



**MC/PG 104-23 -- Montgomery County - Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
Restructuring Task Force - Establishment**

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**MC/PG 105-23 -- Montgomery County - Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission –
Commissioner Requirements and Open Meetings (Montgomery County Planning Trust and Transparency Act of
2023)**

Montgomery County Delegation Hearing

December 15, 2022

Oppose

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC), the voice of business in Metro Maryland, opposes MC/PG 104-23 and MC/PG 105-23 and respectfully requests the Montgomery County Delegation reject these proposals.

MCCC supports good governance and appropriate oversight of land use, zoning, and development policy and decisions. However, MCCC contends that the current structure of the bi-county Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) works well, though it may warrant further discussion in the future of improvements that can be accomplished without the creation of a legislatively mandated task force.

Creating a task force to examine transferring land use and planning powers to the County Executive does not necessarily improve operations or land use decision making. MCCC does not support concentrating decision-making authority in the County Executive or any single elected individual or partisan entity. M-NCPPC is already structured to be independent and the appointment process for Planning Board members works as intended.

The Chamber does support efforts to examine potential improvements to M-NCPPC, especially if they address the efficiency of land use decisions, which can have a significant impact on economic activity and jobs in Montgomery County. MCCC wants to see a more streamlined and customer friendly development process. However, after careful consideration, MCCC contends that these bills as proposed are not the proper vehicles for reform.

Additionally, M-NCPPC staff need stability now more than ever, not more upheaval. MCCC believes the focus should be on identifying a new Planning Board and then in the future considering improvements, such as streamlining the development process.

For these reasons, MCCC respectfully requests the Montgomery County Delegation reject MC/PG 104-23 and MC/PG 105-23.

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, on behalf of our nearly 500 members, advocates for growth in business opportunities, strategic investment in infrastructure, and balanced tax reform to advance Metro Maryland as a regional, national, and global location for business success. Established in 1959, MCCC is an independent non-profit membership organization and a proud Montgomery County Green Certified Business.

*Brian Levine / Vice President of Government Affairs
Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce
51 Monroe Street / Suite 1800
Rockville, Maryland 20850
301-738-0015 / www.mcccmd.com*