



Committee: None

Staff: Susan J. Farag, Legislative Analyst

Purpose: To receive testimony/final action - vote expected

Keywords: #FireMasterPlan; #FireandRescue;
#PublicSafety; #MCFRS

AGENDA ITEM #10

June 28, 2022

Public Hearing/Action

SUBJECT

Public Hearing/Action: Resolution to extend effective date of the FY16-22 Master Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Medical Services Plan to December 30, 2022

EXPECTED ATTENDEES

None.

SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- County Code Section 21-12 requires the Fire Chief to draft a Master Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Medical Services Plan and must propose any appropriate amendments to the Executive and Council.
- The current [FY16-22 Fire, Rescue, Emergency Medical Services And Community Risk Reduction Master Plan](#) is effective through June 30, 2022.
- The Executive has requested an extension for the current plan so that the Fire Chief may draft the new FY23-29 Master Plan, based on updated information and planning needs:
 - The Thrive Montgomery 2050 General Plan has not been approved by the County Council yet. MCFRS wants to ensure alignment with the County's plan for the next 30 years.
 - There are currently two audits of MCFRS pending under the Reimagining Public Safety initiative. It is anticipated that both audits will provide actionable objectives that MCFRS should include in the next Master Plan.
 - The current Master Plan was based on data from the 2010 US Census. It is prudent that MCFRS have an opportunity to review the 2020 US Census data and reassess community risk levels, which our planning efforts are based on.
 - MCFRS engaged with the IAFF at the end of 2020 for technical assistance on evaluating risk and resources throughout the County. This analysis, not anticipated earlier than the 4th quarter of FY22, is also expected to contribute to planning decisions.
 - The additional time would also allow MCFRS to initiate a community survey, determined in a recent planning session to be vital to the plan's development.
- Council introduced this resolution on June 14, 2022.

This Staff Report Contains:

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County Executive Transmittal Memo

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Proposed Resolution


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MEMORANDUM

February 1, 2022

TO: Gabe Albornoz, President
Montgomery County Council

FROM: Marc Elrich, County Executive 

SUBJECT: 2023-2029 Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Service (MCFRS) Master Plan

The 2016-2022 Fire, Rescue, Emergency Medical Services and Community Risk Reduction Master Plan is set to expire on June 30, 2022. At this time, the Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Service (MCFRS) Planning Section is requesting a six-month extension to complete the 2023-2029 Master Plan. Such a request ultimately requires approval by the County Council, as MCFRS is required to maintain a master plan under [Montgomery County Code Chapter 21, Section 12](#).

An extension is being requested for the following reasons.

- 1) The *Thrive Montgomery 2050* General Plan has not been approved by the County Council yet. MCFRS wants to ensure alignment with the County's plan for the next 30 years.
- 2) There are currently two audits of MCFRS pending under the *Reimagining Public Safety* initiative. It is anticipated that both audits will provide actionable objectives that MCFRS should include in the next Master Plan.
- 3) The current Master Plan was based on data from the 2010 US Census. It is prudent that MCFRS have an opportunity to review the 2020 US Census data and reassess community risk levels, which our planning efforts are based on.

- 4) MCFRS engaged with the IAFF at the end of 2020 for technical assistance on evaluating risk and resources throughout the County. This analysis, not anticipated earlier than the 4th quarter of FY22, is also expected to contribute to planning decisions.
- 5) The additional time would also allow MCFRS to initiate a community survey, determined in a recent planning session to be vital to the plan's development.

Thank you for considering this request. If further discussion is needed, please reach out to MCFRS planning manager, Melissa Schulze at 240-277-9485 and Fire Chief, Scott E. Goldstein at 240-777-2464.

ME:ms

Resolution No.: _____
Introduced: June 14, 2022
Adopted: June 28, 2022

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

Lead Sponsor: Council President

SUBJECT: Extension of effective date to December 30, 2022, for the FY16-22 Master, Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Medical Services Plan

Background

1. County Code Section 21-12 requires the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service (MCFRS) to maintain, review, and amend as necessary a Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Medical Services Master Plan.
2. The current Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Medical Services Master Plan, was approved by Council Resolution 18-546 in June 2016.
3. County Code Section 21-12(c) provides that the Master Plan must serve as a guideline for the Executive, Council, and Fire Chief in making decisions regarding delivery of fire and rescue services, does not have the force of law, and does not impose any legal obligation on any party.
4. County Code Section 21-12(b) allows the Council to approve the Master Plan as proposed or with amendments.
5. The Executive requests a six-month extension of the current Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Medical Services Master Plan so that the Fire Chief can use updated Census data, Thrive requirements, the results of two Reimagining Public Safety audits, input from the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 1664, and community survey results to best inform the FY23-29 Master Plan. The Master Plan will be extended until December 30, 2022.
6. Notice of a public hearing was given, and a public hearing was held.

Action

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

The *Extension of effective date to December 30, 2022, for the FY16-22 Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Service (MCFRS) Master Plan*, is approved.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

Judy Rupp
Clerk of the Council