental appropriation. Supernus Pharmaceuticals intends to invest approximately \$18.2 million to relocate its headquarters within the County. The project includes an additional 68,000 square feet of leased space and 160 jobs above its current base. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2019/20191210/20191210_8.pdf

Supplemental appropriation to the County Government's FY20 Capital Budget and amendment to the FY19-24 Capital Improvements Program (CIP), Department of Transportation - \$15,910,000 for the White Flint West Workaround

The Council will hold a public hearing and vote on a supplemental appropriation to the FY20 Capital Budget and Amendment to the FY19-24 CIP of the Department of Transportation for the White Flint West Workaround. The supplemental appropriation and amendment are needed due to design changes for storm drain and utility conflicts, land acquisitions, utility relocations and related construction costs. The revised project description form also reflects the fact that the estimated cost of relocating certain water and sanitary lines will be split roughly evenly between the County and the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission. On Nov. 25 the Council received a memorandum from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) noting a correction to the requested appropriation: the amount to be authorized should be \$18,168,000, not \$15,910,000. Council staff recommends approving the CIP amendment and supplemental appropriation for \$18,168,000. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2019/20191210/20191210_9.pdf

Supplemental appropriation to the County Government's FY20 Capital Budget, Department of General Services - \$2,253,000 for Rockville Core Grey Courthouse project

The Council will hold a public hearing and vote on a supplemental appropriation of \$2,253,000 to the FY20 Capital Budget of the Department of General Services for the Rockville Core Grey Courthouse project. The County Executive is requesting the balance of the appropriation necessary to renovate the Grey Courthouse which, when completed in the fall of 2020, will house certain County offices that are now in leased space. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2019/20191210/20191210_10.pdf

Special appropriation to the County Government's FY20 Operating Budget, Bethesda Urban District - \$60,000 for Pike District Placemaking Study

The Council will hold a public hearing and vote on a special appropriation of \$60,000 to the County's FY20 Operating Budget for the Pike District Placemaking Study. Councilmembers Andrew Friedson and Hans Riemer are the lead sponsors. They are recommending a supplemental appropriation to the FY20 Operating Budget for the Bethesda Urban District in the amount of \$60,000. This appropriation would fund a study to identify placemaking improvements in the White Flint Sector Plan area. This increase is needed to advance current placemaking efforts within the Pike District that are essential to implement the vision of the 2010 White Flint Sector Plan. The source of the funds would be the General Fund reserves. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2019/20191210/20191210_11.pdf

COMMITTEES

Ballfield Renovation and Maintenance

On Dec. 9 at 9:30 a.m. the Planning, Housing and Economic Development (PHED) and Education and Culture (E&C) Committees will meet jointly to receive an update on ballfield renovation and maintenance. The Council has long been concerned about the condition, maintenance, funding and use of public ballfields in the County. Since fiscal year 2017, the Council has approved \$1.25 million for MCPS ballfield renovation from the Office of Community Use of Public Facilities' (CUPF) Enterprise Fund to renovate fields at 14 schools (see circle page five of the Council staff report for a list of schools). Those expected to attend the meeting include the following: Casey Anderson, chair, Planning Board; Mike Riley, director, Montgomery Parks; John Nissel, deputy director, Operations, Parks; Cliff Driver, athletic field program manager, Parks; Ramona Bell-Pearson, director, CUPF; Robin Riley, director, Montgomery Recreation; Seth Adams, director, Department of Facilities Management, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS); Jeffrey Sullivan, director, Systemwide Athletics, MCPS. The Council staff report can be viewed here: https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/cm/2019/20191209/20191209_PHEDEC1.pdf

Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) Report 2019-14, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Performance and Opportunity Gaps

On Dec. 9 at 11 a.m. the E&C Committee will review [OLO Report 2019-14](#). This report describes trends in MCPS's performance and opportunity gaps by race, ethnicity and service group status and offers recommendations for the Council and Board of Education. Two sets of findings emerge from OLO's review:

- Performance gaps by race, ethnicity and service group status persist. Asian and White students outperform Latinx and Black students; students who are ineligible for service group programs outperform their peers eligible for free and reduced priced meals, ESOL programs and special education.
- Opportunity gaps by race, ethnicity and service group status also persist with MCPS concentrating Latinx, Black, English learners and low-income students in high-poverty schools and in turn under-

funding its high-poverty schools by under-funding ESOL and compensatory education programs relative to student need.

The report makes the following recommendations for Council action:

- Develop a Council resolution requesting that the Board of Education develop an integration and equitable funding plan to address existing opportunity gaps.
- Encourage the State of Maryland to require the Board of Education to expend all state compensatory education revenue on low-income students and high-poverty schools.
- Request that the Board of Education earmark County funding above state maintenance of effort requirements for compensatory education and ESOL programs.
- Request that the Board of Education annually report on student performance and resource allocations for general, special and compensatory education and ESOL programs analogous to OLO Report 2019-14.

The following representatives of MCPS are expected to attend the meeting: Dr. Henry Johnson, chief of staff; Dr. Janet Wilson, associate superintendent, Office of Shared Accountability; and Dr. Kecia Addison, supervisor, Applied Research Unit, Office of Shared Accountability. A full list of recommendations can be found on page two of the Council staff report, which can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/cm/2019/20191209/20191209_EC1.pdf

Homeless Shelter Services During Hypothermia Season and Status of Gude Drive Men's Shelter

On Dec. 9 at 2 p.m. the Health and Human Services (HHS) Committee will receive an update on homeless shelter services during hypothermia season and the status of the Gude Drive Men's Shelter, which is operated by the Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/cm/2019/20191209/20191209_HHS1.pdf

Public Election Fund

The GO Committee will continue its review of the Public Election Fund. During the Committee's last meeting on this issue in October, Councilmembers reviewed the program, including its use during the 2018 election cycle, and received information concerning issues raised at the Council's March 26 public forum and in responses to a survey developed and implemented by then-Council President Navarro that was sent to participants in the program, candidates, community groups and stakeholders. The Committee also requested follow-up on several other issues, which are discussed individually on pages two to five of the Council staff report. Those expected to attend the meeting include the following: Jared DeMarinis, State Board of Elections; David Crow, County Department of Finance; and Joanne Antoine, executive director, Common Cause Maryland. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/cm/2019/20191209/20191209_GO2.pdf