



Legislation Text

File #: HCC-142-FY21, **Version:** 1

Submitted by: Candace B. Hollingsworth
Submitting Department: Legislative
Agenda Section: Consent

Item Title:

Implementing Participatory Budgeting

Suggested Action:

I move that the Mayor and Council establish an ad hoc advisory committee to develop recommendations for a plan to establish a participatory budgeting process beginning with the FY23 budget.

Summary Background:

Participatory Budgeting is a process whereby residents are given authority over the spending of a portion of a municipal budget. Since 2015, the City of Hyattsville has increased engagement with residents in the development of the city's budget with strategies that mirror those common to participatory budgeting. This will establish a working group responsible for providing recommendations to the Mayor and Council for enacting participatory budgeting beginning with the FY23 budget.

The ad hoc advisory committee shall consist of at least one member of each of the city's existing committees (including the Teen Activity Center) and up to two (2) Hyattsville residents who are not currently sitting on a City board, task force, or committee. In the event a committee is unable to select a representative to serve on the ad hoc committee, that position may be vacant or filled with an additional unaffiliated, Hyattsville resident. To ensure diversity and equity in representation (gender, ability, race/ethnic, geographical, etc.), the committee may, with the Council's approval, solicit additional members to achieve balance. The committee may conduct such activities as necessary to obtain input to inform their recommendations. Costs for such activities shall not exceed \$2,500.

The recommendations must be presented to the Mayor and Council no later than June 30, 2021. The recommendations shall be considered and adopted-partially or in full-by the Mayor and Council no later than September 30, 2021.

Next Steps:

Council discussion.

Fiscal Impact:

No fiscal impact for FY21.

City Administrator Comments:

The staff welcomes comments and suggestions from residents who are interested in the budgeting process and willing to provide recommendations on engaging the community. Expanded engagement will improve our decision making and help us allocate scarce taxpayer dollars to services, programs and facilities that impact the community's quality of life. In the past, we have used surveys, workshops, meetings, the planning process and online queries to identify community needs. All have yielded some helpful feedback, but we are hopeful that the ad hoc committee will have new and creative ideas to improve outreach and engagement.

Community Engagement:

Meetings of the ad hoc committee will be open to the public.

Strategic Goals:

Goal 1 - Ensure Transparent and Accessible Governance

Legal Review Required?

N/A