



COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

APPROVED

Monday, March 22, 2021

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland convened via video conference at 12:33 P.M. on Monday, March 22, 2021.

PRESENT

Councilmember Tom Hucker, President
Councilmember Andrew Friedson
Councilmember Will Jawando
Councilmember Nancy Navarro

Councilmember Gabe Albornoz, Vice President
Councilmember Evan Glass
Councilmember Sidney Katz
Councilmember Craig Rice
Councilmember Hans Riemer

The President in the Chair.

(1) **DISCUSSION** - [State Legislative Program](#)

Participating in the discussion were Ms. Wenger, Director, Ms. Boucher, and Ms. Samman, Office of Intergovernmental Relations (OIR); Mr. Lattner, County Attorney's Office; Chief Jones, Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD); and Ms. Chen, Legislative Analyst.

Ms. Wenger provided an update on the 2021 session of the Maryland General Assembly, noting that today is "crossover" day for bills and that there are three weeks remaining in the session.

Ms. Boucher provided an overview of the police reform legislation, as contained in the staff report, noting that the Senate passed seven bills (SB71, SB74, SB178, SB419, SB599, SB626, SB627) relating to body worn cameras, early intervention and employee assistance programs, the Maryland Public Information Act (MPIA) and personnel and investigatory records, search warrants, surplus military equipment, use of force, whistleblower protections, and repeal and replacement of the Law Enforcement Officers Bill of Rights (LEOBR).

The House of Delegates passed one comprehensive bill, HB670, addressing all of the topics in the Senate package as well as other topics, including traffic stops, the Local Government Tort Claims Act (LGTC), loan assistance and scholarship

programs, and the membership and duties of the Maryland Police Standards Training Commissions.

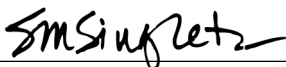
Ms. Boucher compared the House and Senate bills, which both repeal the LEOBR and replace it with new rules governing the investigation and disciplinary forces for law enforcement officers, and noted that there are some similarities in the bills but also significant differences. Compared the investigatory process, expungement, Maryland Police Standards and Training Commission (MPSTC), effective dates, preemption of local laws, and collective bargaining. Other areas of review included MPIA – records relating to a complaint and investigation, body-worn cameras, early intervention program, employee assistance program, traffic stops, LGTCA, loan repayment and scholarships, military equipment, warrants, SWAT teams, use of force, investigation of use of force/homicides, and whistleblower protections. Discussed a number of differences between the bills, including how discipline and accountability are addressed.

Ms. Samman reviewed the purpose of SB414/HB583, Climate Solutions Now Act of 2021, which covers greenhouse gas emissions reduction, energy conservation requirements for buildings, school construction, state fleet zero-emission vehicles, tree planting, extension of Public Service Commission energy efficiency and conservation programs, local personal property tax exemption, Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities, Just Transition Employment and Retraining Working Group, and funding sources.

Ms. Wenger wrapped up the meeting by stating that it appears the operating budget will not be controversial and that earlier grim fiscal projections have been reversed, revenue figures have been revised upwards, federal funding from HR133 - Covid-19 Relief Provisions was helpful, the “rainy day” fund reserves are above what is requested by bond rating agencies, and a particularly good sign is that the State has eliminated its structural deficit for several years. Capital budget highlights included \$10 million for parks and trails, an additional \$5.5 million for the supplemental public school construction program, and local bond initiatives totaling \$3.2 million.

The meeting adjourned at 1:27 P.M.

This is a correct copy of Council action.



Selena Mendy Singleton, Esq.
Clerk of the Council