



## COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

**APPROVED**

Friday, May 14, 2021

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland convened via video conference at 10:33 A.M. on Friday, May 14, 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.

**PRESENTATION** - The Elevating Asian American & Pacific Islander Voices - Video Series was presented.

### (3) CONSENT CALENDAR

Approved the following consent calendar items listed below.  
Mr. Katz made the motion, which carried without objection.

- A. **Introduced/Suspended Rules/Adopted Resolution 19-841**, acknowledging the May 10, 2021, election returns from Friendship Heights.  
Approved, without objection, Mr. Katz's motion to suspend the rules to allow immediate action.
- B. **Introduced** a special appropriation to Montgomery County Public Schools' (MCPS) FY21 Operating Budget - \$112,233,764 for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund II (Source of Funds: Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021). A public hearing and action are scheduled for May 18, 2021, at 1:30 P.M.
- C. **Introduced** a special appropriation to MCPS's FY21 Operating Budget - \$1,274,619 for the Prekindergarten Enhancement Grant (Source of Funds: State Grant). A public hearing and action are scheduled for May 18, 2021, at 1:30 P.M.

## **WORKSESSION - FY22 Operating Budget**

### (2) [Montgomery College](#)

Mr. Rice, Chair of the Education and Culture (E&C) Committee, reviewed the Committee's recommendations, as contained in the staff report. Legislative Analyst Rodriguez-Hernandez and Dr. Pollard, President, Montgomery College, participated in the discussion.

Councilmembers expressed appreciation to Dr. Pollard for her great work in moving the College forward, helping all students achieve their goals, and for serving the greater Montgomery County community.

Supported, unanimously, the FY22 operating budget for Montgomery College, as recommended by the E&C Committee.

### (3) [Montgomery County Public Schools \(MCPS\)](#)

Mr. Rice reviewed the recommendation of the E&C Committee, as contained in the staff report. Participating in the discussion were Ms. Rodriguez-Hernandez; Ms. Wolff, President, Board of Education (BOE); and Mr. Smith, Superintendent, MCPS.

Mr. Hucker requested information on third grade reading goals and steps being taken to ensure all children are learning to read, and that MCPS staff provide quarterly reports on MCPS' efforts to help students reach reading standards. Dr. Smith described the more holistic approach MCPS is now taking to help students achieve reading goals and that data would be provided to Councilmembers.

Dr. Smith acknowledged the need to prioritize mental health support for students and said paid training is underway for all instructional staff. MCPS is also developing ways to provide distance learning opportunities in the coming year for students who are unable or prefer not to attend school in person.

Supported, unanimously, the FY22 operating budget for MCPS, as submitted by the County Executive to fully fund the BOE's request, and recommended by the E&C Committee.

### (4) [Department of Recreation and Recreation - School Based Programs](#)

Mr. Riemer, Chair of the Planning, Housing, and Economic Development (PHED) Committee, reviewed the recommendations of the PHED and the joint PHED/E&C Committees.

Supported, unanimously, the FY22 operating budget for the Department of Recreation and School-Based programs, as recommended by the PHED and PHED/E&C Committees.

The meeting recessed at 12:10 P.M. and reconvened at 1:31 P.M.

(6) **PUBLIC HEARING** - [Additional Amendments to the FY21-26 Capital Improvements Program \(CIP\)](#)

The public hearing was conducted.

**WORKSESSION - FY22 Operating Budget**

(7) [Community Engagement Cluster](#)

Ms. Navarro, Chair of the Government Operations and Fiscal Policy (GO) Committee, reviewed the Committee recommendation for the FY22 operating budget for the Community Engagement Cluster, as contained in the staff report, and noted the importance of funding a permanent translation unit.

Supported, unanimously, the FY22 operating budget for the Community Engagement Cluster, as submitted by the County Executive and recommended by the GO Committee.

(8) [Public Information Office \(PIO\)](#)

(9) [MC311](#)

Items #8 and #9 were taken up together since MC311 is within the PIO budget.

Participating in the discussion were Mr. Hudson, Director, PIO; Ms. Chen, Legislative Analyst; and Dr. Toregas, IT Adviser.

Ms. Navarro, Chair of the GO Committee, reviewed the Committee recommendations for the FY22 operating budgets for the PIO and MC311, as contained in the staff reports.

Discussed current operations of the MC311 call center as well as planned steps for the next iteration of MC311 and departmental call centers.

Mr. Glass raised concerns about Executive Order 119-20, Extension of MPIA Response Deadlines, and also noted that he did not believe the mandate was publicized broadly. Mr. Hudson stated the Order was tied to the state of emergency and justification likely revolved around the anticipation of

departments not having the time and resources to handle requests as well as the issue of staff working remotely offsite and not being able to gather the requested information in a timely manner. Mr. Hudson will follow-up with the County Attorney's Office to check the on status of lifting the Executive Order since the County is starting to return to normal.

Supported, unanimously, the FY22 operating budget for the PIO and MC311, as submitted by the County Executive and recommended by the GO Committee.

(10) [Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice \(ORESJ\)](#)

Ms. Navarro, Chair of the GO Committee, reviewed the Committee recommendations for the FY22 operating budget for the ORESJ, as contained in the staff report, noting the Montgomery County was ahead of other jurisdictions as it started working toward racial equity in 2019 and that she expects to see extraordinary results from ORESJ.

Supported, unanimously, the FY22 Operating Budget for the ORESJ, as submitted by the County Executive and recommended by the GO Committee.

(11) Early Childhood Services

This item was deleted.

The meeting adjourned at 2:11 P.M.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

  
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Selena Mendy Singleton, Esq.  
Clerk of the Council