

COUNTY LOCAL LAWS

OFFICER TO BE KNOWN AS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, SUBJECT TO THE CONFIRMATION OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL. THE OFFICE SHALL HAVE THE FOLLOWING DUTIES, POWERS AND AUTHORITY.

(A) TO RECEIVE AND INVESTIGATE COMPLAINTS AND INITIATE ITS OWN INVESTIGATION OF DECEPTIVE OR UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICES AGAINST CONSUMERS; TO HOLD HEARINGS, COMPEL THE ATTENDANCE OF WITNESSES, ADMINISTER OATHS, TAKE THE TESTIMONY OF ANY PERSON UNDER OATH AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, REQUIRE THE PRODUCTION OF ANY EVIDENCE RELATING TO ANY MATTER UNDER INVESTIGATION OR IN QUESTION BY THE OFFICE. AT ANY HEARING, A WITNESS SHALL HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE ADVISED BY COUNSEL PRESENT DURING SUCH HEARING.

(B) TO ISSUE SUMMONSES TO COMPEL THE ATTENDANCE OF WITNESSES AND THE PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS, PAPERS, BOOKS, RECORDS AND OTHER EVIDENCE IN ANY MATTER OVER WHICH THIS LAW APPLIES.

(C) TO ISSUE CEASE AND DESIST ORDERS WITH RESPECT TO CONSUMER PRACTICES DECLARED TO BE IN VIOLATION OF THIS LAW BY THE OFFICE.

(D) TO REPORT TO APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES HAVING JURISDICTION OVER CONSUMER PROTECTION MATTERS ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING VIOLATION OF ANY CONSUMER PROTECTION LAWS.

(E) TO PRESENT THE INTEREST OF CONSUMERS BEFORE ADMINISTRATIVE AND REGULATORY AGENCIES AND LEGISLATIVE BODIES.

(F) TO ASSIST, ADVISE AND COOPERATE WITH THE BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY AND LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL AGENCIES AND OFFICIALS TO PROTECT AND PROMOTE THE INTEREST OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY CONSUMER PUBLIC.

(G) TO ASSIST, DEVELOP AND CONDUCT PROGRAMS OF CONSUMER EDUCATION AND INFORMATION THROUGH PUBLIC HEARINGS, MEETINGS, PUBLICATIONS OR OTHER MATERIALS PREPARED FOR DISTRIBUTION TO THE CONSUMER PUBLIC OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY.

(H) TO UNDERTAKE ACTIVITIES TO ENCOURAGE LOCAL BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY TO MAINTAIN HIGH STANDARDS OF HONESTY, FAIR BUSINESS PRACTICES AND PUBLIC RESPONSIBILITY IN THE PRODUCTION, PROMOTION AND SALE