

CITY OF ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

2023 COMPENSATION COMMISSION

PUBLIC FORUM

Thursday, May 11, 2023

1 PARTICIPANTS:

2 Commission:

3 WILLIAM SPANGNUOLO, Chair

4 JOHN BECKER, Commissioner

5 KAVITA DAWSON, Commissioner

6 PAUL NEWMAN, Commissioner

7 MARC WEINSHENKER, Commissioner

8 Staff:

9 SARA TAYLOR-FERRELL, City Clerk/Director
10 of Council Operations

11 DANNY WINBORNE, Deputy City Clerk

12 Speakers:

13 ROBERT WRIGHT

14 RICHARD GOTTFRIED

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 MR. SPANGNUOLO: Good evening. I am
3 William Spangnuolo, the Chair of the Rockville
4 Compensation Commission. The Commissioners and I
5 welcome you to this public forum. We greatly
6 appreciate your participation and look forward to
7 hearing your points of view about how we can make
8 Rockville an even greater place to live. Your
9 feedback is very important. First, I will
10 introduce the Commission members and get them
11 started. John Becker, Kavita Dawson, Paul Newman
12 and Mark Weinshenker. The mayor and council
13 reconvened the 2023 Compensation Commission and
14 the first meeting was held on February 8, 2023 to
15 review and make recommendations to discuss its
16 mission of recommending possible changes to the
17 salaries of the mayor and council members. Before
18 making a recommendation and to assist with its
19 deliberations the commission seeks input from
20 residents to express their opinions on various
21 aspects of compensating the mayor and council,
22 including, but not limited to, how the mayor and

1 council compensation should be determined, the
2 frequency of mayor and council compensation, who
3 should determine the compensation of the mayor and
4 council members and other matters related to the
5 general -- in general to compensation of the mayor
6 and council members. A copy of the 2019 and 2020
7 compensation reports is located on the Rockville
8 City website.

9 During this public forum there is a
10 survey link questionnaire for feedback. The link
11 is located on the city's Compensation Commission
12 web page along with background materials. All
13 comments will be taken into consideration as we
14 finalize our recommendations to the mayor and
15 council. Thanks again and we will open the floor
16 for your input. First on the list, Robert Wright.

17 MR. WRIGHT: Good evening,
18 Commissioners, and thank you for giving the public
19 and myself the opportunity to express our opinions
20 and viewpoints regarding the compensation of the
21 mayor and council. I am Robert Wright, I reside
22 at 209 Watts Branch Parkway which is in the

1 Rockshire community, and I have lived in Rockville
2 since 1979. The compensation of the mayor and
3 council should be increased approximately 10
4 percent beginning in January 2024. That would
5 mean the mayor would make around \$41,316 and a
6 council member 33,531. This will place Rockville
7 elected officials near or at the top of
8 compensation for part-time municipal elected
9 officials in Maryland that have a council-manager
10 form of government. When employees receive a cost
11 of living increase a COLA, elected officials ought
12 to receive an annual salary adjustment equal to
13 the lesser of \$1,000 or the COLA beginning in
14 January of the following year.

15 Each elected official should receive an
16 equal amount of funds for the purchase of city
17 benefits available to elected officials as each
18 elected official will value different benefits
19 differently. A fixed dollar amount for each
20 elected official preserves equity in benefits
21 compensation. I support the interpretation of the
22 policies in the supplemental report from the

1 Compensation Commission to the mayor and council
2 dated February 23, 2022. It's sort of a sidebar,
3 but I believe it's important and I want to thank
4 each of the Commissioners for their service to the
5 City of Rockville. Thank you.

6 MR. SPANGNUOLO: Thank you. Next, we
7 have Rich Gottfried.

8 MR. GOTTFRIED: Good evening,
9 Compensation Commission and Director of
10 Operations, Sara Farrell. My name is Richard
11 Gottfried and I live in the Twinbrook
12 neighborhood. You're probably asking why I'm
13 wearing this red jacket, so I have to give a shout
14 out to one of your fellow Commissioners, Paul
15 Newman, who is the Chair of Community Reach of
16 Montgomery County, had an excellent gala
17 supporting the residents of Montgomery County.
18 They raised over \$170,000. So I wore this in
19 honor of you since I was coming out here tonight,
20 and it's only my second time that I wore it, and
21 the theme was Run for the Roses with the Kentucky
22 Derby. So, Paul, thanks for your efforts.

1 MR. NEWMAN: Thank you, Rich. Thanks
2 for your support.

3 MR. GOTTFRIED: You're welcome, my
4 pleasure. So tonight I would like to submit my
5 testimony to the Compensation Commission public
6 forum for your discussion and debate for
7 consideration be included in the mayor and
8 council's compensation package. I actually have
9 two proposals. As I was thinking about this
10 specific commission, I had a third proposal that's
11 probably for a different commission, maybe the
12 charter commission. So I'll just talk about two
13 tonight. The first one is to extend the CPI-U
14 COLA adjustment for the years 2025, '26, '27, and
15 '28. Number two, allow the mayor and each council
16 member funding for either a staff person or
17 legislative aid. Let's discuss each proposal in
18 your report.

19 In fiscal year 2000 and 2019
20 compensation recommendations, it states that for
21 fiscal year 2021, '22, '23, and '24, the monetary
22 compensation for the mayor and council be

1 increased by the positive change, if any, in the
2 Washington-Baltimore CPIDSU for the 12 months
3 preceding the previous November. Commission
4 further recommends that the mayor and council
5 direct the city manager to continue the
6 established process of ensuring that the correct
7 authorized compensation levels are set by the
8 mayor and council are included in future budgets.
9 I propose that this recommendation be extended for
10 fiscal year 2025, '26, '27 and '28, if it's not
11 already been done. Second, I would like to
12 recommend that the Commission consider proposing
13 to mayor and council the addition of a legislative
14 aid for each council member and mayor. Although
15 not a specific dollar amount, but the work of the
16 mayor and council is very diverse and the issues
17 have triple folded. I've been around since 2007.
18 It's just not more about fixing our water pipes
19 for 30 years and doing twice a week trash or once
20 a week trash. We have a lot of diverse issues
21 that each mayor and council has to address, and
22 that should deserve at least having them have an

1 opportunity to have a legislative aid to help them
2 with the research, although not being specifically
3 paid to them, at least there's funding for the
4 legislative aid to do the necessary work for that.
5 That's all I have to say. Thank you for listening
6 to my recommendations this evening, respectively
7 submitted. My name is Richard Gottfried.

8 MR. SPANGNUOLO: Thank you.

9 MR. GOTTFRIED: You welcome.

10 MR. SPANGNUOLO: I believe that
11 completes our list. There is one other name. I
12 do not think that person is here. Is there anyone
13 else in the room who would like to come up and
14 speak? I do not see anyone.

15 MS. FARRELL: With that does the
16 Commission want to wait another 10 or 15 minutes
17 before adjourning?

18 MR. SPANGNUOLO: I personally think
19 that's fair. Is that okay with the rest of the
20 group?

21 MR. SPEAKER: Ten.

22 MR. SPANGNUOLO: Ten minutes.

1 MS. FARRELL: Okay.

2 MR. SPANGNUOLO: Thank you. That
3 concludes our hearing. We will leave the public
4 record open until May 18th at 5:00 p.m. You can
5 refer your comments to the City Clerk's office.
6 The hearing is adjourned.

7 (Whereupon, the HEARING was
8 adjourned.)

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I, Carleton J. Anderson, III do hereby certify that the forgoing electronic file when originally transmitted was reduced to text at my direction; that said transcript is a true record of the proceedings therein referenced; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which these proceedings were taken; and, furthermore, that I am neither a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the parties hereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of this action.

/s/Carleton J. Anderson, III

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