



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Marc Elrich
County Executive

Richard S. Madaleno
Chief Administrative Officer

MEMORANDUM

June 7, 2024

TO: Chris Cihlar, Director
Office of Legislative Oversight

FROM: Richard S. Madaleno, Chief Administrative Officer *RS*

SUBJECT: Draft OLO Report 2024-10, Housing Units Authorized for Construction by Permit in Montgomery County

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Office of Legislative Oversight's (OLO) Draft Report 2024-10, Housing Units Authorized for Construction by Permit in Montgomery County.

The Department of Permitting Services (DPS) has reviewed and acknowledges the significance of the OLO Memorandum Report "Housing Units Authorized for Construction by Permit in Montgomery County". We concur with its findings and are committed to addressing the issues it has raised. As described in the Memorandum, DPS did not consistently respond to the Building Permits Survey (BPS) between 2009 and 2023.

When new DPS leadership became aware of the issue in 2023, they immediately established internal processes to ensure consistent responses, including monthly coordination with Census staff. As described in the Memorandum, in 2023, DPS provided retroactive responses from 2019 to 2022 and began submitting monthly responses through the BPS website, as requested by the US Census. DPS has also dedicated a single point of contact to gather data, respond to the BPS, and interact with the US Census, as needed. In addition, DPS works very closely with the Department of Housing and Community Affairs and Parks & Planning to ensure the accuracy of data for reporting.

Moreover, the county fully recognizes the critical importance of housing data and is unwavering in its commitment to respond to the Building Permits Survey (BPS) consistently and accurately, ensuring the timely provision of critical data to key stakeholders.

We look forward to discussing these items at the Council work session.

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RM/rs

cc: Fariba Kassiri, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Office of the County Executive
Tricia Swanson, Director of Strategic Partnerships, Office of the County Executive
Rabbiah Sabbakhan, Director, Department of Permitting Services