



OFFICE OF CONSUMER PROTECTION

Marc Elrich
County Executive

Eric S. Friedman
Director

August 1, 2023

RE: MONTGOMERY COUNTY BILL 7-23

Dear retail gas station operator:

We are writing to inform you of a new law that will impact how you conduct your business and display gas pricing at your gas stations.

Montgomery County Bill 7-23 signed into law on April 10, 2023, requires Montgomery County gas stations to display the credit price clearly and visibly on their signs. This law aims to promote transparency and fairness in business operations.

Transparent Pricing: When the law takes effect, gas stations will be required to clearly display two different types of prices:

1. The lowest price for regular gasoline sold on the premises as required by state law; and,
2. The credit price for gasoline, which is the highest total amount (including any fees) a customer would pay using non-cash methods like credit cards.

Initially, you will have the option to either display both of these prices on the same sign, or, if you are unable to do so, you can post the credit price on a separate sign. If you choose to use a separate sign for the credit price, it must be easily visible to motorists and the lettering must match that of the main sign. However, if the lowest price and the credit price are the same, there's no need to display both.

Effective Date & Sunset Clause: The law will take effect on **October 10, 2023**, so please make sure to implement these changes by this date. The rules about having a separate sign for the credit price will be reviewed in 7 years.

We hope this information is clear and aids you in continuing to conduct your business in a fair and transparent manner. A copy of the law is included in this mailing. If you have any questions, please email Office of Consumer Protection Investigator David Elswick at David.elswick@montgomerycountymd.gov or call him at (240) 777-3731. We appreciate your adherence to these changes that aim to protect and educate consumers.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Eric S. Friedman".

Eric S. Friedman
Director, Office of Consumer Protection