

*Montgomery  
County (MD)  
Commission on  
People with  
Disabilities*

SETH A. MORGAN, MD, FAAN, CHAIR

PATRICIA GALLALEE, VICE-CHAIR



# *Montgomery County (MD) Commission on People with Disabilities*

- Established by County Legislation on October 17<sup>th</sup>, 1978
- Mandated to advise the County Executive and County Council on coordination and development of the County's policies affecting residents with disabilities

# *Montgomery County (MD) Commission on People with Disabilities*

- INCLUSION STATEMENT JULY 2017
- We believe that people with disabilities have a right to equitable treatment, a fair allocation of community resources and social connectedness through engagement in the community at the level of their choice. Self-determination and supporting caregiver families should be at the core of short or long-term support planning. Individuals indicate their need for transportation, medical, legal, housing, respite, employment, volunteerism and leisure activities and the activities that will make for a meaningful day. We are dedicated to planning with, for, and serving the whole community regardless of disability, race, color, religion, ancestry, sex, age, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, genetic status, family responsibilities, gender identity, presence of children, and family structure or any other characteristic.

# *Montgomery County (MD) Commission on People with Disabilities*

- MISSION:
- The Commission provides advice, counsel and recommendations to the Government of Montgomery County, Maryland in general, and to the County Executive and the County Council in particular. Its responsibilities involve those matters influencing the provision of services, County policies and procedures, development and implementation of state and federal laws and any other issues affecting the lives, rights and welfare of the people it represents. The Commission operates in the belief that people with disabilities have the right to the same opportunities in life as people without disabilities and that this right can best be ensured by a commitment to enhancing the image, status, and quality of life of all children and adults with disabilities.

# *Montgomery County (MD) Commission on People with Disabilities*

- MEMBERSHIP
- 25 voting members serving in a volunteer capacity
- Including:
  - 13 people with disabilities
  - 3 parents of people with disabilities
  - 9 representatives of public and private service providing agencies

And ex-officio members representing the Departments of Health and Human Services, Transportation, Recreation, Libraries, General Services, Office of Human Resources, Human Rights Commission, Montgomery College, MC Public Schools, Housing Opportunities Commission, Maryland Division of Rehabilitation Services and Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission/Montgomery Parks

# *Montgomery County (MD) Commission on People with Disabilities*

- MEETINGS
- All meetings are open to the public
- Meet monthly except July and August (usually/currently second Wednesday of each month except July and August from 6:00-7:30 PM). Date and time subject to change (as to accommodate days of major religious observances).
- Meeting minutes and meeting schedule times available online at:  
[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cpwd](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cpwd)

# *Montgomery County (MD) Commission on People with Disabilities*

- COMMISSION'S KEY ADVOCACY/ADVISORY HIGHLIGHTS
- Bill 46-09 - Personnel- Regulations – Persons with Disabilities – Hiring Preference: Effective 2/2/2010 – County hiring preference applies to top qualified candidates who also are persons with disabilities, Veterans and Veterans with disabilities.
- Bill 32-12 - Personnel - Regulations - Persons with Disabilities - Noncompetitive Appointment: Effective 2/5/2013 – 80% of voters voted to adopt. Noncompetitive hiring preference for people with severe disabilities
- NACO 2014 Achievement Award winner - Mark Maxin, Assistant General Counsel for Administration, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and former Commission on People with Disabilities Chairman was instrumental in making legal cases on both employment bills on behalf of our commission.

# *Montgomery County (MD) Commission on People with Disabilities*

- COMMISSION'S KEY ADVOCACY/ADVISORY HIGHLIGHTS (#2)
- Bill 5-13 – Property Tax Credit – Accessibility Features
- Design for Life Property Tax Incentive Program providing tax credit of up to \$10,000 for accessibility features installed in new or existing home renovation/construction.
- NACO 2018 Achievement Award Winner
- Zoning Text Amendment 06-17. Permits by right vs a zoning variance unroofed and open structure in an easement including a ramp and chairlift that allows a person with a physical disability access to a one family dwelling



# *Montgomery County (MD) Commission on People with Disabilities*

- COMMISSION'S KEY ADVOCACY/ADVISORY HIGHLIGHTS (#3)
- Bill 33-15 - Transportation Services Improvement Fund – Established the fund based on placing a 25 cent surcharge on all Transportation Network Company (Uber, Lyft, etc.) rides originating in Montgomery County with the fund designated to be used to promote accessible vehicle ride availability in the County.
- In order to establish the fund, permission was sought and obtained from the Maryland State Government

# *Montgomery County (MD) Commission on People with Disabilities*

- COMMISSION'S KEY ADVOCACY/ADVISORY HIGHLIGHTS (#4)
- Resolution 16-931 – Policy Regarding the Use of Brick and Other Pavements in the Public Right-of-Way for County sidewalks
- County purchasing accessible Ride On buses in 1978 (before ADA)
- Pedestrian Winter Safety Act of 2001- Snow removal legislation
- Respect the Space program to assure proper parking lot signage to allow police enforcement of use and availability of accessible parking
- Assistive Listening Systems in County buildings

# *Montgomery County (MD) Commission on People with Disabilities*

- **LISE HAMLIN**, PUBLIC POLICY DIRECTOR, HLAA
- FORMER COMMISSIONER, MC COMMISSION ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
- As Co-Chair (along with Co-Chair Shane Feldman) of the Commission's Communication Access Workgroup, Ms. Hamlin spearheaded Title II of the ADA compliance in Montgomery County requiring that all programs and services including communication access be inclusive of all people with disabilities.
- This initiative assured availability of TTY phone line availability, assistive listening devices in County public meeting rooms and sign language services on request at offices and meetings sponsored by the County.

# *Montgomery County (MD) Commission on People with Disabilities*

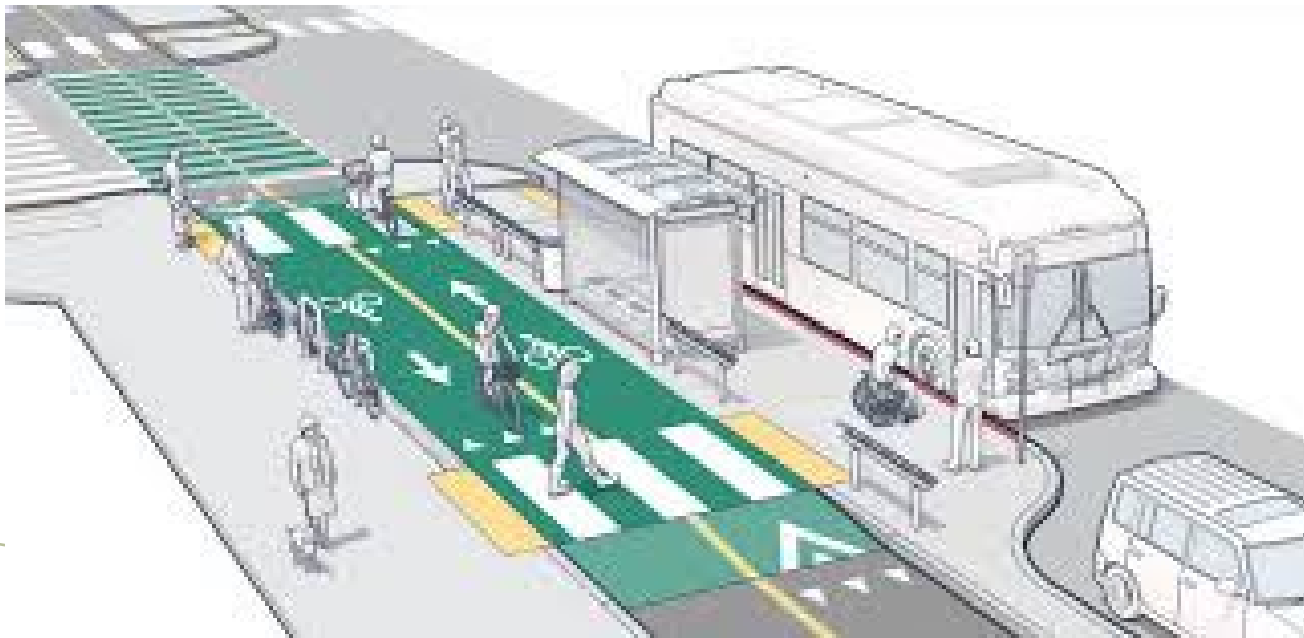
- COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS AND TOPICS OF CONCERN 2019-2020
- National Disability Employment Awareness Month
- Pedestrian Safety of Floating Bus Stops & Dockless Vehicle Pilot Program
- Purple Line Update and Plans for Relocation of Silver Spring Transit Center Bus Stops
- County Council HHS Committee Perspectives on Issues Impacting People with Disabilities
- County Sensory Friendly Initiatives
- Street Safety and Inclusion of Communities with Various Abilities
- Vision Zero and Discussion on Addressing the Pedestrian and Driver Safety Concerns of People with Disabilities

# *Montgomery County (MD) Commission on People with Disabilities*

- COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS AND TOPICS OF CONCERN 2019-2020 (continued)
- Accessibility & County Press Conferences
- Status of Programs Serving People with Developmental Disabilities
- Proposed Street Design
- County COVID-19 Recovery Planning Framework, Roles and Responsibilities
- Downtown Bethesda Streetscape Standards
- Bike Lane and Floating Bus Stop Pedestrian Safety Letter from Advocate to County Officials- Patrick Sheehan, President, National Capital Area Chapter of the American Council of the Blind of Maryland (and former Commission on People with Disabilities member)

# *Montgomery County (MD) Commission on People with Disabilities*

“Floating” Bus Stops



# *Montgomery County (MD) Commission on People with Disabilities*

- PUBLICATIONS PROVIDED BY THE COMMISSION
- Disability Network Directory – A Directory of provider agencies, businesses and advocacy organizations that offer local, state and national resources for people with disabilities. Available online at [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dnd](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dnd)
- Transportation Network Directory – A comprehensive listing of public, private and non-profit transportation in the Washington Metropolitan Region, State of Maryland and beyond. Includes information for people with disabilities and adults 50+ compiled to assist County residents to better coordinate their transportation needs. Download at [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/tnd](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/tnd)
- For alternative formats of these call 240-777-1246, MD Relay 711 or email: [DHHSWebsite@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:DHHSWebsite@montgomerycountymd.gov)

# *MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES*

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