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

COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

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%.

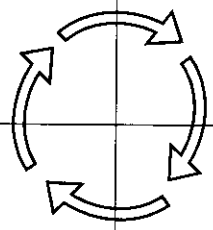
7. We are home to eighteen major federal agency headquarters that deliver important research. The U.S. Government invests more than $15 billion in internal federal lab research and development in the D.C. region.

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.

Housing The Council will strive to meet the housing targets recommended by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, with emphasis on construction of housing that is affordable in the County's activity centers.	**Transportation** The Council will prioritize funding to 1) increase ridership in non-automobile transportation modes; 2) activate the County's economic centers; and 3) enhance current road systems to decrease commute times.
Workforce Development The Council will expand the workforce development delivery structure to meet the needs of the County's businesses and residents across the entire workforce development continuum.	**Business Development** The Council will invest in opportunities to 1) decrease the cost of doing business in the County; 2) promote the County's businesses and business climate; 3) facilitate the attraction and retention of strategic industries; and 4) expand entrepreneurial programs and services to create new businesses.



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
Acting Clerk of the Council