



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Marc Elrich
County Executive

February 15, 2022

TO: The Honorable Kumar P. Barve
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee

FROM: Marc Elrich
County Executive

RE: House Bill 396 – *Montgomery County Planning Board - Open Meetings - Video and Audio Streaming and Minutes PG/MC 101-22* – Support

House Bill 396 (PG/MC 101-22) – *Montgomery County Planning Board - Open Meetings - Video and Audio Streaming and Minutes PG/MC 101-22*, requires the Montgomery County Planning Board to stream live video or audio of its open meetings (including teleconference calls) and maintain on its website a complete and unedited archived recording of each meeting. In the event of a technical failure that entirely prevents or affects the quality of live streaming, the bill specifies that the validity of any action taken by the Board during the meeting is unaffected so long as the meeting otherwise complies with the bill and the Open Meetings Act and is not the result of willful action by the Board. In addition to creating minutes, the Board must make good faith efforts to record (by video or audio) any session that it is unable to livestream and maintain the recording on its website. This bill is substantively identical to provisions that were included in a bill that was enacted last year ([House Bill 789](#) (MC/PG 100-21) – *Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission - Video and Audio Streaming and Archiving Meetings and Financial Assistance*) that imposed the same requirements on the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission.

I believe that this bill serves the public interest by enhancing transparency and accountability regarding the Board's actions and respectfully request that the Environment and Transportation Committee give the bill a favorable report.