



## **Week of March 24, 2020**

### *Coronavirus Briefing, Workplace Harassment, Public Rights-of-Way, Resolution to Support Community Reinvestment Act*

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, March 24 at 12:30 p.m.**

#### **COUNCIL**

On the guidance of Health Officer and Chief of Public Health Services Dr. Travis Gayles, there will be no public access to the Council Office Building through March 27. Exceptions will be made for members of the media and members of county government and outside agencies. Similar policies were implemented by the Maryland General Assembly and the U.S. Congress, as all levels of government are dealing with the response to COVID-19. The meeting will be streamed live [here](#) and on Facebook Live and can be watched on television: Xfinity/RCN 6 HD 996/1056 and Fios 30.

#### **Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update**

On March 24 at 12:30 p.m. the Council, sitting as the Board of Health, will receive an update on the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and the County's efforts to protect public health and safety. COVID-19 is a disease caused by a respiratory virus first identified in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China in December 2019. COVID-19 is a new virus that hasn't caused illness in humans before. Worldwide, COVID-19 has resulted in thousands of infections, causing illness and in some cases death. Cases have spread to countries throughout the world, with more cases reported daily. Those expected to attend the meeting include the following: Dr. Travis Gayles, county health officer and chief of the Department of Health and Human Services' (DHHS) Public Health Services; Dr. Earl Stoddard, director of the Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security; and Dr. Raymond Crowel, director, DHHS. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

[https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20200324/20200324\\_-5.pdf](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20200324/20200324_-5.pdf)

### **Resolution to Support the Community Reinvestment Act**

The Council is scheduled to introduce and vote on a resolution to support the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA), which is a landmark civil rights law enacted on Oct. 12, 1977 to end the practice of “redlining,” in which financial institutions would draw a red line on a map around the neighborhoods to which they did not want to offer financial services. Before the enactment of the CRA, redlining made it nearly impossible for low- and moderate-income Americans, racial and ethnic minorities, and their neighborhoods to access credit services, such as mortgages and business loans, regardless of their qualifications or creditworthiness. Councilmember Will Jawando is the lead sponsor. Council President Sidney Katz, Council Vice President Tom Hucker and Councilmembers Gabe Albornoz, Andrew Friedson, Evan Glass and Nancy Navarro are cosponsors. The Council staff report can be viewed here: [https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20200324/20200324\\_1-5.pdf](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20200324/20200324_1-5.pdf)

### **Supplemental Appropriation to the County Government’s Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20) Operating Budget, Department of Police - \$1,436,172 for School Safety FY20 School Resource Officer Grant**

The Council is scheduled to vote on a supplemental appropriation of \$1,436,172 to the Montgomery County Police Department’s (MCPD) FY20 operating budget for the FY20 school resource officer grant. This supplemental appropriation is needed to authorize expenditures of the grant from the Maryland Center for School Safety. This funding will pay for overtime for sworn officers to provide adequate school resource officer coverage at all MCPS schools. The Council staff report will be available here on March 23:

[https://montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20200324/20200324\\_AG.pdf](https://montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20200324/20200324_AG.pdf)

### **Bill 14-20, Human Rights and Civil Liberties – Discriminatory Employment Practices – Workplace Harassment**

Bill 14-20, which would define and prohibit certain discriminatory practices in the workplace, is scheduled for introduction. Councilmember Will Jawando is the lead sponsor. Councilmember Nancy Navarro is a cosponsor. Bill 14-20 would define and prohibit discriminatory harassment and sexual harassment by employers in the County. The bill would alter the level of harassing conduct that constitutes an employment discrimination claim under County law. Harassment would not need to raise to the level of being “severe or pervasive” to be actionable; the harassment would be actionable as long as it was “more than a petty slight, trivial inconvenience, or minor annoyance.” The goal of this legislation is to help ensure that employees do not face workplace harassment, including sexual harassment. A public hearing on this bill is tentatively scheduled for April 14 at 1:30 p.m. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

[https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20200324/20200324\\_3A.pdf](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20200324/20200324_3A.pdf)

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

### **Bill 38-19, Streets and Roads – Permit to Obstruct Public Rights-of-Way – Amendments**

The Council is scheduled to vote on Bill 38-19, which would require the County Executive to adopt certain regulations regarding permits to close curb lanes, sidewalks or shared use paths in the public rights-of-way. Councilmember Andrew Friedson is the lead sponsor. Councilmembers Evan Glass, Will Jawando, Hans Riemer and Gabe Albornoz, Council Vice President Tom Hucker, Councilmember Craig Rice and Council President Sidney Katz are cosponsors. Bill 38-19 also would do the following: limit the circumstances in which the Department of Permitting Services (DPS) may grant or extend a permit to close a curb lane, sidewalk or shared use path; and require the director of DPS to publish certain information regarding permits to close curb lanes, sidewalks or shared use paths. The goal of this

legislation is to assure pedestrian safety, minimize inconvenience to the public related to sidewalk closures and increase transparency about permits to close sidewalks. The Transportation and Environment (T&E) Committee recommends enactment with the following amendments:

- Permit the director of DPS to allow storage in temporarily closed rights-of-way in certain circumstances.
- Alter the geographic scope of the requirement that permittees must provide safe alternative paths.
- For purposes of the bill, define public to include pedestrians, bicyclists and transit users.
- Exempt certain existing projects from the requirements of the bill.
- Subject certain County projects to the requirements of the bill.
- Clarify that certain removable structures are permitted in the right-of-way upon approval of the director of DPS.
- Clarify the types of permits subject to the requirements of the bill.

The Council staff report can be viewed here:

[https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20200324/20200324\\_4A.pdf](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20200324/20200324_4A.pdf)

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

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

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

### **Supplemental Appropriation to the County Government's Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20) Operating Budget, Dept. of Finance - \$3,500,000 for Economic Development Fund**

The Council is scheduled to hold a public hearing and vote on a supplemental appropriation of \$3,500,00 to the Department of Finance's FY20 Operating Budget for the Economic Development Fund. The County Executive has requested a supplemental appropriation totaling \$3.5 million to support the County's Economic Development Fund (EDF) agreement with Federal Realty Investment Trust for the construction of a new office building in White Flint. The County's grant will total \$5 million: an initial installment of \$3.5 million and annual disbursements of \$250,000 for six years. The Council previously supported the use of the EDF in 2018. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

[https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20200324/20200324\\_5.pdf](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20200324/20200324_5.pdf)

### **Supplemental Appropriation to the County Government's FY20 Operating Budget, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) - \$358,331 to Increase Somatic and Mental Health Services at Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS)**

The Council is scheduled to hold a public hearing and vote on a supplemental appropriation of \$358,331 to DHHS' FY20 operating budget to increase somatic and mental health services at Montgomery County Public Schools. MCPS received this funding from the Maryland State Department of Education for the Concentration of Poverty School Grant program. MCPS is collaborating with DHHS to increase somatic and mental health services to support students and families. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

[https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20200324/20200324\\_6.pdf](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20200324/20200324_6.pdf)

### **Supplemental Appropriation to the County Government's FY20 Operating Budget, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) - \$300,000 for Kresge Foundation Integrating Health and Human Services: System for Equitable and Thriving Communities**

The Council is scheduled to hold a public hearing and vote on a supplemental appropriation of \$300,000 to DHHS' FY20 operating budget for Kresge Foundation Integrating Health and Human Services: System for Equitable and Thriving Communities. The Kresge Foundation has awarded DHHS \$300,000 over four years to enhance service integration efforts. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

[https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20200324/20200324\\_7.pdf](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20200324/20200324_7.pdf)

**Supplemental Appropriation to the County Government’s FY20 Operating Budget, Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service - \$1,962,542 for Senator Amoss Fire, Rescue and Ambulance Fund**

The Council is scheduled to hold a public hearing and vote on a supplemental appropriation of \$1,962,542 for the Senator Amoss Fire, Rescue and Ambulance Fund. This supplemental appropriation is needed to authorize expenditures of \$1,962,542 that will fund acquisition of apparatus and capital equipment, as well as the renovation of facilities used to house apparatus. The source of the funds is a state grant. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

[https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20200324/20200324\\_8.pdf](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20200324/20200324_8.pdf)

**Supplemental Appropriation to Montgomery County Public Schools’ (MCPS) FY20 Capital Budget - \$367,850 for HVAC Replacement Project**

The Council is scheduled to hold a public hearing and vote on a supplemental appropriation of \$367,850 to MCPS’ FY20 Capital Budget for HVAC replacement. The Board of Education requested this supplemental appropriation and CIP amendment on January 9. The County Executive recommended approval on February 4. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

[https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20200324/20200324\\_9.pdf](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20200324/20200324_9.pdf)