










Office of Council President Nancy Navarro Montgomery County Council Accomplishments 2019

Racial Equity & Social Justice








- Enacted the [Racial Equity and Social Justice Act](#) to establish the norms of racial equity and social justice as part of the work of Montgomery County government. This law establishes a racial equity and social justice program across all departments and creates an Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice in the executive branch. The Racial Equity and Social Justice Act also requires racial equity and social justice training for all County employees and racial equity and social justice impact statements for budget, legislative and land use decisions.
- Enacted the [CROWN Act](#) to prohibit discrimination based on certain natural hairstyles including braids, locks, afros, curls and twists. This law provides that individuals who experience discrimination because of the appearance of their natural hair can seek a civil penalty of up to \$5,000 through the County's Office of Human Rights.
- Enacted the [Pay Equity Act](#) to help eliminate wage inequity based on one's gender for Montgomery County government employees. This bill prohibits County government employees from requesting an applicant's salary history for County government employment. Also, one's salary history cannot be used to determine an applicant's starting salary.
- Enacted the [Law Enforcement Trust and Transparency \(LETT\) Act](#) to provide transparency in investigations of police officer-involved deaths and to help promote public confidence in the Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD). This legislation requires, among other things, that investigations in these cases be independent and be submitted to the State's Attorney and made public under certain circumstances.
- Introduced the [Community Policing Act](#) that provides guidelines for the MCPD to employ and promote core community policing values among officers. The bill also requires that MCPD provide an annual report on workforce diversity, community engagement activities, the number of complaints filed against officers, officer suspensions and other data.
- Developed a [Racial Equity and Social Justice Toolkit](#) in English and Spanish. Council and County leadership also attended racial equity workshops conducted by the Racial Equity Institute, LLC in coordination with Leadership Montgomery.
- Pushed for Montgomery County Public Schools to change the name of Col. E. Brooke Lee Middle School because of Lee's discriminatory housing policies to update the name along with the school's renovation to better reflect the school's diverse community which is 60 percent Hispanic/Latino and 25 percent African American.











Education & Early Child Care

- Established the [County's Early Care and Education Initiative](#) which is a four-year action plan that aims to create a comprehensive system of high-quality, accessible and affordable early childhood educational opportunities with 600 new seats in the first year.






-  Fully funded the Board of Education's \$2.68 billion operating budget request for Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) which provided an [additional \\$16 million in spending](#) to reduce elementary school class size, enhance extended-year programs at two elementary schools and increase counselors and psychologist positions.
-  Fully funded the \$314.7 million operating budget for Montgomery College which expanded early enrollment programs, increased scholarships and added financial aid counselors.
-  Funded the expansion of the Kids Ride Free program that allows County youth, who are 18 years of age and younger, to take Ride On buses for free. One of Council President Navarro's first actions as a Councilmember was to fight to save the Kids Ride Free program and allow students attending MCPS to ride free.
-  Expanded hours for youth program at the Wheaton Library and Community Recreation Center, Plum Gar Community Recreation Center, Good Hope Community Center, White Oak Community Recreation Center and Long Branch Community Center.
-  Expanded library hours at the Damascus Library and Long Branch Library.
-  Provided funding for full staffing at the Linkages to Learning program at Kemp Mill and Summit Hall Elementary Schools.
-  Funded \$287,275 for the Paint Branch and Springbrook Cluster Project.

Economic Development & Community Revitalization

-  Maintained the County's [Triple-A bond rating](#) that sets the County apart as a top-rated issuer of municipal securities and as one of the nation's most fiscally responsible governments. Montgomery County has retained a Triple-A bond rating since 1973, which is the longest run of any county in the United States.
-  Approved a new [County Economic Development Platform](#) that is focused on business development, housing, transportation and workforce development. The Economic Development Platform is a guiding document that identifies a thriving and diversified economy, greater innovation, racial equity and social justice and environmental sustainability as desired outcomes. The goal of the resolution is to institutionalize a strategic economic framework that enables a focused and disciplined implementation of the County's economic development initiatives.
-  Provided \$5 million in funding for Montgomery County's Economic Development Corporation and \$3 million in funding for business incubator programs to promote economic development activities.
-  Passed a resolution reaffirming the County's commitment to economic development in the East County including a continued \$40,000,000 appropriation in the Capital Improvements Program for roads in the Life Sciences/FDA Village Center.
-  Enacted legislation to allow the Council to designate a nonprofit corporation, a public educational institution, or both, as the County's workforce development organization.
-  Opened the new Wheaton Library and Recreation Center, as part of the revitalization of Wheaton. Also provided additional operating support for senior programming.
-  Approved the [Veirs Mill Corridor Master Plan](#) to support redevelopment opportunities in existing neighborhood commercial centers, improve connectivity between transit and community uses and enhance safety for all users of Veirs Mill Road.

-  Enacted [legislation](#) to require the Director of the Office of Legislative Oversight to prepare an economic impact statement for each bill; amend the required contents of an economic impact statement; and require an economic impact statement for each bill before it is enacted. The goal of this legislation is to ensure that the economic impacts of new legislation on residents, on the County’s budget and on businesses and other stakeholders is thoroughly assessed.
-  Passed a zoning measure to allow more flexibility in development projects in the Regional Shopping Center Overlay Zone.
-  Passed a zoning measure to expand opportunities in the agricultural and rural zones to have tasting rooms.
-  Passed a zoning measure to allow landscape contractors as a permitted use in all industrial zones.
-  Enacted legislation to allow a qualified investor to receive the cybersecurity investment incentive tax credit supplement, which is Montgomery County’s local incentive program aimed at spurring job and business growth in the cybersecurity sector.
-  Enacted legislation to provide that individuals and businesses assisting in the coordination and marketing of estate sales are not considered secondhand personal property dealers and making licenses valid for one year.
-  Introduced [legislation](#) that would create a County Office of Grants Management, with the goal of increasing efficiency in the County’s grants process and in managing the grants received by the County.
-  Increased funding for the Small Business Assistance Program, which assists certain small businesses located in the County that are adversely impacted by County-funded redevelopment projects or redevelopment projects located on County-owned property, and increased the amount of the funding cap.
-  Increased WiFi in County parks through the Connected Parks project.
-  Funded \$1.35 million to increase payments for nonprofit contracts.

Health & Human Services & Environment

-  Enacted legislation to help ensure that students have safe drinking water at public schools by requiring corrective action for water fountains and other water sources with lead levels greater than five parts per billion in public school buildings.
-  [Authorized a lawsuit](#) against electronic cigarette manufacturers, and introduced three bills, a zoning measure and companion Board of Health regulations to regulate the distribution of electronic cigarettes to young people.
-  Funded the Developmental Disabilities Supplement, which provides assistance to service providers for persons with developmental disabilities, to its fiscal year 2019 level.
-  Provided a matching grant of \$150,000 to Florence Crittenton Services of Greater Washington, expanding its services to the East County. Crittenton Services works to respond to the needs of adolescent girls, pregnant women with low incomes and teen mothers in the Washington metropolitan area.
-  Expanded hours for the Safe Passage Center which is a welcoming, family-friendly safe space for County families involved with the court system. The Safe Passage Center provides supervised child visitation and monitored child custody exchanges for families.

- 🌻 Funded \$273,323 to enhance security at Progress Place which offers services to individuals who are homeless.
- 🌻 Enacted legislation to promote environmental sustainability by allowing new commercial construction to be eligible for the Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (CPACE) program.
- 🌻 Provided funding for a new Climate Change Planning Non-Departmental Account, which prioritizes greenhouse gas reduction strategies and the development of an implementation plan to meet the County's goal of an 80 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2027 and a 100 percent reduction by 2035.

Housing & Renters' Rights

- 🌻 Approved a [resolution](#) to support the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' (MWCOG) regional housing targets for Montgomery County, which is 41,000 new housing units generated by 2030. Housing also is a critical component of economic development, especially in County activity centers.
- 🌻 Funded nearly \$65.2 million for the Housing Initiative Fund for affordable housing and provided \$5 million to increase the preservation and production of affordable housing.
- 🌻 Enacted legislation to exempt a license applicant from any license fee requirement to operate an accessory apartment as rental housing in certain circumstances, with the goal of helping to increase the supply of accessory apartment units for individuals with disabilities.
- 🌻 Passed a zoning measure to liberalize the standards for allowing an accessory apartment with the goal of increasing the supply of affordable housing in the County.
- 🌻 Enacted legislation to allow a more efficient appeals process for short-term rental issues.
- 🌻 Enacted legislation to bring Montgomery County into greater uniformity with Maryland's builder registration law by requiring new home builders and new home sellers to register with the Office of Consumer Protection and to provide buyers with a new home warranty.
- 🌻 Passed a zoning measure to help protect residents' privacy by allowing them to shield their properties from rail line facilities including the Purple Line.

Public Safety & Governance

- 🌻 Introduced the [Policing Advisory Commission Act](#) which creates and specifies the membership of a new commission that focuses on the best practices for policing. The goal of this legislation is to improve Council oversight of MCPD and strengthen community trust in, and engagement with, the police.
- 🌻 Funded the Montgomery County Police Department with a \$295.3 million operating budget that included two recruit classes totaling 44 officers and restored funding for six police officer positions that were lapsed. Also added two new school resource officers and two new sheriffs.
- 🌻 Funded the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service with an operating budget of \$223.3 million that included 20 new firefighter positions.
- 🌻 Made nearly 20 appointments for new directors for County departments, agencies and offices including some historic firsts such as: Angela Talley, who is the County's first African American woman to lead the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation; Megan Davey Limarzi, who is the first woman to serve as the inspector general; Selena Mendy Singleton, who is the first African American woman to serve as clerk of the Council; and Partap Verma, who is the first Asian Indian American to serve as a member of the Montgomery County Planning Board.

- Enacted legislation and provided additional resources to ensure that there is proactive fiscal oversight of taxpayer dollars. [Bill 11-19](#) requires the Office of Internal Audit (OIA) to prepare an annual work plan for approval of the chief administrative officer and submit the plan to the Council for comment; requires the OIA to submit an annual report to the inspector general (IG); requires the IG to conduct a risk analysis of the County's internal controls and processes, and based on the risk analysis, conduct a systematic rotating reviews of the internal accounting and contracting processes and controls used by each department and principal office in the executive branch.
- Improved processes and implemented efficiencies at the Council such as restructuring the Council's committees, improving the Council's budget process and enhancing the Council's review of state legislation.
- Ensured accountability by conducting an independent review of the Council's internal operations and management structure with the National Academy of Public Administration and by structurally reforming the Office of the Inspector General.
- Held the first Board of Education lunch meeting of the 19th Council, organized a Montgomery County State Delegation priorities meeting and invited Senators Chris Van Hollen and Ben Cardin to the Council to expand engagement with elected officials at the local, state and national levels.
- Engaged in extensive community outreach with more than 1,000 residents participating in racial equity and social justice meetings in Gaithersburg, Germantown, Silver Spring and White Oak, and participated in smaller group gatherings in various community centers, churches and private homes.
- Met with residents in their communities by conducting a public hearing on the Veirs Mills Master Plan at the Holiday Park Senior Center in Silver Spring; hosting two youth town halls at Clarksburg High School and Wheaton High School, which were attended by more than 200 young people; and provided simultaneous interpretation services in multiple languages at town halls, Council public hearings and other meetings.
- Funded a new County government African community liaison position under the African Affairs Advisory Group, to help meet the needs of the County's growing number of African residents.