<u>Commission on Aging</u>
Aging in Community Committee
November 12, 2024
9:30 am-11:30 am

"Update on MoCo Technology Programs and Next Steps on Affordable Housing Initiatives"

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82315344483?pwd=U0FxeWxDK0hSaGxwb0krQjY2RUFUZz09

<u>Agenda</u>

- **Welcome and Introduction**

- **Review and Approval of the October 8, 2024, Meetings minutes.**

- **Meeting Overview (Wayne and Betsy):** At this meeting, we will get an update on MoCo''s robust technology programs that help older adults age in place. Our featured speaker is Mitsuko R. Herrera, Montgomery Connects Program Director, Office of Broadband Programs, to discussed county-wide programs that facilitate the use of smart technologies to help residents age in place. The county's goal is to achieve digital equity where everyone has access to affordable home and mobile internet, the skills to use technology, and the "digital world" that includes education, employment, connections to family and friends, community engagement, civic participation, and good health.

- **Presentations and Discussion:**
  Mitsuko R. Herrera, Montgomery Connects Program Director, Office of Broadband Programs

- **Business Meeting:**
    - Continue discussions on potential actions and possible affordable housing working groups. (see attached discussion sheet with list)
    - Updates from the County.
    - Other Business

- **Next Scheduled Meeting:** December 10, 2024.
  Featured Topic: "Multi-Generational Caregiving"

ATTACHMENT

Actions for AIC Work Group on Affordable Housing

RATIONALE
We discussed this at a recent AIC meeting, that commissioners did not want to take on the whole housing issue as they felt it is too big for a volunteer group like us. I heard from the AIC that they would prefer to take on something small and have some success. A working group could be willing to tackle one or two smaller issues. A working group that can focus on something small, and achievable, can be of use in this regard. A small group work to focus on few small initiatives, including from the AIC FY 26 budget priorities would be a good place to start. For example:

1. Work on the development and implementation at Montgomery College of certification materials for universal design and a curriculum to train property managers on how to make existing housing for older adults more accessible, affordable, and available. This fits with our interests in Universal Design and Aging in Place. We could prepare a draft outline for such a training course and maybe secure some funding from a developer or philanthropy.

2. In the late winter / spring of 2025, review, comment, and/or advocate on County legislation regarding Attainable Housing and / or the Moderately Priced-Senior Living Program. Draft some thoughts for the Department of Planning to consider and to help develop criteria that may be used for a user-friendly tool for analysis of the Attainable Housing Report, including all zoning changes, bills brought before the County Council, and all master plans that go before the Planning Commission.

3. Work with the County on the development and dissemination of multilingual and accessible information regarding rental housing, including know your rights training for older people.

4. Become engaged in the effort to update / revise the Design for Life program in the County.

5. Understand the positions of other groups in the County who are interested in the affordable housing issue. For example, contact the MoCo Housing Alliance and the Renters Alliance to better understand their positions and work-to-date on affordable housing.

6. Develop a list of contacts of who the developers and managers of affordable property are in Montgomery County.