

USEFUL INFORMATION

Week of July 13, 2020

COUNCIL

Policing Advisory Commission Interviews

The Council will hold interviews for the Policing Advisory Commission on July 13 at 4:30 p.m., July 14 at 7 p.m., July 15 at 4:30 p.m. and July 17 at 1:30 and 3:30 p.m. The goals of the Commission are to improve oversight of the Montgomery County Police Department and strengthen community trust in police. Commission members will provide advice on policing matters, provide information about best practices and recommend new policies and programs. The Commission will consist of 13 public members. More information can be viewed [here](#).

Resolution to Support the Renaming of the Washington Football Team

The Council will introduce a resolution urging Daniel Snyder to change the name of his football team so that it reflects and respects everyone. The current team name is widely recognized as a racial slur. A Council vote is scheduled for July 21. The resolution can be viewed [here](#).

Special Appropriation to Montgomery County Public Schools' FY21 Operating Budget - \$250,000 for Mental Health Program and Support Schools

The Council will introduce a \$250,000 special appropriation to fund mental health supports in Montgomery County Public Schools. On June 18, Councilmembers Craig Rice and Gabe Albornoz sent a letter to Superintendent Jack Smith requesting that MCPS examine funding and programmatic options to increase mental health services to students as it works on the 2020 school year recovery plan. The Board of Education requested this appropriation on June 29. As part of its approved fiscal year 2021 budget, MCPS plans to implement a pilot program to provide mental health services to identified students. MCPS is planning a service model in which school-based staff members, including school counselors and psychologists, may refer students who require additional mental health services to a community agency with which MCPS has an established partnership. MCPS anticipates providing these services at no cost to students. The funding from the special appropriation will be used to expand the planned pilot program and double the number of estimated students who will receive services from 270 to 540. A public hearing is scheduled for July 21 at 1:30 p.m. The Council staff report can be viewed [here](#).

Special Appropriation to the County Government's FY21 Operating Budget, Department of Police, Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and Sheriff's Office - FY20 Bureau of Justice Assistance \$431,707 for Byrne Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Grant Funding

The Council is introducing this special appropriation at the request of the County Executive. It includes \$252,318 for the Montgomery County Police Department, \$106,950 for the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and \$72,493 for the Sheriff's Office for the FY20 Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Byrne Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Grant Funding. This appropriation will fund personal protective equipment, building and vehicle disinfectants, laptops for remote work and warehouse equipment/logistical management software to enable the efficient storage of supplies. A public hearing and Council vote is scheduled for July 28. The Council staff report can be viewed [here](#).

Resolution to Approve the FY21 Schedule of Revenue Estimates and Appropriations

The Council will introduce a resolution to approve the fiscal year 2021 Schedule of Revenue Estimates and Appropriations for the operating budget, including current revenue for the Capital Improvements

Program, as of May 19, 2020, which was the date the Council approved County's budget. This resolution was not approved during the budget because of the time required by the Office of Management and Budget staff to prepare it based on the Council's final decisions. A Council vote is scheduled for July 21. The Council staff report can be viewed [here](#).

Special Appropriation to the County Government's FY21 Operating Budget, Department of Health and Human Services - \$592,202 for Mobile Crisis Response

The Council will vote on a special appropriation of \$592,202 to the FY21 operating budget of the County's Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to expand mobile crisis response services. DHHS operates the Crisis Center and staffs one Mobile Crisis Team, which is based in Rockville. The Mobile Crisis Team is a two-person team that responds to calls made directly to the Crisis Center and when the police request their assistance as a part of a police response. Currently, the Mobile Crisis Team can only respond to one call at any time. While work on scaling up this response model is underway, the need has been identified for additional licensed social workers in DHHS to lead additional Mobile Crisis Teams. This special appropriation would fund six social worker positions, so that the hiring process may begin to expand these response teams. The funding includes bilingual pay and it is critical that these positions include those who can serve residents for whom English is not their primary language. The full Council is sponsoring this appropriation. The Council staff report will be available on July 13.

Resolution to Petition the State for Grants for Montgomery College's FY21 Capital Budget - \$1,742,000 for Construction of the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Math and Science Center Project

The Council will vote on a resolution to petition the state for grants for Montgomery College's fiscal year 2021 capital budget for the construction of the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Math and Science Center Project. The Montgomery College Board of Trustees requested this petition on June 22. The fiscal year capital budget appropriation for Montgomery College assumed state funding in the amount of \$1,742,000 for construction of the Math and Science Center Project. The Council staff report can be viewed [here](#).

Resolution to place an amendment to Section 305 of the County Charter on the 2020 general election ballot

The Council will introduce a resolution to place a question on the 2020 general election ballot to amend County Charter Section 305. The proposed amendment would prohibit the Council from adopting an average weighted tax rate (per \$100 on assessed value) on real property that exceeds the average weighted tax rate (per \$100 on assessed value) on real property approved for the previous year, unless all current Councilmembers vote for the increase. If this proposed Charter amendment is approved by the voters, the Council would need a unanimous affirmative vote to raise the average weighted tax rate on real property above the current rate of \$0.9785 per \$100 of assessed value. The lead sponsors of the measure are Councilmembers Andrew Friedson, Council President Sidney Katz and Councilmember Nancy Navarro. The cosponsors include Councilmembers Gabe Albornoz, Craig Rice and Hans Riemer. A public hearing is scheduled for July 21 at 1:30 p.m. The Council staff report can be viewed [here](#).

The hashtag #PropertyTaxLimit is being used on social media.

Special Appropriation to the County Government's FY21 Capital Budget and Amendment to the FY21-26 Capital Improvements Program, Department of Recreation - \$218,000 for Public Arts Trust

The Council will introduce a \$218,000 special appropriation to increase the funding level for the Public Arts Trust. On June 8, during a discussion on specific arts sector relief programs to mitigate the impact of the pandemic and proactively spur recovery efforts to catalyze the County's economy, the Education and

Culture Committee recommended increasing the funding level of the Public Arts Trust to align arts sector relief efforts with the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Department's Thrive Montgomery 2050 goals for Design, Arts & Culture. The Council staff report can be viewed [here](#). A Public hearing and Council vote is scheduled for Sept. 15 at 1:30 pm.

Special Appropriation to the County Government's FY21 Capital Budget and Amendment to the FY21-26 Capital Improvements Program, Department of Recreation - \$250,000 for Cost Sharing

The Council will introduce a \$250,000 special appropriation for the arts capital projects cost sharing. On June 11, the Education and Culture and Health and Human Services recommended an increase in overall funding for arts capital projects and deferring funding over three fiscal years to arts and humanities organizations. The Council staff report can be viewed [here](#). A public hearing and Council vote is scheduled for Sept. 15 at 1:30 pm.

Resolution to Urge the State of Maryland to Repeal and Replace the State Song "Maryland, My Maryland" and to prohibit the song from being played at public events in Montgomery County

The Council will introduce a resolution to urge the State of Maryland to repeal and replace the state song "Maryland, My Maryland" and prohibit the song from being played at public events in Montgomery County. The full Council is sponsoring the resolution. "Maryland, My Maryland" includes lyrics that refer to President Abraham Lincoln as "the tyrant", "the despot", and "the Vandal", and to the Union as "Northern scum", as well as referring to the phrase "Sic semper tyrannis", which was the slogan later shouted by Marylander John Wilkes Booth when he assassinated Lincoln. According to Randall, the poem was a plea to his home state of Maryland to secede from the Union and join the Confederacy. The Council staff report will be available on July 13.

Supplemental Appropriation to the County Government's FY21 Operating Budget, Office of the County Executive - \$550,000 to support a Police audit, Fire and Rescue Service audit, and consulting funds for community engagement support

The Council will introduce a \$550,000 supplemental appropriation to support separate audits for the Montgomery County Police Department and Fire and Rescue Services and consulting fund for community engagement support. The Council staff report will be available on July 13.

Supplemental Appropriation to the County Government's FY21 Operating Budget, Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice - \$260,961 for staffing and operating expenses

The Council will introduce a \$260,961 supplement appropriation for staffing and operating expenses for the Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice. The Council staff report will be available on July 13.

Discussion of FY21 Revenues

The Council will discuss the latest information on fiscal year 2021 revenues based on the economic impact of the global pandemic. The update will focus on estimated tax revenues and will not include any revisions to the County's fiscal year 2021 expenditures, state aid or federal grants. The Council approved the County's fiscal year 2021 Operating Budget on May 19, which included tax revenue estimates based on the Executive's March 2020 recommended budget. The most current information shows FY20 tax revenue estimates \$47.69 million lower than budgeted. Moreover, FY21 tax revenue estimates are \$191.95 million lower than the approved budget, and approximately 62 percent of this reduction is due to a decrease from the County's income taxes. The FY21 property tax estimates are mostly unchanged compared to the approved budget. To put these numbers in context, actual tax revenues decreased by \$188.18 million in FY10 and FY11 combined because of the Great Recession of 2007. The Council staff report can be viewed [here](#).

Novel Coronavirus and County Public Health Planning Update

The Council will sit as the Board of Health to get an update on the County's ongoing response to the Covid-19 pandemic and its recovery efforts. Those expected to attend the meeting include: Dr. Travis Gayles, County health officer and chief of the Department of Health and Human Services' Public Health Services; Dr. Earl Stoddard, director, Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security; and Dr. Raymond Crowel, director, Department of Health and Human Services. The Council staff report will be available on July 13.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

All Council public hearings will be held virtually on Tuesday, July 7 at 1:30 p.m., unless otherwise specified.

Resolution to authorize Montgomery County to procure lines of credit for the purpose of providing funds for the payment of operating expenses

The Executive is requesting that the Council authorize the Department of Finance to procure up to \$300 million in lines of credit to cover operating expenses. These lines of credit will provide additional coverage should the timing of certain tax receipts not align with the ongoing operational expenses of the County in fiscal year 2021. The Government Operations and Fiscal Policy Committee is scheduled to review this matter on July 20. The Council staff report can be found [here](#).

Special appropriation - Department of Health and Human Services - \$371,761 for support payment to organizations directly serving developmentally disabled persons

The Council will introduce a special appropriation of \$371,761 to the County's Department of Health and Human Services' (DHHS) fiscal year 2021 (FY21) operating budget for support payments to organizations serving developmentally disabled persons. As a part of its approval of the FY21 operating budget for the Montgomery County government, the Council appropriated \$17.6 million to provide support payments to eligible organizations that provide direct services to people with developmental disabilities, including residential and community supported living arrangements, day habilitation and other necessary support services. This special appropriation will bring the total appropriation to the continuity of service level that accounts for the inclusion of six new organizations. Councilmembers Gabe Albornoz, Evan Glass and Craig Rice are the lead sponsors. The Council's Health and Human Services (HHS) Committee recommends approval. The Council staff report can be found [here](#).

Special appropriation - \$3 million for Covid-19 Human Services and Community Assistance Non-Departmental Account for Assistance to Community Clinics, Medical and Dental Practices

The Council will introduce a \$3 million special appropriation to the Human Services and Community Assistance NDA's FY21 operating budget for assistance to community clinics and primary care medical and dental practices that serve County residents. The Covid-19 health emergency required medical and dental practices, including community clinics, to stop non-emergency, in-person visits which has put a financial strain on many providers. In addition, many primary care health providers have incurred additional expenses associated with transitioning to telemedicine and to acquire personal protective equipment. The full Council is the sponsoring this appropriation. The Council staff report can be found [here](#).

Special appropriation - Department of Housing and Community Affairs - \$4,847,976 for Emergency Solutions Grant Covid-19

The Council will introduce a special appropriation of \$4,847,976 to the FY21 operating budget of DHCA for a Covid-19 emergency solutions grant. Moving people out of homelessness is a priority strategy to address Covid-19 because housing is essential to health. The federal government has awarded additional Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding in response to the emergency as a part of the CARES Act. Council President Sidney Katz is the lead sponsor, at the request of the County Executive. The Council staff report can be found [here](#).

COMMITTEES

July 13

Planning Housing and Economic Development Committee, 9:30 a.m.

ZTA 19-08, Bicycle Parking - Requirements and Design Standards

Zoning Text Amendment 19-08 would amend bicycle parking requirements and bicycle parking design standards. It would expand the universe of development required to provide bicycle parking facilities by requiring that more developments provide parking facilities. It would add defined terms and provisions concerning location and security requirements for repair stations and electric bicycles. In Nov. 2018, the Council approved the Bicycle Master Plan, which envisions that Montgomery County will be a world-class bicycling community. Under the plan, all areas of the County will have access to a comfortable, safe, and connected bicycle network. ZTA 19-08 will implement one aspect of the 2018 Bicycle Master Plan by augmenting the bicycle parking requirement in the Zoning Ordinance. The individuals expected to attend the meeting include: Casey Anderson, chair, Montgomery County Planning Board; Greg Russ, planner coordinator, Montgomery County Planning Department; David Anspacher, transportation supervisor, Montgomery County Planning Department; and Lauren Pepe, senior planning associate, Montgomery County Planning Department. The Council staff report can be found [here](#).

Housing Finances, Preservation, and the Purple Line Corridor

The PHED Committee will close out its meeting with a discussion on housing finances, preservation and the Purple Line corridor. The Council has adopted a resolution stating its commitment to finding ways to meet the goals for production of new housing as developed through the Metropolitan Washington Council of Government's Regional Housing Initiative. This commitment includes increasing the stock of affordable housing and having 75 percent of the new housing in activity centers or near high-capacity transit. This commitment was further confirmed when the Council included housing as one of the four pillars in its Economic Development Platform, which was spearheaded by Councilmember Navarro and approved by the full Council. As a part of its Fiscal Year 2021 budget actions, the Council placed in designated reserve \$6.8 million that would otherwise have been appropriated to the Housing Initiative Fund to have additional time to determine if this money can be leveraged to create new, larger pools of financing to support the production and preservation of affordable housing. On July 7, the Council introduced a Capital Improvements Program amendment and special appropriation to the capital budget to create a HOC Housing Production Fund that will leverage \$2.8 million of the \$6.8 million in designated reserve to create a \$50 million fund in FY21. The Council staff report can be viewed [here](#).

Education and Culture Committee, 1:30 p.m.

Recovery/Reopening Update: Montgomery College and Universities at Shady Grove

At the time of the County's budget approval, Councilmember Craig Rice, who chairs the Education and Culture (E&C) Committee, indicated his commitment to conducting a series of meetings with Montgomery College and The Universities at Shady Grove (USG) to discuss budget and policy issues that have been caused by the Covid-19 health crisis and/or would typically have been discussed as part of the E&C Committee's traditional budget meetings. For this Committee meeting, Council staff asked the College and USG to provide an update on plans for summer classes and the 2020-2021 school year; available student resources and related initiatives to address the effects of COVID-19; and CARES funding, or other federal and state assistance. While workforce development is a key aspect of higher education, it is not specifically addressed in the staff report because the E&C Committee and the Planning, Housing, and Economic Development (PHED) Committee held a joint session on post-health crisis workforce development on June 18, 2020. The following individuals are expected to participate in the meeting: Dr. DeRionne Pollard, President of Montgomery College; Sanjay Rai, Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs, Montgomery College; Liz Greaney, Chief Business/Financial Strategy Office, Montgomery College; Dr. Stewart Edelstein, Executive Director of the Universities at Shady Grove (USG); Mary Lang, Chief Planning and Strategy Officer, USG; Nico Washington, Chief Financial Officer, USG; and Robyn Dinicola-Wagle, Chief Student Affairs Officer, USG. The Council staff report can be viewed [here](#).

FY21 Budget Savings Plan

On July 6, the County Executive transmitted a revised spending plan for fiscal year 2020 which includes changes to the FY21 Operating Budget as well as ten amendments to County Government projects in the FY21-26 Capital Improvements Program. The recommended savings plan is expected to save approximately \$33.5 million from the operating budget of County government. In addition, \$27.7 million in savings is expected from cuts to the capital budget. The Council introduced this savings plan on July 7. Public hearing and a Council vote is expected on July 28.

The Executive proposed no budget savings from Montgomery County Public Schools as part of this plan. Once MCPS has determined the operational plan for the next school year, the Executive is expected to work with leadership to determine what savings may be possible given the operational changes and challenges associated with the global pandemic.

The Executive proposed budget savings in the amount of \$4,354,491 for Montgomery College which represents a three percent savings. Council staff recommends this reduction which remains in reserve within the College as a possible resource for reappropriation in fiscal year 2022.

The Executive proposed budget savings in the amount of \$1,959,655 for Montgomery County Public Libraries which is a 4.65 percent reduction. Council staff recommends these reductions that will come from operating and personnel cost savings predominately related to the physical closure of library branches and remote telework policies implemented because of Covid-19.

Those expected to attend the meeting include: Dr. DeRionne Pollard, president, Montgomery College; Rafael Murphy, Office of Management and Budget; Anita Vassallo, director, Montgomery County Public Libraries; Deborah Lambert, Office of Management and Budget. The Council staff report can be viewed [here](#).

July 14

Public Safety, 3:15 p.m.

FY21 Budget Savings Plan

The Public Safety (PS) Committee is scheduled to review elements of the Executive's recommended fiscal year 2021 Savings Plan that are under its jurisdiction. The PS Committee will consider savings in the following budget items: Department of Animal Services (reduction of \$205,354); Circuit Court (reduction of \$501,935); Office of Consumer Protection (reduction of \$67,729); Department of Correction and Rehabilitation (reduction of \$926,181); Fire and Rescue (reduction of \$2.3 million); Police (reduction of \$8.5 million); Sheriff's Office (reduction of \$275,294); and State's Attorney's Office (reduction of \$568,944).

The Council staff report can be viewed [here](#).

July 15

Planning, Housing and Economic Development, 9:30 a.m.

FY21 Budget Savings Plan - Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

The Council staff report will be available on July 13.

Transportation and Environment, 1:30 p.m.

FY21 Budget Savings Plan

The Council staff report will be available on July 13.

July 16

Health and Human Services, 9:30 a.m.

FY21 Budget Savings Plan

The Council staff report will be available on July 14.

Bill 25-20, Rental Assistance - Amendments

The HHS Committee is scheduled to review Bill 25-20, which would do the following: change the age of eligibility for the County's Rental Assistance Program (RAP); clarify the definition of a person with a documented disability; remove the prohibition of eligibility of County residents without immigration documentation; and provide that the benefit amount for RAP is established in regulations. Council President Sidney Katz is the lead sponsor, at the request of the County Executive. The goal of this legislation is to ensure that access to RAP benefits is not conditioned upon a resident's immigration status. The Council staff report will be available on July 14.

Special appropriation to FY21 Operating Budget - \$3,000,000 for COVID-19

Human Services and Community Assistance NDA for Assistance to Community Clinics, Medical and Dental Practices

See page 4 for information.

**Planning, Housing and Economic Development and Transportation and Environment Committees,
1:30 p.m.**

ZTA 20-01, Solar Collection System - AR Zone Standards

The PHED and T&E Committees are scheduled to meet jointly to continue reviewing Zoning Text Amendment 20-01, Solar Collection System - AR Zone Standards. This ZTA would revise the solar collection system use standards to allow larger facilities in the Agricultural Resource (AR) Zone. Councilmember Hans Riemer and Council Vice President Tom Hucker are the lead sponsors. The total amount of collection systems on all parcels would be limited to 1,800 acres. Any collection system constructed under the proposed amendment must be designated pollinator-friendly under the Maryland Pollinator-Friendly Designation Program. The staff report will be available on July 14.