

COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

APPROVED

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland convened via video conference at 9:02 A.M. on Tuesday, March 2, 2021.

PRESENT

Councilmember Tom Hucker, President Councilmember Gabe Albornoz, Vice President

Councilmember Andrew Friedson Councilmember Evan Glass
Councilmember Will Jawando Councilmember Sidney Katz
Councilmember Nancy Navarro Councilmember Craig Rice

Councilmember Hans Riemer

The President in the Chair.

PRESENTATIONS

- A. Proclamation was presented by Mr. Rice in Recognition of Arjun Krishnan.
- B. Proclamation was presented by Ms. Navarro Commemorating Women's History Month: Women at the Forefront of the COVID-19 Battle.

GENERAL BUSINESS

A. **Announcements** - Agenda and Calendar Changes

Ms. Singleton, Clerk of the Council, announced an addendum to the agenda, stating a correction in the date of the Closed Session Minutes: [November] February 4 and 9, [2020] 2021; and a correction for introduction of a Supplemental [Special] Appropriation to Montgomery County Public Schools' (MCPS) FY21 Capital Budget and Amendment to the FY21-26 Capital Improvements Program - \$216,204 for Planned Life Cycle Asset Replacement: MCPS.

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(1) The Council is seeking applicants for a partial term on the Public Election Fund Committee. The deadline to apply is March 10, 2021, at 5:00 P.M.

(2) B. Acknowledgement – Receipt of Petitions

Acknowledged receipt of a petition from residents of Montgomery County supporting the reopening of cigar lounges in Montgomery County.

C. Action – Approval of Minutes

Approved the minutes of November 10, 12, 16, and 17, 2020, and the closed session minutes of February 4 and 9, 2021, without objection.

(3) COUNCIL SITTING AS BOARD OF HEALTH

A. Update - Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) and County Public Health Planning, and Discussion of the Equity in the Vaccine Rollout

Participating in the discussion were Dr. Gayles, County Health Officer and Chief of Public Health Services, and Dr. Crowel, Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS); and Dr. Stoddard, Director, Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (OEMHS).

Received information from Dr. Gayles that the number of COVID cases has improved, but currently has plateaued; that impacts of variant strains of the virus is concerning and the rate of transmission is higher now than during the second peak; over 14% of the County's population has been vaccinated; and that the Johnson and Johnson vaccine has been approved but no formal guidelines received from the State on distribution prioritization. Dr. Crowel reported that a higher number of doses would be allocated to highly impacted areas, that preregistration needs to be encouraged, and they are working with community partners to help in those areas. Dr. Stoddard said they are working with the State for designation of a mass vaccination site in the County.

Responding to questions from Councilmembers, the panel indicated the capacity exists in the County to administer more vaccine doses as they become available, that they are working with the State to identify independent living communities and areas with a large senior population; and acknowledged the need to increase vaccination efforts in communities of color; and efforts are underway to offer vaccinations to all educators and staff prior to March 15.

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DISTRICT COUNCIL SESSION

(4) **Briefing** - Ashton Village Center Sector Plan

Participating in the discussion were Mr. Anderson, Chair, Montgomery County Planning Board; Ms. Wright, Director, and Mr. Pratt, Senior Planner, Upcounty, Planning Department.

Received an overview of the Ashton Village Sector Plan. Ms. Navarro commented on the area's need for connectivity and that height and density issues are concern to the community. A public hearing is scheduled on the Plan later this afternoon.

(5) CONSENT CALENDAR

Approved the following consent calendar items listed below. Ms. Navarro made the motion, which carried without objection.

- A. **Introduced** a supplemental appropriation to the County Government's FY21 Operating Budget, Department of Police, Department of Correction and Rehabilitation, Sheriff's Office, and the State's Attorney's Office \$264,568 for Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP), Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), Byrne Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Grant Funding. A public hearing and action are scheduled for March 16, 2021, at 1:30 P.M.
- B. Introduced a supplemental appropriation to the County Government's FY21 Capital Budget and amendment to the FY21-26 Capital Improvements Program (CIP), Department of Transportation (DOT) \$472,000 for Intelligent Transit System. A public hearing and action are scheduled for March 16, 2021, at 1:30 P.M.
- C. **Introduced** a supplemental appropriation to MCPS' FY21 Capital Budget and Amendment to the FY21-26 CIP \$216,204 for Planned Life Cycle Asset Replacement: MCPS. A public hearing and action are scheduled for March 23, 2021, at 1:30 P.M.
- D. Introduced/Adopted Resolution 19-747, resolution to Amend Resolution 19-472, Section G, FY21 Designation of Entities for Non-Competitive Contract Award Status: GNV Design, LLC, for public awareness campaign to support to DHHS' clients and crime victims.
- E. Adopted **Resolution 19-748**, proposed amendments to the Ten-Year Comprehensive Water Supply and Sewerage Systems Plan: Six Category Change Requests.

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- F. Adopted **Resolution 19-749**, confirming the County Executive's appointment to the Commission on Children and Youth: Kirsten Andersen.
- G. Adopted **Resolution 19-750**, confirming the County Executive's appointment to the Board of Investment Trustees and Board of Trustees for Consolidated Retiree Health Benefits Trust: Jennifer Bryant.

The meeting recessed at 12:22 P.M. and reconvened at 1:32 P.M.

(4) PUBLIC HEARING - Ashton Village Center Sector Plan

The public hearing was conducted. Additional material for the Council's consideration should be submitted by the close of business on March 6, 2021. Planning, Housing and Economic Development (PHED) committee worksessions are tentatively scheduled for April 5 and 19, 2021.

(6) **PUBLIC HEARING** - Subdivision Regulation Amendment (SRA) 21-01, Exemptions - Alcohol Production and Agritourism

The public hearing was conducted. Additional material for the Council's consideration should be submitted by the close of business on March 9, 2021. A PHED committee worksession will be scheduled at a later date.

(7) **PUBLIC HEARING/ACTION** - Resolution to approve amendments to Bethesda Urban Partnership (BUP) Bylaws

The public hearing was conducted and the record closed.

Adopted **Resolution 19-751**, approving the subject resolution for BUP. Mr. Friedson made the motion, which carried unanimously.

(8) **PUBLIC HEARING** - Supplemental Appropriation to the County Government's FY21 Capital Budget and Amendment to the FY21-26 CIP, Department of General Services (DGS) - \$92,000 for Council Office Building Renovations

The public hearing was conducted. Additional material for the Council's consideration should be submitted by the close of business on March 10, 2021. Action is tentatively scheduled for March 16, 2021.

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(9) **DISTRICT COUNCIL**

A. Introduction - Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA) 21-01, Sign Ordinance - Bus Shelter Advertising

Introduced draft #1 of ZTA 21-01, sponsored by the Council President at the request of the County Executive. A public hearing is scheduled for April 6, 2021, at 1:30 P.M.

B. Action - Hearing Examiner's report and recommendation on Local Map
Amendment (LMA) H-138 for property located at 7206 and 7212 Carroll
Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland, more particularly described as Parcels
N923 and N968 of Section 1, S.S. Carroll's Addition to Takoma Park and Part
of Lot P2, Section 3, S.S. Carroll's Addition to Takoma Park

Ms. Hannan, Director/Hearing Examiner, Office of Zoning and Administrative Hearings (OZAH), provided a summary on LMA H-138 for the expansion of the Takoma Park Montessori School. Upon questioning by Mr. Riemer, noted that there was no opposition to the application.

Adopted **Resolution 19-752**, approving LMA H-138. Mr. Riemer made the motion, which carried unanimously.

(10) **ACTION** - Fiscal Policy

Participating in the discussion were Ms. Michaelson, Council Executive Director; Mr. Smith, Legislative Analyst; and Mr. Coveyou, Director, Department of Finance.

Ms. Navarro, Chair of the Government Operations and Fiscal Policy (GO) Committee, provided introductory remarks noting the County last updated its fiscal policy in 2011 following the Great Recession, and the importance of a provision that requires that the County replenish reserves within one to three years following an economic recession. She noted the importance of rigorous standards and strong financial management to maintain a AAA bond rating, Montgomery County being one of the few counties holding a AAA rating from all three rating agencies.

Ms. Navarro summarized the Committee recommendations to amend and restate Resolution No. 17-312, as contained in the staff report. She noted that fiscal discipline will be of utmost importance during these uncertain times.

Mr. Smith reviewed the recommended amendments.

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Adopted **Resolution 19-753**, amending and restating Resolution 17-312 - Reserve and Selected Fiscal Policies. The GO Committee made the motion, which carried unanimously.

(11) INTRODUCTION/SUSPENSION OF RULES/ACTION - Resolution to Approve Second FY21 Savings Plan

Introduced the subject resolution and approved without objection the motion made by Mr. Katz to suspend the rules to allow immediate action.

Adopted **Resolution 19-754**, approving the second FY21 Savings Plan, without objection.

COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND IN LEGISLATIVE SESSION - Day #7

(11.5) Introduction of Bills

A. <u>Bill 10-21</u>, Economic Development - Economic Development Strategic Plan - Economic Development Corporation - Duties

Introduced draft #10 of **Bill 10-21**, sponsored by Councilmember Friedson, and co-sponsored by Councilmembers Riemer and Navarro. A public hearing is scheduled for March 23, 2021, at 1:30 P.M.

Mr. Albornoz and Mr. Katz requested to be added as co-sponsors of the bill.

B. <u>Bill 11-21</u>, Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation - Bylaws - Live Video Streaming of Open Meetings

Introduced draft #3 of **Bill 11-21**, sponsored by Councilmembers Glass and co-sponsored by Councilmember Hucker. A public hearing is scheduled for March 23, 2021, at 1:30 P.M.

Councilmembers Jawando, Katz, Navarro, Albornoz, and Rice requested to be added as co-sponsors of the bill.

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(12) Call of Bills for Final Reading:

A. <u>Bill 47-20</u>, Ethics, Ethics Commission - Conflicts of Interest - Financial Disclosure - Amendments

Ms. Navarro, Chair of the GO Committee, and Mr. Drummer, Senior Legislative Attorney, reviewed the Committee's recommendation, as contained in the staff report.

Enacted draft #7 of Bill 47-20, as shown at the end of these minutes.

The GO Committee made the motion and the bill was enacted by a roll call vote:

YEAS: Glass, Jawando, Riemer, Navarro, Rice, Friedson, Katz, Albornoz, Hucker.

The meeting adjourned at 2:58 P.M.

This is an accurate account of the meeting:

Selena Mendy Singleton, Esq.

Clerk of the Council

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Bill No		17-20				
Concerning: _	Ethics	, Ethics	Com	mission -		
Conflicts	of	Interest	-	Financial		
Disclosure - Amendments						
Revised: 2	-22-21		Draft	No. <u>7</u>		
Introduced: _	Dec	ember 1,	2020)		
Enacted:	Mar	ch 2, 202	21			
Executive:						
Effective:						
Sunset Date:	Non	.e				
Ch I	owe of	Mont C	^			

COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

Lead Sponsor: Council President at the Request of the Ethics Commission

AN ACT to:

(1) require employees to attend a public ethics training course;

(2) amend the law governing appeals of a decision by the Ethics Commission;

amend the law governing the Ethics Commission's resolution of complaints;

(4) [[modify the restrictions on a public employee's participation in certain matters;

(5)]] repeal an exception to the restrictions on outside employment for an elected official;

[[(6)]] (5) clarify an exception to soliciting or accepting certain small gifts;

[[(7)]] (6) modify the procedures for administering the financial disclosure process; and

[[(8)]] (7) generally amend the law governing public ethics.

By amending

Montgomery County Code Chapter 19A, Ethics

Sections 19A-6, 19A-10, 19A-11, 19A-12, 19A-16, and 19A-18

Boldface *Heading or defined term.*

<u>Underlining</u> *Added to existing law by original bill.*[Single boldface brackets]

**Deleted from existing law by original bill.

Double underlining Added by amendment.

[[Double boldface brackets]] Deleted from existing law or the bill by amendment.

* * Existing law unaffected by bill.

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following Act:

Sec. 1. Sections 19A-6, 19A-10, 19A-11, 19A-12, 19A-16, and 19A-18 are amended as 1 2 follows: 3 19A-6. Authority and duties of Commission; appeal of Commission decisions. 4 Authority. The Commission may: conduct investigations under Section 19A-9: 5 (1) (2) authorize the issuance of summonses and subpoenas, and administer oaths and 6 7 affirmations; 8 (3)impose sanctions under Section 19A-10: adopt regulations to implement this Chapter under method (2); 9 (4) extend a deadline for distribution or filing of forms for up to 6 months if the 10 (5) Commission finds that the deadline creates an unreasonable burden. An 11 extension may apply to an individual or a class of individuals. The extension must 12 be in writing. However, the Commission must not extend the time in which a 13 14 complaint must be filed under Section 19A-10: 15 (6) conduct public education and information programs regarding the purpose and 16 implementation of this Chapter; 17 (7) publish opinions under Section 19A-7: 18 (8) establish procedures to govern the conduct of Commission affairs; 19 (9)interpret this Chapter and advise persons as to its application; [and] 20 (10)require each compensated public employee to attend a Public Ethics training 21 course of at least one hour on the following schedule: 22 at least once every 3 years for a public employee holding a merit or a (A) 23 non-merit County position who is required to file a financial disclosure 24 statement; 25 (B) within 30 days after beginning service as County Executive or Councilmember unless the person has attended a training course within 26 27 3 years before that date; and 28 (C) at such times as the Commission determines for: 29 every other public employee; and <u>(i)</u> 30 a person holding a position described in Sections 19A-17(b)(6), (ii) 19A-17(b)(7), 19A-17(b)(8), 19A-17(b)(9) or 19A-17(c)(2); and 31 32 (11)take all other necessary acts to carry out the purposes of this Chapter. 33 34 (c) Appeals. [A] The subject of a final decision [of] finding a violation by the Commission on 35 a complaint, or a person aggrieved by a final decision on a request for a waiver[,] or request for other employment approval may [be appealed] appeal the decision to the 36 Circuit Court under the applicable Maryland Rules of Procedure governing judicial review 37 of administrative agency decisions. An appeal does not stay the effect of the 38 Commission's decision unless the court hearing the appeal orders a stay. Any party 39 aggrieved by a judgment of the Circuit Court may appeal that judgment to the Court of 40 41 Special Appeals. 42 (d) Request for rehearing or reconsideration. 43 [A] The subject of a final decision of the Commission finding a violation on a 44 complaint or a person [affected] aggrieved by a final decision of the Commission 45 on a [complaint,] request for waiver[,] or request for other employment approval may ask the Commission for a rehearing or reconsideration. 46 47 48 19A-10. Complaint; Adjudicatory Hearing. Any individual may file a confidential written complaint with the Commission. The 49 (a) (1) complaint must allege facts under oath that would support a reasonable person 50 in concluding that a violation of this Chapter or Sections 2-109, 11B-51 or 11B-51 52 52(a) occurred. 53 (2) (A) The complaint must be filed within the later of 2 years after: 54 the alleged violation; or

55			(ii)	the complainant learned or should have learned of facts that
56 57				would lead a reasonable person to conclude that a violation
58		/5	2) ^ 00	occurred.
58 59		(1	•	mplaint may not be filed more than 6 years after the alleged violation
59 60		(2) T		irred.
				ssion may refer the complaint to Commission staff or the County
61				investigation under Section 19A-9 or may retain a special counsel or
62 63				to [conduct an investigation] investigate.
		` '		aint does not allege facts sufficient to state a violation of this Chapter
64				mission finds that dismissal is consistent with the purpose of this
65				e Commission may dismiss the complaint. The Commission must
66				omplainant of its decision to dismiss the complaint. The Commission
67				the subject of the complaint that the complaint was filed and
68		a	ısmıssea [,] *	but must not disclose the identity of the complainant.
69	(-)	The Com		
70	(n)			ay, at any time, refer to an appropriate prosecuting attorney any
71				cates that a criminal offense may have occurred. The Commission
72				share confidential information about a pending matter with an
73	40.4.44 Daniel			ng official and the County Attorney.
74 75	19A-11. Parti			
75 76	(a)			permitted by a waiver, a public employee must not participate in:
76		` '	•	nat affects, in a manner distinct from its effect on the public generally,
77			ny:	autoria coleiale tha modella amendarra a balda an assurancia internati
78 70		•		erty in which the public employee holds an economic interest;
79		•		ness in which the public employee has an economic interest; or
80		((erty or business in which a relative has an economic interest, if the
81		(0)		ic employee knows about the relative's interest;
82				f the public employee knows or reasonably should know that any
83			arty to the r	
84		(/		business in which the public employee has an economic interest or
85		/[officer, director, trustee, partner, or employee;
86		(1		business in which a relative has an economic interest, if the public
87		//		loyee knows about the interest;
88		((business with which the public employee has an active application,
89		/ [gotiating, or has any arrangement for prospective employment;
90		(L		business that is considering an application from, negotiating with, or
91				an arrangement with a relative about prospective employment, if the
92			•	ic employee knows about the application, negotiations, or the
93		/ [ngement;
94		(1		business or individual that is a party to an existing contract with the
95				ic employee or a relative, if the contract could reasonably result in a
96		/ [lict between private interests and official duties;
97		(1	,	business that is engaged in a transaction with a County agency if:
98			(i)	another business owns a direct interest in the business;
99			(ii)	the public employee or a relative has a direct interest in the other
100			/ ***\	business; and
101			(iii)	the public employee reasonably should know of both direct
102			2)	interests;
103		(0		business that is subject to regulation by the agency with which the
104			•	ic employee is affiliated if:
105			(i)	another business owns a direct interest in the business;
106			(ii)	the public employee or a relative has a direct interest in the other
107			/····\	business; and
108			(iii)	the public employee reasonably should know of both direct
109				interests; or

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110 111			(H) any creditor or debtor of the public employee or a relative if the creditor or debtor can directly and substantially affect an economic interest of the
112			public employee or relative.
113		(3)	any case, contract, or other specific matter affecting a party for whom, in the prior
114		(-)	year, the public employee was required to register to engage in lobbying activity
115			under this Chapter.
116	(b)	Except	ions.
117		(1)	If a disqualification under subsection (a) leaves less than a quorum capable of
118			acting, or if the disqualified public employee is required by law to act or is the
119			only person authorized to act, the disqualified public employee may participate or
120		(0)	act if the public employee discloses the nature and circumstances of the conflict.
121		(2)	Subsection (a) does not apply to an administrative or ministerial duty that does
122		(2)	not affect an agency's decision on a matter.
123		(3)	Paragraph (a)(1) does not apply to a public employee who is appointed to a
124 125			regulatory or licensing body under a statutory provision that persons subject to the jurisdiction of the body may be represented in appointments to the body.
126		(4)	Subparagraph (a)(2)(A) does not apply to a public employee, if the County
127		(4)	Executive or the County Council appoints the public employee to serve as an
128			officer, director, or trustee of a business to represent the public interest.
129		(5)	Subparagraph (a)(2)(A) does not apply to a public employee who is an officer,
130		(-)	director, or trustee of an organization, if the public employee discloses the
131			relationship, is not compensated by the organization, and has no:
132			(A) managerial responsibility or fiduciary duty to the organization;
133			(B) authority to approve the organization's budget;
134			(C) authority to select any officer or employee of the organization; or
135			(D) authority to vote on matters as a member of the governing body of the
136		(0)	organization.
137		(6)	If expressly authorized by regulation, subsection (a) does not apply to:
138			(A) a police officer's exercise of the officer's police authority during approved
139 140			outside employment; or (B) a police officer or fire/rescue employee who is exercising the employee's
141			official duties in an emergency affecting a business or property in which
142			the employee or a relative of the employee has an economic interest.
143		[[(7)	Subparagraph (a)(2) does not apply to an employee's participation in a matter
144			affecting a business with a principal place of business outside of the County
145			where the employee's economic interest is limited to ownership of publicly traded
146			securities:
147			(A) <u>issued by a company that is part of the Standard & Poor's 500 Index; and</u>
148			(B) the market value of the securities does not exceed \$25,000.]]
149		[<u>[(8)</u>]]	Subparagraph (a)(1) does not apply to an employee's economic interest that is
150			limited to the ownership of publicly traded securities issued by a company with a
151 152			principal place of business outside the County if the market value of the securities does not exceed \$50,000.]
153			* * * *
154	19A-12. Restri	ctions o	on other employment and business ownership.
155			* * *
156	(c)	Except	ions.
157	()	(1)	Subsections (a) and (b) do not apply to:
158			(A) a public employee who is appointed to a regulatory or licensing body
159			under a statutory provision that persons subject to the jurisdiction of the
160			body may be represented in appointments to it;
161			(B) a public employee whose government duties are ministerial, if the
162			employment does not create a conflict of interest; or
163			(C) a member of a board, commission, or similar body in regard to
164 165			employment held when the member was appointed if the employment was publicly disclosed before appointment to the appointing authority,
103			was publicly disclosed before appointment to the appointing authority,

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166 and to the County Council when confirmation is required. The appointing 167 authority must forward a record of the disclosure to the Commission. 168 which must keep a record of the disclosure on file [; or 169 (D) an elected public employee in regard to employment held at the time of election, if the employment is disclosed to the County Board of Elections 170 before the election. The Commission must file the disclosure received 171 172 from the County Director of Elections with the financial disclosure record 173 of the elected public employee]. 174 (2) If expressly authorized by regulation, subparagraph (b)(1)(A) and paragraph (b)(2) do not prohibit a police officer from working outside employment for an 175 organization solely because that organization is located in the County or in the 176 177 district where the officer is assigned. 178 19A-16. Soliciting or accepting gifts. 179 180 181 (d) Subsection (c) does not apply to: 182 meals and beverages consumed in the presence of the restricted donor or 183 sponsoring entity at a function attended by at least 20 persons or, if fewer than 184 20 persons attend, meals and beverages consumed in the presence of the 185 restricted donor or sponsoring entity which do not exceed \$50 in value from the same source in any calendar year; 186 187 (2) ceremonial gifts or awards that have insignificant monetary value; 188 (3) unsolicited gifts, [of nominal value] except for cash or cash equivalents, that do not exceed \$20 in cost [, or trivial items of informational value]; 189 reasonable expenses for food, travel, lodging, and scheduled entertainment of 190 (4) 191 the public employee, given in return for the public employee's participation in a 192 panel or speaking at a meeting; 193 a gift to an elected official, if the gift: (5)194 is a courtesy extended to the office; [[and]] (A) 195 (B) consists of tickets or free admission for the elected official and one guest 196 to attend a charitable, cultural, civic, labor trade, or political event 197 attended by at least 20 participants, including meals and beverages 198 served at the event; and 199 is provided by the person sponsoring the event. 200 any item that is solely informational or of an advertising nature, including a book. (6) report, periodical, or pamphlet, if the resale value of the item is \$20 or less: 201 202 gifts from a relative; 203 honoraria for speaking to or participating in a meeting if the offering of the (8)204 honorarium is not related to the employee's official position and is unsolicited; or 205 (9)a specific gift or class of gifts which the Commission exempts from this Section 206 after finding in writing that accepting the gift or class of gifts is not detrimental to 207 the impartial conduct of the business of a County agency. 208 19A-18. Financial disclosure statement; procedures. 209 210 The Chief Administrative Officer must establish and maintain an electronic system to 211 (h) 212 facilitate filing of and public access to financial disclosure statements required under this 213 Article. Any electronic system must report an accurate list of each public employee 214 required to file a statement under Section 19A-17, whether the employee is required to 215 file under subsections 19A-17(a), (b), or (c), and include the employee's position, necessary contact information, the reviewer, and whether the report is an initial, annual, 216 217 or final report. This list should be current and correspond to personnel records and 218 records of memberships in boards, committees and commissions. Any electronic system must be able to generate reports upon request of the Chief Administrative Officer, the 219

Council Administrator, or the Commission detailing who is required to file and the current state of compliance by public employees with financial disclosure filing and review

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222	requirements under this Article. [The County Executive must annually, or more frequently
223	as requested,] The Ethics Commission must, upon request, provide the list of employees
224	designated to file financial disclosure reports to the Council. The Commission must make
225	all necessary accommodations for any person who does not have access to the
226	electronic system.
227	* * *