



COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

APPROVED

Friday, May 13, 2022

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland convened in the Council Hearing Room, Stella B. Werner Council Office Building, Rockville Maryland at 9:00 A.M. on Friday, May 13, 2022.

PRESENT

Councilmember Gabe Albornoz, President
Councilmember Andrew Friedson
Councilmember Will Jawando
Councilmember Nancy Navarro

Councilmember Hans Riemer

Councilmember Evan Glass, Vice President
Councilmember Tom Hucker
Councilmember Sidney Katz
Councilmember Craig Rice

The President in the Chair.

WORKSESSION – FY23 OPERATING BUDGET and FY23-28 Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

- (1) • Department of Health and Human Services (including all service areas, all joint HHS/E&C reviewed items, Guaranteed Income NDA, Early Care and Education NDA, and Children's Opportunity Fund NDA)

Dr. Crowell, Director, and Ms. Harris, Chief, Services to End and Prevent Homelessness, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) participated in the discussion.

Mr. Albornoz, Chair of the Health and Human Services (HHS) Committee, reviewed the Committee's recommendations, as contained in the staff report.

Mr. Hucker requested an update on the Pathways partnership program, including the number of people served.

Supported without objection, Mr. Rice's motion to add an inflationary cost adjustment of \$673,984 in two tranches of \$336,992 each, to apply to all

eligible non-profit provider contracts across all departments. Mr. Friedson and Mr. Jawando were temporarily absent.

Deferred the discussion of Food Resiliency to agenda item #1.5.

Supported without objection, Mr. Rice's motion, at the request of MANNA, to remove \$230,000 from the reconciliation list to support culturally appropriate food purchasing and combine the budget line items for staff training retention and facility costs into one line item of \$575,000. Mr. Friedson was temporarily absent.

Supported without objection, Mr. Riemer's motion to add \$150,604 to the reconciliation list to keep the Latino Health Initiative Information Line operating at its current levels and the addition of \$104,994 for a program coordinator. Mr. Friedson was temporarily absent.

Ms. Navarro requested that the budget language for the Street Outreach Network and Positive Youth Development program indicate that these programs are maintained and expanded in future years.

Approved the subject FY23 Operating Budget, as amended.

Ms. Navarro made the motion which carried without objection. Mr. Friedson was absent.

(1.5) • [Community Engagement Cluster](#)

Dr. Stoddard, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer, participated in the discussion.

Mr. Albornoz and Ms. Navarro reviewed the joint HHS/Government Operations and Fiscal Policy (GO) Committee's recommendations, as contained in the staff report.

Ms. McGuire, Senior Legislative Analyst, noted that budget language will be included to confirm that funding is required in order to establish the Office of Food System Resilience, pending legislation.

Supported unanimously, the shift of \$1.06 million for food resiliency programs to the County Executive's budget until the Office of Food System Resilience is established. Mr. Friedson and Mr. Rice were temporarily absent.

Approved the Community Engagement Cluster FY23 Operating Budget and FY23-28 CIP, as amended.

Mr. Katz made the motion which carried without objection among those present. Mr. Friedson and Mr. Rice were temporarily absent.

- (2) • [Department of Health and Human Services Restoration Center, Nebel Street Shelter - Phase 2, Child Care Renovations, High School Wellness Centers and Expanded Wellness Services](#)

Ms. Yao, Legislative Analyst, reviewed the joint HHS/Education and Culture (E&C) Committee's recommendations.

Supported without objection the subject FY23-28 CIP, as recommended by the HHS/E&C Committees. Mr. Friedson and Mr. Rice were temporarily absent.

The Council recessed at 11:18 A.M. and reconvened at 1:35 P.M.

- (3) • [Department of Housing and Community Affairs \(DHCA\)](#)

Mr. Riemer, Chair of the Planning, Housing and Economic Development (PHED) Committee, reviewed the Committee's recommendations, as contained in the staff report.

Approved without objection, the subject FY23 Operating Budget, as recommended by the PHED Committee. Mr. Glass and Mr. Rice were temporarily absent.

- (4) • [Housing Opportunities Commission NDA](#)

Participating in the discussion were Ms. Brown, Acting Executive Director, Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC); Ms. Beck, CIP Manager, Office of Management and Budget (OMB); and Ms. Michaelson, Council Executive Director.

Mr. Riemer reviewed the PHED Committee's recommendation to fund a second tranche of \$50 million in bonds to be issued one time in FY23 to fully fund the Housing Production Fund. Ms. Beck noted the financial impact of this program cost to the DHCA Housing Initiative Fund (HIF) fund and indicated it may impact the County's debt capacity.

Supported without objection, Mr. Friedson's motion to use \$1.5 million of the HIF to fund the Housing Production Fund. Mr. Glass and Mr. Rice were temporarily absent.

(5) • Affordable Housing CIP projects

Participating in the discussion were Mr. Demarais, Deputy Director, Housing and Community Affairs (DHCA), and Ms. Beck.

Supported without objection, the PHED Committee's recommendation to fund the HIF portion of the Operating Budget for DHCA. Mr. Glass and Mr. Rice were temporarily absent.

Supported without objection, Ms. Navarro's motion to appropriate \$100,000 to A Wider Circle from the HIF to continue their operations. Mr. Glass and Mr. Rice were temporarily absent.

Supported the amendments for the FY22 and FY23-28 CIP and the Affordable Housing Opportunity Fund CIP, as submitted by the County Executive. Mr. Friedson made the motion which carried without objection. Mr. Glass and Rice were temporarily absent.

Mr. Albornoz stated that a discussion on a tenant request to purchase and preserve an affordable unit building in Takoma Park will be discussed at a future meeting.

Supported without objection, Mr. Jawando's motion to fund the Affordable Housing Opportunity Fund FY23-28 CIP, including appropriating \$6 million in FY23, as submitted by the County Executive. Mr. Glass and Mr. Rice were temporarily absent.

Supported without objection, Mr. Jawando's motion to add \$40 million to the Preservation of Naturally Affordable Housing (NOAH) program FY23-28 CIP, as submitted by the County Executive, with amendments requesting an update to the Council in September on the proposal to spend \$100 million and options for the Council to evaluate, include language in the budget to reference that the funds appropriated for FY23 must be contractually committed to developers in FY23, and that the PHED Committee will receive a quarterly update of the Affordable Housing and NOAH Funds. Mr. Glass and Mr. Rice were temporarily absent.

(6) • Property tax options: rate, amount, and the Income Tax Offset Credit

Ms. Navarro, Chair of the GO Committee, summarized the Committee's recommendations, as contained in the staff report.

Supported without objection, the GO Committee's recommendation to support the FY23 weighted property tax and Income Offset Credit (ITOC), as submitted by the County Executive. Mr. Glass and Mr. Rice were temporarily absent.

(7) • [Incubator Programs NDA](#)

Mr. Weissmann, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer, participated in the discussion.

Supported without objection, the PHED Committee's recommendation to shift \$877,000 from the FY23 Office of the County Executive budget to the Incubator NDA Account, as submitted by the County Executive. Mr. Glass and Mr. Rice were temporarily absent.

(8) • [Office of the County Executive](#)

Ms. Navarro reviewed the GO Committee's recommendations, as contained in the staff report.

Discussed shifting \$1.06 million for food resiliency programs, as submitted by the County Executive, from the Community Engagement Cluster's FY23 budget to the Office of the County Executive budget and will be adjusted in the budget language.

Supported without objection, Ms. Navarro's motion to approve the FY23 Operating Budget as submitted by the County Executive, with the amendment of shifting \$877,000 from the Office of the County Executive FY23 budget to the Incubator NDA FY23 budget; and the addition of \$1.06 million from the Community Engagement Cluster FY23 budget to the Office of the County Executive FY23 budget to establish a new Office of Food Systems Resilience. Mr. Glass and Mr. Rice were temporarily absent.

(9) • [Business District Development Grants](#)

Mr. Hartman, Director of Strategic Partnerships, participated in the discussion virtually.

Supported Mr. Riemer's motion to approve the FY23 Operating Budget of \$500,000 for nascent Business Improvement Districts (BIDs), Urban Districts and Main Streets program, the addition of \$300,000, in tranches of \$100,000 each, to the reconciliation list to further support the Main Street Programs, and \$600,000 in three tranches of \$200,000 for the Silver Spring BID.

Mr. Jawando was opposed. Mr. Glass and Mr. Rice was temporarily absent.

(10) • [Universities at Shady Grove - READY Institute](#)

Dr. Khademian, Executive Director, Universities at Shady Grove (USG), participated in the discussion.

Mr. Rice, Chair of the Education and Culture (E&C) Committee, reviewed the recommendation of the joint PHED/E&C Committees, as contained in the staff report.

Approved without objection, the subject FY23 Operating Budget, as recommended by the joint PHED/EC Committees. Mr. Glass and Mr. Rice were temporarily absent.

(11) • Compensation and Benefits Follow-Up

Dr. Stoddard, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer, participated in the discussion.

Ms. Navarro summarized the GO Committee's recommendations for the compensation and benefits portion of the County Executive's FY23 Operating Budget.

Supported the Committee's recommendation to approve the County Executive's proposed FY23 budget amendment providing a cumulative 6.5% general wage adjustment (GWA) to Police Leadership Service (PLS) members instead of the flat \$4,333 General Wage Adjustment (GWA) included in the March 15 budget. This action aligns PLS GWAs with that of FOP members and would add \$435,468 to the reconciliation list.

Supported the Committee's recommendation to request that the County Executive conduct a review of the PLS program to determine whether it is meeting the intended goals – and if not to provide recommendations on needed adjustments or alternatives. This review should also look at the management structures of the other public safety departments.

Supported the Committee's recommendation to approve a new FY23 legislative branch non-merit salary schedule as proposed by Council staff, approve the County Executive's proposed FY23 executive branch non-merit salary schedule, and approve the County Executive's new FY23 salary schedule for the Inspector General.

Declined to add \$1.0 million to the Compensation and Benefits NDA to reflect projected additional personnel costs associated with adding a new official holiday (Juneteenth) due to expected compensation cost-savings in FY23. Council noted that the County Executive has the ability to request a supplemental appropriation if funds are needed for this in FY23.

Ms. Navarro made the motion, which carried without objection. Mr. Glass and Mr. Rice were temporarily absent.

The meeting adjourned at 4:23 P.M.

This is an accurate account of the meeting:



Judy Rupp
Clerk of the Council