

Resolution No.:	<u>19-388</u>
Introduced:	<u>March 24, 2020</u>
Adopted:	<u>March 24, 2020</u>

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

Lead Sponsor: Councilmember Navarro
Co-Sponsors: Councilmembers Alborno, Friedson, Riemer, Rice and Council Vice President
Hucker

SUBJECT: Options for the Approval of and Appropriation for the FY 2021 Operating Budget

Background

1. As required by Section 303 of the County Charter, the County Executive sent to the County Council the FY2021 Operating Budget on March 16, 2020.
2. As required by Section 304 of the County Charter, the Council must hold public hearings on the proposed operating budget.
3. A new coronavirus disease, called Covid-19, has spread extremely quickly, making its way to over 100 countries, including the United States.
4. On March 11, the World Health Organization officially declared the Covid-19 viral disease a pandemic.
5. The number of new cases in the United States is growing quickly and has spread to each of the 50 States and the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.
6. To slow the spread of this communicable disease, Governor Hogan issued several emergency orders closing all non-essential businesses, restricting public transit, closing schools, prohibiting public gatherings of 10 persons or more, and postponing the Presidential Primary Election in Maryland.
7. Although County government operations are continuing during this pandemic, County employees are using situational teleworking wherever possible to perform their duties. Due to the need to limit person to person contact, many County residents have lost paychecks and many County businesses have lost revenue.

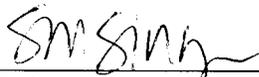
8. The Executive was required by the Charter to develop his recommended FY2021 Operating Budget before the most recent events clarified the full extent of the pandemic.
9. Considering this unprecedented global pandemic and national state of emergency, the Council must move expeditiously to provide continuity of operations in approving an operating budget for FY2021 that provides additional flexibility to help County residents and businesses recover.

Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following resolution:

1. The Council directs staff to develop viable options to streamline our budget process, so that for FY2021, the Council may adopt an aggregate operating budget for our departments and agencies that reflects a continuation of the services provided at the same level as FY2020.
2. These viable options must include funding the Operating Budgets of the County Board of Education and Montgomery College at the required Maintenance of Effort level and should avoid funding any new programs unrelated to relief for County residents and businesses from the Covid-19 viral disease pandemic.
3. These viable options should include flexibility for possible future appropriations:
 - a. to assist County residents and businesses to recover from the Covid-19 viral disease pandemic; and
 - b. to provide additional resources for other County programs and employee wage and benefit enhancements, if available, after the crisis is over.

This is a correct copy of Council action.



Selena Mendy Singleton, Esq.
Clerk of the Council