



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Wednesday, January 11, 2023

12:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.

Walter A. Scheiber Board Room

Virtual participation upon request; Public livestream on website

- 12:00 P.M.**    **1. CALL TO ORDER**  
*Christian Dorsey, 2022 COG Board Chair*
- 12:05 P.M.**    **2. ELECTION OF 2023 COG BOARD OFFICERS**  
*Christian Dorsey, 2022 COG Board Chair*  
The board will consider approval of the 2023 COG Board officers.  
**Recommended Action: Adopt Resolution R1-2023.**
- 12:10 P.M.**    **3. ELECTION OF 2023 POLICY & ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP**  
*Kate Stewart, 2023 COG Board Chair*  
The board will vote on the proposed policy and administrative committee leadership, in addition to the Maryland and Virginia General Assembly COG Board Members.  
**Recommended Action: Adopt Resolutions R2-2023.**
- 4. CHAIR'S REPORT**  
*Kate Stewart, 2023 COG Board Chair*  
A) 2023 COG Board Meeting Dates  
B) 2023 COG Boards and Policy Committees Meeting Dates
- 12:15 P.M.**    **5. RECOGNITION OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHUCK BEAN**  
*Kate Stewart, 2023 COG Board Chair*  
The board will recognize outgoing Executive Director Chuck Bean for his service to COG and the region.  
**Recommended Action: Receive briefing and adopt Resolution R3-2023.**
- 12:25 P.M.**    **6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**  
*Chuck Bean, COG Executive Director*
- 7. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA**  
*Kate Stewart, 2023 COG Board Chair*

**12:35 P.M. 8. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 19, 2022**

*Kate Stewart, 2023 COG Board Chair*

**Recommended Action: Approve minutes.**

**9. ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

*Kate Stewart, 2023 COG Board Chair*

- A. Resolution R55-2022 – Resolution ratifying executive committee approval to modify the COG Pension Plan date
- B. Resolution R4-2023 – Resolution authorizing COG to receive a grant to fund the Housing Affordability Planning Program (HAPP)
- C. Resolution R5-2023 – Resolution acknowledging receipt of the 2022 COG contract list
- D. Resolution R6-2023 – Resolution authorizing COG to procure and enter into a contract to conduct a situational awareness software evaluation
- E. Resolution R7-2023 – Resolution authorizing COG to procure and enter into a contract to provide maintenance and repairs to the National Capital Region Fixed License Place Reader System
- F. Resolution R8-2023 – Resolution authorizing COG to receive funds to support the City of Laurel with sustainability implementation planning

**Recommended Action: Ratify Resolution R55-2022 and approve Resolutions R4-2023 – Resolution R8-2023.**

**12:40 P.M. 10. FY2022 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

*Emmett Jordan, COG Audit Committee Chair*

The auditor presented the FY-2022 audit report to the Audit Committee, issuing an unmodified or “clean” opinion of COG’s financial statements. The Audit Committee reviewed the audit report and recommends approval.

**Recommended Action: Receive briefing and adopt Resolution R9-2023.**

**12:45 P.M. 11. 2023 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

*Kate Stewart, 2023 COG Board Chair*

The board will be briefed on the draft 2023 legislative priorities for transportation, environment, housing, health and human services, and public safety and food security proposed by the COG Legislative Committee.

**Recommended Action: Receive briefing and adopt Resolution R10-2023.**

**1:05 P.M. 12. REGIONAL HOMELESS SERVICES RACIAL EQUITY & SYSTEMS ANALYSIS**

*Amanda Harris, COG Homeless Services Committee Co-Chair and Montgomery County Chief of Services to Prevent and End Homelessness*

*Hilary Chapman, COG Housing Manager*

The board will be briefed on the COG Homeless Services Committee's efforts to deepen and improve cross-jurisdictional collaboration, including highlights from the prior year's work on a racial equity systems analysis. The board will have an opportunity to provide input on potential solutions and promising areas for action to further our goal to prevent and end the experience of homelessness in metropolitan Washington.

**Recommended Action: Receive briefing.**

- 1:35 P.M.**      **13. EXECUTIVE SESSION**  
*Kate Stewart, 2023 COG Board Chair*  
Closed meeting of Board Members only for discussion of a personnel matter.  
**Recommended Action: Receive briefing and adopt Resolution R11-2023.**
- 1:55 P.M.**      **14. OTHER BUSINESS**
- 2:00 P.M.**      **15. ADJOURN**  
The next meeting is scheduled to take place in-person on Wednesday, February 8, 2023.

# **AGENDA ITEM #2**

## **ELECTION OF 2023 COG BOARD OFFICERS**

Resolution R1-2023  
January 11, 2023

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
777 NORTH CAPITOL STREET, NE  
WASHINGTON, DC 20002**

**RESOLUTION ELECTING THE 2023 COG BOARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**WHEREAS**, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) is comprised of the 24 jurisdictions of the metropolitan Washington region's local governments and their governing officials, plus area members of the Maryland and Virginia legislatures and the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, and COG provides a focus for action on issues of regional concern; and

**WHEREAS**, the COG By-laws state that the board shall annually elect a chair and one or two vice-chairs at the first meeting following the annual meeting of the general membership; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2023 Nominating Committee recommends approval of the proposed slate of COG Board officers for 2023: Chair Kate Stewart, Vice Chair Charles Allen, and Vice Chair Rodney Lusk.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS THAT:**

The board elects the proposed slate of COG Board Officers to serve as the Executive Committee to the COG Board of Directors in 2023.

# **AGENDA ITEM #3**

## **ELECTION OF 2023 POLICY COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP**

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
PROPOSED 2023 POLICY AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>JURISDICTION</b>	<b>POSITION</b>
<b>COG Board Policy Committees</b>		
Maria Mackie	City of College Park	Chair, Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources
Takis Karantonis	Arlington County	Chair, Climate, Energy, and Environment
Jon Stehle	City of Fairfax	Chair, Food & Agriculture Regional Member
Rodney Lusk	Fairfax County	Chair, Human Services
Will Jawando	Montgomery County	Chair, Region Forward Coalition
<b>Budget and Finance Committee</b>		
Kate Stewart	Montgomery County	COG Board Chair
Charles Allen	District of Columbia	COG Board Vice Chair
Rodney Lusk	Fairfax County	COG Board Vice Chair
Reuben Collins	Charles County	TPB Chair
Anita Bonds	District of Columbia	MWAQC Chair
Ann Wheeler	Prince William County	COG President
Robert White	District of Columbia	COG Vice President
Reuben Collins	Charles County	COG Vice President
Michael O'Connor	City of Frederick	COG Secretary-Treasurer
<b>Audit Committee</b>		
Emmett Jordan	City of Greenbelt	COG Board Member
Brian Feldman	State of Maryland	COG Board Member
Patrick Wojahn	City of College Park	COG Board Member
Darryl Moore	City of Manassas Park	COG Board Member
<b>Employee Compensation and Benefits Review Committee</b>		
Kate Stewart	Montgomery County	COG Board Chair
Charles Allen	District of Columbia	COG Board Vice Chair
Rodney Lusk	Fairfax County	COG Board Vice Chair
Ann Wheeler	Prince William County	COG President
Michael O'Connor	City of Frederick	COG Secretary-Treasurer
Phil Mendelson	District of Columbia	Past COG Board Chair
<b>Pension Plan Administrative Committee</b>		
Clark Mercer, Chair	COG	COG Executive Director
Timothy Canan	COG	Employee Representative
Robert Griffiths	COG	Annuitant Employee Representative
Penny Gross	Fairfax County	Past COG Secretary-Treasurer
Denise Mitchell	City of College Park	COG Board Member
Julie Mussog	COG	COG CFO
Michael O'Connor	City of Frederick	COG Secretary-Treasurer
Imelda Roberts	COG	COG OHRM
Phong Trieu	COG	Employee Representative
<b>COG Board Members –State General Assembly Appointments</b>		
Brian Feldman	Maryland General Assembly	COG Board Member
George Barker	Virginia General Assembly	COG Board Member

Resolution R2-2023  
January 11, 2023

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
777 NORTH CAPITOL STREET, NE  
WASHINGTON, DC 20002**

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2023 COG BOARD POLICY AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE  
LEADERSHIP**

**WHEREAS**, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) is comprised of the 24 jurisdictions of the metropolitan Washington region's local governments and their governing officials, plus area members of the Maryland and Virginia legislatures and the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, and COG provides a focus for action on issues of regional concern; and

**WHEREAS**, the COG Board of Directors approves the leadership for the individual policy committees, and the administrative committees, and various other positions that report to the Board of Directors; and

**WHEREAS**, the COG Board is being asked to approve the attached proposed slate to serve in 2023.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS THAT:**

The board approves the attached proposed slate of individuals to serve as the 2023 policy committee leadership and administrative committee membership on the following committees:

Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee  
Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee  
Food and Agriculture Regional Member Policy Committee  
Human Services Policy Committee  
Region Forward Coalition  
Audit Committee  
Budget and Finance Committee  
Employee Compensation and Benefits Review Committee  
Pension Plan Administrative Committee  
Virginia and Maryland General Assembly COG Board Members



**AGENDA ITEM #4**

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

## **COG Board of Directors 2023 Meeting Dates**

The COG Board meets the second Wednesday of the month from 12:00 – 2:00 P.M.

- January 11 (in-person)
- February 8 (in-person)
- March 8 (virtual)
- April 12 (in-person)
- May 10 (virtual)
- June 14 (in-person)
- July 14-15 – COG Leadership Retreat (in-person in Cambridge, MD)
- August – No meeting
- September 13 (virtual)
- October 11 (in-person)
- November 8 (virtual)
- December 13 – COG Membership & Awards Meeting (in-person)

In-person COG Board Meeting Location  
777 N. Capitol Street NE, Suite 300  
Washington, DC 20002

Dates and location subject to change at the direction of the COG Board Executive Committee.

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
2023 SCHEDULE OF BOARDS AND POLICY COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

COMMITTEES	Start Time	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
COG BOARD	12:00 PM	11	8	8	12	10	14	14-15 Annual Retreat	No meeting	13	11	8	13 Annual Meeting
TPB	12:00 PM	18	15	15	19	17	21	19	No meeting	20	18	15	20
MWAQC	12:00 PM		22			24				27			6
FARM	10:00 AM		10		14		9		11		13		8
CEEPC	10:00 AM	25		22		24		21		27		15	
CBPC	10:00 AM	20		17		19		21		15		17	
RFC	11:00 AM	27			28			28			27		
HSPC	12:00 PM	13		10		12		14		8		3	

Draft as of 12.30.22 - Meeting dates are subject to change.

## **AGENDA ITEM #5**

**RECOGNITION OF EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR CHUCK BEAN**

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
777 NORTH CAPITOL STREET, N.E.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20002**

**RESOLUTION HONORING COG EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHUCK BEAN**

**WHEREAS**, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) is comprised of the 24 jurisdictions of the metropolitan Washington region's local governments and their governing officials, plus area members of the Maryland and Virginia legislatures and the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, and COG provides a focus for action on issues of regional concern; and

**WHEREAS**, since being appointed Executive Director in 2012, Chuck Bean has provided exemplary service to the region's jurisdictions and the 5.7 million residents who call this region home by leading the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), after having previously served in leadership positions across the government, nonprofit, and philanthropic sectors; and

**WHEREAS**, over the past decade as chief executive of the regional planning organization, Mr. Bean has applied his political skills, positive energy, and big picture perspective in helping direct 125 subject matter experts and administrative professionals on COG's staff, manage an annual budget of \$41 million, and bolster COG's reputation as the hub for partnership where area officials collaborate, set goals, and take action to shape a better region; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Bean introduced numerous initiatives and comprehensive planning solutions to respond to the evolving needs of COG's 24 member governments and advance COG's *Region Forward Vision* for a more prosperous, accessible, livable, and sustainable future; and

**WHEREAS**, to address metropolitan Washington's significant housing shortfall, while also supporting economic growth and improving transportation by bringing jobs and housing closer together, Mr. Bean guided a yearlong effort involving elected officials and government housing and planning staff to develop and approve regional housing targets focused on increasing the amount, accessibility, and affordability of new units through 2030; and

**WHEREAS**, under the leadership of Mr. Bean, planning at COG to combat climate change progressed, leading to a new regional greenhouse gas reduction goal and action plan for 2030, earning the region recognition from the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, and laying the groundwork for further collaboration to expand electric vehicle charging infrastructure regionwide; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Bean oversaw several initiatives to advance racial equity in the region and accelerated this work following the COG Board action affirming racial equity as a fundamental value, such as creating a new committee of local government chief equity officers to serve as a forum for collaboration and information sharing, establishing racial equity training sessions for elected officials and government staff, and broadening the application of Equity Emphasis Areas, locations with high concentrations of traditionally underserved communities, as a planning concept to inform future growth and investment decisions; and

**WHEREAS**, seeing the value of mixed-use, mixed-income transit-oriented communities as a strategy for achieving multiple priorities, Mr. Bean also encouraged area leaders to optimize

connections to and development in the region's High-Capacity Transit Station Areas, which the COG Board endorsed as an additional planning concept that will leverage the region's considerable investment in transit; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Bean was instrumental in bringing the board's unified planning priorities together into a single strategic framework, *Region United: Metropolitan Washington Planning Framework for 2030*, which communicates the interconnected housing, climate, transit, and equity priorities and highlights COG grants, planning tools, and other resources available to advance these shared regional goals; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Bean has directed COG's response to major regional challenges, most notably efforts to ensure a safe, reliable Metro system, such as supporting the multi-year, regional initiative resulting in the 2018 dedicated funding agreement and assisting the states in establishing the Washington Metrorail Safety Commission as well as regional coordination and communication related to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Bean has steadfastly promoted partnerships and programs, like the Housing Affordability Planning Program, Regional Roadway Safety Program, and Transit Within Reach Program, which all launched during his tenure, providing technical assistance and funding for member governments to jumpstart promising local projects; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Bean has encouraged closer coordination among officials in the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia in a variety of efforts to help promote the region's competitive advantages and diversify the economy, including data and messaging support related to the competition for Amazon's second headquarters, joint trade missions, and development of a regional plan to boost exports; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Bean's tenure as a thoughtful leader and effective consensus-builder has put our region on a trajectory for continued growth and success.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS THAT:**

The Board conveys its deep appreciation to Chuck Bean for his many contributions to COG and the metropolitan Washington region during his tenure as Executive Director and wishes him all the best in his future endeavors.

# **AGENDA ITEM #6**

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** COG Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Chuck Bean, COG Executive Director  
**SUBJECT:** Executive Director's Report – January 2023  
**DATE:** January 4, 2023

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## POLICY BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

**National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB)** – In November, the TPB held a state DOT safety roundtable, reviewed draft transit and highway safety targets, and discussed preliminary steps for the 2024 update to the Visualize 2045 long-range transportation plan. In addition, TPB members participated in a listening session with WMATA staff for the Better Bus network redesign. In December, the TPB received updates on the National Capital Planning Commission's Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative and the Maryland Zero Emission Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Council (ZEEVIC). The TPB also approved transit and highway safety targets and \$2.3 million for six District of Columbia Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program projects.

**Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC)** - In December, MWAQC received briefings on regional electric vehicle initiatives led by the Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition as well as initiatives in the Cities of Frederick and Alexandria to move from gas to electric transit buses.

**Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC)** – In November, CBPC members were briefed on COG's equity resources and an Equity Emphasis Areas (EEAs) application to improve outreach related to the Anacostia Watershed restoration as well as the D.C. Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency's water infrastructure resiliency framework. Members also discussed 2023 legislative priorities for water.

**Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC)** – In November, CEEPC received presentations on the state of global warming, impacts to metropolitan Washington, and progress made toward regional climate goals, including a new analysis showing the region met its emissions reduction goal for 2020. Members then discussed challenges ahead and CEEPC priorities for 2023 to accelerate progress toward the 2030 regional climate goal.



### 2022 ANNUAL VIDEO

*In Region United: Accelerating Action, area leaders discuss how COG is helping local governments advance equity, transit, housing, and climate goals through its planning framework for 2030 and new initiatives.*

[Watch the video.](#)



**Food and Agriculture Regional Member Policy Committee (FARM)** – In December, members discussed 2023 food and agriculture legislative priorities and received a high-level briefing on the U.S. Farm Bill from staff at Harvard Law School's Food Law and Policy Clinic. The Farm Bill is expected to be reauthorized by Congress in 2023.

**Human Services Policy Committee (HSPC)** – In November, HSPC received a briefing on a Prince George's County program offering apprenticeships within local government agencies to those ages 18-25 with disabilities as well as a briefing on NEXTVERSITY, a Connected DMV program to prepare students from underrepresented populations for leadership roles at public service organizations.

## OUTREACH & PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

**Region United** – COG Community Planning and Services Director Paul DesJardin worked with staff of Greater Greater Washington, the Amazon Housing Equity Fund, and the Coalition for Smarter Growth to plan and host the Equitable Transit-Oriented Development (ETOD) Forum on December 7 at Strathmore Music Center in Rockville. COG Board Chair Christian Dorsey provided an opening presentation on COG's *Region United* planning framework.

**Food Security** - On December 2, COG hosted the DC, MD, and VA: 2023 Food Security and Resilience Legislative Priorities Briefing for interested FARM Policy Committee members and other stakeholders. Participants heard from the Maryland Food System Resiliency Council, the Virginia Food Access Coalition, and the DC Food Policy Council on policy and legislative priorities for the 2023 Virginia and Maryland General Assemblies and the next D.C. Council period.

**Winter Weather Conference** – COG's Department of Homeland Security and Public Safety hosted its annual Winter Weather Conference to help prepare the region for the upcoming winter season. Hundreds of partners attended the virtual conference, representing many local, state, and federal government agencies and transportation entities in the region. Participants were briefed on response plans, provided an overview of the revised *COG Winter Weather Plan*, and received an outlook for the season by the National Weather Service.

**Cyber Tabletop Exercise** – Emergency Preparedness Council (EPC) members met at COG for a cyber tabletop exercise developed with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA). The exercise was designed to improve EPC members' ability to prevent, detect, respond to, and recover from a significant cyber event.



**COG STREET SMART FALL CAMPGAIN KICKOFF**  
District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser and COG Executive Director Chuck Bean stand for a photo with area transportation leaders and crash survivors at campaign kickoff on November 17.

[Read the release.](#)

## MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

**Executive Director** – *Clark Mercer named next COG Executive Director.*

Washington Business Journal – Story features incoming COG Executive Director Clark Mercer, who lays out his plans for the organization.

Washington Post – Story quotes 2022 COG Board Chair Christian Dorsey.

**Roadway Safety** – *“How Safe Are Our Roads?” Report and TPB actions call attention to roadway safety in our region.*

WTOP – Story covers trends revealed in “How Safe Are Our Roads?” report, quotes WRAP CEO Kurt Erickson.

Virginia Mercury – 2022 TPB Chair and City of Manassas Vice-Mayor pens op-ed on transportation safety measures in the region.

**Housing** – *Advocacy and outreach continues on the need to increase region’s affordable housing stock.*

Washington Post – Editorial on affordable housing availability in the region quotes Chuck Bean.

Loudoun NOW – Article covers efforts across the region to increase affordable housing, quotes COG Housing Program Manager Hilary Chapman.



**PODCAST: ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS WITH COLLABORATION AND INNOVATION**  
Mayor Bowser, Montgomery County Chief of Services to Prevent and End Homelessness Amanda Harris, and Catholic Charities Executive Director of Homeless and Housing Services Amanda Chesney discuss progress made, the pandemic's impact, unique local challenges, and areas for further regional collaboration.

[Listen to the episode/read the transcript.](#)

## Clark Mercer, chief of staff to former Va. governor, to head Council of Governments

By Luz Lazo  
December 19, 2022



The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments announced Monday that Clark Mercer, the chief of staff to former Virginia governor Ralph Northam (D), will take over as its new executive director early next year.

The nonprofit council, whose 300 members include elected leaders from 24 Washington area jurisdictions, provides a platform on regional issues, including transportation, climate goals, emergency-response planning and economic development.

Mercer will succeed Chuck Bean, who has led the organization for 10 years and is stepping down in February. Mercer will start in mid-January, officials said.

COG Board Chair Christian Dorsey, who serves as vice chair of the Arlington County Board,

praised Mercer's experience bringing leaders together and brokering regional agreements as assets for the organization as it advances transportation, housing and climate goals.

Mercer "possesses all of the attributes that you could ask for to be a successful leader in our complex, tri-state region," Dorsey said. He said Mercer's background will serve the organization well as it pushes regional priorities in transportation, the environment, housing and land use planning, and public safety.

As chief of staff to Northam, Mercer was involved in major initiatives including the effort four years ago to lure Amazon to Northern Virginia and in the negotiations to secure dedicated funding for Metro, in partnership with the District and Maryland. Mercer served as Northam's chief of staff during his terms as lieutenant governor and then governor, and oversaw a staff of more than 300.

At COG, where he will oversee a 125-person staff and \$41 million budget, Mercer's primary role will be to support the Board of Directors and its policy committees. COG also staffs the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board, which develops the region's transportation vision and coordinates future transportation plans.

Mercer said Monday that he looks forward to moving ahead with the organization's key initiatives.

"A lot of great progress has been made in this region in recent years, but there's still a lot more to do to create the inclusive growth and sustainable future that we all want to achieve," he said.

Mercer is a native of Alexandria, Va., and serves as president of the Fall Line Consulting firm, which advises companies in the clean energy sector.

## **Clark Mercer, COG's incoming director, lays out his plans for the influential organization**

*Clark Mercer, an Alexandria native, wants to build bridges to tackle big issues.*

By Dan Brendel – Staff Reporter, Washington Business Journal

Dec 21, 2022

Clark Mercer will soon take the reins of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, a regional clearinghouse for big policy issues like transportation, land use and housing, with a focus on building long-term relationships across political jurisdictions, among other things.

The council, or COG, of which Mercer was selected Monday to replace Chuck Bean as executive director, calls itself “the hub for regional partnership.” It’s an independent association, not a governing body with legislative or regulatory power, overseen by elected officials from 24 local governments, including the District, plus Virginia and Maryland, which comprise its membership. COG also staffs the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board, a gatekeeper for big federal transportation dollars, and unelected but highly influential administrators and planners participate in its various committees. In these ways, though it has no policy teeth of its own, COG is considered to play an important role in fostering intergovernmental collaboration around major issues that transcend political boundaries.

Mercer’s focus on relationship building, and experience working across various aisles as former Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam’s chief of staff, suit him for the role, he told the Washington Business Journal in an interview Tuesday.

“You only build relationships through building them, and that takes time and it takes shared experience to build trust,” he said. But “time and pressure on a lot of issues can make a big difference,” he added, noting that he enjoys working “behind the scenes” to pull people together and “find consensus.”

“The next several months, I’ll be on the road a lot throughout the region, just building some of those relationships,” he said, referring to COG’s members and professional staff.

Having been a gubernatorial top staffer, Mercer has valuable experience working with elected officials and “people of varying interests and partisan sensibilities” in search of common ground, Christian Dorsey, COG’s chair and an Arlington county supervisor, said in an interview. Mercer sifted to the top of some 60 applicants for the executive director gig, Dorsey said, though he declined to name the other short-listers that COG’s board considered.

Dorsey said the board, which selected Mercer unanimously, sought someone who could undertake the leadership position “holistically,” rather than a subject-matter expert. Even so, Mercer easily fits the mold of progressive, urbanist policy wonk.

A Yale grad, he also holds master's in public policy from George Washington University. He's been an associate at the Urban Land Institute, where, according to his resume, he wrote and led seminars about "smart growth," a school of thought that generally emphasizes walkability, transit and environmental sustainability in urban planning and development. He's participated on various local government boards and commissions; worked as a research and policy deputy director in Sen. Mark Warner's campaign; served as a political director for the Democratic Party of Virginia; and, most recently, consulted on matters pertaining to clean energy, such as for Sun Tribe, a Charlottesville, Virginia, solar company.

Housing affordability, a subject that featured large in Mercer's graduate studies, also emerged as an issue he sees as a regional priority. "Having grown up in Alexandria, I see firsthand how difficult it is for people to own a home in the area, and that's gotten harder," he said, adding that affordability doesn't stand alone as a matter of concern. "If you have to go purchase a home that's 50, 70 miles outside of the region, and you have to drive it every day, that just compounds the traffic issues, which compound the environmental issues, and it just speaks to quality of life."

While he said he has "a lot of learning and listening to do" on the subject of housing, he's convinced that continued discussions about zoning reform are important. "If you want to have a diversity of housing stock — townhomes, rowhomes, apartments, condominiums — then the zoning needs to allow for that," he said, echoing a concern among many housing experts that areas should generally comprise a mix of housing types and tenure to accommodate folks of varying incomes and stages of life.

On transit, Mercer said he looks forward to helping Metro secure more funding. "It's clear that it needs it, it's clear that's critical for the region," he said. "Sitting down and mapping out a game plan for how to get there is something that I think COG can be incredibly helpful with as a partner to [Metro]."

The transit authority faces substantial structural budget challenges, likely to be addressed mainly through nonpermanent federal stopgaps, and collapsed ridership, which hasn't nearly recovered to pre-pandemic levels. Even as it's just opened a Silver Line extension that'll add to its operating and capital expenses.

In addition to focusing on age-old problems like housing and transit, "COG needs to continue to be forward looking, in terms of what policies are coming up that the region is going to face, and getting out in front of those," Mercer said.

COG might serve as "a real leader" in helping member jurisdictions secure their part of "an unprecedented amount of money that the federal government's looking to disperse," he said, referring primarily to the \$550 billion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act the President Joe Biden signed into law in November. Funding opportunities range from "transportation to broadband to urban forestry projects to small business programs," Mercer said, calling the moment "a once-in-a-couple-of-lifetimes opportunity."

Other issues Mercer said he'd like COG to have a hand in include attracting big businesses and diversifying the regional economy; planning for electric vehicle infrastructure; improving electric grid resiliency; helping local governments and public schools achieve returns from solar infrastructure investments; and advancing diversity, equity and inclusion, or DEI.

# **AGENDA ITEM #7**

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

## **AGENDA ITEM #8**

### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**



**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
777 North Capitol Street, NE  
Washington, D.C. 20002**

**MINUTES  
COG Board of Directors Special Meeting  
December 19, 2022  
Held Virtually by Webex**

**BOARD MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES:** See attached chart for attendance.

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

COG Board Chair Christian Dorsey called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Chair Dorsey stated the purpose of the meeting is to receive the report of the Executive Director Search Committee.

**3. AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA**

There were no amendments to the agenda.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Upon motion duly made and seconded, and the motion passing unanimously, the minutes of the November 9, 2022 Board meeting were approved.

**5. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Upon motion duly made and seconded, and the motion passing unanimously, the Board convened in executive session for discussion of a personnel matter related to the search for a new Executive Director.

Upon reconvening in open session, by a motion duly made and seconded, and passing unanimously, the Board approved Resolution R54-2022 appointing Stephen Clark Mercer as the new Executive Director to succeed Chuck Bean and approving an Employment Agreement with him.

**6. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

**7. ADJOURN**

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 11:06 A.M.

**December 19, 2022 Attendance**

<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Y/N</u>	<u>Alternate</u>	<u>Y/N</u>
<b><i>District of Columbia</i></b>				
<b>Executive</b>	Hon. Muriel Bowser		Ms. Beverly Perry Mr. Wayne Turnage Ms. Lucinda Babers	Y
	Mr. Kevin Donahue		Eugene Kinlow	Y
<b>Council</b>	Hon. Phil Mendelson		Robert C. White Jr.	Y
	<b><i>Hon. Charles Allen</i></b>	Y		
<b><i>Maryland</i></b>				
Bowie	Hon. Tim Adams			
Charles County	Hon. Reuben Collins	Y	Thomasina Coates Gilbert Bowling	
City of Frederick	Hon. Michael O'Connor	Y		
Frederick County	Hon. Jan Gardner		Ms. Joy Schaefer	Y
College Park	Hon. Denise Mitchell	Y	Hon. Patrick Wojahn	Y
Gaithersburg	Hon. Robert Wu	Y	Hon. Neil Harris	
Greenbelt	Hon. Emmett Jordan	Y	Hon. Kristen Weaver	
Laurel	Hon. Craig Moe	Y	Hon. Keith Sydnor	
Montgomery County				
<b>Executive</b>	Hon. Marc Elrich		Mr. Richard Madaleno Ms. Fariba Kassiri	Y
<b>Council</b>	Hon. Tom Hucker		Mr. Gene Smith	
	Hon. Nancy Navarro			
Prince George's County				
<b>Executive</b>	Hon. Angela Alsobrooks		Ms. Tara Jackson	
<b>Council</b>	Hon. Calvin Hawkins			
	Hon. Sydney Harrison			
Rockville	Hon. Bridget Donnell Newton			
Takoma Park	<b><i>Hon. Kate Stewart</i></b>		Hon. Peter Kovar	
Maryland General Assembly	Hon. Brian Feldman	Y		
<b><i>Virginia</i></b>				
Alexandria	Hon. Justin Wilson	Y	Hon. Kirk McPike	
Arlington County	<b><i>Hon. Christian Dorsey</i></b>	Y		
City of Fairfax	Hon. David Meyer	Y	Hon. Janice Miller	
Fairfax County	Hon. Jeff McKay		Hon. James Walkinshaw	
	Hon. Penelope Gross	Y	Hon. Daniel Storck	
	Hon. Rodney Lusk	Y	Hon. Walter Alcorn	
Falls Church	Hon. David Snyder	Y	Hon. David Tarter	
Loudoun County	Hon. Juli Briskman	Y		
Loudoun County	Hon. Phyllis Randall	Y		
Manassas	Hon. Mark Wolfe			
Manassas Park	Hon. Darryl Moore	Y		
Prince William County	Hon. Ann Wheeler	Y		
	Hon. Andrea Bailey	Y		
Virginia General Assembly	Hon. George Barker	Y		

1/4/2023 4:25 PM; total: 25

Y = present, voting

P = present as alternate in addition to primary

# **AGENDA ITEM #9**

## **ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

## ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

January 2023

### A. RESOLUTION RATIFYING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE APPROVAL TO MODIFY THE COG PENSION PLAN DATE

The board will be asked to ratify executive committee approval on December 20, 2022 to adopt Resolution R55-2022 authorizing modification of the COG pension plan date from the current July 1 – June 30 annual period to the new annual period of January 1 – December 31. This modification will align the pension plan's valuation date with the plan date in full conformity with the Governmental Accounting Standards Boards (GASB) rules. This change has no impact on benefits or funding obligations and was unanimously approved by the Pension Plan Advisory Committee. Staff is directed to make the plan date change in the pension plan documents.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Ratify Resolution R55-2022.**

### B. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING COG TO RECEIVE A GRANT TO FUND THE HOUSING AFFORDABILITY PLANNING PROGRAM (HAPP)

The board will be asked to adopt Resolution R4-2023 authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to receive and expend grant funds from the Amazon Housing Equity Fund in the amount of \$540,000 to support a second round of Housing Affordability Planning Program (HAPP) grant awards. Funding for this effort will be provided through a grant from the Amazon Housing Equity Fund. No COG matching funds are required.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt Resolution R4-2023.**

### C. RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING RECEIPT OF THE 2022 COG CONTRACT LIST

The board will be asked to adopt Resolution R5-2023 acknowledging receipt of the 2022 fourth quarter list of COG contracts (attached). As stated in the COG Procurement Policy, an annual list of contracts shall be delivered to the COG Board of Directors.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt Resolution R5-2023.**

### D. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING COG TO PROCURE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO CONDUCT A SITUATIONAL AWARENESS SOFTWARE EVALUATION

The board will be asked to adopt Resolution R6-2023 authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to receive and expend \$250,000 to conduct a situational awareness software and tool evaluation in the National Capital Region. As the Secretariat for the Urban Area Security Initiative for the National Capital Region, COG has been requested by the District of Columbia Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency to procure a contractor(s) and enter into a contract with IEM to conduct an in-depth evaluation of all the current situational awareness tools/software in use and provide an analysis of potential systems or tools to be implemented, consolidated, or eliminated. Funding for this effort will be provided through a subgrant from the State Administrative Agent (SAA) for the National Capital Region. No COG matching funds are required.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt Resolution R6-2023.**

**E. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING COG TO PROCURE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO PROVIDE MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS TO THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION FIXED LICENSE PLATE READER SYSTEM**

The board will be asked to adopt Resolution R7-2023 authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to enter into a contract with Selex ES, Inc. in the amount of \$150,000 to provide maintenance, updates and repairs to specified Fixed License Plate Reader sites throughout the region. Funds for this procurement are budgeted for in the Regional Public Safety Program License Plate Reader System Budget.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt Resolution R7-2023.**

**F. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING COG TO RECEIVE FUNDS TO SUPPORT THE CITY OF LAUREL WITH SUSTAINABILITY IMPLEMENTATION PLANNING**

The board will be asked to adopt Resolution R8-2023 authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to receive and expend funds from the City of Laurel in the amount of \$150,000. Funding will be used to develop a sustainability implementation plan for the City. COG will be required to provide a match of \$5,000, which is available in the budget of the Department of Environmental Programs.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt Resolution R8-2023.**



**Metropolitan Washington  
Council of Governments**

**Contract List 4th Quarter October 2022 - December 2022**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Contract #</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Vendor</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Note</b>
7/15/2021	23-102	Public Safety Training	Dieter's Close Quarters Defense, Inc.	\$ 12,000	Sole Source Training Consultant / Per session
10/26/2022	23-012	Alternative Water Sources Legislative Effort	Banner Public Affairs LLC	\$ 8,000	RFP award per month. Lobbying consulting
11/15/2022	23-011	Community Engagement Campaign Marketing Consultant	Dinsmore Research	\$ 17,900	RFP award.
11/28/2022	23-014	NCRNet Sharepoint 2016 Portal Migration	Longi Engineering, DPC	\$ 71,280	Sole Soure [IT]
10/28/2022	23-001C	HAPP Grants - Subrecipient Response to Call for Grants and Supporting Documents	College Park City - University Partnership of College Park, MD	\$ 75,000	Not to exceed [Amazon Grant]
12/15/2022	23-015	Physical Health & Wellness Program Services	O2X Human Performance LLC		RFP award - hourly rate for training sessions as needed. Cooperative contract.
12/15/2022	23-009	Equipment Procurement, Delivery and Installation for AMTRAK Engine Repower Project for the Metropolitan Washington Region II	National Railway Equipment Co.	\$ 3,970,800	EPA pass-through grant. Not to exceed \$1,985,400 per engine
10/12/2022	23-010-D	CONTRACTOR Support for Greenhouse Gas Inventories, Mitigation Planning and Implementation	AECOM Technical Services, Inc.		Master Contract for IDIQ environmental consulting region-wide. Task Order competed.
10/4/2022	23-010-E	CONTRACTOR Support for Greenhouse Gas Inventories, Mitigation Planning and Implementation	Tetra Tech, Inc.		Master Contract for IDIQ environmental consulting region-wide. Task Order competed.
		TOTAL		\$ 4,154,980	

# **AGENDA ITEM #10**

## **FY2022 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**Link to audit documents:**

**[https://www.mwcog.org/events/2023/1/11  
/cog-board-of-directors/](https://www.mwcog.org/events/2023/1/11/cog-board-of-directors/)**



Board of Directors  
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments  
Washington, DC

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2022, and have issued our report thereon dated December 30, 2022. We have previously communicated to you information about our responsibilities under auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, *Government Auditing Standards*, and Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance), as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit in our engagement letter dated March 29, 2022. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

### **Significant audit findings or issues**

#### ***Qualitative aspects of accounting practices***

##### *Accounting policies*

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by MWCOG are described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

As described in Note 1, MWCOG changed accounting policies by adopting Statement of Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB Statement) No. 87, *Lease Accounting*, effective July 1, 2021. Accordingly, the accounting change has been applied to the beginning of the adoption period.

We noted no transactions entered into by the entity during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

##### *Accounting estimates*

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. The most sensitive estimate(s) affecting the financial statements was:

- Management uses actuaries to estimate the pension asset/liability in accordance with appropriate government accounting standards. At June 30, 2022 and 2021, the net pension asset and liability was \$15.9 million and (\$65.9) million, respectively. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the pension liability in determining that they are reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.



**Financial statement disclosures**

Certain financial statement disclosures are particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statement users. There were no particularly sensitive financial statement disclosures.

The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear.

***Significant unusual transactions***

We identified no significant unusual transactions.

***Difficulties encountered in performing the audit***

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

***Uncorrected misstatements***

Professional standards require us to accumulate all misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Management did not identify and we did not notify them of any uncorrected financial statement misstatements.

***Corrected misstatements***

Management did not identify and we did not notify them of any financial statement misstatements detected as a result of audit procedures.

***Disagreements with management***

For purposes of this communication, a disagreement with management is a disagreement on a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditors' report. No such disagreements arose during our audit.

***Circumstances that affect the form and content of the auditors report***

As previously communicated to you, the report was modified to include an emphasis of matter paragraph to highlight the change in accounting principle related to the adoption of the new accounting guidance for leases as follows:

***Change in Accounting Principle***

As discussed in Note 1 to the financial statements, effective July 1, 2021, MWCOG adopted new accounting guidance for leases. The guidance requires lessees to recognize a right-to-use lease asset and corresponding lease liability and lessors to recognize a lease receivable and corresponding deferred inflow of resources for all leases with lease terms greater than twelve months. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

***Management representations***

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated December 30, 2022.

***Management consultations with other independent accountants***

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a “second opinion” on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the entity’s financial statements or a determination of the type of auditors’ opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants. We were informed by management that there were no consultations with other accountants.

***Significant issues discussed with management prior to engagement***

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to engagement as the entity’s auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our engagement.

***Significant findings or issues that were discussed, or the subject of correspondence, with management***

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year. We noted no significant findings or issues arising from the audit that were discussed, or the subject of correspondence, with management.

**Required supplementary information**

With respect to the required supplementary information (RSI) accompanying the financial statements, we made certain inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the RSI, including whether the RSI has been measured and presented in accordance with prescribed guidelines, whether the methods of measurement and preparation have been changed from the prior period and the reasons for any such changes, and whether there were any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation of the RSI. We compared the RSI for consistency with management’s responses to the foregoing inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge obtained during the audit of the basic financial statements. Because these limited procedures do not provide sufficient evidence, we did not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI.

**Supplementary information in relation to the financial statements as a whole**

With respect to the schedule of expenditures of federal awards (SEFA) accompanying the financial statements, on which we were engaged to report in relation to the financial statements as a whole, we made certain inquiries of management and evaluated the form, content, and methods of preparing the SEFA to determine that the SEFA complies with the requirements of the Uniform Guidance, the method of preparing it has not changed from the prior period or the reasons for such changes, and the SEFA is appropriate and complete in relation to our audit of the financial statements. We compared and reconciled the SEFA to the underlying accounting records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves. We have issued our report thereon dated December 30, 2022.

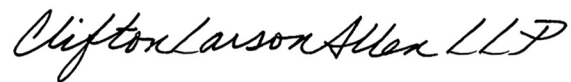
With respect to the Combining Pension Trust Fund Statement of Fiduciary Net Position and the Combining Pension Trust Fund Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position (collectively, the supplementary information) accompanying the financial statements, on which we were engaged to report in relation to the financial statements as a whole, we made certain inquiries of management and evaluated the form, content, and methods of preparing the information to determine that the information complies with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the method of preparing it has not changed from the prior period or the reasons for such changes, and the information is appropriate and complete in relation to our audit of the financial statements.

We compared and reconciled the supplementary information to the underlying accounting records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves. We have issued our report thereon dated December 30, 2022.

The Combining Pension Trust Fund Statement of Fiduciary Net Position and the Combining Pension Trust Fund Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position accompanying the financial statements, which is the responsibility of management, was prepared for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements. Such information was not subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements, and, accordingly, we did not express an opinion or provide any assurance on it.

\* \* \*

This communication is intended solely for the information and use of the Board of Directors and management of MWCOCG and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "CliftonLarsonAllen LLP".

**CliftonLarsonAllen LLP**

Baltimore, Maryland  
December 30, 2022

Resolution R9-2023  
January 11, 2023

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
777 NORTH Capitol Street, N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20002**

**RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE FY-2022 AUDIT AND AUTHORIZATION OF THE EXTENSION OF THE  
INDEPENDENT AUDIT FIRM'S CONTRACT TO PERFORM THE FY-2023 AUDIT**

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with COG's procedures and in compliance with requirements established by the Federal Government for recipients of grants and other financial assistance programs, COG engages an independent certified public accounting firm to conduct an annual fiscal year-end audit; and

**WHEREAS**, the Audit Committee recommends acceptance of the FY-2022 audit report and unqualified opinion prepared by the independent audit firm CLA, LLP; and

**WHEREAS**, based on the annual performance assessment, the Audit Committee recommends extension of the audit firm's contract for the FY-2023 audit.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS THAT:**

1. The Board hereby accepts the FY-2022 Audit prepared by CLA, LLP, as presented by the Audit Committee.
2. The Executive Director, or his designee, at the direction of the Audit Committee, is hereby authorized to engage CLA, LLP to conduct the annual fiscal year-end audit for FY-2023 and prepare the annual Form 990 not-for-profit tax return, at a cost not to exceed \$75,000.

# **AGENDA ITEM #11**

## **2023 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**



## COG Guidelines for Legislative and Regulatory Advocacy

(Adopted by the COG Board of Directors on January 9, 2019)

### Development of Legislative Priorities

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) has recognized the need to continue and strengthen its relationship with state and federal officials. Each year the COG Board appoints a Legislative Committee made up of representatives of each of the COG boards and policy committees. The Legislative Committee works with COG staff to develop a set of legislative priorities for the upcoming year and legislative sessions. The legislative priorities include issues of legislative importance that the COG jurisdictions want to advocate for on behalf of the region. The Legislative Committee puts forth recommended priorities that are adopted by the full COG Board. These priorities are then used as the official legislative, regulatory, and policy positions of COG for advocacy and educational efforts at the local, state, and federal level.

### Guidelines for Legislative and Regulatory Advocacy

Once adopted by the COG Board, the Legislative Priorities represent the official position of the Council of Governments and are used to communicate our priorities by all COG boards and committees. The following advocacy guidelines should be followed with any related actions and communications by COG.

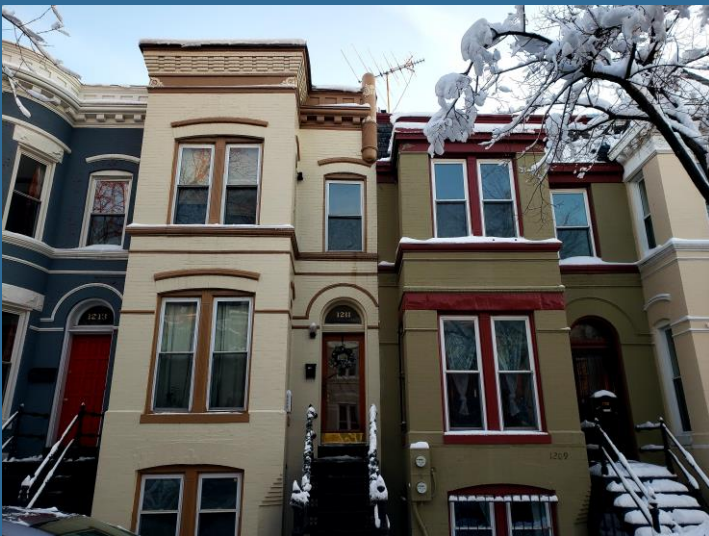
- 1. Advocacy Positions Approved in the Legislative Priorities:** The Legislative Priorities adopted annually by the COG Board serve as the official positions of COG including all boards and committees. Subject to being consistent with COG's role as a non-profit, any position approved in the Legislative Priorities document has approval to be advocated on by individual committees and COG staff throughout the year. This includes verbal advocacy, written communications, and electronic communications on related bills, actions and policies. Official positions from the COG Board should be signed by the Board Chair. Official positions approved in the Legislative Priorities can also be used by individual committees and boards and can be signed by the corresponding committee or board chair.
- 2. Advocacy Positions Not Approved in the Legislative Priorities:** Occasionally advocacy issues or interests emerge that are not included in the annual Legislative Priorities. Any advocacy efforts on behalf of the COG Board of Directors, boards or policy committees that are not previously approved in the legislative priorities must receive individual approval from the COG Board. This includes verbal advocacy, written communications, and electronic communications on related bills, actions and policies. Therefore, if any member or policy committee requests that COG take a position on a specific issue, it must first be approved by the COG Board. Time sensitive issues can be approved by the COG Board Executive Committee. If the advocacy is in the form of a written communication the Board Chair may decide whether to sign it or designate authority to the appropriate policy committee chair.

Any legislative or regulatory advocacy must be shared with and approved by the Executive Office prior to distribution/action. The Executive Office will work with the Office of Communications as needed to ensure COG message and format consistency, and proper documentation for archiving.

# LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Supporting the region's transportation funding, housing, water quality, climate and energy innovation, air quality, human services, public health preparedness, homeland security, food security, infrastructure investment and incorporating local government input and equity considerations across all sectors

January 2023 DRAFT



Metropolitan Washington  
**Council of Governments**

## **LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

Adopted by the COG Board of Directors on:

## **ABOUT COG**

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) is an independent, nonprofit association that brings area leaders together to address major regional issues in the District of Columbia, suburban Maryland, and Northern Virginia. COG's membership is comprised of 300 elected officials from 24 local governments, the Maryland and Virginia state legislatures, and U.S. Congress.

## **CREDITS**

COG 2023 Legislative Committee: Kate Stewart, COG Board of Directors (Committee Chair); Anita Bonds, Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee; Reuben Collins, Transportation Planning Board; Penelope Gross, Region Forward Coalition; Calvin Hawkins, Human Services Policy Committee; Maria Mackie, Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Committee; Jon Stehle, Food and Agriculture Regional Member Policy Committee; Patrick Wojahn, Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee

Editor: Monica Beyrouti Nunez

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## **ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY**

Alternative formats of this document are available upon request. Visit [www.mwcog.org/accommodations](http://www.mwcog.org/accommodations) or call (202) 962-3300 or (202) 962-3213 (TDD).

## **TITLE VI NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY**

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) operates its programs without regard to race, color, and national origin and fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes and regulations prohibiting discrimination in all programs and activities. For more information, to file a Title VI related complaint, or to obtain information in another language, visit [www.mwcog.org/nondiscrimination](http://www.mwcog.org/nondiscrimination) or call (202) 962-3300.

El Consejo de Gobiernos del Área Metropolitana de Washington (COG) opera sus programas sin tener en cuenta la raza, el color, y el origen nacional y cumple con el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964 y los estatutos y reglamentos relacionados que prohíben la discriminación en todos los programas y actividades. Para más información, presentar una queja relacionada con el Título VI, u obtener información en otro idioma, visite [www.mwcog.org/nondiscrimination](http://www.mwcog.org/nondiscrimination) o llame al (202) 962-3300.



# TRANSPORTATION FUNDING, PLANNING, AND CONNECTIVITY

## Support Fixing the Deficit in the Federal Transportation Trust Fund (TTF)

Since 2008, the TTF revenue has been insufficient to fund the congressionally authorized surface transportation program. These shortfalls have been closed with transfers from general fund and other short-term measures, including the recently enacted reauthorization for federal transportation spending through the Infrastructure Investment Jobs Act (IIJA). Support addressing this structural deficit and systemic imbalance of the TTF revenues as a top priority to provide certainty of federal funding for the surface transportation program and ensure that any fix to the TTF revenue structure retains all of the programs included in the 2021 IIJA and fully funds them at levels authorized or previously envisioned.

## Support Federal Funding for the Region's Metrorail System

The Metrorail system is the centerpiece of metropolitan Washington transportation system and supports the backbone of its economy. Almost half of all federal employees use the Metrorail and bus system to commute to work. The federal government should act to permanently provide its share of both operating and capital funding for the Metrorail system that its employees and the region depend on. Specifically, support making the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act (PRIIA) funding permanent to fund the federal government's annual appropriations for Metro's capital improvement budget and designate additional federal operating funds to enable Metro to implement fare relief programs on its rail and bus services to address inequities experienced by the traditionally underserved transit dependent population.

## Support Funding for Next Generation Transportation Systems

The need for a more efficient and safer means of transportation is imperative to help achieve the nation's safety, energy-efficiency, and environmental goals. Electric and Hydrogen fuel vehicles and semi and fully autonomous vehicles are critical elements of delivering safe, efficient, and environmentally sustainable mobility. The private sector has made significant investments to advance the use of vehicles using alternative modes of energy and technology assisted vehicle operations. Significant public sector investments are needed to prepare transportation infrastructure to be able to utilize and support the new technology to build the next generation of transportation systems where travel is more efficient and safer. Support the continuation of federal funding for building electric vehicle infrastructure, beyond the term of the Infrastructure Investment Jobs Act.

## Support Traffic Incident Management Improvements

Support state and federal policy changes to improve regional traffic incident management by updating regional agreements to increase the consistency of traffic incident management laws. Specifically, support legal and policy changes to designate transportation incident responders as emergency responders, allowing the use of flashing lights and sirens to get to incident scenes across state lines more quickly. Encourage federal, state, and local governments to negotiate an agreement for funding and deployment of roadway service patrols on federal parkways and other critical major roads not currently benefiting from such patrols.

## **Support the Visualize 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan**

The region has identified a set of strategies to help improve mobility, accessibility while also contributing to improving regional air quality and help reduce greenhouse gases. These goals and aspirational initiatives endorsed by the region's Transportation Planning Board as part of *Visualize 2045*: Reduce transportation sector's greenhouse gasses to 50 percent below 2005 levels by 2023; Bring jobs and housing closer together; Expand bus rapid transit and transit ways; Move more people on Metrorail; Provide more telecommuting and other options for commuting; Expand express highway network with bus rapid transit and carpools exempt from tolls; Improve walk and bike access to transit; and Complete the National Capital Trail. Support actions at the state and federal level to fund projects and programs and enactment of policies that help realize the TPB's goals and aspirational initiatives.

## **Support the repeal of current participation limitations on WMATA Board of Directors Alternates**

Support the repeal of VA Code § 33.2-1526.1(L) which currently results in a reduction of funding if WMATA Alternate Directors participate in board or committee meetings when directors are present. After amendment of this statute, support the amendment of WMATA Bylaws Article II.11 and Article III.3.a, and otherwise as necessary, to allow Alternate Directors to participate in all board and committee meetings irrespective of the presence of the alternate's respective Director. The current limitations on Alternate Directors restricts their ability to access the necessary information and knowledge to effectively serve in their roles as WMATA Board Alternate Directors.

# CLIMATE AND ENERGY INNOVATION & AIR QUALITY PROTECTION

## Support Policies to Meet the Region's Climate Goals

Expand funding, programs, and legislation at federal, state, and local levels to help meet the region's medium- and long-term climate change goals. Ensure that local governments are recognized and given opportunities to provide timely and meaningful input on climate and clean energy programs.

## Support Multi-Sector Actions to Reduce Greenhouse gases

The region and its member jurisdictions are committed to addressing the adverse impacts of climate change including reducing the amount of harmful greenhouse gases (GHG) released in the atmosphere. Support actions across all sectors to help meet the region's 2030 climate and energy goals. Support federal engagement and continued funding to monitor the impacts of climate investment programs and GHG performance measures.

## Ensure Sustainable Secure Energy Access for All

Advocate for state and federal actions to enhance access to secure, affordable clean energy. Prioritize and protect funding for energy-sector infrastructure to improve affordability, resilience and reliability. Support policies, funding, and incentives for energy efficiency improvements such as microgrids, district energy systems, and clean energy storage technology. Emphasize the need for deployment and workforce development in low-income, energy-burdened, and vulnerable communities to ensure a just and equitable climate future for all.

## Support Aggressive State Renewable Portfolio Standards

State Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) are the most successful method of increasing the amount of renewable electricity generated within a grid system and drives greater deployment of renewable energy projects. Protect existing and advocate for more aggressive state RPS and the innovative policies and programs, business models, and funding opportunities that support meeting the RPS, such as supporting a strong REC market, solar carve-outs in RPS policies, offshore wind, Community Choice Aggregation, and community solar opportunities for energy-burdened households.

## Expand Clean Energy Innovation, Technology and Finance

Encourage and support investment in energy innovation across sectors to increase energy efficiency and transition to clean energy sources. Expand options for and improve access to clean energy finance at the state and local levels such as green banks. Foster cost effective and efficient market frameworks, reasonable regulatory frameworks, business model innovation incentives and partnerships that expand the adoption of energy efficient and zero energy building codes, building benchmarking, clean energy technologies and infrastructure, and zero-emission vehicles.

## Support Aggressive Energy Efficiency Goals

Encourage and support state, county, and local energy efficiency programs to reduce energy usage, costs, and associated greenhouse gas emissions. Advocate for aggressive initiatives to target households with high energy burdens. Prioritize weatherization, deep energy retrofits, and retro-commissioning programs to achieve the highest possible energy performance and preferably zero energy buildings within Equity Emphasis Areas and climate vulnerable communities of concern.

## **Enhance Incentives and Financing Mechanisms for Resilient Infrastructure**

Support legislation, incentives, financing, and funding mechanisms to support deployment of grey and green infrastructure resilient to extreme heat, flooding, and other climate hazards. Priority resilient infrastructure initiatives include the establishment of resilience hubs in climate vulnerable communities, improve the resilience of critical infrastructure (transportation, communication, energy and water system assets), equitably address urban heat island, enhance green infrastructure networks, provide for tree planting and preservation on privately owned lands, and implement measures to reduce flood risk in climate vulnerable communities.

## **Support Policies that Preserve and Protect Regional Air Quality and Public Health**

Support strong policies, regulations, and funding necessary to preserve improvements in air quality and strengthen the region's ability to meet current and future air quality standards that are protective of public health and welfare. Support local member efforts to identify and implement initiatives to reduce air pollution. Support regulatory actions to monitor and reduce air pollution transport into the region.

# WATER QUALITY PROTECTION

## **Support Investments in Water Infrastructure**

Support sustained and expanded funding for federal water quality programs, including the EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program, the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA), Water Resources and Development Act (WRDA) and for state programs including grants for local governments and water utilities, state revolving funds (SRFs), and stormwater local assistance funds. Ensure that local water infrastructure investments to meet water quality permit load allocations and handle future population and economic growth are protected. Invest in workforce training and development to ensure the availability of skilled workers to fill water sector jobs.

## **Support Climate and Flood Resiliency Initiatives**

Support funding to address robust climate change analysis, adaptation and resiliency planning, flood control and management, drought management, and development and coordinated implementation of local best practices.

## **Ensure Stormwater Regulatory Feasibility**

Support actions that provide for a feasible pace for future MS4 stormwater permits and reasonable reporting requirements.

## **Ensure Local Government Input**

Ensure that local governments and wastewater and drinking water utilities are given opportunities to provide timely and meaningful input on legislation and management decisions affecting the Chesapeake Bay and local water quality.

## **Support Affordability and Regulatory Flexibility**

Support cost-effective scheduling and financing of water quality programs, including streamlining permits, flexibility to achieve nutrient and sediment reduction across wastewater, stormwater, and other sectors, affordability of water, and full funding for agricultural conservation programs.

## **Support Water Supply Security**

Support water quality security and resiliency through research, planning, and programs and drinking water source protection policies and programs to ensure a resilient, reliable and clean drinking water supply for the region.

## **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC RESOURCES**

### **Support Efforts to Equitably Increase the Supply of Housing and Promote Housing Affordability**

Support legislation and programs (such as expansion of the nine percent Low Income Housing Tax Credit allocation and increased HOME funding) to preserve and increase the supply of housing and housing choices to address the full spectrum of needs in our region. Ensure that a sufficient supply of housing is preserved and created as outlined in COG's 2030 Regional Housing Initiative targets, that provides a diverse range of housing units, including size and price points that are affordable for our residents in the region's identified Activity Centers and Equity Emphasis Areas. Encourage new financing tools and innovative regulatory reforms that result in the production of a greater variety of housing types and eliminate exclusionary zoning practices. Support legislation, policies, and practices that increase access to opportunity, reverse segregation, and create inclusive communities in concert with efforts to increase supply overall.

### **Support Efforts to Prevent and End the Experience of Homelessness**

Work with federal, state, and local Continuums of Care throughout the region to ensure that the experience of homelessness is rare, brief, and nonrecurring through implementation of a racial equity - informed "Housing First" approach. Support increasing the supply of deeply affordable and supportive housing with wrap-around services that promote housing stability and independent living. Voice the need for additional HUD funding for Housing Choice Vouchers to meet the need for permanent housing options as well as robust state and federal resources for local governments to provide necessary supports, such as case management, housing counseling and navigator services to protect vulnerable residents. To prevent a significant increase in evictions and people experiencing homelessness, support continued financial rental assistance and legal aid to tenants, landlords, and moderate-income homeowners after the lifting of local and federal eviction moratoriums put in place during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

### **Support Alignment of Workforce Development and Job Creation**

Support federal legislation to focus on workforce development and job creation at the local level, and efforts to develop industry standard credentialing and skills programs for sectors experiencing job growth in the region. Support legislation and programs that fund local job development, career and technical education, and overall, more closely align education and job creation.

### **Support Local Governments and Activity Centers**

Work with local governments to support sound land use planning which focuses on employer retention and new job growth in the region's mixed-use Activity Centers.

# FOOD SECURITY, HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

## Strengthen Programs that Support Childhood Nutrition and Well-Being

Use federal, state, and local legislative efforts to make access to school meals free for all students. Extend, expand, and simplify programs such as Summer EBT and the Summer Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP). Enhance and expand the Women Infants and Children (WIC) Program. Support other policies which reduce childhood poverty and food insecurity. Strengthen farm-to-school programs and investments to connect the region's farmers with schools and childcare facilities. Support policies to provide healthier food and drink options on restaurants' children menus.

## Improve Food Security and Healthy Food Access

Support federal, state and local initiatives to increase food and cash assistance to residents in need, including children, college students, adults and seniors. Increase participation in federal benefit programs, streamline program administration and support and evaluate innovative initiatives to serve residents not eligible for federal programs. Make permanent funding increases to SNAP to address food inflation and participants' nutritional needs, including reauthorization of the Farm Bill. Support the on-going modernization of SNAP to include increasing information security for SNAP participants and decreasing the incidence of SNAP outages. Create a means to replace funds for participants experiencing fraud or theft. Enhance SNAP acceptance among small and or local vendors through technology innovation and dissemination. Support policies and investments that address disparities in rates of food insecurity in people of color, including Black and Hispanic/Latino households. Increase investments in programs that improve access to local and regional healthy food, including access on college campuses, at food banks and pantries, farmers markets and CSAs, food hubs, grocery, and in food as medicine programs. Recognize the hunting and fishing rights of indigenous people.

## Support Small Farmers and Food System Resilience

Address issues such as Heirs Property which contributes to land loss among low-income people. Support local government efforts to increase farmland preservation, protect agricultural soils, and support programs that facilitate land transition to the next generation of small farmers. Center the unique experiences of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) in legislative proposals, and policy and program development to facilitate greater access to land ownership, capital, and markets. Invest in regional food system infrastructure and capacity to increase resilience.

## Support Local Food Entrepreneurs, Businesses, and Workforce Development

Strengthen programs that support entrepreneurialism, workforce development, and living wages in the regional food economy. Invest in local business development and ownership and target those investments to help address long-standing food system inequities faced by communities of color. Create career pipelines for food and agriculture workers and improve the health and safety of work environments.

## **Support Efforts to Combat Substance Use Disorders**

Work with local, state, and federal partners to increase resources to combat substance use disorders, including opioids, throughout the region which may include improving access to treatment and recovery services, promoting prevention education, reducing the stigma of drug disorders, supporting research on pain management, and ensuring awareness of overdose-reversing drugs.

## **Increase Availability of and Access to Mental Health Services**

Work with local, state, and federal partners to increase access to and availability of mental health services throughout the region to include psychiatric hospital beds, counseling, telehealth, and other outpatient services; support culturally competent providers from diverse backgrounds; develop communication strategies to combat mental health stigma and promote mental wellness throughout communities; continued expansion of crisis intervention, mental health courts, and diversion programs, where treatment is indicated rather than incarceration, especially for at-risk youth; and re-entry programs to reduce recidivism rates of mental health consumers.



# HOMELAND SECURITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY

## Public Health Response

Support funding for public health to prevent, prepare for, and respond to public health emergencies and pandemics, such as the COVID-19 crisis. Leverage new and existing funding mechanisms that would provide resources to carry out public health surveillance, reporting, infection control, vaccine distribution, laboratory testing, mass care, planning and exercises, communications and other public health activities. Invest in an adequate workforce capacity and capability to support public health infrastructure. Enact and support the development of more secure supply chain networks, with a focus on vulnerable populations, as it relates to personal protective equipment (PPE) and other life safety equipment used in the response of pandemics.

## Support Cybersecurity Preparedness Initiatives

Support cybersecurity programs and initiatives that advance and improve cyber preparedness and response to current and emerging threats. Work with local and state partners to develop resiliency against future cybersecurity attacks and other virtual threats targeted at our citizens and the information technology infrastructure of our communities.

## Support Regional Emergency Preparedness

Continue to support emergency response preparedness programs that advance and improve response preparedness to existing and emerging threats. Work with local and state partners to maximize the region's share of federal grant funds and use these funds to promote value added outcomes that continue to increase capacity, capability, and developed standards for regional response in the National Capital Region.

## Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Funding

The National Capital Region (NCR) receives UASI funding for efforts to address the multi-discipline planning, organization, equipment, training, and exercise needs of high-threat, high-density urban areas, and to assist in building and sustaining capabilities to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from threats or acts of terrorism using the whole community approach. As funding allocations are assessed, policy makers should recognize the complexity of challenges in the NCR that directly impact Federal government operations and security and support an increase in UASI funding to our region to effectively address the unique nexus of U.S. Federal, state, local, and international operations.

## STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

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Resolution R10-2023  
January 11, 2023

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
777 NORTH CAPITOL STREET, NE  
WASHINGTON, DC 20002**

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE COG 2023 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

**WHEREAS**, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) is comprised of the 24 jurisdictions of the National Capital Region's local governments and their governing officials, plus area members of the Maryland and Virginia legislatures and the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, and COG provides a focus for action on issues of regional concern; and

**WHEREAS**, the draft 2023 Legislative Priorities have been reviewed by the individual policy committees and the 2023 Legislative Committee; and

**WHEREAS**, the COG Board has received and reviewed the draft 2023 Legislative Priorities; and

**WHEREAS**, the draft 2023 Legislative Priorities addresses the main issues the COG Board of Directors wants to communicate to state and federal officials as important concerns during the upcoming legislative session; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to communicate the annual priorities in a consistent manner staff developed Guidelines for Legislative and Regulatory Advocacy to ensure that all advocacy efforts are under the direction of the COG Board of Directors.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS THAT:**

The board adopts the 2023 Legislative Priorities and directs its Executive Director, or his designee, to distribute the priorities to the appropriate state and federal officials representing areas of the COG member jurisdictions.

# **AGENDA ITEM #12**

## **REGIONAL HOMELESS SERVICES RACIAL EQUITY & SYSTEMS ANALYSIS**

## REGIONAL HOMELESS SERVICES RACIAL EQUITY AND SYSTEMS ANALYSIS

The Homeless Services Committee's racial equity systems analysis will closely review each of the nine jurisdictions' CoC (Continuum of Care) operations and provide guidance on how to center racial equity in our shared efforts to end the experience of homelessness. The process and outcome will be geared towards producing a holistic and integrated system, as opposed to simply making recommendations for equity 'add-ons.'

Participating jurisdictions:

- City of Alexandria
- Arlington County
- District of Columbia
- Fairfax County
- City of Frederick
- Frederick County
- Loudoun County
- Montgomery County
- Prince George's County

The analysis is being conducted by [C4 Innovations](#), known nationally for their [SPARC study](#) of research into racial equity in homelessness.

The final deliverable will be a set of concrete recommendations for actions that each CoC can take at a local level and collectively as a region to create a more racially equitable approach to ending the experience of homelessness.

These recommendations will identify how existing CoC policy and practice may contribute to outcomes that compound disparities seen within the homeless services system in the metropolitan Washington region and provide concrete actions to remedy them.

The final recommendations are anticipated from the consultant by February 2023.

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
777 NORTH CAPITOL STREET, NE  
WASHINGTON, DC 20002**

**RESOLUTION ENDORSING EXPANSION OF REGIONAL COORDINATION EFFORTS TO PREVENT AND  
END HOMELESSNESS**

**WHEREAS**, the Human Services Policy Committee provides policy recommendations on health, housing, homelessness, and other critical human service needs to the COG Board of Directors; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2000, COG's Homeless Services Planning and Coordinating Committee conducted the first annual regional Point-in-Time count of persons experiencing homelessness, prior to HUD requiring an annual count, in order to measure progress towards ending homelessness; and

**WHEREAS**, COG's Homeless Services Planning and Coordinating Committee comes together regularly to facilitate cooperation and regional conversations on solutions to homelessness; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2015, Prince George's County Executive Rushern Baker, Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett, and District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser came together to sign a Regional Compact to End Homelessness in their respective jurisdictions; and

**WHEREAS**, at the 2016 COG Leadership Retreat, participants were briefed on this regional compact and discussed potential regional coordinating actions to end homelessness; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2017, COG facilitated the creation of a data sharing agreement among the District of Columbia, Montgomery County and Prince George's County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Human Services Policy Committee and Homeless Services Planning and Coordinating Committee seek to expand and build upon these concrete steps to improve housing outcomes across Continuums of Care to more effectively end a person's housing crisis; and

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic recession has heightened the need to maximize limited local government resources effectively across the region to both prevent and end the experience of homelessness; and

**WHEREAS**, the Human Services Policy Committee seeks to highlight promising opportunities developed within our communities to improve health and housing outcomes for all residents of the metropolitan Washington region.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE METROPOLITAN  
WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS THAT:**

The Human Services Policy Committee (HSPC) has a goal to work together collaboratively to prevent and end the experience of homelessness in the metropolitan Washington region. To achieve this goal, the HSPC has adopted a regional vision and mission as follows below:

VISION: To create a cross-jurisdictional, client-centered approach to ending the experience of homelessness by identifying and breaking down barriers to get people the resources they need.

MISSION: By openly sharing and analyzing data across jurisdictions and coordinating cases, we can identify gaps in both emergency shelter and housing and effectively advocate for resources to bring an end to homelessness in the metropolitan Washington region.

To achieve this regional vision, the COG Board of Directors supports the HSPC recommendation that all COG member jurisdictions consider implementing the following actions to the greatest extent possible:

1. **Data Sharing:** Create a data sharing system, using as an example, the existing data sharing agreement among Prince George's County, Montgomery County, and the District of Columbia, to include all COG jurisdictions. To the extent permissible, this data sharing agreement would allow jurisdictions to share Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data and by-name lists across the region.
2. **Regular Reporting:** Develop a regional protocol to ensure consistent reporting of key metrics to demonstrate the true regional need for housing resources. This may include the development of a regional dashboard to share information on issues such as shelter bed utilization rates and tracking client turn away's at shelters across Continuums of Care, as needed.
3. **Regional By-Name Tracking and Case Coordination:** Develop a regional protocol to identify residents who may be on multiple coordinated entry by-name priority lists for permanent housing to most efficiently resolve a person's experience of homelessness. This may include building on existing regional coordination for the veteran subpopulation (including having points of contact and a process to connect people with needed supportive services) to create a cross-jurisdictional protocol for coordinating cases for all other persons experiencing homelessness.
4. **Residency Requirements:** Align residency requirements across the COG region to ensure that people are better able to have their housing needs met.
5. **Racial Equity:** With the assistance of outside consultants, prepare a region-wide homeless systems audit to ensure that efforts to prevent and end homelessness are grounded in racial equity and existing structural inequities are not compounded within the current systems of care.

**I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT the foregoing resolutions were adopted by the COG Board of Directors  
January 13, 2021  
Janele Partman  
COG Communications Specialist**

# **AGENDA ITEM #13**

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**AGENDA ITEM #14**

**OTHER BUSINESS**



# **AGENDA ITEM #15**

**ADJOURN**