



## OFFICE OF RACIAL EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE


Marc Elrich  
County Executive

Tiffany Ward  
Director and Chief Equity Officer

### MEMORANDUM

June 18, 2024

To: Jennifer Bryant, Director  
Office of Management and Budget

From: Tiffany Ward, Director  
Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice 

Re: Racial Equity Impact Assessment (REIA) Supplemental Appropriation (SA) #24-82  
Snow Removal - Wind and Rainstorm Cleanup

- I. **FINDING:** The Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice (ORESJ) finds that Supplemental Appropriation #24-82 *Snow Removal - Wind and Rainstorm Cleanup* neither advances nor impedes racial equity and social justice in the County as it provides resources for services rendered across the County for snow removal and storm cleanup.
- II. **BACKGROUND:** The purpose of Supplemental Appropriation #24-82 is to fund snow removal and wind and rainstorm expenditures incurred during FY24. The appropriation includes \$12,421,350 for DOT and \$2,309,829 for DGS for items such as personnel costs, contractual services, and materials. Due to the relative unpredictability of these weather events, supplemental appropriations are used to enhance existing response efforts in both DOT and DGS.

Typically, ORESJ analyzes the beneficiaries of a supplemental appropriation and any existing inequities causing disproportionate burden to determine potential racial equity and social justice impacts. However, because this supplemental appropriation functions as a reimbursement for services delivered and because those services were distributed based on weather events, it is difficult to assess based on available information<sup>1</sup> what future racial equity impacts of this appropriation might be.

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<sup>1</sup> "MCDOT's Snow Response Plan Overview". <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/snow/index.html#tab2>

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In general, snow removal and storm cleanup benefit all county residents, homeowners, business owners, pedestrians and visitors. And to the extent that people of color are represented in each of the county's Snow Service Areas<sup>2</sup> and 220 plow routes<sup>3</sup>, they also benefit. While beyond the scope of this REIA, further research around the policies and processes (including submitting a service request) used to deploy and prioritize snow removal and storm clean up resources could help to ensure that communities most reliant on walking, biking, or public transportation routes are able to safely and reliably travel throughout the County.

In addition to considering snow-removal and storm cleanup processes<sup>4</sup> and service level outcomes, it's important to consider the processes and policies associated with the \$6 million in contractual services used to augment MCG personnel and equipment. Details about the contracts and vendors involved with snow removal were not available at the time of this analysis. Analysis of these details could help highlight any inequities in the availability and/or representation of vendors who deliver snow removal and storm cleanup services in the County.

cc: Chris Conklin, Director, Department of Transportation  
David E. Dise, Director, Department of General Services  
Tricia Swanson, Director, Strategic Partnerships, Office of the County Executive

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/snow/snow-service-area.html>

<sup>3</sup> "Plowing Order". <https://youtu.be/SnjRDoyHgwI>.

<sup>4</sup> "MCDOT's Snow Response Plan Overview".