



## COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

**APPROVED**

Wednesday, March 11, 2020

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland convened in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room, Executive Office Building, 101 Monroe Street, Rockville, Maryland, at 4:05 P.M on Wednesday, March 11, 2020.

### PRESENT

Councilmember Sidney Katz, President	Councilmember Tom Hucker, Vice President (via speaker phone)
Councilmember Gabe Alborno	Councilmember Andrew Friedson
Councilmember Evan Glass	Councilmember Nancy Navarro
Councilmember Craig Rice	Councilmember Hans Riemer

### ABSENT

Councilmember Will Jawando

### **Briefing – Update on Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

Participating in the discussion were County Executive Elrich; Mr. Kleine, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO); Dr. Gayles, County Health Officer and Chief of Public Health Services; Dr. Stoddard, Director, Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (OEMHS); Dr. Crowel, Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS); and Mr. Attila, Director, Office of Human Resources (OHR).

Received an update on the status of five confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the County; increased testing availability; enhanced disinfecting and cleaning of high-use public spaces in Government buildings, buses, and the Correctional Facility; and joint procurement efforts by agencies to purchase supplies, such as surgical masks, disposable gloves, and disinfectant.

Discussed increased calls to MC311, the addition of 20 more telephone lines, extending hours for MC311, increasing multilingual staff, and implementing a triage answering service. Councilmembers emphasized that resolving language requirements is critical and requested a copy of MC311's COVID-19 script.

Discussed evolving short and long-term plans; contingency operations procedures for County Government; relaxing guidelines for teleworking, giving more employees Virtual Private Network (VPN) access, and holding virtual meetings.

Discussed making recommendations that are consistent with other jurisdictions and states to provide guidance on postponing or cancelling public events and large gatherings; providing information to businesses, seniors, and other groups and ensuring that the information is available in other languages; social distancing; and how to keep the community safe while supporting businesses and the economy.

Received an update on Montgomery College's plans to close beyond this month's spring break, and its ability to provide classes remotely.

Noted that the County Executive will host a Facebook live event with Dr. Gayles tomorrow, March 12; Councilmembers will continue to be frequently updated; Julie Parker, the new media point person, will send out daily Tweets that Councilmembers can share with constituents; and it was requested that a daily AlertMontgomery public notification message, that would have more than just news about the number of cases, be pushed out in English and Spanish.

The meeting adjourned at 5:43 P.M.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

*Approved/Signed by Clerk of the Council*

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Selena Mendy Singleton, Esq.

Clerk of the Council