

Frederick County Council's electronic newsletter!



The Frederick County Council is here to serve you!

Welcome to the newsletter of the Frederick County Council. We are undertaking this effort to provide more information to the public so you have a better understanding of the legislative process. It is the goal of this newsletter to provide more information and detail on what is happening in the legislative

branch.

Should you ever have any questions regarding the legislative process or upcoming legislation, please do not hesitate to contact the council members either via email at: councilmembers@frederickcountymd.gov, or by phone at 301-600-1135.

Following are a few updates on recent Council actions.

Frederick County Council Update (3.26.2020)

Due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, and in accordance with the continued direction of the Governor banning large gatherings, Winchester Hall remains closed to the public. Council President Keegan-Ayer, in consultation with Vice President Blue, legal staff and the Council's Chief of Staff, has taken the precaution of postponing all County Council meetings until at least April 7th. In addition, all highly visible and closely followed agenda items which were previously scheduled have been postponed to some date in the future, when the public will be allowed access to the building, to attend the Council meetings.

Council President Keegan-Ayer stated, "The safety of the residents of Frederick County is of the utmost importance at this time. We will re-schedule these items when this virus is better contained, the danger to the general public is significantly reduced and gathering in large crowds is once again permitted. Until then, I urge every resident to follow the lead and direction of our public health officials to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Further, I encourage all our residents to follow updates posted regularly on the Frederick County Health Department's website (<https://health.frederickcountymd.gov/>)." For all current and up to date information you can go to the Frederick County Government Corona Virus COVID-19 Resources at:

https://www.frederickcountymd.gov/8071/Coronavirus---COVID-19-Resources#tabb55e8612-92c6-4fbb-9822-56c497fa4efd_3

Council Updates:

Thus far this year, the County Council has addressed a variety of issues. They have approved legislation to add Binding Arbitration to Collective Bargaining with Fire Service Employees (20-01). This was the bill addressing the Charter Amendment (Question D) that was passed by the voters in the 2018 election. The Council also approved the bill to Revise Electric Lighting Tax District Tax Rates (20-02), which revised the tax rate for certain lighting tax districts so that the projected revenue covers projected costs.

Finally, the Council debated and approved legislation to Provide Additional Support for Agriculture Preservation by Increasing the Recordation Tax and Reallocating Recordation Tax Revenues (20-03). This bill will not only provide additional revenue for agriculture preservation, but it will also provide additional money for agricultural diversification economic development grants, which will aid farmers in their efforts to diversify their farming production. It will provide additional funding for a first-time homebuyers assistance program and money for rural historic preservation efforts.

There are numerous other legislative proposals in the works and the Council looks forward to coming back together for workshops, discussions, debates and the ability to receive public input in person.

For now, however: Frederick County Council urges everyone to stay home, stay safe, and practice social distancing and plenty of hand washing. The Council also wants all residents know that they are still here to serve you despite being away from their offices in Winchester Hall. You can contact the offices or any of them by the following methods:

Contact Council Members

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Please remember to stay home and stay safe. Together we will get through.
