

Racial Equity and Social Justice (RESJ) Impact Statement

BILL 11-21: MONTGOMERY COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION-BYLAWS-LIVE VIDEO STREAMING OF OPEN MEETINGS

SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) expects Bill 11-21 to have a minimal impact on racial equity and social justice in the County.

BACKGROUND

The County Council introduced Bill 11-21 on March 2, 2021. The bill intends to increase public transparency by providing residents video access to view certain Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation (MCEDC) meetings regarding economic development in the County. If enacted, the Bill 11-21 would:

- Require MCEDC to adopt bylaws requiring the live video streaming of certain meetings;
 - Require the archiving of certain videos; and
 - Generally amend the law regarding the bylaws and meetings of the Economic Development Corporation.¹
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ANTICIPATED RESJ IMPACTS

Live streaming certain MCEDC meetings could increase opportunities for community engagement among many stakeholders in the County, including residents of color and low-income residents. Improved opportunities for community engagement can promote racial equity and social justice by enabling racially, culturally, linguistically, and income diverse residents to contribute to MCEDC decision-making. However, it is unclear how enhancing transparency in MCEDC's decision-making by video streaming their meetings will be shaped by residents, particularly residents from communities of color and low-income of color. For this reason, OLO anticipates that Bill 11-21 will have a minimal impact on racial equity or social justice in the County.

CAVEATS

Two caveats to this racial equity and social justice impact statement should be noted. First, predicting the impact of legislation on racial equity and social justice is a challenging, analytical endeavor due to data limitations, uncertainty, and other factors. Second, this RESJ statement is intended to inform the legislative process rather than determine whether the Council should enact legislation. Thus, any conclusion made in this statement does not represent OLO's endorsement of, or objection to, the bill under consideration.

RESJ Impact Statement

CONTRIBUTIONS

OLO staffer Dr. Theo Holt, Performance Management and Data Analyst, drafted this racial equity and social justice impact statement.

¹ Montgomery County Council, Bill 11-21, Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation-Bylaws-Live Video Streaming of Open Meetings, Introduced on March 2, 2021, Montgomery County, Maryland.