



## COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

**APPROVED**

Thursday, October 1, 2020

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland convened via video conference at 2:03 P.M. on Thursday, October 1, 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

(1) **BRIEFING:** [Board of Elections \(BOE\)](#)

Participating in the discussion were Mr. Shalleck, President, and Mr. Naimon, Secretary, BOE; Ms. McLaughlin, Deputy Election Director; and Mr. Zelaya, Community Engagement/Public Information Officer.

Ms. Navarro, Chair of the Government Operations and Fiscal Policy (GO) Committee, opened the discussion by noting that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, changes were needed to ensure that everyone can vote, and that the BOE must be supported to allow a hybrid system of in-person and mail-in voting to work.

Received an overview from BOE members and Ms. McLaughlin on steps being taken to ensure every voter receives a ballot, knows where to drop off ballots, what to do if the voter damages or makes an error on the ballot, and where to go for early and election day in-person voting. As of September 30, 325,998 requests for ballots were received from residents. There will be 50 ballot drop boxes located around the County, and 39 voting sites on Election Day. So far, there are 3,419 election judges for early voting sites and 2,200 for Election Day. Republican and multi-lingual judges are still being recruited to volunteer. They acknowledged concerns raised regarding the location of the Bohrer Park ballot drop box, which was different from the location used during the primary election. Ms. McLaughlin said the drop box site was moved due to safety concerns and noted that the drop boxes must have 24-hour surveillance cameras. Mr. Katz requested they talk to the City of Gaithersburg to see if a more prominent location for the drop box could be determined, or directional signage be placed to indicate

the current location. Mr. Zelaya said a “MoCo Vote” phone app is being developed to be able to provide information, multi-generational outreach is underway, and informational graphics will be circulated. The panel noted that assistance is available to help residents register to vote, and that appointments are available at the Motor Vehicle Administration for help with voter registration.

Councilmembers spoke to the need to ensure the capacity to safely process ballots and to ensure precautions are taken to ensure the safety of election judges and the public, noted that some sites may utilize multiple areas for voting, such as a school gym and cafeteria, to allow for social distancing while voting; and the need for transparency when counting ballots and to allow the media or others to observe the process.

Commenting on limited-access communities, such as Asbury Methodist Village and Leisure World, Mr. Katz asked that the BOE take steps to ensure residents know where ballot boxes in those communities are located.

Councilmembers expressed concern that the BOE did not object to the Governor’s decision to use a hybrid system, rather than an all by-mail system for voting, noting that it was a partisan decision. Questions were raised concerning whether a plan of action was in place to address the possibility of ballot fraud and for the potential threat of intimidation at the polls.

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

**B. Introduction - [Board of Health Regulation to adopt an Executive Order 117-20, COVID-19 Local Order - Amending and Restating Order dated September 22, 2020](#)**

Introduced the subject Executive Order.

Legislative Attorney Mihill explained that the Executive Order would allow certain food establishments to apply for a late-night alcohol sales permit.

Mr. Riemer expressed concern that extending alcohol sales to midnight at bars and restaurants could accelerate the spread of COVID-19 and should not be permitted at this time. He said there is no plan in place to reduce the transmission of the virus, which is critical to allow schools to reopen and is a priority.

**Public Hearing - [Board of Health Regulation to adopt an Executive Order 117-20 COVID-19 Local Order - Amending and Restating Order dated September 22, 2020](#)**

The public hearing was held and the record closed.

- (3) **INTRODUCTION/ACTION** - [Resolution to approve an Executive Order 117-20, COVID-19 Local Order - Amending and Restating Order dated September 22, 2020 as the County Council](#)

Introduced the subject Executive Order.

Adopted **Resolution 19-617** approving Executive Order 117-20, COVID 19 Local Order - Amending and Restating Order dated September 22, 2020, as the County Council.

Ms. Navarro made the motion, which carried by a vote of 8 to 1. Mr. Riemer voted in the negative.

- (2) **COUNCIL SITTING AS BOARD OF HEALTH** (*continued*)

- B. **Action** - [Resolution to adopt an Executive Order 117-20, Amending and Restating Order dated September 22, 2020 as a Board of Health Regulation](#)

Adopted **Resolution 19-618**, approving Executive Order 117-20 as a Board of Health Regulation.

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 3:57 P.M.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

*Approved/Signed by Clerk of the Council*

---

Selena Mendy Singleton, Esq.  
Clerk of the Council