

At its September 12, 2022 General Meeting the Montgomery County Civic Federation, Inc. passed the following Resolution, calling on the Montgomery County Council to "disapprove" the Thrive Montgomery 2050 draft Plan and enable the "new" Council to continue work on a General Plan that incorporates important aspects of environmental sustainability, economic development, racial equity and social justice, and community outreach and engagement. September 12, 2022.

**RESOLUTION OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY CIVIC
FEDERATION, INC.
THRIVE MONTGOMERY 2050 AND UPZONING**

WHEREAS, the Montgomery County Civic Federation, Inc. (hereinafter The Federation), has taken serious interest in the development and drafting of the proposed 30 year General Plan authored by the Montgomery County Planning Board, known as Thrive Montgomery 2050; and

WHEREAS, the Federation has taken note of the many community-based efforts around the County to inform County residents of the goals of the proposed General Plan, and the various problematic issues associated with it; and

WHEREAS, the Federation strongly believes in the value and necessity of general planning which has the support of the broad community and which has allowed for broad-based community input; and

WHEREAS, the Federation has regularly expressed concern about the Montgomery County Council's decision-making timetable for finalization of the draft Plan, as it has stated its goal to complete its deliberations on the draft Plan and to hold a final vote on the draft Plan by the end of October 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Federation delegates believe that there has been grossly inadequate public outreach and community engagement related to the draft Plan, resulting in a lack of community ownership in the draft Plan and its proposed objectives and manner of implementation; and

WHEREAS, the Federation delegates have identified serious shortcomings in the draft Plan under consideration by the Council's Planning, Housing and Economic Development Committee, specifically related to the issues of affordable housing, gentrification, environmental sustainability, economic development and racial justice and social equity; and

WHEREAS, the Federation strongly believes that both the draft Plan and the community engagement process are deeply flawed and require serious revision;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION, INC.

CALLS upon the current Montgomery County Council to disapprove the Thrive Montgomery 2050 plan and to carry these deliberations over to the new County Council to be seated in December 2022; and

CALLS upon the new Montgomery County Council to draft and include new standalone chapters in the draft document pertaining to the environment, economic development, housing, especially affordable housing, and racial equity and social justice issues; and

CALLS upon the new Montgomery County Council to reaffirm a commitment to adequate public consultations about the draft Plan, specifically requesting that the new County Council hold separate public hearings on all new chapters added to the draft Plan, as well as a final public hearing on any revised draft document, developed by Council staff; and

CALLS upon the new Montgomery County Council to reaffirm a commitment to the master-planning process for the implementation of any zoning changes suggested by the draft plan; and

CALLS UPON the new Montgomery County Council and Planning Board to clarify the definition of “limited growth” areas in the new growth map (page 20) and identify the changes in zoning (and master planning) that will result from redefining these formerly suburban and residential areas as “limited growth” areas; and

REMAINS opposed to universal upzoning of all single-family and duplex by-right by zoning text amendments;

CALLS upon the new County Council to include adequate safeguards for this proposed policy to protect against unintended consequences, including 1/ considering an owner occupancy requirement for new multiplex housing; 2/ ensuring adequate public facilities before new development is approved; and 3/ the provision of specific metrics, measures, and methods for success and methods to test effectiveness of the Plan, and

URGES the Montgomery County Council to extend the period for outreach to Montgomery County residents by its consultants regarding racial equity and social justice issues, taking note of the fact that the current study's organizers have expressed their view that an adequate study in Montgomery County would take at least a year, and not the several weeks as has been requested by the Council; and

CALLS upon its members associations and individuals to convey these important messages to their members and neighbors.

APPROVED THIS 12TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2022

KAREN CORDRY, SECRETARY