Resolution No.: 20-1178
Introduced: July 14, 2026
Adopted: July 21, 2026

COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

Lead Sponsor: County Council

SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) Work Program of the Office of Legislative Oversight

Background

1. Chapter 29A, Montgomery County Code, establishes the Office of Legislative Oversight to serve as the principal means through which the Council exercises its legislative oversight functions. This includes providing the Council with information and recommendations concerning the operations of public and private agencies, programs and functions for which funds are appropriated or approved by the Council.

2. The law establishing the Office of Legislative Oversight specifically authorizes the Office to conduct special program or budget analyses at the request of the Council.

3. Section 29A-6 provides that the Director, Office of Legislative Oversight, shall prepare an annual Work Program, which shall be submitted to the Council for approval. On July 14, 2026, the Council introduced this resolution that outlines projects to be included on the Office of Legislative Oversight's FY27 Work Program.

Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the attached Fiscal Year 2027 Work Program for the Office of Legislative Oversight.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

Sara R. Tenenbaum
Clerk of the Council

FY27 OLO Work Program

Project #1	Advancing Racial Equity in Montgomery County Government: A Six Year Review
Project #2	Follow up to OLO Report 2026-10, Montgomery County Youth Behavioral Health, Part II: Service in MCPS
Project #3	Continuation of Research on Availability of Youth Behavioral Health Care in the County
Project #4	Review of Operations of the Commission on Common Ownership Communities
Project #5	Examination of Successful Local Government Programs to Support and Retain Small Businesses
Project #6	Review of Overtime Expenditures in MCFRS
Project #7	Review of MCPS FY27 Budget Actions
Project #8	Review of Data from MCPS School-Based Health and Wellness Centers
Project #9	Review of Montgomery Cares
Project #10	Out-Migration. Who is Leaving and Why?
Project #11	Review of the Office of Procurement
Project #12	Solid Waste Disposal Options
Project #13	Distributional Analysis of Property Tax Credits
Project #14	Geographic Breakdown of Tax Credit Recipients
Project #15	Trade Programs in Montgomery County
Project #16	K-12 Student Access to Out-of-School Time Programs
Project # 17	Assignments as Needed

FY27 OLO Work Program – Ongoing Projects

Project #18	Staff Support for the Council's Audit Function
Project #19	Management of the Council's Independent Audit Contracts
Project #20	Climate Assessments
Project #21	Economic Impact Statements

Project #22 Employee Compensation in the FY28 Operating Budget

Project #23 Revenue Estimating Group

Project #24 Implementation of OLO RESJ Action Plan

Project #25 Racial Equity and Social Justice Impact Statements for Bills

Project #26 Racial Equity and Social Justice Impact Statements for Zoning Text Amendments

Project #1

Advancing RESJ in Montgomery County Government: A Six-Year Review

Principal Agencies: Montgomery County Executive and Legislative Branches

In 2019, the County enacted the Racial Equity and Social Justice (RESJ) Act aimed at advancing racial equity in government decision-making. In 2025, the Office of the Inspector General evaluated the Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice's (ORESJ) implementation of the RESJ Act, finding that it had partially complied with the Act's requirements. The County's implementation of the RESJ Act, however, extends beyond a review of ORESJ. A meaningful review of the County's efforts to advance RESJ requires documenting and understanding the host of efforts that have occurred inside and outside of ORESJ to normalize, organize, and operationalize RESJ across Montgomery County's executive and legislative branches.

This OLO project will describe the variety of efforts undertaken by Montgomery County offices and agencies since 2019 to advance RESJ in government decision-making. Through document reviews and interviews with elected officials, agency representatives, and community stakeholders, OLO will describe these activities and stakeholders' perspectives on what has worked well and opportunities for improvement. Based on this review, OLO will offer recommendations for legislative and executive branch action.

Project #2

Follow up to OLO Report 2026-10, *Montgomery County Youth Behavioral Health, Part II: Service in MCPS*

Principal Agency: MCG, Montgomery County Public Schools, Community providers

In the FY27 operating budget, the Council voted to fund MCPS at over $3.7 billion, $143.7 million more than its budget in FY26. The funding, however, was $36 million below MCPS' total request. In finalizing its FY27 operating budget in early June, the Board of Education eliminated several hundred MCPS positions and several contracts.

Many staff impacted provided behavioral health services described in OLO Report 2026-10. The Council is interested in understanding the scope of the reductions as they relate to the information in OLO's report. OLO will work with MCPS to receive updated data and describe the changes made to behavioral health services available in MCPS.

Project #3

Continuation of Research on Availability of Youth Behavioral Health Care in the County

Principal Agency: Montgomery County Government, Community providers

This series of reports will continue to provide the Council with information on the availability of youth behavioral health services in Montgomery County as requested in OLO's FY25 work plan. OLO released the first report in this series in June 2025 – OLO Report 2025-9, *Montgomery County Youth Behavioral Health, Part I: Background*. OLO released the second report in June 2026 – OLO Report 2026-10, *Montgomery County Youth Behavioral Health, Part II: Service in MCPS*.

The third report in this series will describe outpatient behavioral health services available to youth in the community through the County's Department of Health and Human Services.

Project #4

Review of Operations of the Commission on Common Ownership Communities

Principal Agency: Montgomery County Government, Commission on Common Ownership Communities

In 2015, the Office of Legislative Oversight conducted an evaluation of the Commission on Common Ownership Communities (CCOC). Complaints that are brought to the Commission may be resolved in an administrative hearing conducted by hearing panels appointed by the Commission that include two commissioners and a volunteer. In 2015, stakeholders reported concerns about impartiality of the panels, which led to an Ethics Commission opinion preventing volunteer panel chairs from representing clients before the Commission.

The Council is interested in receiving an update on the work of the CCOC. Among other things, the Council would like to better understand:

- How are volunteer panel judges and chairs identified, selected, trained, and onboarded by the Commission?
- How does the CCOC check for conflicts of interest for the individuals who sit on its panels?
- Are financial disclosures required of all CCOC volunteers?
- What entity has oversight of the CCOC and how does the entity exercise that oversight?

Additionally, the Council is interested in a comparison of the legal structure of similar bodies in other local jurisdictions compared to the structure in Montgomery County. The Council would like to understand:

- How do the legal structures of similar bodies compare to Montgomery County's legal structure?
- Who serves and how are they selected?
- Do other jurisdictions check for legal and ethical conflicts of interest?
- What problems exist with other models?
- What are best practices?

Project #5

Examination of Successful Local Government Programs to Support and Retain Small Businesses

Principal Agency: Montgomery County Government

Most businesses in Montgomery County are small businesses, with almost 90% having fewer than 10 employees and 95% having fewer than 50 employees. Local jurisdictions employ various strategies to promote and retain small businesses, including affordable commercial space initiatives, partnerships with local banks and institutions for microloans, streamlined permitting and licensing flexibility, and expanded access to government contracting opportunities.

The Council is interested in better understanding what other jurisdictions do to successfully promote and retain small businesses. This OLO report will provide a brief overview of programs, policies, and incentives currently available to Montgomery County small businesses. It will also examine successful programs to support and retain small businesses in other jurisdictions that may include:

- Financial incentives and support (including support for angel investing);
- Infrastructure and zoning support;
- Regulatory and policy reforms;
- Community and ecosystem building; and
- Access to government contracting and procurement opportunities.

This project was originally scheduled for completion under OLO's FY26 Work Program along with two others examining how the County engages with and supports businesses. However, research conducted for the first report — reviewing County procurement with local, small, and minority-owned businesses — revealed substantial overlap among the three projects. Because the findings from each project inform one another, OLO will complete this second project — focused on local government programs that support and retain small businesses — under its FY27 Work Program.

Project #6

Review of Overtime Expenditures in MCFRS

Principal Agency: Montgomery County Government, Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service

The Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service (MCFRS) is a combination career and volunteer fire and rescue department. MCFRS is a 24/7 operation with more than 1,250 career personnel, over 800 active volunteers, and over 100 civilian professional staff members. Its responsibilities include emergency medical services, fire suppression, and specialized rescue. MCFRS operates 37 fire and rescue stations in the County.

In FY24 and FY25, MCFRS' operating budget included $19-20 million in funds for overtime expenses while the department spent $30.5 million in FY24 and $35.1 million in FY25. In his FY27 proposed operating budget, the County Executive estimates $31.0 million in overtime expenses in FY27 while budgeting for $16.92 million.

A new state law taking effect in October 2028 is projected to increase MCFRS overtime costs by approximately $11 million annually beginning in FY29. The bill requires governmental units that employ firefighters to compute overtime pay for each hour over 168 hours a firefighter works during a 28-day work period, requiring hours in excess of 42 hours per week be treated as overtime. MCFRS' schedules predominantly run 48 hours per week.

The Council would like OLO to review overtime expenditures in MCFRS. Among other things, the Council would like to know:

- What is the appropriate amount of overtime needed to deliver current services?
- What assumptions does the Executive Branch use to estimate the annual budgeted costs of overtime?
- What regulations, policies, and collective bargaining provisions impact the use of overtime?
- What efforts or proposals have the department considered in the past five years to rebalance or reassign staffing to increase efficiency and decrease the use of overtime? What has been implemented?
- What new staff would be needed to reduce overtime costs to budgeted amounts?

Project #7

Review of MCPS' FY27 Budget Actions

Principal Agency: Montgomery County Public Schools

In the FY27 operating budget, the Council voted to fund MCPS at over $3.7 billion, $143.7 million more than its budget in FY26. The funding, however, was $36 million below MCPS' total request. In finalizing its FY27 operating budget in early June, the Board of Education eliminated several hundred MCPS positions and several contracts.

The Council is interested in better understanding the scope of the positions eliminated and where they were situated in MCPS. In this project, OLO will work with MCPS to understand where the positions were situated within the school system and the student population that will be impacted by the reductions.

Project #8

Review of Data from MCPS School-Based Health and Wellness Centers

Principal Agency: Montgomery County Public Schools and Montgomery County Government

OLO's FY26 work program included a report looking at School-Based Health and Wellness Centers. Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services operates School-Based Wellness Centers (SBWC) in six high schools. These centers provide medical health services, including preventative, sick care, and mental health services.

The Council asked OLO to review whether/how DHHS and/or MCPS track and use data from these programs to assess outcomes and allocate resources for the programs. The Council asked OLO to:

- Describe the assessment tools used in these programs to gather data and the types of data that are routinely tracked for youth who access services;
- Describe the processes used to determine which programs and resources are provided in which schools;
- Summarize available data from the programs; and
- Analyze the availability of services to youth through these programs.

The Council is carrying this project forward to the FY27 work program and is also interested in the following information regarding SBWC:

- Who is served at each campus;
- How well are students served; and
- Which students, if any, are underserved and why?

Project #9

Review of Montgomery Cares

Principal Agency: Montgomery County Government, Department of Health and Human Services, Primary Care Coalition

Montgomery Cares provides medical care to adults who have lower incomes and cannot get health insurance. It is available to individuals 18 years old or older who are County residents, do not have other insurance (including Medicaid or Medicare), and have an income at or below 250% of the Federal Poverty Level. The program offers participants medical care and access to specialty care, behavioral health care, oral health care, and access to other health programs. The Primary Care Coalition, a local nonprofit – operates the Montgomery Cares program under a contract with the County Government.

The Council is interested in receiving more detailed information about the Montgomery Cares program, including:

- Individual clinics' different funding streams;
- Clinics' total budgets included the County-funded portions;
- Year-over-year philanthropic trends in the program; and
- Clinics' comparative service volume and services provided.

The Council is interested in understanding the community benefits provided by Montgomery Cares and is interested in strategies for sustaining and improving the Montgomery Cares system.

Project #10

Out-Migration. Who is Leaving and Why?

Principal Agency: Montgomery County Government

In 2024 OLO published, "Should I Stay or Should I Go? Trends in Out-Migration from Montgomery County. This report was intended to:

> "Analyze outmigration and net out-migration trends from Montgomery County. analyze outmigration and net out-migration trends from Montgomery County."

The report focused on quantitative data to determine demographic trends of out-migration from Montgomery County. This report will build upon the 2026 paper by looking more in depth at the reasons why people move from the County. While it will look at quantitative data this report will also include significant qualitative and original survey data to better understand this important issue.

Project #11

Review of the Office of Procurement

Principal Agency: Montgomery County Government

In 2016 OLO released Report 2017-3, *Mapping the Montgomery County Procurement Process*. The report included recommendations related to level of staffing, changes to procurement laws and processes and training. At that time, the Office of Procurement was converting many of its internal routing and compliance paper-based forms to electronic forms, was in the process of establishing a centralized dashboard portal and was implementing a new system to improve tracking of contractor compliance requirements. Then in 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic necessitated a huge shift in all government processes, including procurement.

The Council is interested in understanding the current state of procurement processes and procedures in County Government and how they are functioning. This OLO report will provide similar information to the 2016 OLO report. Among other things, this report will:

- Review current procurement processes and procedures;
- Describe the distribution of responsibilities between the Office of Procurement and using departments;
- Provide data on current processing times for solicitations; and
- Solicit feedback from staff in using departments on the state of current processes and procedures and opportunities for improvement.

This project was originally scheduled for completion under OLO's FY26 Work Program along with two others examining how the County engages with and supports businesses. However, research conducted for the first report — OLO Report 2026-12, *A Review of the Local Small Business Reserve Program (LSBRP) and the Minority, Female, and Disabled-Owned Business (MFD) Program* — revealed substantial overlap among the three projects. Because the findings from each project inform one another, OLO will complete this third project — focused on the County's procurement processes and procedures overall — under its FY27 Work Program.

Project #12

Solid Waste Disposal Options

Principal Agencies: Montgomery County Government, Department of Environmental Protection

The County Executive has proposed closing the County's primary Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) disposal facility and the Resource Recovery Facility (RRF) located near Dickerson. To replace the RRF, the Executive recommends trucking MSW to an out-of-state landfill until such time as the County can construct an Advance Waste Processing (AWP) facility.

The County's approved Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan (Section 5,3,4) states that "the County plans to compare the short and long-term costs, environmental and public health impacts, racial equity and social justice implications, facility impacts, operational concerns, and other major issues of keeping the RRF open versus changing the County's primary waste disposal from the RRF to in-County or out-of-County landfilling, combined with other waste processing systems." While the Executive has submitted some information comparing alternative MSW disposal options, which has been provided to the Council in recent months, the Council requires additional information to make an informed decision about the future of the County's solid waste management system.

As directed by the Council President, OLO will team with Council Central Staff to define a finite set of alternative waste disposal options and identify the specific data and information needed to conduct a neutral analysis of these options. In partnership with Central Staff, OLO will evaluate the feasibility of near-term implementation of AWP and will assess environmental, fiscal, operational, racial equity, and community impacts of each solid waste disposal option. OLO and Central Staff will also work with the Council President to develop a plan for public input in the process.

Project #13

Distributional Analysis of Property Tax Credits

Principal Agency: Montgomery County Government

In 2026 OLO published, "An Examination of Property Tax Credits, Exemptions, and Deferrals." This paper examines,

> "the County's primary public source of information on tax expenditure programs, systematically codes County property tax credit programs to enable consistent comparison across programs, analyzes the fiscal magnitude and historical trends of these programs, and provides high-level comparative analysis to assess patterns in program design, beneficiary focus, policy objectives, and the concentration of tax credit activity"

The County Council is interested in better understanding the distributional nature of tax credits (e.g. regressive, progressive, neutral). This project will explore this question.

Project #14

Geographic Breakdown of Tax Credit Recipients

Principal Agency: Montgomery County Government

In 2026 OLO published, "An Examination of Property Tax Credits, Exemptions, and Deferrals." This paper examines,

> "the County's primary public source of information on tax expenditure programs, systematically codes County property tax credit programs to enable consistent comparison across programs, analyzes the fiscal magnitude and historical trends of these programs, and provides high-level comparative analysis to assess patterns in program design, beneficiary focus, policy objectives, and the concentration of tax credit activity"

The County Council is interested in better understanding where in the County the businesses and individuals benefiting from these programs are located. This project will explore this question.

Project #15

Trade Programs in Montgomery County

Principal Agency: Montgomery County Public Schools, Montgomery County Government, Montgomery College

Trade programs for high school students and other young people are designed to allow participants to "learn by doing." Programs are increasingly being utilized by school systems around the country to provide students with skills needed to pursue careers in trades such as auto collision repair and mechanics, carpentry, plumbing, electrical services, culinary arts, HVAC repair and installation, and other similar professions.

County Councilmembers are interested in better understanding the trade programs available through MCPS and Montgomery College, the demand for the programs, program enrollment, and costs. The report will also include information about successful programs in other jurisdictions. The research will include outreach to local businesses about what skills and training are most needed in their industries.

Project #16

K-12 Student Access to Out-of-School Time Programs

Principal Agency: Montgomery County Public Schools, Montgomery County Government

Montgomery County prides itself on its quality of life, its school system, and resources available to families with children. County Councilmembers want to ensure all children have access to quality out of school time programing and want to better understand what barriers exist to accessing these resources.

This OLO report will examine these issues and provide the Council with a report that discusses which types of programs are most in demand and will identify, if possible, observed gaps in supply and demand. It will include an analysis of school and County sponsored programs as well as those offered by not for profit and private providers. OLO will seek community input from residents across the County, with a particular focus on the needs of students that attend schools with high FARMS rates. OLO will seek to identify barriers families face to having their children participate in these programs.

Project #17

Assignments as Needed

Principal Agencies: All

The needs of Montgomery County residents are constantly changing and as such the Office of Legislative Oversight has left room in its Work Plan for supplementals as requested by Councilmembers when needed.

FY27 OLO Work Program - Projects Ongoing

Project #18

Staff Support for the Council's Audit Function

Principal Agency: All County-funded agencies

Council Resolution 16-826, adopted January 27, 2009, calls upon the Council's Government Operations and Fiscal Policy (GO) Committee "to continue to strengthen the Council's independent review and oversight of the County's financial reporting, management control, and audit activities." When performing these functions, the GO Committee meets as the Council's Audit Committee, with the Council President and Vice President serving as ex-officio voting members. The resolution requires the GO Committee to meet as the Council's Audit Committee at least four times a year.

Council Resolution 16-826 assigns the Office of Legislative Oversight the responsibility to coordinate staff support for the GO Committee when it meets as the Audit Committee. During FY27, the Committee is scheduled to receive regular updates from the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) and Office of Internal Audit (OIA), discuss relevant OIG and/or OIA reports, submit an end-of-year report to the Council, receive a report from the County's external auditor of results from the audit of the FY26 financial statements, and address other issues as needed.

As directed by Council resolution, OLO will ensure the Committee receives "assistance from the Council staff, the Office of the Inspector General, Executive Branch and other County agency staff, and contractors with appropriate expertise" in carrying out its "oversight of financial reporting and risk assessment."

Project #19

Management of the Council's Independent Audit Contracts

Principal Agency: Montgomery County Government

Section 315 of the County Charter requires the Council to contract with a certified public accountant to perform an annual independent audit of the County Government's financial statements. The Council also contracts for the annual audit of financial statements of the employee retirement plans and the Montgomery County Union Employees Deferred Compensation Plan.

Since 1991, the Council has assigned the Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) the responsibility to act as the Council's contract administrator and provide support to the Council during the period of audit engagement. OLO carries out these responsibilities with oversight and guidance from the Council's Audit Committee. The Audit Committee consists of members of the Government Operations and Fiscal Policy Committee (GO), with the Council President and Vice President serving as ex officio voting members.

The FY27 Independent Financial Audit NDA funds the independent audits of the FY26 financial statements issued by the County Government, the Single Audit (Federal grant awards), and the Montgomery County Union Employees Deferred Compensation Plan. The NDA also funds the audit of agreed-upon procedures related to the Federal Transit Administration's National Transit Database.

Independent audits funded by other departments include financial statements issued by the employee retirement plans and the consolidated retiree benefits trust, agreed-upon procedures related to the owners/operators of solid waste landfill facilities, and schedule of maintenance and operating revenue and expenditures of the County's Maryland 9-1-1 Emergency Number Systems Program.

FY27 is the third year of the Council's latest contract with SB & Company to provide audit services.

Project #20

Climate Assessments

Principal Agency: Montgomery County Government

Since January 1, 2023, the Office of Legislative Oversight is required to prepare a climate assessment for each new bill introduced by the Council. Per the requirements of Bill 3-22, the climate assessments evaluate the "potential positive or negative effects, if any, of the bill upon climate change," which includes greenhouse gas emissions and community climate resilience.

Each assessment includes the following sections:

- Summary of the bill's impact on the County's contribution to addressing climate change, including impacts on greenhouse gas emissions and community climate resilience;
- Description of the bill;
- Quantitative and/or qualitative evaluations of the identified effects upon greenhouse gas emissions and community climate resilience; and
- Works cited.

Further, for bills that are anticipated to have a negative impact on the County's contribution to addressing climate change, OLO is required to identify amendments or other recommendations that would reduce or eliminate any anticipated negative effects of a bill. In FY27, OLO will continue producing a climate assessment for each new bill introduced by the Council.

Project #21

Economic Impact Statements

Principal Agencies: All County-funded agencies

Since March 1, 2020, the Office of Legislative Oversight has been required to prepare an economic impact statement for each new bill introduced by the Council. Per the requirements of Bill 10-19, the economic impact statements evaluate the "costs and/or benefits to private organizations and individuals in the County attributable to a change in the law."

Each statement includes the following sections:

- Summary of the bill's impact on private organizations and residents in the County and its overall impact on the County economy;
- Description of the bill;
- Discussion on the sources of information, assumptions and methodologies used to arrive at the estimates and conclusions made in the analysis;
- Description of the variables that could affect the economic impact of the bill;
- Analysis of the costs and benefits of the bill for businesses and residents, focusing particularly on eight outcomes—workforce, taxation policy, property values, incomes, business operating costs, capital investment from the private sector, economic development, and competitiveness;
- Questions related to the economic impacts of the bill for Councilmembers to consider; and
- Works cited.

In FY27, OLO will continue producing an economic impact statement for each new bill introduced by the Council

Project #22

Employee Compensation in the FY28 Operating Budget

Principle Agencies: Montgomery County Government

During Spring of 2027, OLO staff will team with Central Council staff to prepare analyses for Committee and Council work sessions on employee compensation matters in the FY28 operating budget. This project is similar to OLO's operating budget-related assignment in recent years.

Project #23

Revenue Estimating Group

Principal Agency: Montgomery County Government

Bill 6-21, Finance - Revenue Estimating Group – Established, enacted by the County Council on March 16, 2021, amended the County Code to establish the Revenue Estimating Group. The duties of the Group include regularly reviewing and analyzing revenue attainment; developing revenue forecasts; developing a methodology to forecast revenue; and providing quarterly reports on revenue projections to the County Executive and the County Council. As stipulated in Bill 6-21, membership in the Revenue Estimating Group must include one or more representatives from the Office of Legislative Oversight. OLO staff will participate in the work of the Revenue Estimating Group as required by the County Code.

Project #24

Implementation of OLO RESJ Action Plan

Principal Agency: Montgomery County Government, Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice

In 2019, the County Council passed the Racial Equity and Social Justice (RESJ) Act requiring each County department to develop and implement a RESJ action plan. In 2022, the Council enacted Executive Regulation 15-21 requiring each County department to develop a RESJ action plan by 2025. With feedback from the Council, OLO developed its RESJ Action Plan to apply a RESJ lens to our policies, practices, and work products (e.g., projects and impact statements) in 2023. OLO defines applying a RESJ lens to our work by paying attention to race, ethnicity, and other social constructs when analyzing problems, looking for solutions, and defining success.

OLO's RESJ Core Team will continue to facilitate opportunities for all staff to make progress on the five priorities of the OLO RESJ Action Plan (OLO Racial Equity and Social Justice). Further, OLO staff will:

- Submit an annual report to the Council describing activities undertaken to implement the OLO RESJ Action Plan;
- Share information about the action plan and its implementation with other departments; and
- Share effective practices for engaging BIPOC stakeholders in two-way communications that advance RESJ in governance and decision-making.

Project #25

Racial Equity and Social Justice Impact Statements for Bills

Principal Agency: Montgomery County Government

In 2019, the County Council passed the Racial Equity and Social Justice Act requiring the Director of the Office of Legislative Oversight to complete Racial Equity and Social Justice Impact Statements (RESJIS) for all proposed legislation within 21 days of introduction. The RESJ Act also required OLO to develop a tool to apply a racial equity and social justice lens in the development and review of proposed legislation. OLO assumed these responsibilities on August 1, 2020. OLO will continue to produce RESJISs that assess the impact of proposed legislation on racial and social inequities impacting Black, Indigenous, and Other People of Color (BIPOC) and low-income communities in Montgomery County. When warranted, RESJISs will describe the intersection between the proposed policy and race, data on racial and social inequities, and proposed amendments for advancing racial equity and social justice.

Project #26

Racial Equity and Social Justice Impact Statements for Zoning Text Amendments

Principal Agency: Montgomery County Planning Board

In 2020, the County Council passed amendments to the Racial Equity and Social Justice Act requiring the Director of the Office of Legislative Oversight to complete Racial Equity and Social Justice Impact Statements (RESJIS) for all proposed zoning text amendments. Further, Bill 44-20 requires the completion of these RESJIS within 21 days of ZTA introduction and the development of an equity tool to conduct the RESJ ZTA impact assessments. OLO assumed these responsibilities on August 1, 2021.

Since September of 2021, OLO has been producing RESJIS on ZTA's that assess their anticipated impact on racial and social inequities impacting Black, Indigenous, and Other People of Color (BIPOC) and low-income communities in Montgomery County. When warranted, RESJ ZTA impact statements will describe the intersection between the ZTA proposed and race, data on racial and social inequities, and proposed amendments for advancing racial equity and social justice.