



COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

APPROVED

Monday, August 24, 2020

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland convened via video conference at 9:32 A.M. on Monday, August 24, 2020.

PRESENT

Councilmember Sidney Katz, President
Councilmember Gabe Albornoz
Councilmember Evan Glass
Councilmember Nancy Navarro

Councilmember Tom Hucker, Vice President
Councilmember Andrew Friedson
Councilmember Will Jawando
Councilmember Craig Rice
Councilmember Hans Riemer

The President in the Chair.

(1) **COUNCIL SITTING AS BOARD OF HEALTH**

A. Introduction - [Board of Health Regulation to adopt Executive Order 098-20, COVID-19 Local Order - Amending and Restating Order dated August 5, 2020](#)

Introduced the subject Board of Health regulation.

and **Public Hearing** - [Board of Health Regulation to adopt Executive Order 098-20, COVID-19 Local Order - Phase 2 Amending and Restating Order dated August 5, 2020](#)

The public hearing was conducted. The public hearing began at 9:33 A.M and ended at 9:37 A.M. Council President Katz reopened the public hearing at 10:40 A.M and ended at 10:43 A.M to allow for an additional speaker to testify. The record was closed.

(2) **INTRODUCTION/ACTION** - [Resolution to approve Executive Order 098-20, COVID 19 Local Order - Phase 2, Amending and Restating Order dated August 5, 2020 as the County Council](#)

Introduced the subject resolution. Participating in the discussion were Dr. Gayles, County Health Officer and Chief of Public Health Services, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS); and Dr. Stoddard, Director, Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (OEMHS). Mr. Drummer, Senior Legislative Attorney, noted that the effective date of the Executive Order before the Council is today, August 24, 2020, at 5:00 P.M.

Responding to questions from Councilmembers, Dr. Gayles and Dr. Stoddard commented on the new regulations to recategorize soccer as a medium-risk sport, set a 50-person limit for all sporting events, and to permit bowling alleys to open with restrictions. Restrictions on lane swimming have not been eased, but swim clubs may submit applications to reopen online, including a safety plan, for consideration by the County.

Drs. Gayles and Stoddard, along with Councilmembers, expressed frustration that the State has not provided guidelines for the reopening of independent schools, noting that they are waiting for those guidelines to help frame the process moving forward for the reopening of public schools. Dr. Gayles stated that there are no clear markers when it would be safe for schools to reopen, and that more children need to be tested to better understand the dynamics of transmission in young people. He noted that the law requires schools to notify local and state health departments immediately when a student or staff person tests positive for the virus. Mr. Rice inquired if people in school buildings can be required to wear masks. As no guidance has been received from the State, Dr. Stoddard indicated that they could look at ways to specify what types of masks are most effective and appropriate for non-health care personnel, but cautioned that the availability of resources must be considered before making a recommendation to the public. Mr. Riemer said the goal is to reopen Montgomery County Public schools as soon as safely possible.

Regarding the change requiring restaurants/bars to close at 10:00 P.M., Dr. Stoddard said teams are monitoring compliance, but no citations have been issued to date, and acknowledged the impact this time restriction has had on businesses. He said they are making hard judgments based on the level of acceptable risk to public health.

Adopted **Resolution 19-583**, approving Executive Order 098-20, COVID-19 Local Order - Phase 2, Amending and Restating Order dated August 5, 2020.

Mr. Riemer made the motion, which carried without objection.

(1) **COUNCIL SITTING AS BOARD OF HEALTH (continued)**

B. **Action** - [Resolution to adopt Executive Order 098-20, Amending and Restating Order dated August 5, 2020 as a Board of Health Regulation](#)

Adopted **Resolution 19-584**, approving the subject Executive Order as a Board of Health Regulation.

Mr. Rice made the motion, and the Resolution was adopted by a roll call vote:

YEAS: Glass, Jawando, Riemer, Navarro, Albornoz, Rice, Friedson, Hucker, Katz.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 A.M.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

Approved/Signed by Clerk of the Council

Selena Mendy Singleton, Esq.
Clerk of the Council