

Resolution No.: 17-966
Introduced: November 19, 2013
Adopted: December 10, 2013

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

By: Health and Human Services Committee

SUBJECT: Special Appropriation to the FY14 Operating Budget
Montgomery County Government
Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Housing Initiative Fund
Permanent Supportive Housing (100,000 Homes Campaign) - \$649,325; and
Amendment to Resolution 17-762 for the FY14 Designation of Entities for
Non-Competitive Award Status for Coalition for the Homeless

Background

1. Section 308 of the Montgomery County Charter provides that a special appropriation must be approved by not less than six Councilmembers and is an appropriation which states that it is necessary to meet an unforeseen disaster or other emergency, or to act without delay in the public interest. The Council may approve a special appropriation at any time after public notice by news release. Each special appropriation shall specify the source of funds to finance it.
2. Montgomery County is a member of the national 100,000 Homes Campaign. The Montgomery County 100,000 Homes Campaign is a joint effort of County Government and municipal and non-profit partners and volunteers that surveyed the homeless population during the November 3rd through 6th Registry Week. Information from the survey allows the County to identify the most medically vulnerable, chronically homeless people and prioritize them for placement in permanent supportive housing.
3. During Registry Week, outreach teams were able to engage 369 homeless individuals to complete Vulnerability Index surveys. An additional 62 individuals were identified but refused to participate. Of the 369 people surveyed, 159, or 43%, are considered medically vulnerable, with 54% reporting risk for tri-morbidity of substance abuse, mental health issues and physical health problems, and 50% reported three or more hospitalizations in the last 12 months. Medically vulnerable homeless people are at significant risk of early death and are more likely to use costly hospital services rather than access community based care.

4. Housing First, a policy adopted by Montgomery County, emphasizes that permanent supportive housing allows medically vulnerable homeless people to stabilize and address medical and behavioral health problems. Supportive services connect people with income supports and community based health care and other services. Additional county-funded capacity in permanent supportive housing programs is needed to begin to house people identified and prioritize during Registry Week. People will also be assessed to determine if they can be assisted through other supportive housing programs such as Safe Havens, Shelter Plus Care, Housing Options for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA), and Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH).
5. The Health and Human Services Committee members recommend that \$649,325 be appropriated to the Department of Housing and Community Affairs' Housing Initiative Fund to provide permanent supportive housing to 15 people. The recommended appropriation will allow people to be placed in homes during FY14 and the funding needed to continue the effort through FY15. The funding provides for rental and utility subsidies and security deposits as well as supportive services that will address needs for case management, medical monitoring and support, behavioral health services, and assistance with transportation.
6. Notice of public hearing was given, and a public hearing was held.

Action

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

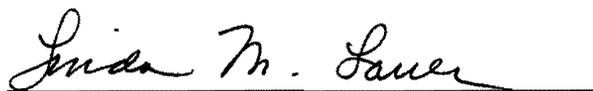
A special appropriation to the FY14 Operating Budget of the Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Housing Initiative Fund is approved as follows:

<u>Personnel Services</u>	<u>Operating Expenses</u>	<u>Capital Outlay</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>
-0-	\$649,325	-0-	\$649,325	General Fund Reserves

This appropriation is necessary to act without delay in the public interest.

This resolution amends Resolution 17-762 Section G, Non-Competitive Contract List, to increase the amount of the non-competitive award to the Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless for providing permanent supportive housing for formerly homeless individuals by up to \$649,325.

This is a correct copy of Council action.



Linda M. Lauer, Clerk of the Council