



Committee: Directly to Council
Committee Review: N/A
Staff: David A. Lorenzo-Botello, Special Assistant
Purpose: Final action – vote expected
Keywords: #CondemningHate

AGENDA ITEM #7M
February 23, 2021
Action

SUBJECT

Resolution reaffirming Montgomery County's commitment to combat hate and extremism.

EXPECTED ATTENDEES

None

COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

- Final Action – vote expected Introduction

DESCRIPTION/ISSUE

Montgomery County recognizes the value of cultivating an inclusive, safe and just society and culture. The events of January 6, 2021 shocked the nation as levels of hate and extremism have reached their highest levels in recent history. With this proclamation, Montgomery County is reaffirming its commitment to root out hatred, political exploitation and mistruths in all political and civil institutions.

SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- A resolution regarding Montgomery County's commitment to combating hate and extremism

This report contains:

Condemning Hate and Extremism Resolution

Pages 1-2

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Resolution No.: _____

Introduced: 02/09/2021

Adopted: _____

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

Lead Sponsor: Councilmember Evan Glass

Cosponsors: Council President Tom Hucker, Councilmembers Will Jawando, Sidney Katz,
Nancy Navarro, Andrew Friedson, Council Vice President Gabe Albornoz, Councilmembers Craig Rice,
Hans Riemer

SUBJECT: To reaffirm Montgomery County's commitment to combat hate and extremism.

Background

1. On January 6, 2021, a domestic terrorism incident at the United States Capitol caused incredible pain, fear and stress for many Montgomery County residents who were working to support the functions of Congress that day.
2. The Anti-Defamation League issued a report which found that domestic extremists killed at least 42 people in the United States in 2019, making it the sixth deadliest year on record for domestic extremist-related activity since 1970.
3. Political extremism and violence is spreading across the region and the United States as the rise in disinformation, misinformation and online conspiracy theories such as QAnon spread.
4. Montgomery County is committed to defending democratic institutions, the integrity of our elections, and the security of people and facilities that carry out the democratic process.
5. Montgomery County is committed to ending the spread of hate, bigotry, and harassment based on race, color, religion, national origin, ethnicity, sexual orientation, sex -- including on the basis of gender, gender identity and expression, disability, or any other protected characteristic as defined by law.
6. Montgomery County supports the peaceful exercise of free speech, free assembly, and freedom to worship safely for all people.
7. The elected leaders of Montgomery County have the ability and obligation to promote inclusiveness, celebrate diversity, work to ensure equitable opportunities in all major facets of society, prevent the spread of misinformation and disinformation, and reject hate and bias in all forms and should set a positive example for their constituents in this regard.

Action

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

1. Montgomery County affirms its ongoing commitment to cultivating an inclusive, safe, and just society and culture – including within county government operations and institutions – that values the diversity of our community, works to ensure equitable opportunities in all major facets of society, and celebrates both our individuality and commonality.
2. Montgomery County denounces the January 6, 2021 domestic terrorism incident at our nation’s Capitol.
3. Montgomery County denounces anti-government extremism, white supremacy, racism, antisemitism, misogyny, Islamophobia, anti-LGBTQ+ hate, ableism, and all hateful speech and bias-motivated violent actions in our community.
4. Montgomery County denounces extremist conspiracy theories, misinformation, and disinformation that cultivate an alienated and mistrustful electorate, undermine democratic institutions and processes, and increase the likelihood of violence.
5. Montgomery County denounces attempts to exploit governmental procedure and basic government functions for personal political gain
6. Montgomery County commits to fostering an environment within in all our communities, operations and institutions that does not tolerate anti-government extremist, white supremacist, racist, antisemitic, misogynist, Islamophobic, anti-LGBTQ+, ableist, and other hateful speech and actions.
7. Montgomery County commits to countering hate and extremism through engagement with community leaders, governmental transparency and public information-sharing regarding efforts to fight extremism, and the investigation and prosecution of those who commit criminal acts, consistent with civil liberties protections
8. Montgomery County urges residents to join us by adopting these values in their own lives, calling attention to these harms, and denouncing hate and extremism to help keep us all safe.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

Selena Mendy Singleton, Esq., Clerk of the Council