



## Council Activities in 2020

While the Council's focus has been squarely on COVID-19 since March, the Council has not neglected other areas of importance for residents. Below is a brief overview of some of the most important legislation, funding and policy decisions of 2020:

**COVID-19 Response:** The Council appropriated \$255.9 million to address the needs of residents and businesses impacted by COVID-19. This includes \$76.2 million in direct support to restaurants and businesses and \$66.5 million to support education.

**Public Health:** The Council approved eight public health orders to help contain the spread of COVID-19 following data and public health guidance from Montgomery County Health Officer Dr. Travis Gayles.

**Community Service Hubs & Targeted COVID-19 Response:** The Council appropriated \$8.95 million to fund emergency services and COVID-19 testing in a strategic, culturally competent and community-focused way to help contain the spread of the virus through the Latino Health Steering Committee's implementation of the Por Nuestra Salud y Bienestar and the African American Health Program Executive Committee's Targeted COVID-19 Response. Included in these appropriations is \$1.36 million to support the system of Community Service Hubs.

**Budget:** The Council approved a continuity of services budget for residents of \$5.8 billion and a capital budget of \$4.4 billion to maintain essential services and to keep important projects like school renovations on track.

**Growth and Infrastructure Policy:** The Council approved a new Growth and Infrastructure policy to enhance Montgomery County's outstanding quality of life by ending the housing moratorium and focusing on smart growth principles to make our community more affordable for new residents and more attractive to new businesses.

**Child Care:** The Council provided supplemental funding in the amount of \$7.6 million to support school-age child care providers operating licensed child care programs and aid families in accessing full-day child care to ensure equitable access to child care for all families.

**Mental Health:** The Council provided supplemental funding of nearly \$1 million for additional mental health supports, with almost \$600,000 going to expand the County's Department of Health and Human Services' Mobile Crisis Team and nearly \$400,000 to increase mental health services to respond to increased service needs related to the pandemic.

**Business:** The Council approved legislation to support the backbone of Montgomery County's economy by expanding opportunities and access to more than one billion dollars in government contracts and purchases for locally owned, small businesses.

**Vaping:** The Council enacted legislative and zoning measures to protect the public health of young people by banning manufacturers of electronic smoking devices from distributing products to retail stores within the same half-mile boundary of public and private middle and high schools and prohibiting the sale of tobacco products or electronic cigarettes to anyone under 21.

**Katz Business Briefings:** I conducted 15 Business Briefings in 2020 to help local businesses and nonprofits navigate the new economic reality created by the global COVID-19 pandemic.