

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Legislative Committee – October 22, 2019

Conference Room 11

Board of Supervisors Members Present:

Sharon Bulova, Chairman
Penelope Gross, Mason District (Vice Chairman)
Jeff McKay, Lee District (Committee Chair)
John Cook, Braddock District
John Foust, Dranesville District
Pat Herrity, Springfield District
Catherine Hudgins, Hunter Mill District
Kathy Smith, Sully District
Dan Storck, Mount Vernon District

Meeting Agenda

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/boardofsupervisors/sites/boardofsupervisors/files/assets/meeting-materials/2019/oct22-legislative-agenda-final.pdf>

Meeting Materials

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/boardofsupervisors/board-supervisors-legislative-committee-meeting-oct-22-2019>

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m.

Summary of Discussion:

Draft Recommended Strategies and Principles for the 116th Congress

The Legislative Committee received an update from Nancy Prowitt, President and Chief Operating Officer, Alcalde and Fay, on a number of federal items including the budget. A news article highlighting challenges faced by low-income military families was also distributed to Committee members for their review.

The Legislative Committee directed staff to research the impact of recent changes made to employee transit benefits – specifically, the Committee directed staff to provide data from WMATA on how the changes affected ridership, if available. The Legislative Committee also directed staff to strengthen the “Energy/Climate Change” principles.

Board of Supervisors 2020 Draft Legislative Program

The Committee reviewed the following items:

- Priorities
 - Funding Core Services – K-12 Funding
 - Funding Core Services – Transportation Funding
- Position Statements
 - Funding – Courts
 - Human Services – Affordable Housing and Homelessness Prevention
 - Human Services – Mental Health, Public Safety, and the Criminal Justice System
 - Human Services – Substance Use Disorder
 - Public Safety – First Responders and Mental Health

Board of Supervisors 2020 Human Services Issue Paper

The Committee reviewed the following items:

- Priorities
 - Affordable Housing and Homelessness Prevention
 - Substance Use Disorder
- Human Services Fact Sheet
 - The Legislative Committee directed staff to provide a version of the fact sheet that compares the statistics from the Adopted 2019 Human Services Issue Paper Fact Sheet to the Draft 2020 Human Services Issue Paper Fact Sheet.

Items for Initial Consideration

The Committee reviewed the following items and took the actions indicated below:

- Environment – Trees
 - The Legislative Committee directed staff to research this issue and bring back to a future Board committee meeting for further consideration. Specifically, the Committee directed staff to research whether there are other Virginia jurisdictions that offer incentives to developers who make efforts to save trees, and if so, to provide the Board with more details about how those processes compare to the County's own policies. The Committee also directed staff to monitor this issue during the 2020 General Assembly (GA) session, and bring back relevant legislation to Legislative Committee for consideration by the Board.
- Procurement – Best value definition
 - The Legislative Committee concurred with the staff recommendation to research this issue further, including determining the disposition of the study directed in 2018, and provide an update at the November 26 Legislative Committee meeting.

- Elections – Replacing Candidates on the Ballot
 - The Legislative Committee concurred with the staff recommendation to bring relevant legislation introduced during the 2020 GA session to Legislative Committee for consideration by the Board of Supervisors (members of the Fairfax County delegation are aware of this issue and may pursue a legislative remedy).

Draft Letter to Congressional Delegation on Americans Traveling to China for Organ Transplants

The Legislative Committee received copies of a draft letter to the County’s Congressional delegation relating to the issue of Americans traveling to China for organ transplants. The letter notes the importance of organ donation, and also the County’s concern that Americans who travel to China for organ transplants may be unaware that the organs they receive may have been harvested by force or without appropriate consent. The Board had already taken action on this topic through a Board Matter. After the meeting, the letter was signed and sent to the Congressional delegation and copies were sent to the County’s Virginia General Assembly delegation as well.

Standards of Quality Overview

The Legislative Committee received copies of a press release from the Virginia Department of Education announcing the Board of Education’s revised Standards of Quality, and documents prepared by Fairfax County Public Schools explaining the potential impact of the changes.

Marijuana Decriminalization

The Legislative Committee received copies of the Virginia State Crime Commission’s 2017 presentation which summarized the findings of the Commission’s study on the decriminalization of marijuana.

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Votes Taken: None

Prepared by Arielle McAloon, Legislative Associate