

COUNCIL COMING ATTRACTIONS



Week of Sept. 23, 2019

**Hispanic Heritage Month, Natural Hairstyles,
Tobacco / E-Cigarettes, Accessory Apartments,
Tree House Child Advocacy Center, Air Conditioning
in Rental Housing, Business Advisory Roundtable,
Affordable Housing, Police Recruitment, Fire Department
Training, Property Disposition, Internal Audits**

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, Sept. 24 at 9:30 a.m.
-  The Council meeting will begin with an invocation from Rabbi Abbi Sharofsky of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington

COUNCIL

Hispanic Heritage Month

On Sept. 24 at 11 a.m. the Council will hold its Hispanic Heritage Month Commemoration hosted by Council President Nancy Navarro. The theme of the event this year's commemoration is Latin Americans: A History of Serving Our Nation. Those who will be recognized include: Claudia Campos Galván, program director, Nueva Vida; Moisés Linares, sports anchor, Telemundo-NBC; Jonathan Acosta, singer and writer; the Honorable Ana Sol Gutiérrez, former Md. Delegate; the Honorable Maricé Morales, former Md. Delegate; Javier Solís, entrepreneur, Total Taxes; and María José Solís, entrepreneur, Total Taxes.

Bill 30-19, Human Rights and Civil Liberties - Race Discrimination - Protective Hairstyles

The Council will introduce Bill 30-19, which would prohibit discrimination based on certain natural hairstyles. Councilmember Will Jawando and Council President Nancy Navarro are the lead sponsors. The

goal of this legislation is to prevent workplace and other forms of discrimination against people who wear such hairstyles including braids, locks, afros, curls and twists. The Council staff report can be viewed here: https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2019/20190924/20190924_7A.pdf

#NaturalHairMoCo is being used for this bill on social media.

Bill 31-19, Health and Sanitation - Electronic Cigarettes - Distribution

The Council will introduce Bill 31-19, which would prohibit the distribution of any tobacco product, coupon redeemable for a tobacco product, cigarette rolling paper, or electronic cigarette to any individual under 21 except under certain circumstances. Councilmembers Tom Hucker and Gabe Albornoz are the lead sponsors. Bill 31-19 also would prohibit an individual under 21 from using or possessing a tobacco product or electronic cigarette except under certain circumstances. The goal of this legislation is to update County law to reflect state law changes and provide an enforcement mechanism for young people using and possessing tobacco products and electronic cigarettes. The Council staff report can be viewed here: https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2019/20190924/20190924_7B.pdf

#SmokeFreeMontgomery is being used for this bill on social media.

Bill 22-19, Accessory Dwelling Units - Licensing - Requirements - Amendments

The Council is scheduled to vote on Bill 22-19, which would replace the phrase “accessory apartment” with “accessory dwelling unit.” Councilmembers Hans Riemer, Andrew Friedson, Will Jawando and Council President Nancy Navarro are the lead sponsors. Bill 22-19 also would do the following: amend the standards for minimum ceiling heights for basements or cellars used for an accessory dwelling; amend the accessory dwelling unit licensing procedures concerning ownership and common ownership associations; require information and notice concerning common ownership communities in the application and review of an accessory dwelling unit license; and require reporting by the County Executive on accessory dwelling unit problems and planned solutions. The Planning, Housing and Economic Development (PHED) Committee recommends enactment with amendments to lower the ceiling height for habitable space and make technical changes. The Council staff report can be viewed at:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2019/20190924/20190924_8A.pdf

#AccessoryDwellingUnits is being used for this bill on social media.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

All public hearings will be held on Sept. 24 at 1:30 p.m.

Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) Spending Control Limits

The Council will hold a public hearing on FY21 WSSC spending control limits. WSSC’s spending control limits process was established in April 1994 via resolution by both Montgomery and Prince George’s County Councils, with the goal of both Councils agreeing on certain budgetary limits by Nov. 1 of each year. A Transportation and Environment (T&E) Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Oct. 10. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2019/20190924/20190924_5.pdf

Supplemental appropriation to the County Government’s FY20 Operating Budget, Department of Transportation (DOT) - \$98,150 for Streets and Roads - Roadside Trees - Protection

The Council will hold a public hearing on a supplemental appropriation to the County Government’s FY20 Operating Budget, Department of Transportation (DOT) for \$98,150 for replacement of roadside trees. The appropriation is needed to authorize the expenditure of funds, received during FY19, for the replacement of roadside trees as required by Bill 41-12 - Streets and Roads - Roadside Trees - Protection.

The money is from the Street Tree Planting Funds and can be used only for this purpose. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2019/20190924/20190924_6.pdf

COMMITTEES

Tree House Child Advocacy Center

On Sept. 23 at 9:30 a.m. the Health and Human Services (HHS) Committee will receive an update on the Tree House Child Advocacy Center. The Tree House is a private-public partnership which is dedicated to reducing trauma and promoting healing for child victims of physical abuse, sexual abuse and neglect. Topics to be discussed include the Tree House's strategic plan (including sustainable and scalable funding, facilities enhancement, increased service capacity and strengthening the organizational structure), development efforts, and Tree House's wait list and staffing situation. Those expected to attend the meeting include the following: Thomas Grazio, executive director, Tree House; Nicole Jenkins, board president, Tree House; Raymond Crowel, director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS); JoAnn Barnes, chief, Children, Youth and Families, DHHS; and Lisa Merkin, administrator, Child Welfare Services, DHHS. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/cm/2019/20190923/20190923_HHS1.pdf

Executive Regulation (ER) 22-19, Schedule of Fees for Fire Safety Code Permits, Code Modifications, Inspections and Licenses - Method 2

On Sept. 23 at 10 a.m. the Planning, Housing and Economic Development (PHED) Committee will review ER 22-19, Schedule of Fees for Fire Safety Code Permits, Code Modifications, Inspections and Licenses - Method 2. The Council received ER 22-19 in a memorandum from the County Executive on August 12. This regulation would reduce the fees charged to "Garden Apartment Complexes" by the Department of Permitting Services (DPS) for Fire Code Compliance and Fire Alarm and Sprinkler Operations permits. These fees were increased last year by a regulation. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/cm/2019/20190923/20190923_PHED1.pdf

Bill 24-19, Landlord-Tenant Relations – Obligations of Landlord – Air Conditioning

The PHED Committee will review Bill 24-19, which would require a landlord to provide and maintain air conditioning service for rental housing located in the County during certain months and establish standards for air conditioning service provided by a landlord. Councilmember Tom Hucker is the lead sponsor. Councilmembers Will Jawando and Gabe Albornoz and Council President Nancy Navarro are cosponsors. The goal of this bill is to ensure tenants in rental housing have access to a working air conditioning unit. The Council staff report can be viewed at:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/cm/2019/20190923/20190923_PHED2.pdf

Key search terms for this legislation on the Council's website include: air conditioning, AC unit, air conditioning in rental housing, obligations of landlords, landlord-tenant relations. #MoCoRentalAC is being used for this bill on social media.

Business Advisory Roundtable

On Sept. 26 at 8:30 a.m. the PHED Committee will hold a business advisory roundtable hosted by the Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation (MCEDC). The Committee will meet with local business leaders to discuss economic development opportunities and challenges facing businesses in the County. Bill Tompkins, CEO of MCEDC, is among those expected to attend. The Council staff report will be available on Sept. 23.

Affordable Housing Projects - New Construction, Acquisition and Renovation

On Sept. 26 at 10:30 a.m. the PHED Committee will receive an update from the Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC) on new construction, acquisition and renovation of affordable housing in the County. The Council staff report will be available on Sept. 23.

Police Recruitment

On Sept. 26 at 9:30 a.m. the Public Safety (PS) Committee will receive an update on police recruitment from Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD) representatives. The Council staff report will be available on Sept. 23.

Fire Department Training

The PS Committee will receive an update on training practices from the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service (MCFRS). The Council staff report will be available on Sept. 23.

Property Disposition Process

On Sept. 26 at 2 p.m. the Government Operations and Fiscal Policy (GO) Committee will review the County's property disposition process. The Council staff report will be available on Sept. 23.

Spending Affordability Guidelines for Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) Capital Budget and FY21-26 Capital Improvements Program (CIP).

The GO Committee will review the Spending Affordability Guidelines for the FY21 Capital Budget and FY21-26 CIP. At the start of each new CIP cycle the Council sets spending guidelines for projects funded with General Obligation (G.O.) bonds and Park and Planning bonds. The guidelines are for FY21, FY22, and for FY21-26. The guidelines must be adopted by the first Tuesday in October (Oct. 1, 2019). The purpose of the guidelines is to limit spending in the CIP for debt-funded projects so that the annual operating budget does not have an excessive debt burden. Once set, the Council may exceed the guidelines, but only with an affirmative vote of at least seven Councilmembers. The guidelines are to be set based on what is affordable, not on need. The Council staff report will be available on Sept. 23.

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

The GO Committee will close out its meeting with a review of Bill 11-19, which would do the following: require the Office of Internal Audit to prepare an annual work plan for approval of the Chief Administrative Officer and submit the work plan to the Council for comment; require the Office to submit an annual report to the Inspector General (IG); require the IG to conduct a risk analysis of the County's internal controls and processes, and based on the risk analysis, conduct a systematic rotating group by group review of the internal accounting and contracting processes and controls used by each department and principal office in the Executive Branch; and require the IG to audit each completed County contract funded in the operating budget with a contract value greater than \$1 million. The goal of this bill is to improve the legislative oversight of the County's internal accounting and contracting processes. The Council staff report will be available on Sept. 23.

Key search terms for this legislation on the Council's website include: audit, accounting, contracting, Inspector General and Office of Internal Audit. #TransparencyinGovt is being used for this bill on social media.