

COUNCIL COMING ATTRACTIONS



Week of April 26, 2021

Proclamation recognizing Cross Community, Inc. by Councilmember Katz, recognizing Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month by Council Vice President Albornoz and County Executive Elrich and recognizing Fair Housing Month by Council President Hucker and the PHED Committee

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>

Summary

Tuesday's Council session will begin with three proclamations. The first proclamation Recognizes Cross Community, Inc. and will be presented by Councilmember Katz. The second recognizes Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month and will be presented by Council Vice President Alborno and County Executive Elrich. The third recognizes Fair Housing Month and will be presented by Council President Huckler and the Planning, Housing and Economic Development Committee.

The meeting will continue with the Council sitting as the Board of Health and Dr. Travis Gayles, Dr. Earl Stoddard and Dr. Raymond Crowel will provide their weekly COVID-19 pulse report update to Councilmembers. Next, the Council sitting as the Board of Health is scheduled to introduce, hold a public hearing and vote on the fifth amended Board of Health regulation to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in Montgomery County and provide guidance for reopening the County based on the percentage of the County population receiving COVID-19 vaccinations. The Council will then interview Katherine Durbinmove, who is the County Executive's appointment for director, Department of Alcohol Beverage Services.

The Council will then move to the consent calendar to vote on a resolution in support of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Government Resolution Supporting Statehood for the District of Columbia. The council is then expected to vote to confirm the County Executive's appointments of Joy Champaloux and Graham Gursky to serve on the White Flint Downtown Advisory Committee. Next, the Council will introduce and vote on a resolution to Approve RCNStarpower Cable Franchise Transfer of control to Stonepeak Associates IV, LLC.

In the afternoon, the Council will hold a public hearing to consider increasing the FY22 General Fund tax rate above the Constant Yield Tax Rate. Then the council will hold session to review the Ashton Village Center Sector Plan and compensation and benefits for all agencies in the FY21 recommended operating budget. Next, the Council's will review its intent to approve or reject provisions of the collective bargaining agreements with the Municipal and County Government Employees' Organization (MCGEO), the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) and the Montgomery County Career Fire Fighters Association of the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF).

The Council session will conclude with review of five FY21-26 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Amendments. These will include CIP Amendments for Montgomery County Public Schools, FiberNet, ultraMontgomery, economic development and the KID Museum and improvements to County offices.

The Council session will be held April 27 at 9 a.m.

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) and County Public Health Planning

Update: Sitting as the Board of Health, the Council will receive an update on the County's ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its recovery and vaccination efforts.

Those expected to provide information include Dr. Travis Gayles, health officer and chief of the Department of Health and Human Services' (DHHS) Public Health Services; Dr. Earl Stoddard, director, Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security; and Dr. Raymond Crowel, director, DHHS. Join the conversation with [#COVID-19](#)

Resolution to adopt a Fifth Amended Board of Health Regulation to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the County

Introduction, public hearing and vote expected: The Council, sitting as the Board of Health, is scheduled to introduce, hold a public hearing and vote on a Fifth Amended Board of Health Regulation to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in Montgomery County and provide guidance on reopening based on the percentage of the County population receiving the COVID-19 vaccine.

Council President Hucker and Council Vice President Albornoz have proposed amendments to the current Board of Health regulation that would add guidance for reopening the County based on the percentage of the County population receiving COVID-19 vaccinations.

Currently, 49 percent of the County population has received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccination. The three phases of reopening would be automatically triggered when the Montgomery County Health Officer reports the vaccination progress to the Board of Health.

The reopening would require continued face covering usage and social distancing. The phases would be:

1. At 50 percent of the population receiving at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine:
 - gathering limits increase to 50 people indoors and 100 people outdoors;
 - businesses limited to 25 percent capacity move to 50 percent capacity if they do not sell or permit the consumption of food or drink;
 - camps can move to the gathering limits of 50 indoors and 100 outdoors;
 - escape rooms can allow 10 people per game;
 - museums and galleries may reopen touch exhibits;
 - malls may reopen pedestrian concourses and return tables and chairs inside; and
 - sports move to 50 people indoors and 100 outdoors with a similar number of spectators.
2. At 60 percent of the population receiving at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine;
 - gathering limits increase to 250 people indoors and no limit outdoors;

- most businesses move to 75 percent capacity and may sell food and drink for consumption while seated;
 - camps can increase to gathering limits of 250 people indoors with no capacity limit outdoors and may permit campers from outside of Washington, D.C., Maryland or Virginia;
 - convention and banquet facilities are limited to 50 percent of the facilities maximum capacity per State restrictions;
 - cigar and hookah bars may permit smoking outdoors;
 - food service establishments may move to 75 percent of maximum capacity;
 - religious facilities may move to 75 percent of maximum capacity; and
 - sports may increase capacity for participants and spectators to 250 people indoors and no limit outdoors.
3. At 50 percent of the population being fully vaccinated with the COVID-19 vaccine all conduct and business in Montgomery County must follow any State or Maryland Department of Health requirements in place at the time.

Those expected to provide information include Dr. Travis Gayles, health officer and chief of the Department of Health and Human Services' (DHHS) Public Health Services; and Silvia Kinch, County Attorney's Office.

Resolution in support of Metropolitan Washington Council of Government Resolution Supporting Statehood for the District of Columbia

Vote expected: Introduced by lead sponsors Council President Hucker, Councilmember Navarro and Councilmember Glass, the Council is expected to vote on a resolution supporting the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' Resolution urging statehood for the District of Columbia. Given the inter-connectivity with the population living and working in the District, Montgomery County will be positively impacted by the designation of statehood for the District.

In February, the Council also passed a resolution in support of D.C. statehood which was introduced by lead sponsor Councilmember Glass. All other Councilmembers were cosponsors.

Resolution to approve RCN/Starpower Transfer Cable Franchise Transfer of Control to Stonepeak Associates IV, LLC

Introduction and vote expected: The Council is expected to introduce and vote on the County Executive's request to approve the transfer a cable franchise from the current franchisee, Starpower Communications, LLC (doing business as RCN) to Stonepeak Associates IV, LLC.

Intent to consider increasing the FY22 General Fund tax rate above the Constant Yield Tax Rate (CYTR)

Public Hearing: The Council will hold a public hearing to consider increasing the FY22 General Fund tax rate to exceed the Constant Yield Tax Rate (CYTR). The CYTR is the property tax rate for the coming fiscal year that would generate the same amount of revenue that was generated

during the current fiscal year. The State Department of Assessments and Taxation calculates the CYTR annually for each taxing authority in Maryland.

Ashton Village Center Sector Plan

Review: The Ashton Village Center Sector Plan is designed to transform Ashton into a viable and vibrant rural village center. The council will review recommendations for the plan area including land use, zoning, community design and transportation issues.

The plan area includes 127 acres around the intersection of MD 108, known as Olney Sandy Spring Road, and New Hampshire Ave. (MD 650). The plan envisions the Ashton Village Center as a compact, low-rise, walkable and bikeable rural village with a mix of land uses.

The plan provides zoning and design recommendations intended to allow the density and uses expected for a rural village, while ensuring that new development complements Ashton's existing commercial center and rural character.

Since two state highways (MD 108 and MD 650) form a crossroads at the core of the Ashton Village Center, this plan also provides transportation recommendations related to vehicle, pedestrian and bicycle mobility in the plan area.

Those expected to provide information include: Planning Board Chair Casey Anderson; Gwen Wright, director, Planning Department; Robert Kronenberg, deputy director, Planning Department; Patrick Butler, Upcounty division chief, Montgomery Planning Department; and Montgomery Planning Department staff.

Compensation and Benefits

Review: The Council will review compensation and benefits for all County agencies in the FY21 Recommended Operating Budget. The Council review will cover five key areas: FY22 budget and compensation context; overview and analysis of FY22 agency requests for pay adjustments; retirement and group insurance; Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) pre-funding; an analysis of compensation cost sustainability; and compensation related Non-Departmental Accounts.

Those expected to attend and provide information include: Deputy Chief Administrative Officer Fariba Kassiri; Jennifer Bryant, director, Office of Management and Budget; Jennifer Harling, chief labor relations officer; and Office of Labor Relations and Office of Management and Budget staff.

Collective Bargaining Agreements with MCGEO, FOP and IAFF

Worksession and Action: The Council will hold a worksession on a resolution to indicate its intent to approve or reject provisions of the collective bargaining agreements with the Municipal and County Government Employees' Organization (MCGEO), the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) and the Montgomery County Career Fire Fighters Association of the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF).

Under County Employees Labor Relations Laws, the Council must indicate by resolution its intention to appropriate funds or otherwise implement the agreements, or its intention not to do so and state its reasons for any intent to reject any part of an agreement.

Montgomery County Public Schools FY21-26 CIP Amendments

Review: The Council will review amendments to the FY21-26 Capital Improvements Program for Montgomery County Public Schools. The Board of Education's FY21-26 amendment request totals \$1.73 billion, which is \$3.7 million more than the approved FY21-26 CIP.

The County Executive recommends \$1.61 billion in six-year expenditures, which is \$117.3 million less than the original approved FY21-26 CIP and \$121 million less than the Board's request. Large technical adjustments comprise \$68.4 million of the Executive's recommended reduction to reflect actual project expenditures.

Those expected to attend and provide information include: Brenda Wolff, president, Board of Education; Dr. Jack R. Smith, superintendent of schools, MCPS; Dr. Monifa McKnight, deputy superintendent, MCPS; Essie McGuire, associate superintendent of operations, MCPS; Adrienne Karamihas, director of the division of capital planning, MCPS; Seth Adams, director of the department of facilities management, MCPS; and Office of Management and Budget staff.

FiberNet P509651 for \$5,772,000

Vote expected: The Council is expected to vote on the \$5.7 million FY22 FiberNet CIP to provide funds for the planning, design and installation of a Countywide electro-optical fiber communications network.

The network supports voice, public safety, traffic management, data, internet access, wireless networking and video transmissions among Montgomery County Government agencies, departments and facilities. Key initiatives for FY21 and FY22 include upgrades to edge and core equipment to expand capacity and hub-site HVAC and back-up power supplies.

Those expected to attend and provide information include: Gail Roper, chief information officer, Department of Technology Services (DTS); Joe Webster, chief broadband officer, DTS; and Felicia Hyatt, Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

ultraMontgomery (P341700) CIP

Review: The Council will review the \$680,000 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) for the ultraMontgomery project. The funds support economic development and technology leadership in the County.

The request supports planning, engineering, design and construction of high-speed connections along Route 29, White Oak and along the planned Purple Line, as well as connections to the Ashburn, VA data centers and global Internet hubs for County businesses.

General Government - Economic Development and KID Museum Project

Review: The Council will review Amendments to the FY21-26 Capital Improvements Program for the Economic Development and the KID Museum Project. This includes review of the recommended \$40.8 million FY21-FY26 expenditure for the planning and development of the White Oak Redevelopment Program, a 110-acre County-owned parcel on Industrial Parkway.

The Council will also review the County Executive's FY22 recommendation for \$1.2 million in funds for the KID Museum, a non-profit organization serving families and students to provide an experiential STEM and cultural learning center for children and families in the region.

In addition, the Council will review funding changes for the Wheaton Redevelopment Program. The Office of Management and Budget accelerated some funding from FY21 to FY20 to account for actual expenditures. The acceleration did not impact the project's expenditures or timing. Those expected to attend and provide information include Mary Beck, Pofen Salem and Anita Aryeetey from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

General Government - County Offices and Other Improvements

Review: The Council will review the County Executive's \$212.3 million recommended FY21-26 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) and Amendments for the Department of General Services (DGS). This is a 0.2 percent increase from the FY21-26 Approved CIP. Changes include, a cost increase of \$500,000 for the COB Renovation project and a cost decrease of \$24,000 for acceleration of expenditures from FY21 into FY20 in asbestos abatement and facility planning projects.

Those expected to attend and provide information include: David Dise, director, DGS; Greg Ossont, deputy director, DGS; and Office of Management and Budget staff.

Committee Meetings on Monday, April 26

The Government Operations & Fiscal Policy (GO) Committee will meet on **Monday, April 26 at 9:30 a.m.** to review the Recommended FY22 Operating Budgets for debt service, leases, the Working Families Income Supplement and the Office of the Inspector General.

The Education & Culture (E&C) Committee will meet at **1:30 p.m.** to review the Recommended FY22 Operating Budgets and FY21-26 CIP Amendments for Community Use of Public Facilities, Montgomery County Public Libraries, the Public Arts Trust and Montgomery Coalition for Adult English Literacy (MCAEL).

The members of the Government Operations & Fiscal Policy (GO) Committee include Chair Nancy Navarro and Councilmembers Andrew Friedson and Sidney Katz.

The members of the Education & Culture (E&C) Committee include Chair Craig Rice and Councilmembers Will Jawando (Lead for Libraries) and Nancy Navarro.

Debt Services

Review: The GO Committee will review the County Executive's \$420.7 million Recommended FY22 Operating Budget for debt service. The FY22 tax supported debt service expenditures are 8.2 percent of the total FY22 recommended tax supported budget. The recommended appropriation for the next fiscal year reflects the past spending decisions of the County.

The County's debt service costs are based on its credit rating. The County has the highest credit rating possible for a local government, which is AAA, from Moody's Investors Service, Inc., Standard and Poor's and from Fitch Ratings, Inc.

Montgomery County's Director of Finance Mike Coveyou is expected to attend the meeting.

Leases

Review: The Committee will also review the County Executive's \$27.1 million recommended budget for the Leases Non-Departmental Account (NDA). The recommendation is a 19.4 percent increase from the FY21 Approved Budget. The FY22 budget includes about 751,000 square feet of leased space with ten leases accounting for approximately \$15.1 million in expenditures.

Those expected to attend and provide information includes Greg Ossont, deputy director, Department of General Services.

Working Families Income Supplement NDA

Review: The Committee will review the County Executive's \$40.1 million recommended budget for the Working Families Income Supplement (WFIS) NDA. The recommendation nearly doubles the FY21 Approved Budget.

This NDA provides funds to supplement the State's Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and is intended to benefit low-income working families in the County. The County supplements the State's refund by 100 percent, in effect doubling the amount received from the State for County residents.

On April 20, lead sponsors Councilmembers Albornoz, Navarro and Katz introduced Expedited Bill 14-21 to expand eligibility for the Working Families Income Supplement. Montgomery County's Director of Finance Mike Coveyou is expected to attend the meeting.

Office of the Inspector General

Review: The Committee will review the recommended \$2 million operating budget for the Office of the Inspector General (OIG). The recommendation is a 13.9 percent increase from the FY21 Approved Budget. The increase provides additional staffing for the OIG's Audit Division.

OIG promotes the effectiveness and efficiency of programs and operations in County government and for independent County agencies, prevents and detects fraud, waste, and abuse

in government activities, and proposes ways to increase the legal, fiscal, and ethical accountability of County government and County-funded agencies.

Those expected to attend and provide information include Inspector General Megan Davey Limarzi and Phil Weeda, management and budget specialist, Office of Management and Budget.

Community Use of Public Facilities

The E&C Committee will review the County Executive's recommends total expenditures of \$8.5 million for Community Use of Public Facilities (CUPF), which is a decrease of 28.3 percent from the FY21 approved budget.

CUPF maximizes the community's use of schools and other public facilities and to identify and facilitate activities and programs that respond to the community's needs without disrupting the instructional program of the Montgomery County Public Schools or County operations.

Review: The E&C Committee will also review the following FY22 Operating Budget and FY21-26 CIP Amendments:

- **CIP: Libraries and Public Arts Trust**
- **CIP: Cost Sharing: MCG**
- **NDA Montgomery Coalition for Adult English Literacy (MCAEL)**

Operating Budget Consent Items:

Review: The GO Committee will also review the following FY22 Operating Budget Non-Departmental Account (NDA) consent items:

- **Future Federal/State/Other Grants**
- **Grants to Municipalities in Lieu of Shares Tax NDA**
- **State Property Tax Services NDA**
- **Takoma Park Police Rebate NDA**
- **Finance**
- **Risk Management NDA**
- **Human Resources**
- **Labor Relations**
- **Board of Elections**
- **Merit System Protection Board**
- **Ethics Commission**
- **Office of Management and Budget**
- **NDA: County Associations; Boards, Committees and Commissions; Council of Governments; Public Technology, Inc.**
- **Department of General Services**
- **Office of the County Attorney**

Review: The E&C Committee will also review the following FY22 Operating Budget consent items:

- [Libraries](#)
- [NDA: Arts and Humanities Council](#)
- [NDA Takoma Park Library Payment](#)