



COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

APPROVED

Friday, March 12, 2021

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland convened via video conference at 1:33 P.M. on Friday, March 12, 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) COUNCIL SITTING AS BOARD OF HEALTH

- A. **Introduced** a resolution to adopt a Board of Health Regulation to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the County.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Hucker stated that with no advance notice, the Governor announced the lifting of most COVID-related restrictions against the guidance of local and national public health officials. With less than 10 percent of County residents fully vaccinated, the County has heeded advice from our local public health officials and is implementing a phased-in approach to reopening, in a way that does not jeopardize public health.

and **Public Hearing** - Resolution to adopt a Board of Health Regulation to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the County

The public hearing was held and the record closed.

B. **Action - Resolution to adopt a Board of Health Regulation to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the County**

Participating in the discussion were Mr. Drummer, Senior Legislative Attorney; Mr. Madaleno, Chief Administrative Officer; Dr. Crowel, Director, and Dr. Bridgers, Deputy Public Health Officer, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS); and Dr. Stoddard, Director, Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (OEMHS).

Mr. Drummer stated that the Council has the authority, sitting as the Board of Health, to issue a public health regulation to continue to limit the spread of COVID-19 in the County, under both in the Maryland Health – General Code Ann. §3-302(d), and Maryland Local Government Code Ann. §10-328.

Councilmembers expressed disappointment with the Governor’s action and stressed the need to follow the guidance of public health officials, noting that the health and safety of County residents is the primary goal.

Approved without objection the motion by Mr. Albornoz to add the following sentence to section 6.e. iv. of the Regulation: The 50 person limit may be exceeded for youth sports played outdoors if a Letter of Approval is obtained from the Health Officer or the Officer’s designee before the event is held.

Supported by a vote of 5 to 4 the motion by Mr. Glass, as modified by Mr. Friedson, to amend section 6.e.v. as follows:

v. [[Sports]] Except for youth hockey, sports played inside must follow the indoor gathering guidelines and the total number of people present is limited to 25. This includes staff, coaches, players, and any parents, guardians, or immediate family. The 25 person limit may be exceeded for youth sports played indoors if a Letter of Approval is obtained before the event is held. The total number of persons present for youth hockey played indoors must not exceed 10% of the maximum occupancy for the ice rink facility.

Councilmembers Navarro, Rice, Jawando and Huckler were opposed, noting the different standards for other sports and the need for equity and consistency.

Adopted **Resolution 19-760**, as amended, approving the Board of Health Regulation.

Ms. Navarro made the motion and the Resolution was adopted by a roll call vote:

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

The meeting adjourned at 3:26 P.M.

This is an accurate account of the meeting:



Selena Mendy Singleton, Esq.
Clerk of the Council