

Montgomery Planning

BRIEFING ON EQUITY AGENDA FOR PLANNING



Description

Staff will provide a briefing on the Montgomery County Planning Department's Equity Agenda for Planning

MCPB ITEM #8

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Planning Staff

[Montgomeryplanning.org](https://montgomeryplanning.org)



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Overview

The purpose of this briefing is to provide the Planning Board with an overview of the Montgomery County Planning Department's [Equity Agenda for Planning](#) that was developed and adopted in 2020. The department recognizes that historic and ongoing disparities, including from land use decisions, have resulted in unequal access to resources, opportunities, and quality of life, particularly for Black and other residents of color in the county. By placing equity at the forefront of its work program and operations, Montgomery Planning aims to rectify these imbalances and create a more just and inclusive community for all residents.

The initiative stems from a deep commitment to racial equity, social justice, and inclusivity in the planning process. As the American Planning Association states, "Planning for Equity means applying an equity lens—for just and fair inclusion into a society in which all can participate, prosper, and reach their full potential—to everything planners do. From the way planners work with community members creating a shared vision for their neighborhoods to advocating for policies that connect people to opportunities at the local, state, and federal levels, planning for equity is planning for all." The Montgomery County Planning Department, as part of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), is also supporting M-NCPPC's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion for the residents we serve through this initiative. Additionally, Montgomery Planning's Equity in Planning initiative helps support the Planning Board's compliance with the county's Racial Equity and Social Justice law requirement that the Board consider the impact of a master plan on racial equity and social justice in the county while reviewing those plans.

The Equity Agenda for Planning provides direction, tools, and strategies to support Planning Department staff in incorporating racial equity and social justice considerations in the planning process, including through equitable community engagement, data analysis, and plan development, and in operating as a department. The briefing will cover individual action items that have been completed since 2020 or are underway and ongoing work that is embedded into our planning process and department operations. The Planning Department's [Equity Agenda for Planning](#) webpage also has further information and links to resources, several of which will be discussed during the briefing.