



Committee Directly to Council
Staff: Robert H. Drummer, Senior Legislative Attorney
Purpose: Final action – vote expected
Keywords: #Emergency2021BudgetAction
Search terms—2021 Budget, COVID-19, emergency action, fiscal year 2021

AGENDA ITEM #1.6
March 24, 2020
Action

SUBJECT

Resolution to authorize Options for the Approval of and Appropriation for the FY 2021 Operating Budget.

Lead Sponsor: Councilmember Navarro

Co-Sponsors: Councilmembers Albornoz, Friedson, Riemer and Rice

EXPECTED ATTENDEES

None

COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

- To introduce Resolution followed by action – Council vote expected.

DESCRIPTION/ISSUE

- The ongoing Covid-19 public health emergency has created significant damage to the County's economy. The County is going to need to reserve funds to help residents and local businesses that have been adversely affected by this public health emergency.

SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- This Resolution would direct Council staff to provide the Council with options for the approval of and appropriation for the FY 2021 Operating Budget that reflects the issues raised by the public health emergency.

This report contains:

Staff Report

Resolution

Page 1

©1

Alternative format requests for people with disabilities. If you need assistance accessing this report you may submit alternative format requests to the ADA Compliance Manager. The ADA Compliance Manager can also be reached at 240-777-6197 (TTY 240-777-6196) or at adacompliance@montgomerycountymd.gov

MEMORANDUM

March 23, 2020

TO: County Council

FROM: Robert H. Drummer, Senior Legislative Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution to authorize Options for the Approval of and Appropriation for the FY 2021 Operating Budget¹

PURPOSE: Introduction/Action –Council vote required

Resolution to authorize Options for the Approval of and Appropriation for the FY 2021 Operating Budget, sponsored by Lead Sponsor Councilmember Navarro and Co-Sponsors, Councilmembers Alborno, Friedson, Riemer and Rice, is scheduled to be introduced followed by action on March 24, 2020.

The Resolution

The Resolution would direct Council staff to develop viable options to streamline our budget process, so that for FY2021, the Council may adopt an aggregate operating budget for our departments and agencies that reflects a continuation of the services provided at the same level as FY2020. These viable options should include flexibility for possible future appropriations:

- a. to assist County residents and businesses to recover from the Covid-19 viral disease pandemic; and
- b. to provide additional resources for other County programs and employee wage and benefit enhancements, if available, after the crisis is over.

This packet contains:
Resolution

Circle #
1

F:\LAW\Resolutions\Covid-19\Intro-Action Memo.Docx

¹ Emergency2021BudgetAction
Search terms—2021 Budget, COVID-19, emergency action, fiscal year 2021

Resolution No.:

Introduced:

March 24, 2020

Adopted:

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

Lead Sponsor: Councilmember Navarro
Co-Sponsors: Councilmembers Alborno, Friedson, Riemer and Rice

SUBJECT: Options for the Approval of and Appropriation for the FY 2021 Operating Budget

Background

1. As required by Section 303 of the County Charter, the County Executive sent to the County Council the FY2021 Operating Budget on March 16, 2020.
2. As required by Section 304 of the County Charter, the Council must hold public hearings on the proposed operating budget.
3. A new coronavirus disease, called Covid-19, has spread extremely quickly, making its way to over 100 countries, including the United States.
4. On March 11, the World Health Organization officially declared the Covid-19 viral disease a pandemic.
5. The number of new cases in the United States is growing quickly and has spread to each of the 50 States and the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.
6. To slow the spread of this communicable disease, Governor Hogan issued several emergency orders closing all non-essential businesses, restricting public transit, closing schools, prohibiting public gatherings of 10 persons or more, and postponing the Presidential Primary Election in Maryland.
7. Although County government operations are continuing during this pandemic, County employees are using situational teleworking wherever possible to perform their duties. Due to the need to limit person to person contact, many County residents have lost paychecks and many County businesses have lost revenue.

8. The Executive was required by the Charter to develop his recommended FY2021 Operating Budget before the most recent events clarified the full extent of the pandemic.
9. Considering this unprecedented global pandemic and national state of emergency, the Council must move expeditiously to provide continuity of operations in approving an operating budget for FY2021 that provides additional flexibility to help County residents and businesses recover.

Action

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

1. The Council directs staff to develop viable options to streamline our budget process, so that for FY2021, the Council may adopt an aggregate operating budget for our departments and agencies that reflects a continuation of the services provided at the same level as FY2020.
2. These viable options must include funding the Operating Budgets of the County Board of Education and Montgomery College at the required Maintenance of Effort level and should avoid funding any new programs unrelated to relief for County residents and businesses from the Covid-19 viral disease pandemic.
3. These viable options should include flexibility for possible future appropriations:
 - a. to assist County residents and businesses to recover from the Covid-19 viral disease pandemic; and
 - b. to provide additional resources for other County programs and employee wage and benefit enhancements, if available, after the crisis is over.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

Selena Mendy Singleton, Esq.
Clerk of the Council