



Happy Fall!

While you enjoy the cooler weather and fall foliage, read below for your local and national policy updates.

Montgomery County

Rental Housing and Common Ownership Fees

Last week Council Vice President George Leventhal, co-sponsored by Councilmember Nancy Floreen, introduced legislation that would require unit owners to be up to date with their HOA, condo association, or co-op fees before receiving a rental license to rent out their unit. Bill 44-14 also gives the County the authority to revoke the rental license if the owner fails to pay the required fees. A public hearing for the bill is scheduled for October 21st.

Minimum Wage Hike went into Effect Oct 1

On October 1st, Montgomery County's minimum wage will begin to increase. The raise, to \$8.40/hr (previously \$7.25), is the first of four phases, which will ultimately raise the minimum wage to \$11.50/hr by Oct 2017. This first phase puts an additional \$2,400 into the pockets of full-time, year round workers.

Public Financing of Local Campaigns Passed

Montgomery County Council unanimously passed a bill earlier this week to provide a voluntary public financing program for County Executive and Council races. To participate, campaigners will be barred from accepting donations from corporations or PACs. The plan matches individual donations at a ratio of 6:1 for County Executive and 4:1 for Council races for the first \$50, and lower ratios up to \$150. County Executive Ike Leggett is expected to sign the bill, which will take affect for the 2018 election cycle.

State of Maryland

Leadership Changes

MHP wishes a fond farewell and thank you to Secretary Ray Skinner on his retirement from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). Clarence Snuggs (the Department's Deputy Secretary) will be serving as the Interim Secretary. DHCD also saw the departure this summer of their Multifamily Housing Director, Pat Sylvester. Elaine Cornick is serving as the Interim Director.

Purple Line Community Compact

Governor Martin O'Malley and County Executives Ike Leggett and Rushern Baker have agreed to a process to develop a Purple Line Community Compact. The Compact intends to address a variety of issues, including affordable housing, small business retention, and workforce development. The process will kick-off with a rally on October 9th, followed by a number of workshops to hear from the community and develop the content. The intention is to have a signed agreement before the end of the year. Please see the links in the upcoming events section to RSVP for the rally and workshops.

Federal Government

Continuing Resolution Signed

Last month, President Obama signed into a law a continuing budget resolution to fund the federal government through December 11th. The funding is slightly under (less than one percent of a percentage point) FY14 levels. When Congress returns in mid-November, they will have approximately one month to pass a FY15 spending bill to continue funding the government past December 11th.

Secretary Castro lays out his vision

At the culmination of the Bipartisan Policy Center's Housing Summit last month, Secretary Julian Castro laid out his vision for HUD. Secretary Castro called out: promoting homeownership and removing the stigma recently associated with homeownership; further supporting affordable rental housing; preserving public housing; and supporting the access of broadband internet to public housing and lower-income communities. HUD has made a video of Secretary Julian Castro's remarks available online, click [here](#) to view.

Upcoming Events

October

- 9 - [Purple Line Community Compact Rally](#), Silver Spring, MD
- 14 - [Deadline to register to vote for the Maryland Gubernatorial Race](#).
- 16 - [How Housing Matters Conference](#) at the National Building Museum, Washington, DC
- 16-18 - [National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials 2014 National Conference](#), Baltimore, MD
- 25 - [Purple Line Compact Workshop One](#), Silver Spring, MD

November

- 4 - Election Day. Don't forget to vote!
- 5-7 - IPED's Tax Credit Property Dispositions and Affordable Housing Update, Arlington, VA
- 17 - Purple Line Compact Workshop Two, Hyattsville, MD

Please visit our website at www.mhpartners.org

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