

## COMMISSION ON AGING - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

JUNE 20, 2024

9:30-11:30 a.m.

### IN ATTENDANCE:

David Engel, Virginia Cain, Barbara Selter, Wayne Berman, Betsy Carrier, Morris Klein  
Yvette Monroe, Beverly Rollins, Laurie Pross, Nikki Ezeani, Staff: Jennifer Long

David Engel called the meeting to order. Minutes from May Exec. meeting approved.

Treasurer's report that the balance in the CoA's account as of yesterday is: \$2188.74. Two recent transactions we had this month, the first one was five gift cards that were given during the public forum of May 16th. It came to the total of \$125. The second transaction was a contribution to JCA Interages in memory of Austin Heyman.

JCA has written the CoA to express their appreciation of the CoA's recognition of Austin Heyman's many contributions to the wellbeing of older persons in Montgomery County and beyond and of our contribution.

Ben Berbert from the Planning Department will be the guest speaker on Attainable Housing at the CoA meeting next week. We will also have Julia (Julz) Abate from Arc of Montgomery to speak about the County Respite Program.

Between now and December when we have the Legislative Breakfast, Committee chairs are requested to present priorities during the July Executive Committee meeting; there will be no meeting in August. A discussion ensued regarding the methodology/approach for voting on priorities and the need/desirability of retaining advocacy items in the mix vs. keeping budget priorities and advocacy topics separate. Use of the template that has been provided for budget priority presentation is ideal for formatting the requests. A vote for as simple a process as possible was expressed.

In the meantime, 3 letters are "in the pipeline" to go out as letters of support, letters advocating for issues we as the CoA endorse:

-Letter supporting property tax credits for disabled veterans with amendments suggested to support those who rent vs. own.

*(The Commission on Aging also supports a greater effort to help BIPOC veterans whose homeownership rates significantly lag those of their white peers to live in our community. We believe we have a moral obligation as a community to do more to remedy the racial disparities in home ownership, which are in part a result of decades of systematic housing discrimination. Thus, the CoA also strongly supports the Office of Legislative Oversight's proposed amendment to establish a tax credit or other financial incentive for severely disabled veterans who rent their*

*homes. This amendment would help to mitigate the bill's disparate racial impact, which was highlighted in the RESJ)*

-Letter supporting supplemental funding request for the Consortium to go to Pazit and to Tremayne and to the County Council/County Executive from there, once clarification of ARPA funds availability has occurred.

-Letter to Leslie Frey to review before sending to Del. Cullison and Senator Kramer on the updates of the meetings between the CoA, MDH, and the Montgomery County DHHS.

The topic of the Briefing Book came up. Beverly Rollins has updated it in the past and has done so again recently. Who will do this when Beverly rolls off the CoA was not established.

The composition of the CoA and the timeliness of the Commissioners' reappointments were discussed. There appear to be some discrepancies in the records; those Commissioners who need to update their status should plan to do so as soon as possible.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.