

COUNCIL COMING ATTRACTIONS



Week of April 20, 2020

Fiscal Year 2021 Operating Budget, Fiscal Years 2021-26 Capital Improvements Program, Public Health Emergency Grant Program, Rent Stabilization During Covid-19 Emergency, Face Coverings and Personal Protective Equipment, Rental Assistance, Semi-Annual Report of the County Planning Board

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 remotely on Tuesday, April 21 at 9:30 a.m. and Thursday, April 23 at 9:30 a.m.

COUNCIL

The Council will meet remotely on April 21 and April 23.

Supplemental Appropriation to the FY20 Capital Budget and Amendment to the FY19-24 Capital Improvements Program, Department of Transportation - \$2,100,000 for Bridge Renovation

On April 21 at 9:30 a.m. the Council is scheduled to vote on a supplemental appropriation of \$2.1 million to the Department of Transportation's Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20) Capital Budget and an amendment to its

FY19-24 Capital Improvements Program (CIP). Specifically, this appropriation funds emergency culvert repairs on Fenway Road, Belfast Road and Spicewood Lane as a result of the significant train event that occurred on July 8, 2019. This work has been completed. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20200421/20200421_2A.pdf

Supplemental Appropriation to the FY20 Capital Budget and Amendment to the FY19-24 Capital Improvements Program, Department of General Services - \$1,140,000 for Men's Emergency Homeless Shelter

The Council is scheduled to vote on a supplemental appropriation to the FY20 Capital Budget and an amendment to the FY19-24 CIP for the Department of General Services of \$1.1 million for a men's emergency homeless shelter addition. This appropriation will support construction of an addition to the existing facility on Crabbs Branch Way. The facility will support the delivery of a full complement of wrap-around services to men seeking shelter year-round. The facility will provide space for congregation, meal service, medical offices and case management offices not available at the current site. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20200421/20200421_2B.pdf

Special Appropriation to the County Government's FY20 Operating Budget - \$2,000,000 for COVID-19 Human Services Response and Community Assistance Non-Departmental Account (NDA)

The Council is scheduled to introduce a supplemental appropriation of \$2 million to the FY20 Operating Budget for the COVID-19 Human Services Response and Community Assistance NDA. These funds would be used by the Department of Health and Human Services to support programs administered by Services to End and Prevent Homelessness. This may include emergency eviction prevention and housing stabilization programs. At least \$1 million of these funds must be used to provide a short-term rental subsidy program to low and moderate-income households in response to the emergency. This support would be time-limited and acceptance of this assistance would not prevent any resident from being accepted into a permanent subsidy program for which they are eligible. The County will seek federal and state reimbursement for program costs associated with the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Council is scheduled to hold a public hearing and vote on this appropriation on April 28. The Council staff report will be available on April 20.

Joint Council/County Executive State Transportation Priorities Letter

On April 21 at 10 a.m. the Council will review the Council's and County Executive's joint letter to the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) about transportation priorities in Montgomery County. The Council and the County Executive periodically send a joint letter to MDOT with the County's funding priorities for transportation projects that are unfunded by the state government. The most recent letter was transmitted in 2017. Christopher Conklin, director of the Montgomery County Department of Transportation, and Casey Anderson, chair of the Montgomery County Planning Board, are expected to attend the meeting remotely. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20200421/20200421_4.pdf

Fiscal Years 2021-2026 Capital Improvements Program (FY21-26 CIP):

The Council will review the FY21-26 CIP for the following:

- **Transportation**

The Council will review transportation projects in the FY21-26 CIP, which include potential funding for a Bethesda tunnel for the Capital Crescent Trail; the County's bus rapid transit projects; the RideOn bus fleet and Parking Lot District capital projects. The Council staff report can be viewed [here](#).

- **Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC)**

The Council will review the FY21-26 CIP for WSSC. WSSC's six-year proposed total capital funding is \$3.71 billion, which is an increase of \$59.3 million or 1.6 percent over FY20-25 CIP. Four new projects are included in the CIP, which have a six-year total of \$45.4 million in new spending. The Council staff report can be viewed [here](#).

- **Solid Waste Management - Gude Landfill Remediation Project**

The Council will review the FY21-26 CIP for Solid Waste Management: Gude Landfill Remediation Project. The total project cost is \$61.7 million, which is an increase of \$31.2 million. Construction is scheduled to begin in FY22 and be completed in FY27. The Council staff report can be viewed [here](#).

- **Conservation/Natural Resources - Storm Drains**

The Council will review the FY21-26 CIP for Conservation/Natural Resources: Storm Drains. All projects recommended by the County Executive are to continue at the same annual funding levels as approved. The Council staff report can be viewed [here](#).

- **Conservation/Natural Resources - Stormwater Management**

The Council will review the FY21-26 CIP for Conservation/Natural Resources: Stormwater Management. The County Executive recommends a six-year funding increase of \$7.2 million or 6.9 percent. The Council staff report can be viewed [here](#).

- **Revenue Authority**

The Council will review the FY21-26 CIP for the Revenue Authority. Under the County Charter, the Revenue Authority is subject to the six-year program for capital improvements but not to the capital and operating budget provision. The Council has never appropriated funds in the Revenue Authority's CIP but has authorized the Revenue Authority CIP. The Council staff report can be viewed [here](#).

- **Public Arts Trust**

The Council will review the FY21-26 CIP for the Public Arts Trust, which commissions site-specific works and supports other public art projects throughout Montgomery County. The Trust is Montgomery County's central program for managing and commissioning all public art on County-owned property. The Council staff report will be available on April 20.

FY21 Operating Budget

On April 23 at 9:30 a.m. the Council will review the FY21 Operating Budgets for compensation plans and benefits for all agencies, the FY20 budget savings plan for the Retiree Health Benefits Trust and collective bargaining agreements with the following: MCGEO United Food and Commercial Workers International Local 1994, the Fraternal Order of Police, Montgomery County Professional Fire Fighters -

IAFF 1664 and the Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Rescue Association. The Council staff report will be available on April 21.

FY21-26 CIP

On April 23 at 9:30 a.m. the Council will review the FY21-26 CIP for the following: general government, agricultural land preservation and parks. The Council staff report will be available on April 21.

Semi-Annual Report of the Montgomery County Planning Board

On April 23 at 2 p.m. the Council will receive the semi-annual report of the Montgomery County Planning Board. Twice a year the Planning Board produces a report that provides highlights from the work programs of the Montgomery County Planning Department and Montgomery Parks. Casey Anderson, chair of the Montgomery County Planning Board; Natali Fani-Gonzalez, vice chair of the Planning Board; Gwen Wright, director of the Planning Department; and Mike Riley, director of Montgomery Parks, are among those expected to attend the remote meeting. The Council staff report will be available on April 21.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Resolution to Approve FY21 Transportation Fees, Charges and Fares

The Council will receive public testimony on a resolution to approve FY21 transportation fees, charges and fares. This resolution sets the fees, charges, fines and fares for transit and parking services under the responsibility of the Montgomery County Department of Transportation. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20200421/20200421_12.pdf

Resolution to Establish FY21 Solid Waste Service Charges

The Council will receive public testimony on a resolution to establish FY21 solid waste service charges. Increases in these charges that would be experienced by residential and non-residential customers on their property tax bills under the Executive's recommended charges would vary depending on the services provided. For single-family residential property owners, the charges will increase between 8.8 and 20 percent. Multi-family property owners will see increases ranging from 2.4 to 3.3 percent. Non-residential customers will see increases of 2.6 percent. Tipping fees charged at the Shady Grove Transfer Station are recommended to remain unchanged from the FY20 levels. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20200421/20200421_13.pdf

Resolution to Establish FY21 Water Quality Protection Charge

The Council will receive public testimony on a resolution to establish the FY21 Water Quality Protection Charge. On March 16, the County Executive transmitted a proposed resolution related to the Water Quality Protection Charge equivalent residential unit rate (ERU) for FY21. The County Executive recommends an ERU rate of \$108.10, which is an increase of \$3.85 (or 3.7 percent) from the FY20 approved rate of \$104.25. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20200421/20200421_14.pdf

Resolution to Set Amount of Property Tax Credit for Income Tax Offset

The Council will receive public testimony on a resolution to set the amount of the property tax credit and income tax offset. Each year the Council may set a property tax credit to offset a portion of the income tax revenue resulting from a County income tax rate that is greater than 2.6 percent. This credit is automatically provided to each property that is an owner-occupied dwelling of a homeowner. The County Executive has recommended a property tax credit of \$800 per eligible property in the recommended FY21 Operating Budget. The FY20 credit was \$692 per eligible property. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20200421/20200421_15.pdf

Intent to Consider Increasing FY21 General Fund Tax Rate Above the Constant Yield Tax Rate

The Council will receive public testimony on its intent to consider increasing the FY21 General Fund tax rate above the constant yield tax rate (CYTR). The State Department of Assessments and Taxation calculates the CYTR annually for each taxing authority in the state. State law requires a Maryland taxing authority (in this case the Council) to advertise if it plans to exceed the CYTR for the next fiscal year. The Council's notice to set a rate that exceeds CYTR does not restrict its decision when setting the actual real property tax rate during the budget. The notice provides flexibility because a taxing authority may not set a rate that exceeds the CYTR or the advertised rate unless it follows the State law exactly. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20200421/20200421_16.pdf

Expedited Bill 18-20, Landlord-Tenant Relations - Rent Stabilization During Emergencies

The Council will receive public testimony on Expedited Bill 18-20, also called the COVID-19 Renter Relief Act, which would prohibit landlords from increasing rent for residential tenants during and after the COVID-19 public health emergency. Councilmember Will Jawando is the lead sponsor. The goal of the COVID-19 Renter Relief Act is to prevent landlords from increasing a tenant's rent during the emergency caused by the global pandemic and to prohibit notices of rent increases during, and within a certain time period after, the emergency. Council President Sidney Katz and Councilmembers Craig Rice and Nancy Navarro are cosponsors. Councilmember Navarro offered amendments to the original draft language of the bill restricting its scope to the current COVID-19 declared state of emergency and making it applicable only to residential (rather than residential and commercial) tenants. The bill also was amended so that it sunsets 121 days after the end of the current state of emergency. The Council is scheduled to vote on the COVID-19 Renter Relief Act on April 23. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20200421/20200421_17.pdf

#NoRentIncreases and #RentStability are being used for this bill on social media.

Expedited Bill 23-20, Contracts - Management and Disposal of Goods - Emergency Procedures

The Council will receive public testimony and vote on Expedited Bill 23-20, which would authorize the Director of the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security to dispose of goods

donated to the County during a state of emergency without competition if the Director determines that the goods would be useful to others during the emergency. The goods must be disposed of in a manner consistent with emergency procedures and prioritization guidelines established by the public official declaring the emergency or the Executive. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20200421/20200421_18.pdf

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

Special Appropriation to the County Government's FY20 Operating Budget, Department of Finance - \$5,000,000 for Economic Development Fund, Public Health Emergency Grant Program

The Council will receive public testimony on a special appropriation of \$5 million to the Montgomery County Department of Finance's Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budget for the [Public Health Emergency Grant \(PHEG\) Program](#). All Councilmembers have sponsored this special appropriation, which was spearheaded by Councilmember Nancy Navarro. This appropriation is needed to provide additional funding for the Public Health Emergency Grant Program for local businesses that operate a restaurant or a retail storefront establishment. This funding is in addition to the \$5 million reserved for these businesses in the original \$20 million special appropriation for this program. The County will seek reimbursement from the federal and state government for any eligible costs. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20200421/20200421_19.pdf

Special Appropriation to the County Government's FY20 Operating Budget, Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation (MCEDC) Nondepartmental Account (NDA), - \$100,000 for COVID-19 Response -Manufacturing Personal Protective Equipment

The Council will receive public testimony on a special appropriation of \$100,000 for manufacturing personal protective equipment (PPE) as part of the County's response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. The resolution adds funding to the Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation's (MCEDC) efforts to work with local businesses to manufacture PPE. MCEDC will administer the funding by working with local businesses that need to retrofit current manufacturing equipment to produce PPE. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20200421/20200421_20.pdf

Special Appropriation to the County Government's FY20 Operating Budget, \$250,000 for Purchase of Face Coverings and other Personal Protective Equipment

The Council will receive public testimony on a special appropriation of \$250,000 for the purchase of face coverings and other Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). On April 9, County Health Officer Dr. Travis Gayles issued a directive requiring employees and customers in grocery stores (including farmers' markets), pharmacies and large chain retail establishments to wear face coverings. The efforts to contain the spread of the disease has resulted in a global shortage of PPE. This appropriation is needed so that the County government can purchase and distribute washable, reusable face coverings and potentially other PPEs to individuals who need them, such as nonprofit service providers (including Montgomery County Public Schools meal providers and families), medically vulnerable residents and those in senior living or nursing facilities, child care providers, residents in affordable housing communities, senior citizens and

transit riders. Unused face coverings should be placed in a stockpile for future emergencies. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20200421/20200421_21.pdf