

AGENDA ITEM #4
November 27, 2018

Public Hearing/Action

MEMORANDUM

November 21, 2018

TO: County Council

FROM:  Keith Levchenko, Senior Legislative Analyst

SUBJECT: **Public Hearing/Action:** Special Appropriation #19-428 to the FY19 Operating Budget, Montgomery County Government, Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (OEMHS), Emergency Management Planning, Response and Recovery, \$200,000

PURPOSE: To hear testimony and act on the special appropriation request

Attachments to this memorandum include:

Transmittal letter from the County Executive (©1)

Draft Resolution (©2-3)

Meeting Participants

Dr. Earl Stoddard, Director, Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security

Joshua Watters, Manager, Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

Lindsay Lucas, Management and Budget Specialist, OMB

Council Staff Recommendation: Approve

On October 30, the Council received a special appropriation request from the County Executive for \$200,000 to assist faith communities in paying for more staff time to provide security. Action is scheduled for immediately after the public hearing.

This special appropriation would establish funding within the operating expense budget of OEMHS. The award and approval process would be similar to processes used for a capital grant fund created in 2017 in the Department of Recreation CIP (Cost-Sharing CIP project) and for a legal

representation fund approved by the Council earlier this year to provide assistance to undocumented County residents.

This process is also like the Executive's and the Council's community grants approval process in that eligible groups apply for these annual grants and the approved grants are implemented through a non-competitive contract approval and oversight process.

Also, in all the above examples, the funding approved is considered "one-time", with no guarantee of additional dollars being provided.

Additional Information

In the case of this new security staffing grant program, Council Staff forwarded some questions to OEMHS and OMB staff to clarify some points regarding this effort. Executive Staff's responses are noted under each question.

- 1) How will the County allocate these dollars to faith communities? How will the application process work?

The process will mirror the process for community grants. Faith-based organizations interested in the funds will apply through the county's application software on its website. OEMHS will host one or two information sessions for organizations that want to ask questions about the funding or application process. Applications will be reviewed by a panel consisting of OMB, Police, and OEMHS. The review panel will consider risk, need, and intended use of funds in determining awards.

- 2) What kind of expenses will be eligible for County funding?

Faith-based organizations can use funds to offset current costs for security personnel or augment their current security. Organizations can also use the funds to hire or contract a security expert to conduct a security assessment or develop a security plan.

- 3) Will there be a match requirement?

These funds will not have a match requirement.

- 4) Will the dollars be used for new security enhancements or can it be used to supplement existing efforts?

Funds can be used to either offset current security personnel or supplement existing efforts. These funds will only cover personnel / contractor costs and will not provide for physical security enhancements.

- 5) Does the County Police Department currently provide advice to faith communities on their security needs?

Yes, Police does security assessments on request. In addition, the County offers Securing Houses of Worship preparedness training to faith leaders. This partnership between County Police, Fire and Rescue, OEMHS, and the Jewish Community Center offers information on how to harden physical

infrastructure, prepare for active shooters, identify suspicious packages, and understand security issues unique to faith communities.

- 6) What role will the County have in determining how the new dollars are utilized?

The County is providing a framework under which these funds can be utilized. A panel will review applications and determine whether organizations are planning to use funds as intended under that framework.

- 7) Does the Executive envision that this support will continue in the FY20 budget or are faith communities expected to take on any expenses associated with permanent additional security needs in future years?

In his memo to Council President Riemer on October 29, 2018, the CE expressed the need to act to help congregations expand their protection efforts following last month's shooting at a synagogue in Pittsburgh. This appropriation would assist in providing congregations needed financial relief from enhanced security costs. However, it will be the decision of the next County Executive as to whether continued support is needed.

- 8) What types and level of funding (and in which departments) does the County provide now in this area? What was the 2017 \$400k capital grant referenced in the transmittal letter used for?

The 2017 capital grant was used by congregations to make physical security enhancements to their facilities.

Attachment

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OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850

MEMORANDUM

October 29, 2018

2018 OCT 30 AM 9: 54

RECEIVED
MONTGOMERY COUNTY
COUNCIL

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

TO: Hans Riemer, President, Montgomery County Council

FROM: Isiah Leggett, County Executive *Isiah Leggett*

SUBJECT: Special Appropriation #19-428 to the FY19 Operating Budget
Montgomery County Government
Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security
Emergency Management Planning, Response, and Recovery, \$200,000

In response to the tragic incident in Pittsburgh last Saturday, I believe we should do more to assist religious congregations in Montgomery County in meeting their security needs. I have had discussions with many leaders of our faith community who have carried and continue to carry the burden of providing security personnel.

You will recall a special, one-time grants program I proposed -- and the Council approved -- in 2017 appropriated \$400,000 to assist congregations at risk who were already expending monies on needed capital projects.

It is my intent to go beyond capital needs in a new effort. Many congregations are seeking to expand their protections and need help in paying for more staff time to provide security. I therefore propose a special appropriation of \$200,000 in County resources to assist those efforts. As before, congregations would apply for grants to augment their resources already expended for such purposes. It will be open to all faith communities with potential security risks.

As previously noted, this increase is needed because of heightened security concerns, and I am recommending a special appropriation to the FY19 Operating Budget of the Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security in the amount of \$200,000 for Emergency Management Planning, Response, and Recovery.

I recommend that the County Council approve this special appropriation in the amount of \$200,000 and specify the source of funds as General Fund Undesignated Reserves.

I appreciate your prompt consideration of this action.

IL:jrb

Attachment: Special Appropriation #19-428

Hans Riemer, President, Montgomery County Council

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October 29, 2018

cc: Timothy L. Firestine, Chief Administrative Officer
Earl P. Stoddard, Director, Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security
Jennifer A. Hughes, Director, Office of Management and Budget
Jennifer Bryant, Manager, Office of Management and Budget
Lindsay Lucas, Fiscal and Policy Analyst, Office of Management and Budget

Resolution No.: _____
Introduced: _____
Adopted: _____

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

By: Council President at the Request of the County Executive

SUBJECT: Special Appropriation #19-428 to the FY19 Operating Budget
Montgomery County Government
Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security
Emergency Management Planning, Response, and Recovery, \$200,000

Background

1. Section 308 of the Montgomery County Charter provides that a special appropriation: (a) may be made at any time after public notice by news release; (b) must state that the special appropriation is necessary to meet an unforeseen disaster or other emergency or to act without delay in the public interest; (c) must specify the revenues necessary to finance it; and (d) must be approved by no fewer than six members of the Council.
2. The County Executive has requested the following FY19 Operating Budget appropriation increases for the Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security:

	<u>Operating Expenses</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>
Emergency Management and Homeland Security	\$200,000	\$200,000	General Fund Undesignated Reserves
3. This increase is needed because of heightened security concerns. Recent national events warrant that the County reinforce its support with action. Therefore, it is urgent that we act without delay to protect the public interest and to assist our faith-based communities with resources to provide enhanced security services.
4. The County Executive has requested a special appropriation to the FY19 Operating Budget in the amount of \$200,000 for Emergency Management Planning, Response, and Recovery and specifies that the source of funds will be General Fund Undesignated Reserves.
5. The public was notified by a news release.

Action

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

1. A special appropriation to the FY19 Operating Budget of the Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security is approved as follows:

	<u>Operating Expenses</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>
Emergency Management and Homeland Security	\$200,000	\$200,000	General Fund Undesignated Reserves

2. The County Council declares that this action is necessary to act without delay in the public interest, and that this appropriation is needed to meet the emergency.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

Megan Davey Limarzi, Esq.
Clerk of the Council