



Committee: Directly to Council
Committee Review: N/A
Staff: Linda McMillan, Senior Legislative Analyst
Purpose: To introduce agenda item – no vote expected
Keywords: Coronavirus, COVID-19

AGENDA ITEM #1U
March 24, 2020
Introduction

SUBJECT

Special Appropriation to the Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budget; Montgomery County Government; Conference and Visitors Bureau Non-Departmental Account; \$250,000 (Source of Funds: General Fund Reserves); Amendment to Resolution 19-128, Section G, Non-Competitive Contract Award: Conference and Visitor's Bureau of Montgomery County, Maryland, Inc. Lead Sponsor: Councilmember Riemer; Co-Sponsors: Albornoz, Navarro, Friedson, Glass, Jawando, and Rice.

EXPECTED ATTENDEES

None

COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

- Introduction

DESCRIPTION/ISSUE

The COVID-19 pandemic has placed an extraordinary burden on the medical system, its medical professionals, other critical front-line staff, and first responders. Many are not able to go to their homes for adequate rest. The Conference and Visitor's Bureau will work with hotel and motel operators to provide lodging at a greatly reduced cost for these critical personnel.

SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- Introduction. Public hearing and action are scheduled for March 31, 2020.

This report contains:

Special Appropriation Resolution

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Resolution No.: _____
Introduced: _____
Adopted: _____

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

Lead sponsor: Councilmember Riemer; Co-Sponsors: Councilmember Alborno, Navarro,
Friedson, Glass, Jawando, and Rice

SUBJECT: Special Appropriation to the Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budget
Montgomery County Government
Conference and Visitors Bureau Non-Departmental Account
Support for COVID-19 Response – Hotel or Motel Rooms for Medical
and Front-Line Staff
\$250,000 (Source of Funds: General Fund Reserves)
Non-Competitive Contract Award Status: Conference and Visitor’s Bureau of
Montgomery County, Maryland Inc.

Background

1. Section 308 of the County Charter provides that a special appropriation is an appropriation which states that it is necessary to meet an unforeseen disaster or other emergency, or to act without delay in the public interest. Each special appropriation shall be approved by not less than six Councilmembers. The Council may approve a special appropriation at any time after public notice by news release. Each special appropriation shall specify the source of funds to finance it.
2. On March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization declared coronavirus COVID-19 a pandemic as it has spread rapidly throughout the world. As of March 23, 2020, there were 288 confirmed cases in Maryland, including 93 in Montgomery County. The expectation is that the number of cases will grow rapidly. To slow the spread of the disease, Governor Hogan declared a State of Emergency and has issued several Executive Orders with actions that included closing schools and non-essential business and limiting the number of people that can gather.
3. The efforts to contain the spread of the disease and to triage, diagnose, and treat those who have contracted the COVID-19 disease has placed an extraordinary burden on the medical system, its medical professionals and other critical front-line staff and first responders. Staff has limited opportunity for rest and may need lodging closer to their workplace.
4. The Conference and Visitor’s Bureau of Montgomery County, Maryland Inc. will work

with County hotel and motel operators who are willing to provide lodging to critical personnel at a greatly reduced cost.

5. Notice of public hearing was given and a public hearing was held.

Action

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

A special appropriation to the FY20 Operating Budget of the Montgomery County Government, Conference and Visitors Bureau Non-Departmental Account in the amount of \$250,000 is approved as follows:

	<u>Personnel Expense</u>	<u>Operating Expense</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Conference and Visitors Bureau NDA	\$0	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000

The FY2020 Designation of Entities for Non-Competitive Contract Award Status, Section G of Resolution 19-128, is amended to reflect that the Department of Finance may increase the contract with Conference and Visitors Bureau of Montgomery County, Maryland, Inc. by \$250,000 and may expand the purpose of the non-competitive award to include acquiring hotel and motel lodging for medical and other critical front-line personnel in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

This appropriation is needed to act without delay in the public interest.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

Selena Mendy Singleton, Esq.
Clerk of the Council