Resolution No.:	15-1169
Introduced:	February 8, 2005
Adopted:	October 11, 2005

COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

By: County Council

SUBJECT: Approval of Fire, Rescue, Emergency Medical Services, and Community Risk Reduction Master 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 Master, Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Medical Services Plan.

2. The existing Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Medical Services Master Plan, adopted by the Council in October 1994, was scheduled to expire in December 2004.

3. For the past two years, MCFRS was involved in developing a new plan to cover the period from 2005 to 2015. Plan development included input from many participants in the Fire and Rescue Service and the community. While the new plan was being drafted, the Fire and Rescue Service underwent a transition from the Fire Administrator organizational structure the Fire Chief organizational structure.

4. County Code Section 21-12(b) in effect during development of the Master Plan required the Fire and Rescue Commission to hold a public hearing on any significant amendment to the Plan. The Fire Administrator held a public hearing on behalf of the Commission on July 14, 2004.

5. On December 23, 2004, the Council received from the County Executive the new Fire, Rescue, Emergency Medical Service, and Community Risk Reduction Master Plan, dated October 2004, and a companion document, Strategic Plan for the Implementation of Fire, Rescue, EMS, and Community Risk Reduction Master Plan Priorities, dated November 18, 2004. The Strategic Plan focuses on the highest priority recommendations in the Master Plan, and includes information about their implementation and fiscal impact.

6. The Council held a public hearing on the proposed Master Plan on March 8, 2005.

7. Current 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.

8. Current County Code Section 21-12(b) provides that the Council may approve the Master Plan as proposed or with amendments.

9. The Public Safety Committee reviewed the Master Plan and the Strategic Plan on January 31, March 17, April 4, June 13 and 27, and September 15, 2005, and requested certain amendments.

10. Among other things, the Committee requested that MCFRS incorporate the Strategic Plan into the Master Plan, and provide for regular review of the Strategic Plan. The amended Master Plan includes the Strategic Plan as Section 7, and requires that MCFRS review and update the Strategic Plan annually to coincide with yearly operating budget requests.

11. MCFRS provided two revisions of the Master Plan, dated June 9, 2005, and September 2005, incorporating the Committee's requests. The Committee reviewed the revisions on June 27 and September 15, and recommended approval with certain additional changes. After the September 15 Committee worksession, MCFRS prepared, for Council action, another revision of the Master Plan which incorporated the Committee's requests and some technical changes. The Council received this revision on October 5, 2005.

12. On October 11, the Council reviewed the Master Plan, and requested additional amendments. MCFRS agreed to incorporate the amendments into the final version of the Plan.

13. Because the Master Plan was developed during two separate Fire and Rescue Service organizational structures, it may have to be amended in the future after MCFRS gains more experience under the current structure.

Action

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

> The Fire, Rescue, Emergency Medical Service, and Community Risk Reduction Master Plan, dated October 2004, as amended, is approved. A copy of the Plan is on file in the Council's Office of Legislative Information Services.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

Linda M. Lauer

Linda M. Lauer, Clerk of the Council