



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

Council Highlights 2017

Economic Development

- ✦ Supported economic development incentives to attract Fox Television, including WTTG Channel 5 and WDCA Channel 20, to Bethesda which will create 200 jobs and bring an anchor tenant to the Apex Building.
- ✦ Supported the consolidation of Discovery Communications' technical operations from its Kennett Street location to its headquarters facility in Silver Spring. The company will invest an additional \$7 million in furniture, fixtures, and equipment to renovate its headquarters and retain 230 jobs in the County.
- ✦ Maintained the County's AAA bond rating.
- ✦ Funded \$47.2 million for the Viva White Oak Project.
- ✦ Approved White Oak Local Area Transportation Improvements Program.
- ✦ Funded \$30.1 million for the Wheaton Redevelopment Project.
- ✦ Expanded the eligibility for grants or loans under the Small Business Assistance Program to help businesses impacted by County redevelopment projects.
- ✦ Created microlending program for County residents.
- ✦ Established a Business Solutions Group in the Executive's Office to help small businesses.
- ✦ Increased building height flexibility to create new retail opportunities in the Ripley/Silver Spring South Overlay Zone.
- ✦ Designated the Burtonsville Briggs Chaney Enterprise Zone.

Education

- ✦ Funded a \$2.52 billion budget for Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) that included:
 - ✓ full funding of the Board of Education's request for MCPS; and
 - ✓ additional funding for programs to address the opportunity gap, funding to reduce class sizes, and elimination of extracurricular fees in high school.
- ✦ Funded a \$314.7 million budget for Montgomery College that included:
 - ✓ funding for scholarships to offset rising higher education costs; and
 - ✓ additional funding for digital materials to eliminate need for some textbooks.
- ✦ Enacted a \$2.1 million special appropriation for Head Start Program expansion.
- ✦ Funded an additional \$5 million for relocatable classrooms needed for the 2017-18 school year.

Environment

- ✦ Urged the Maryland General Assembly and the Governor to enact a statewide ban on hydraulic fracturing ("fracking").
- ✦ Approved a resolution requesting the Board of Investment Trustees of the Employees' Retirement System and the Board of Trustees of the Consolidated Retiree Health Benefits Trust to minimize their investments in companies with the largest fossil fuel reserves and apply environmental, social, and governance considerations to investment decisions.
- ✦ Enacted an Executive regulation requiring building permits to satisfy the IgCC or LEED Silver status for non-residential buildings over 5,000 square feet, strengthening the County's commitment to green building, energy efficiency, and sustainability.
- ✦ Enacted a Fuel Energy Tax exemption for energy generated by a renewable source in the County.

- Enacted a law requiring minor and administrative subdivisions, park development plans, and certain types of conditional use development to comply with the Forest Conservation Law.

Land Use

- Approved the Greater Lyttonsville Sector Plan to preserve the integrity of the area's neighborhoods along with their heritage and character, while strategically encouraging mixed-use development near transit and expanding parks, trails, and open spaces.
- Approved the Bethesda Downtown Sector Plan, which will guide commercial and residential redevelopment in the County's central business area over the next two decades. The plan is intended to protect nearby existing residential neighborhoods from being overwhelmed by tall structures, provide opportunities for new parks and open space, and expand the County's affordable housing inventory.
- Approved the Rock Spring Master Plan, which envisions Rock Spring as an employment center that includes new housing, where appropriate, with concentrations of retail.
- Approved the Grosvenor-Strathmore Metro Area Minor Master Plan, which advances the County's goal of transit-oriented development at Metro stations to keep up with housing demand in a sustainable manner.
- Approved the White Flint 2 Sector Plan, which recommends opportunities for infill and transitional development at key locations. This 460-acre sector plan includes large commercial shopping centers, an office park, industrial and institutional properties, and established residential communities.
- Enacted a law requiring the County Planning Board to conduct an inventory of burial sites in the County and revise its inventory annually, and requiring that burial sites identified in the inventory be respected in the process of approving a new subdivision.

Transportation

- Approved a \$221 million budget for transportation, including expanded RideOn Extra service, extended hours for Seniors Ride Free, advanced Bus Rapid Transit, and added funding for highway resurfacing.
- Enacted legislation to help increase the number of accessible taxis by providing for an extension of time to place a vehicle in taxi service.
- Delineated preferred alternatives for Veirs Mill Road Bus Rapid Transit.

Health and Human Services

- Released the County's first ever five-year plan to address food security and help end hunger. "A Food Secure Montgomery" is one of the few initiatives of its type in the country and is part of a comprehensive approach to continuously improving the County's food system.
- Approved \$312.8 million for health and human services, including:
 - ✓ funding a 2% increase to contracts with eligible nonprofit providers;
 - ✓ increasing health care services for vulnerable residents and their children;
 - ✓ adding \$2 million in child care subsidies to help low-income working families; and
 - ✓ increasing funding to tackle hunger for children and seniors.
- Approved \$11 million for community grants to support safety-net programs and services that assist disadvantaged County residents.
- Ensured vending machine service contracts adhere to certain nutrition standards and labeling and product placement requirements.

Public Safety

- Approved \$275 million for police and \$214.9 million for fire rescue services.
- Increased funding for gang activity suppression, including \$596,920 for the Montgomery County Police Department and \$246,773 for the State's Attorney's Office.
- Appropriated \$500,000 to establish a cost-sharing grant fund for security improvements at community institutions, in response to an increase of hate violence incidents.

- ◆ Appropriated \$271,872 for the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Victim Services Program to better develop and implement strategies to provide assistance to victims of crime.
- ◆ Established the Human Trafficking Prevention Committee to develop and distribute information and educate residents about the issue.

Housing

- ◆ Approved a \$59 million budget for housing, including funding the Neighborhoods to Call Home Program and providing down payment assistance for the Maryland Mortgage Program.
- ◆ Enacted a law requiring owners of unmaintained vacant buildings to register these properties with the Director of the Department of Housing and Community Affairs (DHCA) and making owners pay fees for unmaintained vacant buildings.
- ◆ Created a civil penalty for failure to register foreclosed properties, and introduced a maximum penalty of \$1,000 for repeat violations.
- ◆ Regulated the use of short-term rental services like Airbnb and FlipKey, and established a process for receiving a license to use a property for short-term rentals.

Quality of Life

- ◆ Created a property tax credit for certain elderly individuals and military retirees.
- ◆ Revised standards for approving the construction of a country inn in a residential neighborhood.
- ◆ Established an Urban Agricultural Tax Credit to encourage urban farms and urban agricultural activities.
- ◆ Enacted a law requiring the Executive to create a Neighborhood Action Team, which must submit quarterly reports on quality of life issues for County residents.
- ◆ Approved \$15 million for the South County Regional Recreation & Aquatic Center in Silver Spring's Central Business District.
- ◆ Funded the relocation of surface parking from the Wall Park and the Kennedy Shriver Aquatic Center (KSAC) to an adjacent parking garage on private property, as suggested by the White Flint Sector Plan.
- ◆ Increased funding for Public Arts Trust for conservation and maintenance of art displayed on public property.
- ◆ Approved a \$94.8 million budget for parks, including improving sports fields, expanding trail systems, and activating community parks.

Social Justice

- ◆ Enacted a law to increase the County's minimum wage to \$15 per hour on July 1, 2021 for large employers with 51 or more employees. Mid-sized and small employers must pay workers \$15 per hour by July 1, 2023 and 2024, respectively.
- ◆ Required the Director of the Department of Housing and Community Affairs (DHCA) to provide advocacy services and assistance to tenants, and set the amount of the annual license fee per dwelling unit for each class of rental housing, to protect tenants' rights.
- ◆ Called on Congress and our Congressional Delegation to exercise their Constitutional authority as appropriators to reject President Trump's proposed budget and to adopt a revised budget that truly reflects the values and priorities of most Americans.
- ◆ Approved an Executive regulation allowing employees to use donated sick leave for patients with serious health conditions and for parental bonding, pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum depression.

Good Government

- ◆ Enacted a law requiring a special election to fill a vacancy in the Office of the Executive.
- ◆ Enacted a law to level the playing field for unmarried candidates running for Executive and Council under the County's Public Campaign Financing System.