



COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

APPROVED

Monday, January 23, 2023

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland convened in the Council Hearing Room, Stella B. Werner Council Office Building, Rockville, Maryland at 12:30 p.m. on Monday, January 23, 2023

PRESENT

Councilmember Evan Glass, President
Councilmember Gabe Alborno
Councilmember Natali Fani-González
Councilmember Sidney Katz
Councilmember Kristin Mink

Councilmember Andrew Friedson, Vice President
Councilmember Marilyn Balcombe
Councilmember Will Jawando
Councilmember Dawn Luedtke
Councilmember Laurie-Anne Sayles

Councilmember Kate Stewart

The President in the Chair.

SUBJECT: Discussion - State Legislation Program

Reference: 1/23/23 staff report from Legislative Attorney McCartney-Green and Senior Legislative Attorney Wellons.

Participating in the discussion were Ms. Wenger, Director, Ms. Boucher, Deputy Director, Ms. Frey, Legislative Analyst, and Ms. Morningstar, Federal Relations Coordinator and Legislative Analyst, Office of Intergovernmental Relations (OIR); Mr. Tippery, Director, Automated Traffic Enforcement Unit, Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD); and Dr. Orlin, Senior Analyst.

Regarding MC 1-23, Montgomery County - School Bus Monitoring Cameras - Distribution of Fines, noted that the Bill has been substantially amended and is now a regular State bill and not a local bill, as it was when introduced.

Ms. Luedtke expressed concern that this Bill treats school bus camera violations differently from automated speed camera violations, and expressed the view that violators should be issued a ticket and not a warning for a first violation.

Received confirmation from Mr. Tippery that opposing traffic is currently required to stop for school buses on undivided roadways, and information that

there are multiple competing contractors issuing violations resulting in difficulty in knowing whether an offense is the first for a vehicle operator.

Councilmembers spoke to the safety issues, noting the need to ensure vehicles stop for school buses because children's lives are at stake. Agreed that the State must clarify when and where vehicles are required to stop for school buses, and noted Mr. Glass's comment that complaints were received from drivers who did not see the stopped bus.

Agreed to hold the Bill pending further clarification and refinement.

Discussed **MC/PG 106-23, Montgomery County - Off-Street Parking Requirements Near Mass Transit Stations**, noting that it would prohibit the County from enacting or enforcing any local law that requires the creation of new off-street parking. Councilmembers expressed concern about the preemption of the County's authority, and noted that Councilmember Friedson and Mink are developing a local bill and Mr. Jawando has a pending Zoning Text Amendment designed to reduce parking near mass transit stations, noting the need for flexibility at the local level to address different situations in the County. Agreed to take no position on the Bill, noting pending local legislation.

Unanimously supported **House Bill 70/Senate Bill 16, Safe Access for All Roads Act of 2023**, which would require the Department of Transportation to recommend and implement design elements in certain transportation projects to enhance pedestrian and bicycle safety.

Unanimously opposed **Senate Bill 11, Motor Vehicles - Speed Limits - School Zones**, which would reduce the area in which a school zone may be established and speed monitoring systems may be placed.

Unanimously supported **House Bill 136, Child Enforcement - Occupational and Recreational Licenses - Taxpayer Identification Number**, noting that this would apply to all occupational licenses, not just to childcare providers.

Unanimously supported **House Bill 169, Public Utilities - Energy Efficiency and Conservation Programs - Energy Performance Targets and Low-Income Housing**, which is consistent with the Council's priority to support energy efficiency programs for low-income residents.

The meeting adjourned at 1:24 p.m.

This is a correct copy of Council action:



Judy Rupp
Clerk of the Council

Minutes written by: Mary Anne Paradise, Deputy Clerk