



Read below for an overview of some of the key issues happening in the County, State and Federal Governments.

Montgomery County

Zoning Ordinance Rewrite

The final draft of the new zoning ordinance has been released, and is available online here. The full Council is scheduled to take a final vote on March 4th.

Energy Bills

On March 10th, the Council's Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy, & Environment (T&E) Committee is scheduled to conduct a work session on a package of energy related bills, sponsored by Councilmember Berliner. The 13 bills address a variety of issues, including building energy efficiency, renewable energy initiatives, transportation, government accountability.

White Oak Science Gateway Master Plan

On December 20, 2013, the Planning Board submitted revisions to its initial draft of the Master Plan. It presented options that are designed to address issues raised by the Council specific to: achieving land use-transportation balance, modifying standards to achieve land use-transportation balance, accepting land use-transportation imbalance along with a few other considerations. A public hearing was held on February 4th. The Council's PHED Committee is scheduled to hold work sessions on March 3rd, 10th and 17th.

State of Maryland

DHCD Efficiency Act

HB 453, The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development's bill that would support additional efficiencies in the functioning of the multi-family housing programs, passed its 2nd reading in the House on February 20th. It is scheduled for 3rd reading on February 25th.

Source of Income Legislation

There are two bills that have been introduced that address source of income discrimination in Maryland. (Montgomery County already prohibits discrimination based on one's source of income.) HB366 is a blanket prohibition against discrimination based on a individual's legal source of income. HB1098 prohibits discrimination when a development/property owner meets certain criteria, including number of total units, and number of units paid for with housing choice vouchers. Both bills are scheduled for a hearing in the Environmental Matters committee on February 27th.

Capital Budget Hearings

This week the House (2/26) and Senate (2/25) will hold hearings on DHCD's Capital Budget Requests. As a reminder, the Governor's budget proposes funding Community Legacy at \$6 million, Neighborhood Business Works at \$5.2 million, Strategic Demolition and Smart Growth Impact Project Fund at \$10 million, Rental Housing Works at \$18 million, and Rental Assistance Demonstration at \$6 million.

Federal Government

FY15 Budget to be Released

The President will release his proposed FY15 budget in two parts. The first part, scheduled to be released on March 4th, will highlight the President's key initiatives and spending caps for each agency. On March 11th, a more detailed budget will be released, including individual program spending limits.

Debt Ceiling

On February 15th Congress passed legislation to extend the Nation's borrowing authority until March 2015. This is the first debt ceiling increase since 2009 that was passed without any conditions.

Upcoming Events

February

25 - MAHC Housing Day, Annapolis

March

6 - County Council PHED Work Session on Capital Improvements Program for DHCA
11 - Montgomery Housing Partnership's Spring Policy Breakfast, "Affordable Net-Zero Capable Housing" contact ibranda@mhpartners.org for more info

12-15 - NCRC Annual Conference, Washington, DC

21 - Beyond The Tracks: Community Development in the Purple Line Corridor, University of Maryland, College Park, MD

29 - The National Conference on Ending Poverty, presented by A Wider Circle, Silver Spring, MD

April

27-30 NLIHC Housing Policy Conference & Lobby Day, Washington, DC

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