

Resolution No.: 18-1266
Introduced: September 11, 2018
Adopted: October 23, 2018

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

Lead sponsor: Councilmember Katz;
Co-sponsors: Councilmember Floreen, Elrich, Hucker, and Leventhal

SUBJECT: Special Appropriation to the Fiscal Year 2019 Operating Budget
Montgomery County Government
Department of Health and Human Services
Behavioral Health and Crisis Services; Adult Drug Court
\$70,799 (Source of Funds: General Fund Reserves)

Background

1. Section 308 of the County Charter provides that a special appropriation 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. Each special appropriation shall be approved by not less than six Councilmembers. 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. Since 2004, Montgomery County has worked to change the lives of people with alcohol and/or drug addiction who are involved in the criminal justice system through the Adult Drug Court. Successfully graduating from the Adult Drug Court requires the participant to be crime-free and sober/drug-free. Since 2004, 202 people have graduated from the Adult Drug Court. On September 1, 2018, there were 73 people actively enrolled.
3. Unintentional drug and alcohol-related deaths continue to rise in Maryland and in Montgomery County. The Maryland Department of Health reports that in 2013, 52 of these deaths occurred in Montgomery County with 40 being opioid-related. In 2017, there were 116 deaths with 91 opioid-related.
4. The Council has been informed by representatives of the Circuit Court that the capacity and effectiveness of the Adult Drug Court has been impacted by vacancies in clinical positions and because of the increasing complexity of participants' addiction due to the sharp growth in the use of opioids, heroin, and fentanyl. An additional Therapist is needed to allow staff to work more intensively with these participants and their families.

5. The Public Safety Committee, joined by Councilmember Leventhal, held a worksession on this special appropriation on October 15, 2018 and the Public Safety Committee recommends approval. Councilmember Leventhal stated his support. The Committee was informed that this special appropriation is supported by the County Executive.
6. Notice of public hearing was given and a public hearing was held.

Action

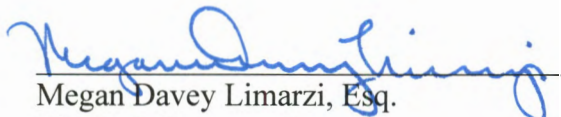
The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following resolution:

A special appropriation to the FY19 Operating Budget of the Montgomery County Government in the amount of \$70,799 is approved as follows:

	<u>Personnel Expense</u>	<u>Operating Expense</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Department of Health and Human Services	\$65,543	\$5,256	\$70,799

This appropriation will fund a new Therapist position for the Adult Drug Court. The Source of Funds is General Fund Reserves. This appropriation is needed to act without delay in the public interest.

This is a correct copy of Council action.


Megan Davey Limarzi, Esq.
Clerk of the Council