SUBJECT
   Appoint 11 members to Commission on Redistricting.

EXPECTED ATTENDEES
   None

COUNCIL DECISION POINTS
The Council interviewed 32 applicants on December 2, 3, and 8, 2020. The Council needs to recommend 11 members for appointment.

Names of appointees and acting chair will be announced during the Council Session on January 26.

Council staff will work with the Commission to expedite the Commission report.

DESCRIPTION/ISSUE
The Montgomery County Charter, as amended by the voters in the 2020 general election, states that the County shall be divided into seven Council districts for the purpose of nominating and electing seven members of the Council. Each district shall be compact in form and be composed of adjoining territory. Prior to the recent election, the Charter required the County to be divided into five Council districts. The new requirement for seven districts will apply to the 2022 election, and the County Council will consist of eleven members, with four at-large members.
Charter Requirements - Summary

The Council must establish a Commission on Redistricting no later than February 1, 2021.

The Commission shall include at least one but no more than four members of each political party which polled at least 15% of the total vote cast for all candidates for the Council in the last preceding regular election. As a result of the 2018 General Election, there are two parties recognized by the State of Maryland: Democratic Party and Republican Party. At least one member of the Commission shall reside in each Council district.

The Commission shall, at its first meeting, select one of its members to serve as its chair.

No person who holds any elected office shall be eligible for appointment to the Commission.

By November 15, 2021, the Council must receive the Commission plan and report.

Within 30 days, the Council shall hold a public hearing on the Commission’s plan. The plan is also customarily introduced as a bill at the request of the Redistricting Commission. The Council considers and may amend the bill (plan) and should take action within 90 days of receiving the plan.

If within 90 days after presentation of the Commission's plan, no other law reestablishing the boundaries of the Council districts has been enacted, then the plan, as submitted, shall become law.

Any law which prescribes Council districts is not subject to referendum.

This report contains:

- Draft resolution ©A-B
- Press Release ©C-D
- Charter Sections 103 & 104 ©E
- List of interviewees © F-G
- List of applicants © H-J
- Email from Board of Elections ©K

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-2-
COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

Lead Sponsor: County Council

SUBJECT: Appointment of Commission on Redistricting

Background

1. The County Charter provides that Montgomery County shall be divided into seven Council districts for the purpose of nominating and electing seven members of the Council. Each district shall be compact in form and be composed of adjoining territory. Populations of the Council districts shall be substantially equal.

2. The Charter requires that the Council district boundaries be reestablished in 1972 and every tenth year thereafter and that the Council shall appoint, not later than February 1 of the year before the year in which redistricting is to take effect, a Commission on Redistricting.

3. Charter Section 104 outlines the redistricting process. The Commission shall be composed of 11 registered voters who reside in the County. The Commission shall include at least one but no more than four members of each political party which polled at least 15 percent of the total vote cast for all candidates for the Council in the last preceding regular election. In the most recent election, two parties polled at least 15 percent of the total vote cast for Councilmembers: the Democratic Party and the Republican Party. At least one member of the Commission shall reside in each Council district.

4. No person who holds any elected office shall be eligible for appointment to the Commission.

5. The Commission shall, at its first meeting, select one of its members to serve as its chair.

6. By November 15, 2021, the Commission shall present a plan of Council districts, together with a report explaining it, to the Council.

7. Within thirty days after receiving the plan of the Commission, the Council shall hold a public hearing on the plan. If within ninety days after presentation of the Commission’s plan no other law reestablishing the boundaries of the Council districts has been enacted,
then the plan, as submitted, shall become law. After any redistricting plan or any other law amending the boundaries of Council districts becomes law, the boundaries of the Council districts shall apply to the next regular election for Councilmembers and to any special election held or appointment made to fill a vacancy on the Council that occurs after those boundaries are established.

8. The appointment of the Commission on Redistricting is before the Council for approval.

**Action**

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

The following are appointed to serve as members of the Commission on Redistricting:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
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_____________________________ is appointed to serve as Acting Chair of the Commission on Redistricting.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

_________________________
Selena Mendy Singleton, Esq.
Clerk of the Council
Montgomery County Council

For Immediate Release

November 12, 2020

FOR INFORMATION: Selena Mendy Singleton
Selena.Singleton@montgomerycountymd.gov

Montgomery Council Seeks Applicants for County Commission on Redistricting

Deadline Extended to Tuesday, November 17 at 5 p.m.

ROCKVILLE, Md., Nov. 12, 2020—The Montgomery County Council is seeking applicants for the County’s 11-member Commission on Redistricting. The positions must be filled by February 1, 2021. The deadline to apply for consideration is 5 p.m. on Tuesday, November 17, 2020.

The Montgomery County Charter, as amended by the voters in the 2020 general election, states that the County shall be divided into seven Council districts for the purpose of nominating and electing seven members of the Council. Each district shall be compact in form and be composed of adjoining territory. Prior to the recent election, the Charter required the County to be divided into five Council districts. The new requirement for seven districts will apply to the 2022 election, and the Council will consist of eleven members, with four at-large members.

The Charter also requires that the Council shall appoint a Commission on Redistricting. The Commission shall be composed of 11 registered voters who reside in the County. The Commission shall include at least one but no more than four members of each political party which polled at least 15 percent of the total vote cast for all candidates for the Council in the last preceding regular election. As a result of the 2018 General Election, there are two parties recognized by the State of Maryland: the Democratic Party and the Republican Party. At least one member of the Commission shall reside in each Council district. The commission shall, at its first meeting, select one of its members to serve as its chair. No person who holds any elected office shall be eligible for appointment to the Commission.

By November 15, 2021, the Commission shall present a plan of Council districts, together with a report explaining the plan to the Council. Within 30 days after receiving the plan, the Council shall hold a public hearing on it. If within 90 days after presentation of the Commission’s plan no other law re-establishing the boundaries of the Council districts has been enacted, then the plan, as submitted, shall become law.

Letters expressing interest, along with a resume no longer than four pages in length, in a position on the Commission on Redistricting must be emailed to County_Council@MontgomeryCountyMD.gov or received in the Office of the Montgomery County Council, 100 Maryland Avenue, 4th Floor, Rockville, MD 20850, no later than 5 p.m.,
Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2020. It is the Council’s policy not to consider applications received after the deadline.

# # # #
Charter of Montgomery County

Sec. 103. Council Districts.

Montgomery County shall be divided into seven Council districts for the purpose of nominating and electing seven members of the Council. Each district shall be compact in form and be composed of adjoining territory. Populations of the Council districts shall be substantially equal.


Sec. 104. Redistricting Procedure.

The boundaries of Council districts shall be reviewed in 1972 and every tenth year thereafter. Whenever district boundaries are to be reviewed, the Council shall appoint, not later than February 1 of the year before the year in which redistricting is to take effect, a commission on redistricting. The Commission shall be composed of eleven registered voters who reside in the County. The Commission shall include at least one but no more than four members of each political party which polled at least fifteen percent of the total vote cast for all candidates for the Council in the last preceding regular election. At least one member of the Commission shall reside in each Council district. The Commission shall, at its first meeting, select one of its members to serve as its chair. No person who holds any elected office shall be eligible for appointment to the Commission.

By November 15 of the year before the year in which redistricting is to take effect, the Commission shall present a plan of Council districts, together with a report explaining it, to the Council. Within thirty days after receiving the plan of the Commission, the Council shall hold a public hearing on the plan. If within ninety days after presentation of the Commission’s plan no other law reestablishing the boundaries of the Council districts has been enacted, then the plan, as submitted, shall become law. After any redistricting plan or any other law amending the boundaries of Council districts becomes law, the boundaries of the Council districts so established shall apply to the next regular election for Councilmembers and to any special election held or appointment made to fill a vacancy on the Council that occurs after those boundaries are established. (Election of 11-2-82; election of 11-3-98; election of 11-4-14; election of 11-6-18.)

Editor’s note—See County Attorney Opinion No. 95.003 dated 12/6/95 explaining that the Council retains the authority to control whether the Commission on Redistricting plan becomes law, but the Council must take action within 90 days of receiving the plan. See County Attorney Opinion dated 1/9/92 explaining that not all meetings fall within the Open Meetings Act and, therefore, not all meetings need to be open to the public or included in public notice.
# Interviewees for Redistricting Commission

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<tr>
<td>Terrel, Cynthia</td>
<td>Democrat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thorne, Daryl</td>
<td>Democrat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thorton, Matthew</td>
<td>Democrat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ujczo, Mark</td>
<td>Democrat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VanderVegt, Francois</td>
<td>Republican</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virmani, Hitesh</td>
<td>Republican</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vogel, Rebekah</td>
<td>Democrat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walter, Darryl</td>
<td>Democrat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welch, Laura</td>
<td>Democrat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whittaker, Michelle</td>
<td>Democrat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilhelm, Daniel</td>
<td>Democrat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodyard, Shawn</td>
<td>Democrat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zatratz, Christopher</td>
<td>Democrat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Good afternoon Ms. Brown,

In the last regular election, the 2018 General Election, 412,571 voters cast a ballot. Below is a table showing the four recognized parties at the time of the General Election and the percentage of total votes cast for each party.

2018 General Election

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party</th>
<th>Votes Cast</th>
<th>Percentage of Total Votes Cast</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Democrat</td>
<td>267,302</td>
<td>64.79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republican</td>
<td>68,494</td>
<td>16.60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Libertarian*</td>
<td>1,399</td>
<td>0.34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green*</td>
<td>699</td>
<td>0.17%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The Libertarian party and the Green Party are no longer recognized parties in the State of Maryland.

Please let me know if you need any additional information.

Thanks!

Jessica Newby
Voter Services, Program Evaluation & Compliance Manager
Montgomery County Board of Elections
18753 N. Frederick Avenue, Suite 210
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20879
240-777-8520