

**THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION
PRESS RELEASE**

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**MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVES SUPPLEMENTAL
BUDGET REQUEST FROM PARK AND PLANNING**

ROCKVILLE, MD – The Montgomery County Council unanimously approved a supplemental budget request from Park and Planning today that will help accelerate reforms, add additional personnel and pay for office space rental.

The total approval is for \$902,080 in this fiscal year, annualized to \$1,179,700. The appropriation authorizes the hiring of three new lead reviewers, three planning technicians and an additional building permit reviewer for the development review division.

In addition an information technology specialist, a website manager and a new attorney position were authorized by the Council.

Much of the revenue for funding these expenditures is expected to come from future development review fee increases. The Planning Board will consider recommendations for fee increases in the near future.

“The Council helped us make a great leap towards the goal of ensuring more transparency, accuracy and community inclusion in the regulatory process,” said Planning Board Chairman Derick Berlage. “No doubt that there’s a great need for more hands on deck as we adopt better procedures for carrying out our regulatory duties.”

Berlage joined Acting Director Faroll Hamer in congratulating the Council on the decision and thanking staff from the Council and the agency who worked diligently on the funding proposal.

Hamer anticipates that the agency will begin to advertise the new positions, review resumes and conduct interviews next month.

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