



## COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

**APPROVED**

Monday, February 6, 2023

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland convened in the Capital Crescent Trail Conference Room, Stella B. Werner Council Office Building, Rockville, Maryland at 10:20 a.m. on Monday, February 6, 2023.

### PRESENT

Councilmember Evan Glass, President  
Councilmember Gabe Albornoz  
Councilmember Natali Fani-González  
Councilmember Dawn Luedtke  
Councilmember Laurie-Anne Sayles

Councilmember Andrew Friedson, Vice President  
Councilmember Marilyn Balcombe  
Councilmember Sidney Katz  
Councilmember Kristin Mink  
Councilmember Kate Stewart

### ABSENT

Councilmember Will Jawando

The President in the Chair.

### **SUBJECT: Meeting with U.S. Senator Ben Cardin**

Council President Glass welcomed Senator Cardin, noting that he serves as Chair of the U.S. Senate's Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee, and expressed thanks for his efforts to ensure Maryland has clean air, safe water, and for his work to improve the Chesapeake Bay; and for the passage of the Marriage Equality Act.

In his opening remarks, Senator Cardin said he works closely with Senator Van Hollen and Congressmen David Trone and Jaime Raskin - "Team Maryland". He highlighted the accomplishments of the Biden administration over the past two years, including the appointment of Supreme Court Justice Jackson, the Climate Act, the Inflation Reduction Act, the Infrastructure Bill, and support for small businesses. He said that the legislation included an equity component and protection for organized labor. He noted the American Rescue Plan resulted in

the distribution of approximately \$1 billion to Montgomery County over the past several years.

Senator Cardin expressed concern that moving forward, it will be more difficult working with Congress, noting the Republican majority in the House of Representatives, and commented on the need to protect democratic institutions, which could be challenging in the new Congress. He was pleased that Montgomery County received 18 earmarks for projects in the County that are included in the State's priority list.

Responding to questions from Councilmembers, Senator Cardin commented on future initiatives to support small businesses now that COVID-related programs are ending; the need for stronger initiatives to support affordable housing and housing shortages; immigration reform, police reform, regional transportation issues and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA); efforts to improve the business climate in the County and meet clean energy goals, healthcare initiatives, the need to prioritize safety on Metro transit, efforts to address issues with Medicaid/Medicare, and challenges in addressing the national opioid epidemic.

The Council recessed at 11:21 a.m. and reconvened in the Council Hearing Room at 12:32 p.m.

**SUBJECT:** Discussion - State Legislative Program

**Reference:** 1/23/23 staff report from Legislative Attorney McCartney-Green and Senior Legislative Attorney Wellons.

Participating in the discussion were Ms. Wenger, Director, Ms. Boucher, Deputy Director, Office of Intergovernmental Relations (OIR); Ms. Finkelstein, Human Trafficking Prevention Commission and Director, Montgomery County Commission for Women; and Mrs. McCartney-Green, Legislative Attorney.

Supported **HB 0283, Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Gender Affirming Treatment**, without objection. Ms. Stewart noted that this Bill brings Maryland into compliance with federal legal guidelines.

Supported without objection **HB 454, Health Occupations - Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations - Immigrants**.

Discussed **HB 274, Task Force on Reducing Emergency Department Wait Times**, and noted Council staff's recommendation to support with an amendment to expand membership to include representation from local government. Ms. Stewart suggested local municipalities also be included on the Task Force. Ms. Luedtke suggested the task force may need to be regionally based given

differing needs in the State, and that a member from the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS) should be included. Ms. Mink commented that the task force membership model outlined in **HB 109, Task Force on Recycling Policy and Recycling and Waste Systems in Maryland**, would be appropriate for **HB 274**. Supported **HB 274** without objection with the suggestions noted above.

Supported without objection **SB 365, Health Insurance - Qualified Resident Enrollment Program (Access to Care Act)**.

Supported without objection **HB 109, Task Force on Recycling Policy and Recycling and Waste Systems in Maryland**. Ms. Sayles noted that Progressive Maryland has a task force on the environment which reviews the public health impacts of incinerators on surrounding areas. Mr. Glass noted that the County's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has implemented a pilot program on the recycling of food scraps.

Supported without objection **HB 230, Department of the Environment - Zero-Emission Medium and Heavy-Duty Vehicles - Regulations (Clean Trucks Act of 2023)**.

Supported without objection **HB 535, Election Law - Ballots - Processing and Reporting Procedures**.

Supported without objection **HB 495, Early Childhood Development - Child Care Scholarship Program - Funding**.

Supported without objection **SB 0001, Criminal Law - Wearing, Carrying, or Transporting Firearms - Restrictions**. Mr. Albornoz noted that when the prior Council discussed **Expedited Bill 21-22, Weapons - Firearms in or Near Places of Public Assembly**, there was a question regarding the definition of "public space", which continues to remain an open question. He said the County must work aggressively with the State to pursue all responsible gun ownership policies. Ms. Luedtke anticipated there would be amendments to this Bill to include additional clarifications.

Supported without objection **HB 0162, Firearms - Maryland Voluntary Do Not Sell Firearm Registry - Establishment**. Ms. Luedtke expressed concern that this bill as written does not include "guardrails" or require analysis for those individuals who want to come off the registry.

Supported without objection **SB 0113, Civil Actions - Public Nuisances - Firearm Industry Members**, and **HB 259, Civil Actions - Public Nuisances - Firearm Industry Members (Gun Industry Accountability Act of 2023)**.

Supported without objection **HB 297, Criminal Law Victims of Child Sex Trafficking and Human Trafficking - Safe Harbor and Service Response**  
Ms. Finkelstein noted that this Bill specifically relates to minors.

Supported without objection HB 367, **Vehicle Laws - Stop Sign Monitoring Systems - Authorization**. Noted that details pertaining to how income of the vehicle owner would be considered to determine the penalty still need to be addressed.

Supported without objection **HB 451, Drunk Driving Offenses - Ignition Interlock System Program**.

Supported without objection **HB 426, Correctional Facilities Transgender, Nonbinary, and Intersex Inmates (Transgender Respect, Agency, and Dignity Act)**.

Ms. Wenger provided an update on recent activities noting that the filing deadline for bills is tonight. Ms. Boucher commented on the party affiliation requirements for the Planning Board membership, noting that as currently amended pegs the partisan makeup of the Planning Board to the electoral results of the County Executive race, as a percentage.

The meeting adjourned at 1:12 p.m.

This is a correct copy of Council action:



Judy Rupp  
Clerk of the Council

Minutes written by: Mary Anne Paradise, Deputy Clerk