



## COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

**APPROVED**

Tuesday, April 7, 2020

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland convened via video conference at 1:30 P.M. on Tuesday, April 7, 2020.

### PRESENT

Councilmember Sidney Katz, President  
Councilmember Gabe Albornoz  
Councilmember Evan Glass  
Councilmember Nancy Navarro

Councilmember Tom Hucker, Vice President  
Councilmember Andrew Friedson  
Councilmember Will Jawando  
Councilmember Craig Rice  
Councilmember Hans Riemer

The President in the Chair.

### **UPDATE AND DISCUSSION on COVID-19 and Council operations**

President Katz noted that the Council will continue to conduct sessions remotely as it actively addresses the needs of the community and is committed to providing necessary resources to combat COVID-19. President Katz also noted that the Council is keeping residents impacted by the pandemic in their thoughts and prayers.

Ms. Michaelson, Council Executive Director, provided an update on Council operations. She noted that since the Council Office Building is closed, most employees are working remotely. Ms. Michaelson communicated ways that the public can submit testimony for public hearings, including written, audio, and video testimony, and shared that the public has the option to participate telephonically in the upcoming operating budget hearings.

Mr. Howard, Deputy Director, provided a summary of recent key Council actions and initiatives, including over \$36 million in assistance for essential services and financial support for County residents (includes safety-net services and meals), hotel/motel rooms for medical staff and first responders, funding for hospitals, and support for local businesses and nonprofits that are struggling to survive the economic impact of COVID-19.

Mr. Smith, Legislative Analyst, reviewed the Constant Yield Tax Rate (CYTR), noting that constituents have been concerned by the rate that was listed in the recent newspaper advertisement. As background, Mr. Smith stated that State law requires each County to calculate the real property tax rate that would levy the same real property tax revenues each year, and that State law is very specific about the advertising language for a rate that exceeds the CYTR. The advertised rate indicates the maximum that Council will consider while reviewing the operating budget. In order to set a property tax rate that is in conformance with the many decisions before the Council each year, the Council always advertises a higher rate in April, but the actual real property tax rate that is set by the Council is always less than what the Council advertises.

Councilmembers shared updates on various measures and legislative initiatives related to COVID-19, including the opening of an appointment-only testing site in White Oak, the continuing lack of personal protective equipment (PPE) and testing, the County's multi-cultural communications outreach team headed by Ken Hartman, increased food distribution and meeting the needs of vulnerable families, rental protection, and the status homeless shelters . Discussed and examined certain models to continue core constituent and legislative work, and reviewed continued approaches to allow public participation.

The meeting adjourned at 3:02 P.M.

### **Motion to Close**

The Council adjourned the open session at 3:02 P.M. and reconvened remotely via video conference in closed session from 3:35 P.M. to 4:31 P.M. Mr. Albornoz made the motion, which carried unanimously.

### **Report of Closed Session of April 7, 2020**

In compliance with Section 3-306(c)(2), General Provisions Article, Maryland Code, the following is a report of the County Council's closed session of Tuesday, April 7, 2020. The Council convened in closed session via video conference at 3:35 P.M to discuss public security, if the public body determines that public discussion would constitute a risk to the public or public security, including: (i) the deployment of fire and police services and staff; and (ii) the development and implementation of emergency plans pursuant to Maryland Code, General Provisions Article §3-305(b)(10). The topic was COVID-19 emergency plans. The meeting was closed on a motion by Mr. Albornoz, which carried without objection.

The following persons were present: Councilmembers Katz, Hucker, Albornoz, Friedson, Glass, Jawando, Navarro, Rice and Riemer; Chiefs of Staff Carranza, Kunes, Thorne, Silverman, Mandel-Trupp, Ikheloa, Ledner, and Nurmi;

Ms. Michaelson, Council Executive Director; Mr. Howard, Deputy Director; Ms. McMillan, Senior Legislative Analyst; Mr. Drummer, Senior Legislative Attorney; Ms. Mihill and Ms. Wellons, Legislative Attorneys; Ms. Parsons, IT Manager; and Ms. Singleton, Clerk of the Council.

**Action:** None taken.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

***Approved/Signed by Clerk of the Council***

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Selena Mendy Singleton, Esq.  
Clerk of the Council