Resolution No.: 18-692
Introduced: December 13, 2016
Adopted: December 13, 2016

COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

Lead Sponsor: County Council

SUBJECT: Amendment to the FY17 Work Program of the Office of Legislative Oversight

Background

1. On August 2, 2016 the Council adopted Resolution 18-571 to establish the FY17 Work Program of the Office of Legislative Oversight. Resolution 18-571 assigned the Office of Legislative Oversight 21 projects to be undertaken during the current fiscal year.

   In order to more effectively meet the needs of the Council, OLO is pursuing several strategies that will allow it to be more flexible in the way it addresses Council priorities. To that end, assignment number 21 in the OLO Work Program was entitled "Assignments as Needed" intended to provide space for the Council to add needed projects.

2. Since the approval of the OLO FY17 Work Program, Councilmembers have identified the project described below as an appropriate OLO assignment.

Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the addition of the following project #22 to the Office of Legislative Oversight's FY17 Work Program. This project is an addition to the OLO Work Program and will not require or result in any delays to those projects currently assigned in the FY17 OLO Work Program.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

Linda M. Lauer, Clerk of the Council

OLO Work Plan Supplement

Project #22

Impact of Property Improvements on Assessment of Property Value

The State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT) is responsible for determining the value of all privately-owned real property in Montgomery County. SDAT provides an assessment of a property's fair market value to the County and the County uses these assessments to calculate the annual property tax owed on individual properties. Changes in property value result in either an increase or decrease in a property owner's tax bill and, ultimately, a change in revenue collected by the County.

A significant factor impacting the property value of private homes are modifications, expansions, or other upgrades made to a property. State law requires SDAT to reassess the value of homes if improvements are made that add at least $100,000 to the value of a property. To capture data about changes to residential properties, SDAT relies in part on submissions from Montgomery County's Department of Permitting Services (DTS) related to permits issued by DTS authorizing property owners to alter their property.

Building on the Inspector General's report on this topic released on August 25th, 2016 and its own previous work on property assessments, OLO will conduct an analysis of the processes in place related to the reassessment of properties that have been modified by their owners. In particular, Council members are interested in understanding the effectiveness and efficiency of DPS' communication with SDAT and how, ultimately, this impacts SDAT reassessments. Additionally, OLO will examine how reassessments based on property modifications impact property tax revenue and whether the County is collecting this revenue in a timely fashion.