



COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

APPROVED

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland convened in the 3rd floor conference room in the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) Headquarters, Wheaton, Maryland at 2:06 p.m. on Wednesday, March 1, 2023.

PRESENT

Councilmember Evan Glass, President	Councilmember Andrew Friedson, Vice President
Councilmember Gabe Albornoz	Councilmember Marilyn Balcombe
Councilmember Natali Fani-González	Councilmember Will Jawando
Councilmember Sidney Katz	Councilmember Dawn Luedtke
Councilmember Kristin Mink	Councilmember Laurie-Anne Sayles
	Councilmember Kate Stewart

The President in the Chair.

COUNCIL RETREAT

A. Administrative Items:

1. Schedule and process for Capital Improvements Program (CIP) review

Participating in the discussion were Ms. Michaelson, Council Executive Director; Mr. Levchenko, Senior Legislative Analyst; and Ms. McGuire, Senior Legislative Analyst.

Mr. Levchenko and Ms. McGuire reviewed the CIP budget schedule and process, including the reconciliation process.

Mr. Glass noted that he and Mr. Friedson serve on a transportation workgroup and in order to overcome funding challenges for transportation projects, the County needs to obtain bonding authority. The Maryland General Assembly is considering action to allow counties to have bonding authority.

Mr. Jawando shared his view that the recordation tax should be increased to help fund the CIP, and that the County should seek State aid for increases in construction costs.

2. Schedule and process for operating budget review

Participating in the discussion were Ms. Michaelson, Mr. Levchenko, and Ms. McGuire.

Ms. Michaelson provided a summary of the budget schedule and noted the increased number of committee meetings in April and May. She highlighted the need for committee review to determine budget deductions and that Council staff will be identifying any possible technical deductions. The reconciliation list will be shared with Councilmembers after the last committee meeting so that they can then indicate their preferences to spend any additional funds. The Council President will then share the proposed reconciliation list with Councilmembers.

Mr. Glass proposed that the reconciliation process should be worked through publicly, with Councilmembers advocating for their priorities during Council worksessions. Mr. Katz and Mr. Friedson supported working through a reconciliation list, as has been done in past years.

Mr. Friedson suggested that staff propose budget reductions to committees. Mr. Glass stated his support for this.

Mr. Jawando stated his view that the Council needs to signal to the County Executive that there is support to increase property taxes to fund the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) budget and to increase the recordation tax to fund the CIP budget.

Ms. Sayles asked for central staff to propose recommendations for budget cuts to the MCPS budget.

Mr. Glass shared his preference to meet in person with the Prince George's County Council on May 11, 2023.

3. Resources for the Council and Councilmember offices

Ms. Michaelson shared that there has been an increase in Council staff due to the addition of two Councilmembers and provided an update on vacancies.

Mr. Jawando requested a future update regarding central staff levels to better serve the residents. Ms. Michaelson noted that the Council

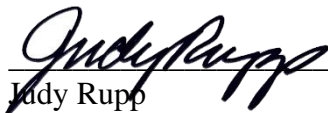
budget can be adjusted when reviewed by the Government Operations and Fiscal Policy (GO) Committee to allow for increased staffing levels.

Mr. Glass proposed a fall cycle of budget reviews by committees to check in on department expenditures and programs.

Ms. Mink requested that Council staff exit interview information be shared with Councilmembers. Mr. Glass suggested creating an ad-hoc committee to focus on Council staffing.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

This is a correct copy of Council action:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Judy Rupp", is written over a horizontal line.

Judy Rupp
Clerk of the Council