



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

Council Highlights for 2015

Social Justice

- We joined enlightened communities across the United States in requiring paid sick and safe leave.
- We enacted legislation making safe, culturally competent and available child care a top policy priority.
- We prohibited retaliation by an employer against an employee who discloses or receives information about wages and required county contractors to report wage data by gender and race to encourage pay equity.
- We mandated that county contractors and subcontractors provide their employees with time off to meet with Department of Health and Human Services employees to receive help applying for health insurance.

Economic Development and Competitiveness

- We revolutionized the county's approach to economic development.
- We designated a non-profit corporation to serve as the county's lead economic development organization and a separate non-profit corporation to act as the county's workforce development organization.
- We created a development ombudsman position to resolve issues throughout the development process.
- We repealed the Department of Transportation's authority to approve record plats to simplify and speed up this process.
- We exempted market-rate rental dwelling units in any housing development of at least 25 percent affordable units from transportation and school impact taxes.
- We established the Ad Hoc Committee on Liquor Control and recommended reforms to improve Department of Liquor Control operations and expand choices for businesses and consumers.
- We passed the Aspen Hill Minor Master Plan Amendment and Sandy Spring Rural Village Plan.

Consumer Protection

- We prohibited county retail pet stores from selling puppy mill puppies.
- We protected our residents from predatory towing practices.
- We moved our taxicab industry into the 21st century and created a fund to help increase accessible taxi service.
- We established training for volunteers who serve on common ownership communities.
- We required radon testing before selling a single-family home in the county.

Doing Business in the County

- We established Procurement as a stand-alone, principal office in the Executive Branch.
- We established a new tool for evaluating offers received on requests for proposals (RFPs) to help increase participation by minority and women owned firms.
- We established a reciprocal local preference to penalize a business located in a jurisdiction that discriminates against a county-based business in the procurement process.
- We enacted a procurement preference for small employers who provide health insurance to their employees.
- We extended hours for food truck operations.

Environmental Action

- We prohibited the use of certain pesticides to protect the environment and eliminated the unnecessary health risks associated with the use of pesticides.
- We prohibited the use of polystyrene food service products and required the use of compostable or recycle food service products by the county and its contractors.
- We established a green bank to promote investment in clean energy technologies.
- We passed a resolution to support the use of plant-derived material for our artificial turf playing fields.

Good Government

- We established the Public Election Fund Committee to advise the Council on the funds needed for the voluntary public campaign financing system and hosted a public information session about the new law with the Democratic and Republican parties in Montgomery County.
- We overhauled the county's ethics law to conform to state law.

Public Health and Housing

- We prohibited the use of electronic cigarettes in public places where traditional smoking is prohibited and established an excise tax on the distribution of electronic cigarette products.
- We increased fines for businesses that sell a tobacco product to minors.
- We enacted legislation to crack down on bodywork establishments and prostitution to help eliminate human trafficking.
- We endorsed a ten-year plan to end homelessness in Montgomery County.
- We added incentives for new accessible communities including features in residential housing that will improve accessibility for all ages and those with disabilities.

Fiscal Responsibility

- We approved a fiscally responsible budget for FY16 totaling \$4.4 billion in tax supported dollars that held the line on property taxes and includes a reserve of \$382.7 million and \$108.6 million in other post-employment benefits (OPEB).
- We passed a \$54 million savings plan for FY16 while protecting essential supports for our most needy and vulnerable residents.
- We preserved the county's AAA bond rating, which the county has held since 1973.

Veteran Services

- We provided \$500,000 to provide homes for formerly homeless veterans.
- We honored and thanked county veterans with our first-ever celebration recognizing and saluting Vietnam veterans.