



## CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) – STATE OF EMERGENCY OPEN MEETING PROCEDURES

The current state of emergency has required the Housing Opportunities Commission of Montgomery County (“HOC”) to change its standard open meeting operating procedures. These State of Emergency Open Meeting Procedures (“Emergency Procedures”) are designed to provide the public with the best possible opportunity to observe the conduct of HOC’s business given the current circumstances.

Due to the stay-at-home directive issued by the Governor of the State of Maryland and the general advisory to participate in social distancing, HOC will conduct its September 1, 2021 open Commission meeting via an online platform. **HOC’s normal meeting location (10400 Detrick Avenue, Kensington, MD 20895) will be closed to the public.** Instead, the public will be able to observe and attend HOC’s open meeting via a real-time live stream. This platform will allow the public to have meaningful access to HOC’s open meeting. Information and guidelines on participation in the Community Forum portion of the meeting can be found [here](#).

**Live-stream on YouTube:** <https://youtu.be/y7ZXKwUuzek>

If any person has any questions or concerns about these Emergency Procedures, including how to access the online live-stream, please contact Patrice Birdsong at [patrice.birdsong@hocmc.org](mailto:patrice.birdsong@hocmc.org) or at (240)-627-9425. HOC will have staff available to help any person who anticipates having trouble accessing the online platform prior to the meeting.

### Open Meetings Act:

The Open Meetings Act permits members of the public to object if HOC closes any portion of an open meeting. If a member of the public wishes to object to HOC entering into a closed session, they may do so by using the YouTube chat feature. To write an objection in the YouTube chat, type into the chat window “I object on the grounds of \_\_\_\_\_,” and hit enter or submit to register your objection. Alternatively, you may send an email to HOC’s General Counsel at [aisha.memon@hocmc.org](mailto:aisha.memon@hocmc.org).

It is not HOC’s intention to discourage public participation in its open meetings. If any person has questions or concerns about how to object to a closed meeting or how these procedures adequately address the provisions of the Open Meeting Act, please contact Aisha Memon at [aisha.memon@hocmc.org](mailto:aisha.memon@hocmc.org) or at (240)-627-9740.