

Council Highlights 2016

Budget and Education

- 🌟 Unanimously approved a \$5.3 billion County operating budget for FY 2017 and six-year Capital Improvements Program, with nearly \$200 million in new funding to address the County's most urgent capital needs—school construction and community infrastructure.
- 🌟 Created historic partnership with the Board of Education to reduce class size at MCPS and address the opportunity gap.
- 🌟 Funded more than \$1.72 billion in capital projects for MCPS over the next six years, which is the highest funding level ever provided and more than the Board of Education's request.
- 🌟 Funded a FY17 operating budget for MCPS of \$2.45 billion, an increase of \$135.9 million over the FY16 approved level (\$89.3 million above the State's Maintenance of Effort funding level).
- 🌟 Provided a much-needed boost to police and fire and rescue services by adding more police officers and firefighters and giving them the equipment they need to continue to make the County one of the safest in America.
- 🌟 Approved the first Libraries budget to exceed the FY09 budget of \$41.4 million, which predated the significant cuts made during the Great Recession, and extend weekend hours at four locations.
- 🌟 Increased the Working Families Income Supplement by 15 percent.
- 🌟 Approved \$3.11 million for 122 Council community grants to nonprofit organizations to support a variety of programs and services, including food, shelter and other safety net services.
- 🌟 Added \$4 million for the Public Election Fund to help level the playing field for candidates in County elections.

Business and Development

- 🌟 Designated the Montgomery County Economic Development Corp (MCEDC) as Montgomery's economic development entity, which grew out of a Council initiative that started in 2010.
- 🌟 Approved regulations establishing a comprehensive economic development strategy for the County.
- 🌟 Collaborated with the County Executive to retain Marriott International, the County's largest private employer and the world's leading lodging company, which will lease a new \$500 million headquarters facility in downtown Bethesda.
- 🌟 Extended the life of new jobs tax credit from 12 to 24 taxable years.
- 🌟 Adopted the Montgomery Village Sector Plan and Westbard Sector Plan to encourage reinvestment in these areas.
- 🌟 Enacted the 2016-2020 Subdivision Staging Policy to ensure adequate public facilities infrastructure, schools and roads associated with new development and growth.
- 🌟 Established new impact tax rates for transportation and public school improvements that are expected to generate additional revenue of \$20-25 million over the next five to six years for schools and about \$1.5 million for transportation.
- 🌟 Modernized arcane land use rules to allow our communities to grow in a more flexible way.
- 🌟 Approved land acquisition, site improvements, utility relocations, and construction of a new road and bikeway and intersection realignment improvements in the White Flint District.
- 🌟 Enacted zoning changes that provide flexibility for business vehicles, such as food trucks, to locate on certain sites, including some areas of the County's Agricultural Reserve, with reduced regulatory burdens.
- 🌟 Enacted zoning changes that provide development incentives for creating additional workforce housing.
- 🌟 Amended the optional method development requirements for the Transferable Development Right (TDR) Overlay Zone by reducing the required common open space area consistent with the Council's policy to favor affordable housing.

- 🌻 Enacted zoning changes to encourage major tenants to rent space in County buildings by allowing location signs on each face of a building.
- 🌻 Established a local business subcontracting preference for 10 percent of dollars related to an initial procurement contract of more than \$10 million.
- 🌻 Enacted a property tax credit for personal property owned by businesses in the Burtonsville Enterprise Zone.

Social Justice

- 🌻 Tightened wage reporting requirements to ensure that working people in the County are paid a living wage.
- 🌻 Enacted a law to ensure that employees can take parental leave as part of sick and safe leave.

Public Safety

- 🌻 Adopted a resolution reaffirming community safety and trust and denouncing anti-immigrant activity, racial bias and discrimination, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, hate speech, hate crimes, and harassment in Montgomery County.
- 🌻 Adopted a Vision Zero resolution to provide resources to help eliminate pedestrian and bicyclist fatalities.

Good Government

- 🌻 Provided additional resources for the County's Public Election Fund.
- 🌻 Revamped the Commission on Common Ownership Communities.

Quality of Life

- 🌻 Revised the landlord-tenant law to enhance the rights of tenants and improve the quality of rental housing through increased inspections, enhanced data collection, and changes to leases and landlord-tenant obligations.
- 🌻 Enacted zoning changes to lower the square footage of a combination retail store to 65,000 square feet so that approvals for retail/service uses are examined more closely based on unique traffic, environmental, land use and community impacts.
- 🌻 Provided funding for National Philharmonic Orchestra to maintain operations in Montgomery County.

Health and Welfare

- 🌻 Prohibited minors from using indoor tanning devices and required tanning facilities to issue warnings to consumers.
- 🌻 Enacted a law requiring a strategic plan to achieve food security for residents.
- 🌻 Mandated food allergen awareness training for certain restaurant employees.

Tax Relief for Seniors

- 🌻 Introduced a new property tax credit for seniors who have lived in their homes for at least 40 years and veterans 65 and older. Residents who qualify are eligible to receive a 20 percent credit for the property tax imposed on their homes.
- 🌻 Enacted a law to defer residential real property tax increases for residents 65 and older with a gross income of \$80,000 or less at zero percent interest.

Environment

- 🌻 Enacted a law requiring a strategic plan to advance composting and food waste diversion.
- 🌻 Increased the penalties for illegal dumping and littering.
- 🌻 Approved a resolution to oppose off-shore drilling and seismic testing.