



COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

APPROVED

Monday, February 22, 2021

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland convened via video conference at 12:35 P.M. on Monday, February 22, 2021.

PRESENT

Councilmember Tom Hucker, President
Councilmember Andrew Friedson
Councilmember Will Jawando
Councilmember Nancy Navarro

Councilmember Gabe Albornoz, Vice President
Councilmember Evan Glass
Councilmember Sidney Katz
Councilmember Craig Rice

Councilmember Hans Riemer

The President in the Chair.

(1) **DISCUSSION** - [State Legislative Program](#)

Participating in the discussion were Ms. Wenger, Director, Ms. Samman, Ms. Boucher, and Ms. Morningstar, Office of Intergovernmental Relations (OIR); Mr. Lattner, County Attorney's Office; Chief Jones, Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD); and Mr. Drummer, Senior Legislative Attorney.

Received a brief update on the 2021 session of the Maryland General Assembly, noting that the main focus of today's discussion would be on the police reform legislation.

Discussed HB996/SB763, Alcoholic Beverages – Class A Licenses – Retail Grocery Establishments (Healthy Food Accountability Act of 2021). Ms. Durbin, Acting Director, Alcohol Beverage Services, participated in the discussion. Mr. Friedson made a motion to take a position in support of HB996/SB763. During the discussion that followed, several Councilmembers noted that residents, for a long time, have desired the convenience of purchasing beer and wine at grocery stores, and noted that the legislation could be helpful in establishing new grocery stores in areas considered food deserts. Other Councilmembers questioned the impact on small businesses that sell beer and wine and also wanted

to know if MCGEO had taken a position. Mr. Jawando suggested, but did not make a motion, delaying taking a position. Supported (by a vote of 5 to 4) Mr. Friedson's motion to take a position in support of HB996/SB763.

Supported: Glass, Friedson, Riemer, Navarro, Katz

Opposed: Albornoz, Rice, Jawando, Hucker.

After the vote, Mr. Katz stated that he thought the motion was to delay taking a position until the next meeting. Mr. Hucker suggested bringing it up at the next meeting for reconsideration.

Ms. Boucher and Ms. Morningstar provided an overview of the police reform legislation, as contained in the staff report. Compared the House and Senate versions of HB670 and SB627 and reviewed differing provisions for the Law Enforcement Officers Bill of Rights (LEOBR). Noted that the current LEOBR would be repealed and replaced with narrower uniform procedures governing the disciplinary process. Some of the components of the legislation include collective bargaining, investigation/show cause, charging, hearing, and preemption.

Ms. Boucher noted that the final amendments would be available this evening.

Other provisions in police reform bills include the Maryland Public Information Act (MPIA) and personnel records, use of force and duty to intervene, warrants, body worn cameras, policing data, police training and mental health, prohibiting acquisition of surplus military equipment, and the Local Government Tort Claims Act.

Several Councilmembers commented that they were in support of the original LEOBR reform legislation, which was much stronger. Because of the fast-moving legislative schedule and the rapidly changing components in the police reform legislation, Mr. Rice recommended that Councilmembers call individual Senators or Delegates to express their views on the legislation. Ms. Wenger noted that she will update the comparison chart to reflect the latest amendments.

Another update on police reform legislation will be provided at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 P.M.

This is an accurate account of the meeting:



Selena Mendy Singleton, Esq.
Clerk of the Council