


**M E M O R A N D U M**

February 3, 2020

TO: Government Operations and Fiscal Policy (GO) Committee  
FROM: Gene Smith, Legislative Analyst   
SUBJECT: Economic Development Platform – GO Committees action plan  
PURPOSE: Discuss proposed items and recommend a plan to the Council

The Council adopted an Economic Development Platform resolution on November 19, 2019 (see ©1-3). The resolution states that the Council's committees will provide an action plan to meet the goals in the resolution by February 11, 2020. Council staff has prepared items under the jurisdiction of the GO Committee for the committee's consideration. Committee members should indicate items to add or delete from this list.

The following are items recommended for review by the GO Committee in the next 12 months:

- The committee will conduct a review of the Community Engagement Cluster, specifically the Business Hub Program added in FY20's budget, to evaluate its work program and impact in local communities and with local businesses. This work will be done in conjunction with the FY21 budget review.
- During the Subdivision Staging Policy review in 2020, the committee will conduct a comprehensive review of the current impact tax law and exemptions to determine if/how the current structure and exemptions enable the Council to meet its goals under the economic development platform.

The following are items recommended for review by the GO Committee in the next 13-24 months:

- The committee will conduct a systematic review of each tax levied and tax credits granted through Chapter 52, in order of the amount of revenues generated, to evaluate if/how the current structure and rate enable the Council to meet its goals under the economic development platform.
- The committee will review and evaluate procurement law and procedures to reduce administration and costs to businesses.

Based on these reviews, additional worksessions may be scheduled to address specific deficiencies that impede or opportunities that help achieve the platform's goals. Also, additional items may be included based on the issues before the Council.

This packet contains:

Economic Development Platform Resolution

Circle #

1

Resolution No.: 19-300  
Introduced: November 12, 2019  
Adopted: November 19, 2019

**COUNTY COUNCIL  
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

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Lead Sponsor: Council President Navarro  
Co-Sponsors: Councilmember Riemer, Katz, Albornoz, Friedson, Glass, Hucker, Jawando, and Rice

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**SUBJECT:** Economic Development Platform for Montgomery County

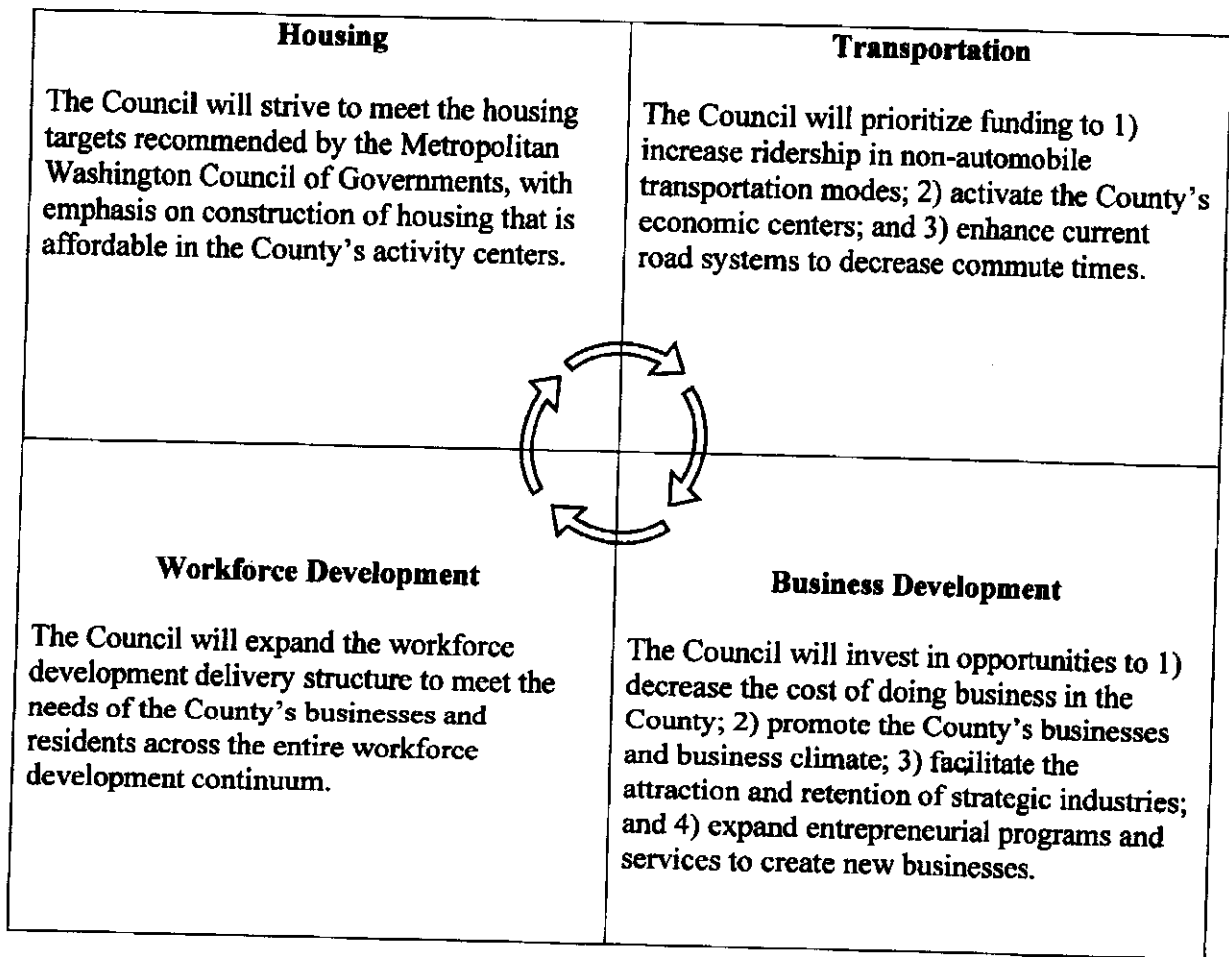
**Background**

1. A growing and thriving economy is necessary to provide abundant amenities, jobs with sustainable wages, and high-quality services for all residents of the County.
2. Montgomery County is rich in assets for businesses of all sizes to start, expand, and thrive.
3. We are home to diverse communities with more than one million residents that come from all parts of the world. Our median household income is 171.1% of the national average in 2018.
4. We offer an unmatched quality of life with access to numerous cultural, natural and recreational amenities. The County includes 93,000 acres of an Agricultural Reserve and 422 parks across 36,991 acres.
5. We support an excellent education system that prepares and trains the workforce of tomorrow. Our public-school system includes more than 165,000 students in K-12, and we boast several post-secondary institutions with Montgomery College, a consortium from the University of Maryland at the Universities at Shady Grove, and Johns Hopkins University.
6. Our workforce is highly entrepreneurial and talented. More than 59% of our residents have a bachelor's degree or higher, and our unemployment continues to trend below the national average with the 2019 average at 3.0%.
7. We are home to eighteen major federal agency headquarters that deliver important research. The U.S. Government invests more than \$15 billion in internal federal lab research and development in the D.C. region.

8. Our businesses drive innovative discoveries, life-saving medicines, and deliver critical services to our community, region, and the world. We are home to 22 of the 25 largest bioscience businesses in the D.C. region, and 41 businesses made the Inc. 5000 "Fastest-Growing" list in 2019.

**Action**

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves a four-pillar economic development platform that is business-friendly and leverages our assets through continued investments. The desired outcomes of this platform are: 1) a thriving and diversified economy; 2) racial equity and social justice; 3) greater innovation; and 4) environmental sustainability.



The Council's committees will report to the Council an action plan for each pillar by February 11, 2020.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

Mary Anne Paradise  
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Acting Clerk of the Council