



Montgomery County



Lodge 35



A Joint Statement from County Executive Marc Elrich, UFCW Local 1994 MCGEO President Gino Renne, FOP Lodge 35 President Torrie Cooke, and IAFF Local 1664 President Jeffrey Buddle on the Reopening of County Government Worksites

Dear Friends,

Thanks to the efforts of our amazing employees, our County government has taken on the tremendous task of responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, while also maintaining the continuity of government services for our residents. While it has not been easy, your understanding, flexibility, and cooperation have made it all possible.

As you are most likely aware, the County is now under Phase 1 of our community reopening plan and will be moving to Phase 2 Friday evening. With restrictions continuing to loosen statewide and the data indicating that the County is making significant progress toward meeting the necessary metrics to open further, we are now starting to look at a gradual return to the workplace. The County and the Unions are engaged in discussions about how this can best be achieved, while also putting safeguards in place to minimize risk to you and those that we serve. In order to move forward, all parties have discussed numerous ideas, such as altering workspaces to achieve appropriate physical distancing, installing partitions, continuing telework and alternative scheduling, as well as continuing to provide necessary personal protective equipment to employees and employee COVID-19 testing.



The reconstitution of County worksites will be done in three phases. We have developed a thoughtful and public health-based approach to each of these phases to ensure the safety of our employees. Please review the [Descriptions of Phases for Reconstituting County Worksites](#) document. As we reach agreement on the necessary safety protocols, additional information about the details of our phasing plan, including when individual employees will be returning to worksites, will be disseminated to employees from the departments. Though, ultimately, public health guidance will determine all decisions regarding phasing.

Thank you all for your continued commitment and dedication to serving the residents of this County—we are grateful and fortunate for it!

Sincerely,

Marc Elrich
County Executive

Gino Renne
President, UFCW Local 1994 MCGEO

Torrie Cooke
President, FOP Lodge 35

Jeffrey Buddle
President, IAFF Local 1664