

DECEMBER 22, 2021

# FREDERICK COUNTY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



## HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE COUNTY COUNCIL

The Frederick County Council would like to wish everyone a happy and joyous holiday season! This has been a very challenging year, and we hope that you are able to take some time to spend with your loved ones. We wish you a safe and healthy holiday and a Happy New Year!

## COVID-19 UPDATE FOR FREDERICK COUNTY

The Frederick County Department of Health and the Frederick County Council remain concerned for the safety and well-being of our residents. Frederick County is experiencing a high transmission rate as well as a rise in COVID-19 related hospitalizations.

Although many in our community are fully vaccinated and have received their boosters, transmission of the Omicron variant is still possible. We would like to encourage everyone to get vaccinated and to take every precaution this winter to limit the spread of the virus. This includes vaccinations, masking, avoiding crowds, and testing before and after travel or after potential exposure. It is important to use all tools available to limit the severity of the illness and avoid hospitalization.

The latest COVID-19 information for Frederick County can be found [here](#).

Pictured left to right:  
Steve McKay (District 2),  
Kai Hagen (At Large),  
Jerry Donald (District 1),  
Council President MC  
Keegan-Ayer (District 3),  
Phil Dacey (At Large),  
Jessica Fitzwater (District 4),  
Council Vice President  
Michael Blue (District 5).

Please see the Council's [website](#) for the latest information about County Council meetings and Agendas. Please stay tuned for information about attending a meeting at Winchester Hall.

# LEGISLATION PASSED IN 2021

Bill 21-01 Amend Ch. 1-19 FCG - Allow Variances for Nonconforming Structures If Certain Conditions Are Met (Passed 7-0)

Bill 21-02 Amend Chapter 1-2 of the Frederick County Code - Kari's Law (Passed 7-0)

Bill 21-03 Revisions to School Construction Fee (Passed 6-1)

Bill 21-05 Retirement Plan Split (Passed 7-0)

Bill 21-06 Establishing a Small Business Advisory Commission (Passed 7-0)

Bill 21-07 Disabled Veterans Tax Credit (Passed 7-0)

Bill 21-08 Fire and Rescue Services - Accreditation Standard Revision for Volunteer Companies (Passed 7-0)

Bill 21-09 Electric Vehicles (Passed 5-2)

Bill 21-10 Establishing an Office of Equity and Inclusion and Equity and Inclusion Commission (Passed 5-2)

Bill 21-11 Frederick County Real Property Tax Credit (Passed 6-1)

Bill 21-12 Amend and Update Development Impact Fee and Public School Development Impact Fee (Passed 7-0)

Full details about Council legislation can be found [here](#).

Council President MC Keegan-Ayer was elected to the Board of Directors as the incoming Treasurer of the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) for the 2021-2022 term.

MACo is a non-profit and non-partisan organization that serves Maryland's counties by articulating the needs of local government to the Maryland General Assembly.

## 2021 BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

The Redistricting Commission was established and charged with reviewing and making recommendations concerning the existing Council Districts, ensuring that they are compact, contiguous, substantially equal in population, and have common interests as a result of geography, occupation, history, or existing political boundaries.

The Immigrant Affairs Commission was established to act as an advisory body to the Council that serves as a means for immigrant voices to be heard and understood, facilitates civic engagement among immigrants, and recognizes and legitimizes issues of importance to immigrants arriving and living in Frederick County.

The Small Business Advisory Commission was established to act as an advisory body to the Council that serves as a means for small businesses to be heard and understood, facilitate civic engagement, and legitimize issues of importance to small businesses operating in Frederick County.

The Council established an Office of Equity and Inclusion and an Equity and Inclusion Commission. The Office will raise and sustain the visibility of equity and inclusion as a leadership, social, and economic imperative for the County. The Commission will help identify issues, concerns, and needs of County residents to improve diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging and make recommendations as appropriate.

In August, the Climate Emergency Mobilization Workgroup (CEMWG) presented its Final Report to the Council. The presentation can be viewed [here](#).

Connect With Us

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