



MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

JAMILA H. WINDER, CHAIR

NEIL K. MAKHIJA, VICE CHAIR

THOMAS DIBELLO, COMMISSIONER

## **PUBLIC COMMENT GUIDELINES FOR BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETINGS**

All meetings of the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners are open to the public and public comment is welcome as it pertains to county business. Public comment is accepted on matters of concern, official action or deliberation which are or may be before the Board of Commissioners prior to taking official action. In the interest of completing county business in a timely manner and hearing all public comment as it relates to county business, the following guidelines are in place for public comment:

### **Guidelines**

- All speakers should sign into the meeting on the sheet available in the back of the room or, if the meeting is virtual, register in advance if they wish to give public comment.
- Those seeking to speak must identify the subject matter of their comments.
- All speakers must come to the podium if they are physically able (if the comments are in-person).
- Speakers should identify themselves by name and municipality.
- Speakers will have a 3 minute time limit to comment on matters that are or may be before the Board of Commissioners. Speakers may present comment once during the meeting.
- Time limits will be monitored and County staff will respectfully request speakers to conclude their comments if the speaker goes beyond the time allotted.
- All public comments must be relevant, or “germane,” to County business. Under the law, this means that the subject matter of all comments must be limited to items or issues which are currently before the Commissioners for consideration, or which may come before the Commissioners for consideration at a future meeting. Whether a matter is germane to County business is a determination to be made by the County Solicitor.
- The Board is not required to respond to public comments during the course of the meeting, so the public is reminded that it is not an opportunity for dialogue or Q&A.
- The Board Chair may direct appropriate County staff to follow up on any questions or additional comments after the meeting.
- Disruptive behavior, including (but not limited to) yelling from the seats, arguing whether a matter is germane to County business once the Solicitor has made a determination on such, or refusing to yield the floor once time has elapsed and being requested to sit down, shall be grounds for removal from the meeting (or being muted if the speaker is virtual) without further admonishment or warning.
- The Commissioners always welcome written correspondence, comments, and feedback at [commissioners@montgomerycountypa.gov](mailto:commissioners@montgomerycountypa.gov).