

East County Citizens Advisory Board



Annual Report



September 2007 - August 2008

**Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center
3300 Briggs Chaney Road
Silver Spring, Maryland 20904**

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/eastco

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Montgomery County Council

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Duchy Trachtenberg

In Memory of
Councilmember Marilyn J. Praisner

We especially want to remember our beloved Councilmember, Marilyn J. Praisner, who passed away this year.

The East County Citizens Advisory Board recognized the outstanding and valuable contributions Councilmember Praisner made in the East County. Many, who knew her well, regarded Mrs. Praisner as the “Mother of the East County.” In many ways, East County was fashioned by her, and eventually grew, based on her struggle, efforts and support. Mrs. Praisner was involved with Recreation Department, Libraries, and the White Oak Community Center.

We will miss her and, in her honor, will continue to remember her and her significant efforts and will continue to represent the best interests of and grow East County.

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East County Citizens Advisory Board

Introduction

The East County Citizens Advisory Board (ECCAB) is pleased to present this Annual Report which details its accomplishments for 2007-2008. This report outlines how ECCAB focused on the priorities of the community and its efforts to improve the quality of life in Montgomery County as the board tackled issues and concerns related to the material and social needs of the residents of East County.

Board Priorities

In September, ECCAB members participated in a board retreat. A central activity was the identification of board priorities. Based on their personal knowledge and experiences, the board members generated a list of areas that needed to be addressed.

To follow up, the board members were asked to keep in mind how these priorities were aligned with the County Executive's Eight Priorities. Those priorities are included in the list below:

1. Affordable Housing in an Inclusive Community
2. Children Prepared to Live and Learn
3. An Effective and Efficient Transportation Network
4. Healthy and Sustainable Neighborhoods
5. Responsive, Accountable County Government
6. Safe Streets and Secure Neighborhoods
7. Strong and Vibrant Economy
8. Vital Living for All Our Residents

The board received a document showing one possible alignment of the priorities they identified with the County Executive's Eight Priorities. This is displayed on the table on the next page of this report.

ECCAB Priority Alignment with the County Executive's Priorities

County Executive's Eight Priorities	ECCAB Priorities
1. Affordable Housing in an Inclusive Community	
2. Children Prepared to Live and Learn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Education (e.g., overcrowding; schools not meeting academic standards) ▪ Programs for children after school (e.g., Recreation Centers)
3. An Effective and Efficient Transportation Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Congestion/Transportation congestion and weather (digital information) ▪ Intercounty Connector
4. Healthy and Sustainable Neighborhoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Health Forum ▪ Expanding Senior Citizens Activities
5. Responsive, Accountable County Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quad updates in writing (e.g., process should be simple and be emailed) ▪ Speakers at Board meetings need: (1) Set time to speak (timeframe); (2) Cut off when time is up; (3) To be prioritized; (4) A set maximum time; and (4) To provide updates, rather than details of history ▪ Could use board meeting for panel discussion, or Citizens' Forum – should be flexible
6. Safe Streets and Secure Neighborhoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public Safety ▪ Fire Station ▪ Need a Police Department
7. Strong and Vibrant Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Burtonsville Shopping Center – Chris Jones ▪ Chris Jones update (facilitated) ▪ Development of Burtonsville Shopping Center (e.g., construction of roads; impact on public transportation) ▪ Federal Research Center – need updates ▪ Recreation Center – facilities at the Federal Research Center; look at the big picture ▪ East County Technology Center ▪ Percontee Village Science Proposal ▪ Ashton Meeting Place
8. Vital Living for All Our Residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Focus on hospital, signature issue ▪ Jere Stocks, Washington Adventist Hospital, to provide an update ▪ Health Forum ▪ Green spaces, parks/Improvement on environment issues

Annual Report

This Annual Report details the accomplishments of the board's efforts in addressing the priorities established in September, 2007. It includes the activities that the board carried, the challenges that board members identified, and on-going topics of interest and concern. Finally, it reports on the Committee Accomplishments, and Positions Taken by the Board, and testimony the board members gave to the County Executive and the County Council.

About the Board

In March 1993, the County Executive, with the approval of the County Council, established the East County Citizens Advisory Board (ECCAB).

ECCAB has 18 members representing the residential and business communities covered by the Master Plan areas of Cloverly, Fairland, and White Oak. These areas are roughly bound on the west by the Northwest Branch, on the north by the Howard County line, on the east by the Prince George's County line, and on the south by the Capital Beltway, I-495.

Mission

The mission of ECCAB is to advise the Montgomery County Executive and the County Council on concerns and issues facing our region and advocate for regional priorities.

Monthly Board Meetings

ECCAB holds its board meeting on the first Wednesday of the month, from September through July. Committee meetings are held the following Wednesday.

At the monthly meetings of the board, presenters from county government and other organizations provide updates on matters of interest. These often relate to the county's budget and services offered in the community. Additionally, at these meetings, residents of East County have an opportunity during the community forum as part of the agenda to share the concerns they have and to identify actions that they want the board to take. In turn, the board helps in identifying potential solutions to the issues or concerns that are raised.

Acknowledgements

We wish to express our thanks to all board members who gave generously of their time in advancing the work of the East County Citizens Advisory Board. This effort strengthened the role of the board as a link between the community and county government.

We are grateful for the committee leadership. We especially thank Tom Aylward, chair of the Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee; Colleen Ionata, chair of the Services Committee; and Marva Deskins, Esq., chair of the Outreach Committee. The board was successful in carrying out activities this year because of their hard work of the chair and their committees.

The board wants to convey special thanks to *Anise Key Brown*, Director of the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center; *Chuck Crisostomo*, Assistant Director; *Anjoo Chohda*, Senior Administrative Aide; and *Gwen Haney*, Program Specialist II. Their support is invaluable to the work of the East County Citizens Advisory Board.

Board Members Serving in 2007-2008

Officers

Kim Bobola, PhD	Chair
Colleen Ionata	Vice Chair
Bill Strassberger	Parliamentarian
Sheala Durant	Secretary

Development and Infrastructure

The Development and Infrastructure Committee handles issues related to transportation, economic development, housing, environment, taxation, capital improvements, budget, property and zoning and monitors the implementation of Master Plans in eastern Montgomery County. Committee members were: Tom Aylward (Chair); G. Stanley Doore; Ismael Gama; John Thomas; and Sheala Durant.

Services

The Services Committee handles issues related to education, aging, health, human services, public safety, and recreation. Committee members included: Colleen C. Ionata (Chair); Jemal A. Cheatham; Allan Mulligan; and Kimberly Y. Campbell.

Outreach

The Outreach Committee handles publicity, lobbying, and special events. The committee plans special events, forums, and other outreach efforts to the larger community. Committee members included: Marva R. Deskins, Esq. (Chair); Tracey D. Davis, Esq.; Will Kenlaw; Kim Jones; Andre Carl Whisenton; Prasiddha Sinha; Bill Strassberger; and Benoy Thomas.

Ad Hoc Committee

- The Ad Hoc Committee on Emergency Response gathered information available about Montgomery County's emergency response.
- The Ad Hoc Committee for the Adopt-A-Road Project developed procedures for Adopt-A-Road Program.

**EAST COUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD
2007-2008**



Standing L-R: Benoy Thomas, John Thomas, Kim Jones, Bill Strassberger, Tom Aylward III, Prasiddh Sinha, Alan Mulligan, Stanley Doore, Andre Carl Whisenton, Jemal Cheatham and Will Kenlaw III.

Seated: Tracy Dupree Davis, Kimberly Campbell, Marva Deskins, Kim Bobola, Colleen Ionata and Sheala Durant.

Board Activities

During 2007-2008, ECCAB was immersed in activities that focused on the material and social needs of the residents of East County. These activities intended to enhance the board's ability to serve as an effective bridge between the community and county government. They included: scheduled speakers; and community services.

Scheduled Speakers

The following speakers were invited to speak to ECCAB:

- Wilbur Malloy, Executive Director, The People's Community Wellness Center
- Sergeant Ronald Butts, Montgomery County 3rd District Police Station
- Eileen Cahill, Vice President, Government and Community Relations, Holy Cross Hospital
- Roylene Roberts, Department of Housing and Community Affairs; along with Keith Haller and Linda Katz, Potomac, Inc; and Thomas Flynn, Thomas Point Association.
- Uma Ahluwalia, Director, Health and Human Services
- Jonathan Genn, Executive Vice President & General Counsel Percontee Inc. , and Ayana Lambert, Esq., Corporate Counsel, Percontee Inc.
- Pradeep Ganguly, Director of the Department of Economic Development

Setting the Stage

In September, ECCAB members received information that set the stage for their work as an advisory board.

EMRSC Partnerships

ECCAB members were introduced to the partner organizations that reside in the EMRS building. The Eastern Montgomery Regional Services (EMRS) Center houses The People's Community Wellness Center; Montgomery County Health and Human Services, and Montgomery County Police/3rd District Police Station.

- The People's Community Wellness Center is co-sponsored by the Montgomery County Government and the People's Community Baptist Church of Silver Spring. The center provides medical services to residents who are uninsured or have low-incomes, and is seeing a greater need for health care services due to an increase in health problems such as diabetes, asthma, blood pressure, and heart problems. Approximately 70% of the patients the clinic has speak other languages than English. Dr. Malloy **expressed his gratitude** to Councilwoman Marilyn J. Praisner for her support of the Montgomery Cares program and thanked Anise Key Brown and the Delegates for their continued support in the successful operation of the Clinic.
- The police were recognized for the high-quality services they provide in District 3. ECCAB applauded their successes in arresting individuals who had been involved in burglaries in the spring/summer of 2007.

Board Retreat

A board retreat was held on September 15. It provided an opportunity for board members to get to know each other, new members to be introduced to the board, and discussions about priorities the board established for the year.

Quad Strategy

The board envisioned a Quad approach for keeping in touch with the schools, organizations, and businesses located in their quads and regrouped themselves in Quads. Each board member has been asked to serve on a Quad Team. The purpose of the Quad assignments is "to expand outreach and develop more effective community relationships."

Anise Key Brown and Kim (Bobola) will oversee the Quad activities.

The challenges are to:

- Get to know what's happening in your geographic area.
- Share information across quads.

The Quad Strategy required board members to keep in contact with their "constituencies," and to offer concerns that emerge to the discussion of the board. For instance, Quadrant 2 (White Oak) is expecting to see a lot of development activity. This could require the team to monitor what is happening with regard to the Federal Research Center, the future Bio Tech Incubator, and the Percontee mixed-use development. Since Quad 3 is heavily residential, the issues of importance will vary from the issues of importance for Quad 2.

Information Updates

1. Holy Cross Hospital (September 5, 2007)

Eileen Cahill, Vice President, Government and Community Relations, Holy Cross Hospital

Holy Cross Hospital is already overcrowded, and would be paralyzed if the Washington Adventist Hospital moves to the eastern part of Montgomery County. She believes there is a need for the county to study the plan. She indicated that this is not just an **access** issue; it is also a **capacity** issue. She claimed that if Washington Adventist moves out of Takoma Park, Holy Cross would be overwhelmed. Holy Cross understands Washington Adventist's need to expand and is not opposed to their moving. It is only against the location. Holy Cross Hospital is asking for an independent "health impact study" to determine how Washington Adventist's move would affect the county's infrastructure. Without an analysis of the impact of the move, it would be very hard to undo in the future.

2. Burtonsville Market Study (October 3, 2007)

Roylene Roberts, Department of Housing and Community Affairs

The Burtonsville Market Study concluded that: (a) Burtonsville is a good location in a strong but rapidly changing market area; (b) The market area should be developed in relation to development occurring in areas to the north, east and south of Burtonsville; (c) The main problems are a lack of space for expansion and competition from other developers in the immediate area; (d) The terms "Town Center" has been confusing; (e) The county should promote small businesses that do not require mall destinations; (f) There are ways that the County can support Burtonsville Revitalization, after there is agreement on a central concept for Burtonsville. Some ways that the County could help with Burtonsville revitalization are as follows:

- Shared parking space
- Development of a center public space
- Streetscapes and landscaping
- Storm water drainage improvements
- Pedestrian and bikeway improvements
- Signage
- Design assistance and coordination
- Financial support for targeted businesses to stay and grow

3. Department of Health and Human Services (October 3, 2007)

Uma Ahluwalia, Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) services are being offered in East County. Close to 11,000 people use different DHHS emergency services. Of those, close to 500 uninsured patients use health disability services. Additionally, at the county's Dennis Avenue location, medical services are offered to patients with Hepatitis, HIV, tuberculosis (e.g., to approximately 1000 senior citizens), and early learning services.

DHHS works in partnership with The People's Community Wellness Center. Services include the Manna Food (every Friday from 2:00-4:00 pm) and Mobil Med (every Thursday morning from 8:30 -12:00 noon). Ms. Ahluwalia acknowledged that there is inadequate space for the county to increase services being offered in East County. The space issue has an impact on The People's Community and Wellness Center. Consequently: (a) County government is planning to do a space study. This could lead to an opportunity to expand services being provided; however, this possibility will not be finalized until after the space study is completed; (b) Council President Marilyn Praisner is interested in having more county departments operating in East County; (c) Since a new police station will be opening up in East County, a satellite office for DHHS may be moved there; however, no decision on this issue has been made.

4. Jonathan Genn (Executive Vice President & General Counsel, Percontee Inc.) (November 7, 2008)

Percontee has developed a proposal for a mixed-use Life Sciences Village. The vision is to develop the 185 acre-site near the Food and Drug Administration to include new science and medical facilities, as well as housing and services.

Preliminary discussions are underway to switch over the concrete recycling plant off of Cherry Hill Road to new development. This would entail office space, affordable housing, and other amenities such as restaurants and a hotel and conference center. Mr. Genn stated that the zoning is not yet in place. Discussions about the development is occurring with developers of adjoining properties (e.g., FDA, Washington Adventist off Plum Orchard Road, East County Center for Science and Technology (ECCST) off of Industrial Parkway - on the site of the former Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission Sewage Treatment facility).

Mr. Genn stated that making this vision a reality would require zoning changes being made since the development being planned is not permitted under the existing overlay zone that governs this property. The county is re-formulating its policies and procedures are part of its Annual Growth Policy. Once these policies and procedures are formulated, the Gudelskys are planning to pursue the necessary County approvals for this proposal. Percontee anticipates a period of 18 to 24-month before they can move forward.

Percontee has been working with the community since last year to review proposed details and receive suggestions. Percontee will entertain any comments/suggestions and aims to be a standard-bearer in a collaborative process that works. A community response form (Percontee Property Adjoining General Services Administration/FDA/ ECCST Community Response Form) was distributed for collecting additional comments.

5. Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Services

Scott A. Gutschick, Planning Section Manager, (January 2, 2008):

The presentation highlighted the following:

- Fire and Rescue, and EMS incident statistics for East County;
- Details about the proposed Fire Station for East County; and
- FY08 Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Services planning initiatives and resource enhancements; prototype "CAFS" Engine; study of the proposed East County Fire-Rescue station; Burtonsville Station 15 Expansion.

The Capital Improvements Program (CIP)/Site Evaluation for the proposed Fire Station in East County are before the County Council. Anise Key Brown, Director Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center, is in the process of forming a committee that will be made up of members of the community, business owners, residents, Montgomery County Department of Fire and Rescue - including Scott Gutschick - and other employees, Montgomery County Offices of Management and Budget, Montgomery County Department of Public Works and Transportation as well as a representative from the Montgomery County Park and Planning.

The Burtonsville Station 15 Expansion is scheduled to be completed in CY2009 at a project cost of approximately \$1.1 million.

6. Gang Investigation

Officer Morris Dylan, Gang Investigation officer and Lt. Robert Carter (3rd District Police Station):

The officers identified the jurisdictions they serve as Burtonsville, Colesville, Cloverly, Fairland, and White Oak communities and Silver Spring. The board was informed that gangs have now spread throughout sectors of society and gang activities have worsened dramatically in recent years. The presentation highlighted the following:

7. **Jere Stocks**, President, Washington Adventist Hospital (WAH), provided an update to the Board on WAH's progress in constructing its new hospital in East County. The update was as follows:

- A hearing has been scheduled for their request for Special Exception (#S2721).
- Construction of the facility would take between 24 and 30 months.
- Traffic analysis/ studies would be needed. Woodland and forest conservation plans are underway, along with a natural resources inventory.
- The project will be LEED¹ certified under County regulations.
- The old WAH facility could still be used for medical purposes, but the final decision has not yet been made.
- Mr. Stocks requested that the Board consider writing a letter of support for the hospital project; or if this was not possible, that individual members consider doing the same.

8. Department of Economic Development

Pradeep Ganguly, Director of the Department of Economic Development: Introduced himself, and provided an overview of services that the department offers, including [Permitting and Licensing](#); [Small Business Empowerment Services](#); [Workforce Services](#); and [Minority Business Opportunities](#).

Future Economic Growth: Future economic growth in East County is expected to rival the level of development seen in the western part of

¹ LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Building Rating System was developed by the United State Green Buildings Council (USGBC). It identifies criteria that positively impact the energy and environmental characteristics of a building, including sustainability of a site, water efficiency, energy efficiency, materials and resources, and indoor environmental quality.

Montgomery County. Development in East County currently includes: (a) the White Oak Campus for the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). This campus currently has 2500 jobs. By the end of 2012, close to 8000 jobs will be available at this site as a result of the consolidation of 19 labs into 1 campus, (b) and Percontee. This is a private developer who has a plan for East County that will create a development double the size of the Shady Grove campus.

East County Growth and Development: The Department will be locating an Innovation Center in East County. Each Innovation Center intends to grow talent, provide technical guidance, and offer financial assistance for young companies. The Innovation Centers have helped the county to retain 5400 jobs and is spurring the creation of 1300 new jobs within the next 1-3 years. The investment is over 13 million dollars.

Vision for East County: Plans for the East County Center for Science and Technology, which will be located on the WSSC site next to the new Food and Drug Administration campus, include a technology business incubator, higher educational facilities, a telecommuter center, a business park the County would lease to technology companies and a daycare facility.

WSSC have been negotiating the details of a partnership agreement with the county under which the WSSC would transfer ownership of the land to the County in exchange for a share of future proceeds from land sales, leases and other income generated by the site. Completion of the partnership agreement is subject to the final approval of the WSSC Board and the appropriate County authorities and regulatory bodies.

9. **Sue Maher, East County Recreation Center**

Sue introduced Mark Pharaoh (East County Recreation Advisory Board member) to the board. Mr. Pharaoh announced that a Public Forum will be held regarding the new White Oak Recreation Center that will be built on April Lane, near the intersection of Stewart Lane, in White Oak.

10. **Scott Graham, Executive Assistant Chief, Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Services**

Ambulance Transport Fee Proposal: Mr. Graham informed the board that a bill will be introduced to the County Council on June 10 regarding the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) transport fee.

- The EMS transport fee has existed in the Metro region since the earlier 90s. In most cases, this fee is covered by health insurance policies, including Medicare and Medicaid.
- This proposal will not result in an increase in county taxes. Revenues raised (e.g., estimated at \$14 million the first year) would support new fire stations county wide, fire apparatus replacement, and recruit programs.
- There will be no change in the day-to-day operations of Fire and Rescue Services.
- Billing would be handled by hospital intake workers, not EMS workers, and processed through the insurance companies.

Public Education Program: A comprehensive public education program (e.g., print, radio, television media and local meetings) will be undertaken to disseminate information to the public and address the following concerns:

- The fear of being billed. Since county residents will not be billed, this should not inhibit residents from calling for emergency services.
- The concern that health insurance rates would go up. Insurance rates are based on regional factors, and not on local or county factors.

11. Burtonsville Community Legacy Plan (May 7, 2008)

Roylene Roberts, Department of Housing and Community Affairs - gave an update on Burtonsville Revitalization. The county has enlisted the help of two consultant teams – Basile Bauman Prost Cole & Associates, and Rhodeside & Harwell – to develop a Community Legacy Plan. This plan will address the strengths and weaknesses of the community and propose strategies to address the identified issues.

- The consultants have scheduled an outreach meeting with the public to be co-hosted by the East County Citizens Advisory Board (ECCAB) at the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center on May 29 at 7:00 p.m. There will also be an outreach meeting with Burtonsville Businesses on the same day at 12:00 noon.
- The purpose of the May 29 meetings is for residents to advise the consultants. Residents will be asked to let the consultants know how they view the strengths and weaknesses of the community, and how they would choose to address them.
- In June, the consultants will return with three scenarios for discussion and consensus building. These scenarios will identify the projects

that Montgomery County will include in a submission for State grant funding (e.g., \$5.5 million available in a grant competition).

12. Chris Jones of BMC Property Group of Bethesda (June 4, 2008)

Chris Jones of BMC Property Group of Bethesda would update the Board on plans for the Burtonsville Shopping Center. Mr. Jones informed the Board that the Burtonsville Town Square will be a “traditional, grocery store-anchored” shopping center – comprised of three buildings situated on 27 acres, and giving the appearance of “a series of shops” with a “high-end look.” He explained that brick and stone will be used to create a compatible, but not homogeneous, look. The plans for the shopping center include the following businesses:

- CVS – to become a new, free standing building
- County liquor store – remaining
- Dunkin Donuts – remaining
- One or more banks
- Two sit-down restaurants of 5,000 to 6,000 square feet (may need to hold off on these for a year or so as restaurants tend to “pull away” in the current retail market)

Although the U.S. Post Office could be leaving the shopping center, negotiations are still open. The Hair Affair hair salon will close as the owner is retiring.

The goal of the project is to become “the greenest” retail center in America. Already, this project is registered with the U.S. Green Building Council.² The project includes plans for extensive conservation easements, some reforestation, erosion control and restoration, the use of native plants to encourage the health of local habitat. Additionally, as part of the project:

Significant attention will be given to energy conservation and clean indoor air, resulting from the use of geothermal heat pumps, and energy efficient appliances and lighting. Plans for the indoor environment will be held to quality standards.

- The environment created will be pedestrian and bike-friendly.
- There will be a tie-in to the access road.

² The U.S. Green Building Council is a 501(c) (3) non-profit community of leaders working to make green buildings accessible to everyone within a generation.

- Provisions are in place for storm water management (e.g., especially the area alongside Burtonsville Elementary School) and water conservation.
- Goals have been set for recycling of materials from the demolished buildings, the existing asphalt, and any trash from the site.

The project plans include activities aimed at promoting public education (e.g., developing school curriculum on native plants; partnering with the National Academy of Sciences) about the site and its uses of advanced techniques.

Community Involvement

ECCAB Community Forum

- {September 5, 2007) **Eileena York** indicated that Burtonsville businesses have been adversely impacted by the road enhancements. Eileena has spoken with the State Highway Administration about signage that needs to be installed which would refer potential customers to the businesses located in the Burtonsville Town Center.
- (October 3, 2007) **Chad Chitvaranund** gave an update on overcrowding at Burtonsville Elementary School. Class size is the major issue. Additional staff was requested as an accommodation in accordance with student-teacher ratios in school board policy. As of Labor Day, the fifth grade was allocated an additional full-time teacher. The PTA believes that an additional first grade teacher is needed. The PTA has approached Dr. Ursula Hermann, Community Superintendent in the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), about resolving this issue. To date, the issue has not been resolved. The school's PTA is asking ECCAB to intervene with Montgomery County Public Schools, urging the school system to take immediate action to resolve this matter.
- (November 7, 2007) **Frank Caruso**, with the Greencastle Lakes Association wants ECCAB to write letters to SHA and the State delegation telling them: 1) ECCAB supports a bike path along Route 29, and not through the community, and 2) ECCAB supports the construction of a sound barrier wall since the exit ramp and the bike path come as close as 25 feet to the south side of the community and 30-35 feet to the north side.
- (January 2, 2008) **Maura Lynch** (Assistant State's Attorney for Montgomery County). Ms. Lynch informed us of the position she holds and that she is assigned to the Silver Spring and Wheaton areas. As such, Ms. Lynch takes cases for our community. She also let us know that she has been attending community meetings.
- (February 6, 2008) **Frank Caruso**: introduced himself and shared his 20-year interest in the community. He announced that on February 12th he will be one of the Election Judges at the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center. He disseminated a copy of a letter dated February 1, 2008 addressed to Hon. Rona E. Kramer, Senator of Maryland by Neil J. Pederson, SHA, Maryland Department of Transportation regarding a

sound barrier and bike path in conjunction with the project to construct an interchange at US 29 and Greencastle Road.

Community Events

Members of the East County Citizens Advisory Board participated in a number of community activities, including several community festivals. All members of the board participated in at least one community festival. At these celebrations, board members disseminated information about the services of the East County Regional Services Center; discussed concerns identified by East County citizens; and shared ways that ECCAB acts on these concerns.

Festivals

The Burtonsville Day celebration was held on Saturday, September 29. Four board members took part in the Burtonsville Day parade, a community involvement tradition. Members of ECCAB also participated in Cloverly Day on April 26, and the Colesville Strawberry Festival on May 30, 2007.

Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center

Anise Key Brown thanked three board members – Super Women (Kim Bobola, Tracy Dupree Davis) and Super Man (Prasiddh Sinha) – for their participation in the “**Super Woman Doesn’t Live Here Anymore**” seminar held at the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center (EMRSC) on March 29, 2008, acknowledged/honored Tracy Davis’s 97-year-old grandmother “Super Woman,” who also attended the seminar, and thanked Anjoo Chohda, EMRSC, who put together the program.

Ceremony

Anise Key Brown announced the unveiling ceremony for the renaming of the Fairland Recreation Center and Fairland Library to the “Marilyn J. Praisner Center,” on Saturday, June 7, 2008.

“Iron Ladies of Liberia”

The Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center’s partnership with the State Department and Bill Strassberger in offering the June 19th documentary presentation and discussion of the “Iron Ladies of Liberia.” Program fliers were disseminated.

Community Surveys

A total of 69 individuals completed a survey designed by the Outreach Committee to solicit community comments. An analysis of the survey results revealed a referendum on transportation. Other top priorities include crime and economic development. With regard to economic development, survey participants are interested in finding out whether an anchor store will be put in the Burtonsville Shopping Center or the vicinity.

Community Projects

Adopt-A-Road: The East County Citizens Advisory Board (ECCAB) continued its tradition of carrying out a community service project, the Adopt-A-Road program. Under this program, several board members met on Saturday, March to clean the section of Old Columbia Pike from Briggs Chaney to Randolph Road. This project is an effort to keep “our” road litter free and East County beautiful.

Clergy Luncheons: Board member Will Kenlaw announced that the Clergy Leadership Luncheon is scheduled on October 16th at the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center from 11:45 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. The luncheon series provides opportunities for clergy leaders to be informed of current issues that may affect them and to express their concerns. Clergy Leaders from throughout East County have been invited to attend. Speakers at the Clergy Luncheon have included representatives from the Washington Adventist Hospital, Percontee Inc, and East County Technology Center (Life Sciences). This is a great opportunity for networking. Board members are encouraged to attend the luncheons.

Washington Adventist Hospital: Will Kenlaw announced that a presentation on the Washington Adventist Hospital will be given on Monday, January 7th, from 7 to 8 pm. President Jere Stocks will share updates for the hospital's move to East County. This presentation is open to the public and will be hosted by the Allen Chapel Community Development Foundation at Allen Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church located at 2518 Fairland Road, Silver Spring, Maryland 20904.

Navigating Montgomery County Public Schools: Kim Jones organized and provided parent/community information session on navigating Montgomery County Public Schools. Kudos was extended to Kim Jones for this successful event.

ECCAB Issues/Updates

1. The **Paint Branch High School Project** could be delayed due to difficulties in fully funding the school system's capital budget. Danny Jacobs of the Gazette newspapers has detailed the story in today's edition. The Board needs to continue to monitor the progress. Concerned citizens of East County are urged to attend a meeting on November 14th. Former ECCAB member Barbara Turner is asking for support from the community in maintaining the schedule for building Paint Branch High School.

2. **Transgender Bill** has come before the County Council. The bill intends to prevent discrimination on the basis of gender identity. Claire Iseli shared additional information on the Transgender Bill and suggested that County Council Marilyn J. Praisner would be pleased to hear comments from the Board.

[November 7, 2007 - 8] A motion was made to recommend that the County Council postpone the vote on bill 2307 until the public is educated about the amendments to the bill after public testimony was heard. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

3. **Affordable Housing Task Force:** Tom Aylward, Stan Doore and Kim Bobola attended a forum on the challenges the county faces in providing affordable housing. A volunteer task force has been convened, and it has developed a number of recommendations that are being presented in public forums for public input. The Task force highlighted on the following issues:

- Issue # 1: Preserve Affordable Housing and suggested recommendations
- Issue # 2: Create Affordable Housing and recommendations
- Issue # 3: Adopt Regulatory Reform and recommendations
- Issue # 4: Achieve Community Acceptance of Affordable Housing and recommendations

4. **Public Safety:** Stan Doore presented a letter written by resident Margaret Poore on "tagging," a gang-related activity. This was presented for consideration for action by the board. The board discussed the letter written by Margaret Poore. Stan Doore asked that the Board recommend that the County Council and County Executive take positive action regarding tagging. Bill Strassberger asked if Ms. Poore had contacted Police Officer, Joy Patil. Stan Doore said this is a county-wide problem. The police have established a Gang Prevention Task Force. A detailed discussion that involved Board members and Clair Iseli followed.

[January 2, 2008 - 2] Stan Doore motioned that the Board recommend to the County Council and County executive that tagging be addressed at the local level.

[January 2, 2008 - 3] A motion was made to move Stan's motion to the Outreach Committee. Voting was conducted by show of hands. 14 members voted for the motion. The Motion was carried and referred to the Outreach Committee.

Claire Iseli offered to contact Ms. Poore on this matter.

5. **East County Youth Initiative:** has been created by members of the community. Plans are being developed for a Youth Rally sometime in June/September. Madam Chair was asked to appoint a board member to the Youth Initiative Committee. Board member, Kimberly Campbell volunteered to participate.
6. **Youth Representation on ECCAB:** Kim Jones, member of the Outreach Committee, had proposed that youth from each school represent/attend board meetings. The recommendation is to pursue this proposal, since we need to hear from the youth in East County.
7. **Andre Carl Whisenton:** updated the board on a recent ICC meeting. Four representatives attended. Contracts for portions of the ICC have been awarded; they are moving ahead and working on the design process.
8. Chair Bobola introduced **Jeanette Mendonca**, community liaison from State Senator Rona Kramer's office, who described pending action on Senate Bills 634, 641 and 739, all Senate bills that have to do with gang activity and juvenile matters.
9. The County Executive has proposed funding \$100,000 for Burtonsville Redevelopment in FY09 and \$400,000 in FY10. The funding would go towards major improvements to the Burtonsville commercial area including façade treatment and signage. The PHED Committee is calling for \$100,000 in FY09, \$200,000 in FY10, and \$200,000 in FY11, stretching the funding over 3 years instead of the 2 years initially proposed.
10. Discussion is taking place regarding the closing of Maydale School. While there was a lot of support for this environmental education program to continue, all discussion through M-NCPPC and MCPS in managing the

upkeep of the facility have been unsuccessful. An amount of \$20,000, at a minimum, is needed for this program to continue.

11. **White Oak Recreation Center-** Chair reported on the meeting with the County Executive and mentioned that the East County Recreation Advisory Board (ECRAB) had taken a different position than ECCAB had, in requesting that the project be suspended until a new site was found.
 - **Chair Bobola:** reported that the site selection for the White Oak Recreation Center was identified as a priority for ECCAB. This priority was conveyed to the County Executive on February 28th. Also, at that time, some members of the East County Recreation Board appealed to the County Executive to re-consider the decision of the site selection committee. In response, the County Executive acknowledged that the site selection had been vetted, and would not recommend going back on the input from the committee.
 - **Chuck Crisostomo:** identified the basis of the Recreation Board's request to suspend the decision of the site selection committee as related to the "difficult terrain". He offered the assurance that the terrain is not a concern, and that a committee has been meeting regularly to address this perceived concern.
 - **Claire Iseli:** supported the decision of the site selection, and explained the efforts of the original committee and the options it considered.
 - **Councilmember Marc Elrich:** supports the current site, and acknowledged that plans for the center are being developed now. The concern about suspending the site selection is that the project would be sent back in time.
 - **Barbara Foresti:** spoke about the large number of residents who live in the apartments near the site selected who will benefit from *this* location of the center, these individuals could walk to the center, and the need for the center is great.
 - **John Thomas:** identified additional factors that go into site selections such as fields, tennis courts, more building space, and adequate green space. While it would be ideal to have these extras, it would be in the interest of time and inflationary dollars to build the center now. Additionally, the county should consider in its long-term plans additional sites for fields.
 - **Stan Doore:** suggests that the county investigate the option of purchasing a triangular section of land from the FRC behind the Maryland Farms apartment buildings and near Cherry Hill Road for a county recreation facility.

12. **[March 5, 2008 – 5]** A motion was made not to change the name of the East County Citizens Advisory Board to the East County Community Advisory Board. The motion passed (9 ayes).

13. **Clarification to Members.** The board has received clarification from the County's attorney that Citizens Advisory Boards are limited in their charge and only serve as an advisory board to the County Executive and County Council. Any issues or clarifications as to whether the board can advise the CE and County Council on legislation should be directed through Anise Key Brown.

Stan Doore made a motion the board support Washington Adventist Hospital's (WAH's) move to East County. Because the Planning Board and Board of Appeals both come under the Executive and County government, it would be appropriate to support the WAH move to White Oak. Chair Bobola has inquired about the board's role with respect to this matter. The decision resides at the State level, and based on complex information. The board is requested at this time to delay any recommendation/further action regarding WAH's move to the East County. Anise Key Brown added that the County Executive Officer is waiting for more information from the State level.

[April 2, 2008 – 4] – The motion was moved to the Economic Development Committee for revision.

14. **Maydale Environmental Center.** **[April 2, 2008 – 6]** A motion was made to send a letter to the County Council regarding the Maydale Environment Center. Motion carried.

15. **Community Liaison Jeanette Mendonca** presented an official citation to ECCAB member Prasiddh Sinha for outstanding service to the community and achieving his United States Citizenship.

16. **\$100 Laptop."** Stan Doore showed a real OLPC (One Laptop Per Child) to ECCAB, and explained that the OLPC was designed at MIT. More than a half million OLPCs have been sold by a non-profit organization and given to less developed countries. Information can be found at OLPC.COM or Laptop.org

17. **Growth and Development.** Anise Key Brown announced that the County is moving forward with the Biotech Center and a new East County Fire Station. She also announced that a formal site selection process for the new fire station will begin in September, and that a volunteer from ECCAB will have the opportunity to participate on the site selection committee.

18. Stan Doore disseminated an article, for information only, on **US1/MD 201 Project Planning Study**. This is in the Konterra area and could link to the Intercounty Connector (ICC). A brief discussion ensued regarding certain sections of the ICC. Several West County homes were purchased and destroyed to clear the way for the ICC. These sections could have been elevated.

QUAD Reports

- Kimberly Y. Campbell shared a concern regarding the lack of youth programs in her Quad (#1) area. She noted that the Fairland Recreation Center's after-school program can accommodate only 35 youths and has a waiting list of over 22. She also mentioned that the PAL (Police Athletics/ Activities Leagues) program at the Good Hope Center is being eliminated. Anise Key Brown advised the Board that the gap in youth programs created by the elimination of the PAL program may be dealt with in another way, and she would look into this and report back.

Committees

The standing committees include: *Outreach, Services, and Economic Development and Infrastructure committees.*

Outreach Committee Accomplishments

As mentioned earlier in this report, the Outreach Committee handles issues relating to networking, lobbying, communications, and publicity. The committee also plans for special events, forums, and other outreach efforts to the larger community.

Transportation Forum Follow Up

Andre Carl Whisenton, in collaboration with Chuck Crisostomo at the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center, continues to monitor the schedule of public hearings being planned by the Washington Metro Area Transit Authority.

Adopt-A-Road Project

Last year, only six ECCAB volunteers participated in the road cleanup. To be a success, the Outreach Committee suggests there needs to be a commitment from 2/3 of Board members. Without this level of commitment, the Outreach Committee suggests eliminating the Board's participation in Adopt-A-Road program. After much discussion, a different proposal was offered: Assign Adopt-A-Road to Quad Teams. Road cleanup would be held four times a year. Each Quad Leader could assign duties to their group members. Quad Leaders were encouraged to get students to participate. This has been effective in the past. One year, on Community Services Day, over 30 students participated and, as a result, they earned Community Service credit. Anise Key Brown urged that Team Quads should try this one more time. Tracy Davis recommended having Adopt-A-Road in the spring and in an organized manner. Chair Bobola asked for volunteers to serve on the Ad Hoc Committee for the Adopt-A-Road Project. This committee would develop the rules and procedures for Adopt the Road program. Marva R. Deskins Esq. and John Thomas volunteered.

Adopt the Road Program: March 29 was selected as the date for the Road Cleanup, as weather is a factor to be considered if the Road Cleanup were to be held earlier in the year. Two years ago, Kim Jones had contacted an advisor at Paint Branch High School who coordinates community service and requested

the assistance of student volunteers. This year, John Thomas was suggesting that outreach could be extended to Boy Scout troops in the area.

Marva Deskins updated the board on the "Adopt a Road" program. At the road clean up, 5 out of 17 board members showed up. Marva suggested that a letter be written to the appropriate department regarding the litter on the section of the road that required a great deal of time to clean.

[April 2, 2008 - 3] A motion was made to write a letter to the appropriate authorities to enforce the litter law at the corner of Briggs Chaney Road and Old Columbia Pike. Stan Doore asked to move this motion to the Outreach committee.

Leadership Summit: At its last meeting, the Outreach Committee discussed a having a Leadership Summit. The proposed date for holding the event is Saturday, October 18th. The committee will be determining which forum to be addressed (Gang Act, Heath). Will Kenlaw has approached Gazette as to whether the survey will be run.

Marva R. Deskins, Esq. discussed the proposal for the Leadership Summit to be held in October. The tally of issues of concern to the public is as follows: (1) education; (2) public safety; (3) health care access; (4) affordable housing, and (5) transportation.

Litter Letter: A draft letter was presented to the board for review. The purpose of the letter was to inquire with DPWT about the amount of litter that board members see in areas of East County and the enforcement of litter laws.

Student Member of ECCAB: Marva R. Deskins Esq. detailed a proposal for adding a Student Member to ECCAB. The committee is deciding about the role and responsibilities of a student member.

Services Committee Accomplishments

The Services Committee handles issues related to education, aging, health, human services, public safety, and recreation. The following section describes the accomplishments of the Services Committee in the areas of education, health, human services, transportation/public safety, and recreation.

Education

Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Budget

The Paint Branch High School project could be delayed due to difficulties in fully funding the school system's capital budget. Danny Jacobs of the Gazette newspapers has detailed the story in today's edition. The Board needs to continue to monitor the progress. Concerned citizens of East County are urged to attend a meeting on November 14th. Former ECCAB member Barbara Turner is asking for support from the community in maintaining the schedule for building Paint Branch High School.

Northeast Consortium (NEC)

In October 2006, the Services Committee gave their regular monthly report to the board about the proceedings of the September Northeast Consortium (NEC) meeting. The report announced that the Montgomery County Public School System was one of twelve finalists for the Baldrige Award.

Additionally, the report announced the Algebra Initiative, which establishes that 80% of students will complete Algebra by the 8th grade. All public school students are provided accelerated instruction in mathematics so they will be ready to participate in rigorous classes in high school. Access to accelerated classes, such as Honors classes, is emphasized over Gifted and Talented programs.

In March 2007, the Services Committee presented a monthly report to ECCAB on the proceedings of the February Northeast Consortium (NEC) meeting. The main topic was School Choice in the Northeast Consortium. This year, 1,277 eighth graders participated in the Choice Program. Of these students, 94% of them received their first choice. This percentage receiving their first choice matched the median percentage for students' first choice over time. Dr. Ursula Hermann, the community superintendent, reported

hearing no negative comments about the Choice Program this year, and she attributed this to the greater transparency of the Choice Program process.

Overcrowding at Burtonsville Elementary School

Board member Kim Campbell reported that, since the October 3rd meeting of ECCAB, the PTA had met with Dr. Ursula Hermann, Community Superintendent in the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), about resolving this issue. Burtonsville Elementary School has received an additional .5 teacher.

Choosing Civility

G. Stan Doore spoke on the book titled *Choosing Civility: The Twenty Five Rules of Considerate Conduct* by P. M. Forni, Cofounder of the Johns Hopkins University Civility Project and urged the Board to recommend that the Montgomery County Public Schools adopt these rules. Letter to the Montgomery County Public School System recommending the adoption of Rules of Civility as described in the book *Choosing Civility: The Twenty Five Rules of Considerate Conduct* by P.M. Forni, Cofounder of the Johns Hopkins University Civility Project.

This is a Leadership Montgomery countywide initiative which involves multiple partners working together to enhance the quality of life. It emphasizes the importance of civility for all who live and work in Montgomery County. For additional information, visit the website: www.choosecivilitymc.org Colleen Ionata indicated that a letter has been written. Colleen/the Board will seek clarification from Anise Key Brown regarding who should receive copies of that letter.

Choosing Civility: The Services Committee is recommending that the board review the *Choosing Civility* letter and consider sending it to Dr. Jerry Weast, Superintendent, Montgomery County Pubic Schools. **John Thomas:** suggested sending the *Choosing Civility* book with the letter.

- **Choosing Civility:** Stan Doore hoped that the board would accept the letter addressed to the County Executive. Chair Bobola corrected: the letter should be addressed to MCPS Superintendent.

[February 6, 2008 - 2] A motion to change the letter addressed to Dr. Weast and cc to Hon. Isiah Leggett, County Executive and Hon. Mike Knapp, Council President and send with a *Choosing Civility* book.

Voting was conducted by show of hands. 8 members voted for the motion. The motion carried.

Choosing Civility Response from Montgomery County Public Schools – *Choosing Civility* response from MCPS Associate Superintendent Eric J. Lang was emailed to all board members.

Stan Doore asked what became of the Board’s letter to the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) regarding incorporating *Choosing Civility* into their program. Chair Bobola advised that a response was received informing the Board that a review and evaluation committee will look at this. Anise Key Brown suggested that the Services Committee follow up to learn of the final outcome.

Health

Health Fair

The committee discussed holding a Health Fair in conjunction with Center. **Kimberly Campbell:** suggested holding the idea of a Health Fair until the survey results are reviewed. **Kim Bobola:** shared that a Health Fair was a priority identified by the board. **Tracy Davis:** conveyed that, at the Town Hall meeting, health was one of the issues of the County Executive.

Anise Key Brown: shared that the meeting on February 28th is open to all board members. If health issues are a priority, the board should involve Sharon Strauss, HHS department as a resource. She also suggested that a letter of invitation could be written to Uma Ahluwalia, Director, HHS asking for their participation. She also suggested the Services Committee could hold the program at the center the same date of the Jazz Festival.

The committee’s plans to conduct a Health Fair were being put on hold until they could arrange a community partner.

Human Services

Emergency Response

To enhance the East County emergency response procedures, the Services Committee encourages the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center to install a Radio Amateur Emergency Radio Response station in the resource room. This service is an FTC-approved service that can be used as a means of secondary support in an emergency.

High Definition Radio

Recommendation that HD-Radio (High Definition Radio) be used to transmit digital graphic and data directly to the public from the operation centers of Montgomery County, the State of Maryland (CHART), and from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The board received a response from the County Executive re. HD Radio. Copies of the letter were distributed to the board members.

Public Access Education and Government Channel

The Services Committee requested assistance from the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center in obtaining information about Fiber Optics in relation to public access broadcasts. A committee member expressed that residents needed PAEG (Public Access Education and Government Channel) broadcasts to be streamed on the internet. An additional request was that the county would consider using the 5% franchise fee to fund this endeavor. The aim is to see all PAEG channels streaming on-line.

Transportation/Public Safety

Pedestrian Safety

The Services Committee received a letter of response from the Department of Public Works and Transportation regarding the letter of inquiry about pedestrian safety. In response, DPWT has installed additional lighting at the intersection of Good Hope Road and Windmill Lane.

Crime Forum:

Chuck Crisostomo will assist the committee in getting a panel together for a Crime Forum.

Recreation

White Oak Recreation Center

The development of the White Oak Recreation Center continues to be a high priority for the Services Committee and for East County residents. The Recreation Department's Regional Supervisor, Sue Maher met with Colleen and would like to co-plan a forum to seek input from the community on the White Oak Recreation Center.

CEO's Reorganization Plan

G. Stanley Doore raised the issue of the CEO's reorganization plan, and made a motion to support the CEO's Reorganization Plan, which is budget neutral.

[**April 2, 2008 - 5**] The motion was moved to the Services Committee. The board asked if the Services Committee could provide a briefing to the board on the reorganization plan at the ECCAB meeting in May.

County Reorganization: The Services Committee was asked to prepare a briefing to the board on the county government's reorganization plan. In response to this request, Colleen Ionata presented highlights of the reorganized plan. The larger overhauls were as follows:

1. Transfer of responsibilities of the Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPWT), Facilities and Services and Capital Planning, Design and Construction from DPWT to the Department of General Services;
2. Transfer of the Division of Solid Waste from DPWT to the Department of Environmental Protection;
3. Abolishment of the Department of Homeland Security and establishment of the Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security;
4. Move the Office of Internal Audits from Finance to the County Executive's Office.

This reorganization plan has no budget impact. There were 225 reductions-in-force (RIFs), but not due to the reorganization plan. A total of 1000 early retirements were offered. Approximately 10% are expected to participate.

Youth

- Announced that in the past few months, the Services Committee has been discussing hosting a "rally" for youth/parents. The committee chair deferred to Kim Campbell for further explanation. Dr. Campbell explained the intent to organize this event stemmed from a County Youth Initiative. This group has identified the need for information-sharing on existing programs and activities for youth. Their vision is to hold a "Youth Explosion" to attract youth and accomplish this goal.

Development and Infrastructure Committee Accomplishments

As mentioned previously in this report, the Development and Infrastructure Committee handles issues related to transportation, economic development, housing, environment, taxation, capital improvements, budget, property and zoning, and monitors implementation of Master Plans in eastern Montgomery County.

On November 7, 2007, a motion passed to change the name of the Community and Economic Development Committee to Development and Infrastructure Committee was offered.

The committee's accomplishments are described below in the areas of transportation, transportation/economic development, housing, and monitoring development in the areas covered by the Master Plans.

Transportation/Economic Development

- a. **Transportation Projects.** Labquest has discussed the transportation projects in the vicinity of FRC at White Oak. Chuck Crisostomo regularly attends these meetings and keeps the board updated.

Monitoring the East County Implementation of Master Plans

The committee met with Pierra Weis and Bill Barron, who are senior planners at the Maryland- National Capital Park and Planning Commission in Silver Spring.

- The purpose of the meeting was to review roadway and planning networks in East County, and discuss infrastructure projects being planned by SHA and Montgomery County.
- Additional areas of focus were the development plans on three specific properties: (a) Washington Adventist Hospital; the Bio-Tech incubator at the site of the former WSSC facility and the Percontee property, all in White Oak; (b) Burtonsville area (between Santini Road and Dino Drive); (c) and, the area near the Briggs Chaney Auto Park
- Touched on affordable housing as an issue needing much more attention.

Recreation Facility

[March 5, 2008 – 2] A motion was made that the County explore the feasibility of a recreation facility in the triangular area in the Federal Research Center, behind Maryland Farms. This was referred to the Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee.

Burtonsville Revitalization

Burtonsville Revitalization: Received a positive verbal response from Roylene Roberts on the letter sent from ECCAB relating to the CIP for Burtonsville Revitalization.

Roylene Roberts (Department of Housing and Community Affairs) spoke on Burtonsville Revitalization and the development of the Community Legacy Plan. The discussion included the need for a mechanism to create project sites. The committee covered a tremendous amount of information, and continued to spotlight specific sections of the Master Plan. Essentially, two or three sites need to be looked at: Percontee, Adventist Hospital and WSSC sites need to be on our side and comprise a significant area of the Master Plan) to be revisited. The committee is aware that Chris Jones is moving forward with plans for the Burtonsville Shopping Center. The committee had a good meeting and looks forward to next week's meeting.

Burtonsville Revitalization: At its last meeting, the EDI Committee discussed development and infrastructure issues/concerns relating to Burtonsville Revitalization. The focus was the area along Route 198 between Dino Drive and Santini Road, and challenges that small businesses and land owners face in dealing with the Montgomery County Permitting Services.

- Reported that, on the May 29th, the county/ECCAB hosted an outreach meeting on Burtonsville Development. This was a planning meeting to advise the consultants. The process elicited ideas from business owners and the community on the strengths and weaknesses of Burtonsville area, and how they would choose to address them.
- Ideas were collected and will be further explored at the follow up meeting with the community on June 19th. Subsequently, additional work will be done by the consultants on a Community Legacy Grant. The timeline for this entire process is aggressive.
- The Department of Housing and Community Affairs (DHCA) and the Montgomery County Planning Board, part of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, heard comments from the community that the processes in place in Montgomery County are too

long and arduous. This was acknowledged. A question was raised as to whether the structure of the planning board was a contributing factor. By contrast, Fairfax County has a streamlined process and a different structure for their planning board.

Claire Iseli added the consultants are working well with the County.

Housing

Affordable Housing

The committee is concerned about affordable housing in East County.

Pedestrian Safety

Sidewalks to Nowhere: Tom Aylward asked for help from each board member in photographing sidewalks in East County that go nowhere. Please bring the photographs, along with identifying information, to the next ECCAB meeting on June 4, so they can be catalogued.

Testimony

August 19, 2007

The Honorable Isiah Leggett
County Executive
Executive Office Building
101 Monroe Street, 2nd Floor
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Mr. Leggett:

The East County Citizens Advisory Board (ECCAB) appreciates the opportunity to make recommendations regarding the County Executive's 2009-2014 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) budget, which goes before the County Council in May 2008. We urge that you support the following capital project requests: (1) schools in East County; (2) the White Oak Community and Good Hope Neighborhood Recreation Centers; (3) the proposed East County Fire-Rescue Station; (4) and the new 3rd District Police Station. Finally, we advocate a CIP for Burtonsville revitalization.

ECCAB, in partnership with the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center, co-sponsored a Citizens CIP Forum on June 21, 2007. Approximately 20 individuals contributed to the forum discussions. The CIP priorities for East County were then discussed at the July meeting of ECCAB and are described below. The CIP for Burtonsville revitalization is based on additional information that ECCAB officers received since the July meeting.

We recommend the following capital projects:

1. **School Facilities.** ECCAB supports the school system's long-range Capital Improvement Program, including the capital projects that will benefit students currently enrolled in the Northeast Consortium schools. We are pleased that Cloverly and Stonegate elementary school gyms will be completed by August, 2008; that the modernization of Key Middle School and Galway Elementary School will be completed in 2009, and that Paint Branch High School's modernization, now in the design stages, is moving forward.

We continue to be concerned about the number of portable classrooms in East County and the projections that elementary school enrollment will exceed building capacity each year, now through the out-year 2021. This signals a constant need for portable classrooms. While portable classrooms are a good short-term solution to overcrowding, they should not be a permanent solution. Instead, we strongly recommend the building additions now only *under consideration* in the 2007-2012 CIP for Fairland, Jackson Road, and Sherwood elementary schools.

The Honorable Isiah Leggett

August 22, 2007

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Finally, we endorse maintaining Farquhar Middle School's position in the modernization schedule. While the school's PTA is interested in accelerating their position in the timetable, this would not be practicable under school board policy. Rather, we urge that the Farquhar CIP not slip if the budget becomes tight. To that end, we urge your collaboration with our delegation in seeking the State funding needed for the school system's capital projects.

- 2. Recreation Facilities and Services.** ECCAB enthusiastically supports the Comprehensive Recreation Facilities and Services Development Plan, 2010 – 2030. We specifically support the development of the White Oak Recreation Center and the renovations for Good Hope Neighborhood Recreation Center. We believe these projects are vital for youth activities and services to our community.

We are pleased that the White Oak Recreation Center project is moving forward within the original schedule. This project has entered the design development stage, involving site analysis and evaluation. Once this analysis phase is complete, a more detailed design process will begin, and the community will have input into the facility plans. We endorse all these action steps.

Further, we strongly support the Good Hope Community Center renovations and the opportunities for community input on the CIP. We believe that the renovations suggested by county planners (e.g., weight and exercise room, an additional classroom, locker rooms and an expanded lobby and gym) would encourage greater use of among residents.

- 3. New Fire and Rescue Station.** We support the proposed Fire-Rescue Station for the first-due response areas of Hillandale Station 12; Burtonsville Station 15; and Hillandale Station 24. We are concerned about the gap (below the county target) in response time coverage for first-responder and fire suppression services within the Calverton area and vicinity. This poses service risks for Riderwood Village, the Manors of Paint Branch and Rolling Acres neighborhoods, and the industrial and technology "parks" in the vicinity of Tech Road.

We are concerned about the increasing incident call load within East County, particularly the emergency medical services call load. The most urgent concern is the medic units at Stations 12 and 15. These units are extremely busy and cannot absorb East County's increasing advanced life support call load.

The new Fire-Rescue Station is needed in the vicinity of U.S. Route 29 and Tech Road. It would house a medic unit and engine and have the extra space for housing future apparatus and reserve units. This station project should be

included in the FY 09-15 CIP, with the site evaluation process for the new East County Station to be led by the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center director. Additionally, we support the Burtonsville Station 15 expansion, presently in the design phase, with construction to be completed by fall 2008.

4. **3rd District Police Station.** We support the CIP that replaces the current Silver Spring District Station. The rationale is that business, residential, and transportation patterns have changed in East County – leaving this primary facility at the far south end of the 3rd Police District.

Planning funds from Facility Planning Police Project (#479452) was already used to develop the prototype district station. We are pleased that the site was selected, and we urge you to move forward with the development of a site-specific PDF.

5. **Burtonsville CIP.** ECCAB officers recently learned that the Burtonsville “Resident Shopping Survey and Market Study,” commissioned by Montgomery County Government, was completed this summer. We also heard that a Community Legacy Grant will be made available. This will allow the solicitation of consultants to work with the county over the next year in developing recommendations and strategies to enhance the Burtonsville community with focused efforts on the shops along Route 198.

These recommendations and/or strategies could include physical improvements ranging from (1) streetscape and landscaping to desirable architectural façade designs; (2) marketing or promotional efforts; (3) preservation of small businesses; (4) gateway and/or way finding signage; (5) parking improvements; and (6) others. ECCAB plans to work closely with the Department of Housing and Community Affairs (DHCA) in the formulation of the Community Legacy Plan and outreach to the community. We strongly urge you to support the DHCA Capital Improvements Program (CIP) for Burtonsville revitalization.

We thank you for your attention to the needs of the residents of East County.

Sincerely,

Kim M. Bobola, PhD
Chair, East County Citizens Advisory Board

c. Anise Key Brown, Director

February 27, 2008

The Honorable Isiah Leggett
County Executive
Executive Office Building
101 Monroe Street, 2nd Floor
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Mr. Leggett:

On behalf of the East County Citizens Advisory Board (ECCAB), I want to thank you for providing us with an opportunity to convey to you the top priorities we identified for our region. We believe that these priorities, which I will refer to as the 2008 ECCAB Priorities, are consistent with the *Eight Priority Results of the County Executive*.

2008 ECCAB Priorities

The 2008 ECCAB Priorities are: (1) schools and recreation; (2) a vision for transportation; (3) public safety, with a sharper focus on gangs and crime prevention; (4) Burtonsville revitalization; and (5) affordable housing. Finally, we have identified a cross-cutting priority that addresses the master plans covering the East County services region. Specifically, this priority is a request to fund studies of small areas within the master plans to address issues involving development, infrastructure, and transportation.

Process for Identifying the Priorities

To identify the 2008 ECCAB Priorities, the East County Citizens Advisory board used a number of methods to gather input from our community. We held community forums,³ administered surveys of people attending community festivals,⁴ conducted a board retreat, and gathered comments and suggestions from individuals who attended monthly ECCAB meetings. From these combined sources, ECCAB compiled, categorized, and established the priorities described below.

2008 ECCAB Priorities

1. **Schools and Recreation** (*Children prepared to live and learn*). Our top priority is the public schools and provisions for recreation. We believe that both are essential in preparing children to live and learn. We wish to highlight Montgomery County Public School System's (MCPS) Capital Improvement Program, the FY 2009 Operating Budget, and the Department of Recreation's Facilities and Services Development Plan.
 - A. MCPS Capital Improvements Program (CIP). We appreciate the efforts that were put forth by county officials in pursuing school construction funds for FY 09. The state dollars that should be forthcoming, combined with local funding, will go a long way toward ensuring that the county is able to make good on its promises to carry out the projects in the CIP schedule.

³ In partnership with the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center (EMRSC), ECCAB held a Crime Forum on February 13, 2007 and a Transportation Forum on June 2, 2007.

⁴ At the Burtonsville Days festival on September 30, 2006, a total of 69 individuals completed a survey designed by the Outreach Committee to solicit comments. An analysis of the survey results revealed a referendum on transportation. Other priorities included crime and economic development. Regarding economic development, survey participants were interested in finding out whether or not an anchor store will be coming to the Burtonsville Shopping Center or vicinity.

- Residents of East County would be pleased if **Paint Branch High School** is built on time.
- ECCAB continues to monitor the position that **Farquahar Middle School** holds in the modernization schedule and wants to ensure that the school does not slip from its current position.

B. FY2009 Operating Budget. ECCAB supports the priorities that the school system identified in the \$2.1 billion Fiscal Year **2009 Operating Budget** and that the School Board adopted on February 5.

- ECCAB is concerned about meeting the student-teacher ratios set in school policy, and wants to ensure that the school system is able to deploy staff – in accordance with these ratios – at the beginning of the school year. We were disappointed that Burtonsville Elementary School was not entirely staffed until November 2007. To address this concern, ECCAB recommends:
 - ✓ **Full funding of the school board’s request for teacher positions**, as detailed in the FY2009 Operating Budget
 - ✓ Holding the school system accountable for accuracy of enrollment projections and efficiency in staffing each school in a timely manner.
- ECCAB strongly supports the school system’s budget requests that would shore up middle school programs and improve special education programs and services. We are pleased that:
 - ✓ Programs to help **ESOL high school students** with interrupted education will be expanded; and
 - ✓ **Continuing education opportunities** will be provided to energize teaching and professional staff and help them stay current in their profession.

We also endorse the 5.6 percent increase (\$110 million) over the FY 2008 budget that will help fund a **5 percent negotiated salary increase** for nearly 22,000 employees. We believe this is essential in terms of staying competitive in our region.

C. Recreation Facilities and Services Development Plan. We enthusiastically support the construction of the **White Oak Recreation Center**, and are pleased that the project is moving forward on schedule. What’s important to us is that the **site selection does not change**. Progress has been made regarding the site analysis and evaluation, and this progress should not be impeded. ECCAB looks forward to the detailed planning that will follow, and hopes to be involved with the Department of Recreation in seeking community input for the facility plans.

Good Hope Community Center. We worry that the planned renovations of the **Good Hope Community Center** may be negatively impacted by budget cuts. We believe that the renovations (e.g., weight and exercise room, an additional classroom, locker rooms and an expanded lobby and gym) are necessary facility enhancements. This community center, which is in close proximity to the Briggs Chaney area, has the potential to engage youth that congregate at the Briggs Chaney Shopping Center in wholesome alternatives to gang or other destructive activity.

2. **A Vision for Transportation** (*Effective and Efficient Transportation Network*). In January of 2007, ECCAB members attended a Joint Meeting of Citizens Advisory Boards, and learned about the Region's Transportation Plan. We also learned that a policy framework has been adopted. The vision of this policy framework is to promote *activity centers*; *increase transit opportunities/use*; and *reduce road traffic*.

Several key issues for the region were identified: (a) Job growth is outpacing housing; (b) Workers are living farther from their jobs; (c) An East-West Divide is occurring: that is, west-bound traffic clogs the roads during the morning rush hour; and (d) Most growth is located outside of transit station areas.

At the Transportation Forum that ECCAB held in June of 2007, we learned more information about the Region's Transportation Plan. Unfortunately, we heard that the plan has limited funding associated with it. ECCAB is very concerned that limited funding will constrain the long-range plan. We believe that a dedicated funding stream is needed to implement the plans associated with this regional framework.

- A. East County Vision for Transportation. We also believe that a single **Long-Term Vision**⁵ for Transportation in East County is needed, and that this vision should be consistent with the Regional Transportation Plan and Policy Framework. The East County Vision for Transportation should address growth and development in East County and the impact they will have on traffic congestion,⁶ which is *the* major concern of the residents of East County. As part of the East County Vision for Transportation, the county should:

- Examine **rush-hour congestion** to identify the nature of the problem. For example: What percentage of cars in rush-hour traffic on Route 29 and New Hampshire Avenue are Howard County residents? Where does the traffic funnel down and bottleneck? This exercise would reveal the through-pipes and help in resolving some of the cross-pipes (e.g., the work that needs to be done on Randolph Road).
- Establish some measure of **road capacity**. Plans should include within-county targets, such as 20% of residents will utilize mass transit; 20% of residents will car pool, etc. Plans should also identify incentives to encourage the residents to meet the targets.
- **Align the Transportation Vision for East County with the Regional Plan**. This would involve a deeper study of transit options and incentives for citizens to use them, and an expansion of transportation issues to include road engineering, busses, bikes, fixed rail, monobeam, and safety issues.

- B. Intercounty Connector (ICC). ECCAB is concerned that the residents of East County are largely uninformed about the Intercounty Connector and how it will affect them. Consequently, we want to see a **public information campaign** that would:

⁵ We need to coordinate the Transportation component of the master plans with regional planners, (Maryland Park and Planning for Montgomery and Prince George's Counties), State Highway Administration officials, as well as developers and others who have an interest in the future of East County. The developers that we talk with are interested in helping to address this problem.

⁶ This could occur as employment swells at the Federal Research Center, as the Percontee LifeSci Village and the East County Science and Tech Center are developed, and as the Washington Adventist Hospital relocates in East County. Since no *one* developer we talk with can shoulder the burden of road infrastructure costs, a coordinated effort is needed.

- Inform the residents what the Intercounty Connector is; where it is going to go; and when it is coming
- Identify how the ICC will create benefits for residents of East County such as: quick and easy access to Interstate 95 and access to the interchanges that will get them to other parts of Montgomery County along the ICC.

We also believe that **Spot Planning at ICC nodes** is necessary to consider revisions to master plans that may not take advantage of the new road.

C. Bus Lines. East County has a significant issue with bus lines. **We need to learn from the users how to improve this.**

- For example, Senior citizens who utilize bus services from Burtonsville to the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center may not have bus service available for a return trip to Burtonsville.
- Because the ICC is expecting to spur “4,400 new Express Bus trips,” an investigation is needed as to whether there are **adequate commuter parking lots** for these dedicated busses and how this will help our residents.

3. **Public Safety** (*Safe streets and secure neighborhoods*). We are proud that Montgomery County is one of the safest communities in the country, and want to ensure that the county maintains this distinction. Montgomery County needs to stay at the forefront in terms of gangs and crime prevention. In East County, we also need to upgrade the fire and police facilities.

A. Gangs and Crime Prevention. ECCAB believes that the most important role of government is the safety and protection of the community. We are concerned about the threat posed by gangs and individuals involved in gang-like activities. For this reason, we believe the county should sharpen its focus on gang prevention through activities such as:

- Re-doubling prevention efforts through the Joint County Gang **Prevention Task Force**
- Stepping up **outreach programs** to youth through recreation and education
- Initiating an **information campaign** that would involve parents, family members, and entire communities as a first line of defense in guarding against children becoming a part of a gang or choosing to participate in gang-like activities
- Working with the State legislature in **reforming the juvenile justice system** so that individuals involved in gang crimes and gang-like activities are dealt with in different ways than turning them back to the streets without proper interventions.

B. Fire Station. We support the proposed Fire-Rescue Station for the first-due response areas of Hillandale Station 12; Burtonsville Station 15; and Hillandale Station 24.

- The new Fire-Rescue Station is needed in the vicinity of U.S. Route 29 and Tech Road. This station project should be included in the FY 09-15 CIP, with the site evaluation process for the new East County Station to be led by the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center director. Additionally, we support the Burtonsville Station 15 expansion, presently in the design phase, with construction to be completed by fall 2008.

C. Police Station. We support the CIP that replaces the current Silver Spring District Station. The rationale is that business, residential, and transportation patterns have changed in East County – leaving the current facility at the far south end of the 3rd Police District. The New Hampshire Avenue/Route 29 location will be much more centrally located.

4. **Burtonsville Revitalization** (*Strong and vibrant economy*). ECCAB is interested in implementing the recommendations of the Burtonsville “Resident Shopping Survey and Market Study,” commissioned by the Department of Housing and Community Development which was completed the summer of 2007. ECCAB suggests that the recommendations included in the report be acted on. One example is:

- Discontinuing plans to build the Burtonsville Access Road in 2009. This road was designed to alleviate traffic on Route 198 and serve businesses in the Burtonsville Center. We believe that this road is now ill-conceived, as it was designed prior to the road upgrades which have occurred. We believe that building this road would be a poor use of the taxpayers’ dollar, and that the county should stop it.
- Spot Planning. This is another area requiring that a small section of the master plan be revisited to deal with Route 198 from Santini Road to Dino Road and about a ¼ mile north and south of 198.

5. **Affordable Housing** (*Affordable housing in an inclusive community*). ECCAB is concerned about basic zoning enforcement and availability of affordable housing stock.

A. Basic Zoning Enforcement. We are specifically concerned about the far reach that *mansionization* has in Montgomery County. While challenges related to mansionization are often noted for other parts of Montgomery County, the same challenges are present in East County, especially in Hillandale and White Oak. To deal with related concerns about mansionization, ECCAB supports the regulation of densities through the enforcement of existing laws and the proffering of additional zoning controls. The county needs to be vigilant regarding:

- Enforcement of existing codes (regarding smoke detectors, wiring for additional kitchens, and electrical or mechanical devices) for in-law suites, basement apartments, etc.
- Ensuring that consequences are applied to owners and occupants for violations.

B. Affordable Housing Stock. ECCAB believes the current system of subsidizing moderately priced dweller units (MPDUs)⁷ for workforce housing is inadequate and that there is a “profoundly troubled relationship” between incomes and housing prices in East County, since “the median home price in Metropolitan Washington is about eight times the median household income.”⁸

Montgomery County has tried to increase the supply of affordable housing by requiring developers of multi-unit residential projects to set aside a specified percentage of units as moderately priced dwellings, to be sold or rented at below-market prices. As compensation for these MPDUs, developers are granted density increases.

⁷ Townhouses near Lockwood: Eight individuals acquired Moderately Priced Dweller Units, while another 150 persons are on the waiting list.

⁸ Lewis, R. K. (February 16, 2008). Beyond the Mortgage Crisis, a Persistent Problem of Cost,” Washington Post.

We believe this policy has a flaw. Since developers have the option of buying out of the MPDU-housing fund, intended to finance housing to be developed in the future at other sites, the fund has grown. But, the number of MPDUs NOT produced by developers has far outnumbered the MPDUs produced by the fund. We believe that the county must move toward direct subsidy and county-sponsored housing production such as:

- Public Private Partnerships. For example, in San Francisco, affordable housing is developed by private developers, mostly non-profits, many of which are local community or faith-based organizations, using a combination of rental income, private funding and government subsidies. Over the past decade, many communities in the San Francisco Bay Area have shown that partnerships can create attractive, successful affordable housing developments that not only serve residents, but are an asset to the broader community.
- Housing Cooperatives. In these co-ops, which are owned by a corporation that owns real estate, residents occupy one housing unit, subject to an occupancy agreement that is similar to a lease.

Additionally, we believe that **master plans must be revised** to allow higher density, smaller units in areas for transitional or entry level housing.

6. **Cross-Cutting Goal** (Strong, vibrant economy; Affordable housing; and Transportation)

While the master plans covering our region's service area have been reasonably intact for ten years, the East County Citizens Advisory Board is asking that small parts of these master plans (i.e., Fairland, White Oak, and Cloverly) be opened for the purpose of conducting *Spot Studies* of targeted locations to address issues involving development, infrastructure, and transportation. Examples are:

- Montgomery Auto Park and the West Side of Route 29 at the ICC Interchange. A *Spot Study* would hone in on the quadrant NE of Route 29 (the area behind the Autopark; the field and wooded area for boy scouts activities; and the wooded area north of Fairland Road) and spotlight the current zoning for housing development. This area, at the ICC, may be better suited as a business park, while the Percontee property, which is zoned for business only, could be *re-zoned* so Percontee would have the residential product that they want.
- Route 198 through Burtonsville. A *Spot Study* could be used for gridding the Burtonsville shopping area along Route 198. The purpose would be to identify efficient ways to move people east and west through the shopping area. Solutions could include: adding a median strip, building an additional lane, and creating a turn-lanes for driver-access to the businesses located along Route 198 and a path for pedestrians to encourage foot traffic within the shopping district.
- Percontee, the County's Proposed Tech Center (former WSSC), Proposed Adventist Hospital. In a *Spot Study*, the 182-acre Percontee Gravel Mining Site (designated into mixed-use) and the redevelopment of East County Science Center and Tech Center, the 115-acre property owned by WSSC, could work together as one entity.

This approach has the potential to efficiently address specific problem areas in East County at a lower cost and in a more timely manner than was seen in previous decades when the entire master plan was opened up.

We thank you for your attention to the 2008 ECCAB Priorities.

Sincerely,

Kim M. Bobola, PhD
Chair, East County Citizens Advisory Board

c. Anise Key Brown, Director

Good afternoon. My name is Kim Bobola. I serve as the chair of the East County Citizens Advisory Board, and want to thank you for this opportunity to testify on behalf on our advisory board.

With the vacancy created on the County Council in February by the untimely death of our beloved Marilyn Praisner, ECCAB was worried as to whether East County would have a voice this budget season. Since February, we've had the pleasure to interact with the at-large members of the County Council to inform you of our needs. We thank you for your interest in our needs.

This presentation intends to reinforce the issues of weight and import to East County. They are as follows: (a) the future of the Burtonsville Shopping Center; (b) the transportation projects in the vicinity of the Federal Research Center; (c) the White Oak Recreation Center; (d) the Fire Station, not in the CIP; (e) and the construction of Paint Branch High School.

1. Burtonsville Revitalization. The Burtonsville "Resident Shopping Survey and Market Study" was completed last summer. As a follow up to this study, ECCAB is planning to work closely with the Department of Housing and Community Affairs (DHCA) in the formulation of a Community Legacy Plan. This will allow the solicitation of consultants to work with us in enhancing the Burtonsville community with focused efforts on the shops along Route 198. The timing continues to be right for advancing this project.
2. Transportation Projects. ECCAB just received a reworked summary of the transportation projects in the vicinity of the Federal Research Center (FRC) at White Oak. We know a lot of time and money are going into roads, transit, bikeways and sidewalks in this area. Your commitment to these transportation projects is vital. They comprise the main arteries of the transportation system for the eastern region and are essential to the future success of the FRC and development in East County, which will rival development in the western part of the county.
3. The White Oak Recreation Center. We thank you for your support of the White Oak Recreation Center on Stewart Lane. This project is entering the design development stage, which involves the site analysis and evaluation and community input. This recreation center is important to East County, because it will serve between 5,000 and 6,000 households within a one-mile or two-mile radius of the center.
4. Fire Station, not in the CIP. A new Fire-Rescue Station is needed in the vicinity of U.S. Route 29 and Tech Road. This new station project should be included in the FY 09-15 CIP with the site evaluation process to be led by the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center director.

ECCAB is concerned about the gap (which is below the county target) in response time coverage for first-responder and fire suppression services in the Calverton area and vicinity. This poses service risks for Riderwood Village, the Manors of Paint Branch and Rolling

Acres neighborhoods, and the industrial and technology "parks" in the vicinity of Tech Road.

5. Paint Branch High School. Far and away, our top priority is the construction of Paint Branch High School. The project is needed in response to over-crowded and outdated facilities. This project has been delayed one year, and should not be delayed any longer. A modern facility is essential for the provision of a high-quality education for the current high school students as they prepare for the high-tech, high-skill, and high-pay jobs that will be available to them in East County.

With your help, we will see even better things for East County. Again, we thank you for taking notice of the needs of East County. For us, failure to keep an eye on the ball for just one budget season is not an option.

Positions

This section of the report summarizes the positions of the ECCAB.

Burtonsville Revitalization

Recently, the East County Citizens Advisory Board (ECCAB) was made aware that the PHED Committee wants to cut the County Executive's proposed funding levels for PDF No. 760900, Burtonsville Community Revitalization. The County Executive's recommendation called for \$100,000 in FY09 and \$400,000 in FY10; the proposal made in the February 28th PHED Committee called for \$100,000 in FY09, \$200,000 in FY10, and \$200,000 in FY11. I am writing on behalf of ECCAB to request that the funding for improvements to the Burtonsville commercial area not be delayed and for follow up.

As you know, the Fairland Master Plan, adopted over 10 years ago, identified a number of improvements to the Burtonsville commercial area in the vicinity of Route 198 and Route 29. Several years ago, Councilmember Praisner sponsored a series of meetings that brought business representatives together with state and county officials to identify the problems and possible solutions associated with these plans.

Several problems were identified relating to the relocation of Route 29. For example, (a) access problems to the Burtonsville commercial area came about, since Route 29 bypasses local businesses; (b) the community was unable to get SA to provide better signage designed to attract shoppers to our local businesses; and (c) delays have occurred in the widening and reconfiguration of Route 198 west of Route 29, which can create congestion and deter potential customers. Accordingly, local businesses are experiencing a significant decline in revenue.

In addition to identifying these problems, Councilmember Praisner assisted the community in identifying potential solutions to them. Under Mrs. Marilyn J. Praisner's leadership, multiple partners began to work on creating a public/private partnership and identifying potential funding mechanisms to assist the small business owners. Additionally, DHCA was able to hire a consultant to conduct a market and consumer shopping survey, which outlined in greater detail the problems and potential solutions. Most important, the partners began to work on a Community Legacy Plan that would leverage state funding.

Through the County Executive's recommended \$400,000 funding level for FY10, DHCA would be able to advance their plans to work on two major improvements to the Burtonsville commercial area: façade treatment and signage. In achieving a revitalized commercial area, one of the major signage projects would provide a “tower” sign in the Park and Ride lot bordering the relocated Route 29 and directing motorists to the Burtonsville retail village. This element alone, which would go a long way toward resolving the problems caused by the road’s relocation, would cost \$100,000 or more. However, if funding is delayed, progress would be seriously hindered, since only one major improvement project could be funded.

ECCAB has identified revitalization of the commercial area and creation of a village-type center as a priority for East County. We hope that you will support the County Executive's funding levels so that the hard work of business owners, residents, and government agencies will not be delayed any further.

Environmental Education

On behalf of the East County Citizens Advisory Board (ECCAB), I am writing to request that attention be given as soon as possible to maintaining the Maydale Environmental Education Center. ECCAB understands that approximately \$20,000 is needed to maintain the center, and we therefore propose that a plan for funding this amount be developed.

As you know, the Maydale Environmental Education Center was established through a cooperative effort among the Friends of Maydale, Maryland-National Capital Parks and Planning and the Montgomery County Public School System. This 29-acre park and nature center facility is ideally suited for early childhood students who visit each year to apply skills that they have learned in class to a real-world setting.

Our hope is that the Council would get involved with the partners in order to obtain their commitment to this project. We are concerned that without your attention to this center, the Maydale Environmental Education Center program could suffer a service reduction. In light of this concern, we want to ensure that the needs of the center are acknowledged, and that the responsibility for maintaining this center be assigned.

We ask that you follow up with John Hench, Chief of the Park Planning and Stewardship Division, so that the needs of the Maydale Environmental Education Center are being met.

Public Safety

- **Ambulance Fees**

We, the members of the East County Citizens Advisory Board (ECCAB), request your support of Bill 25-08, the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Transport Fee. As you know, this bill revisits an earlier proposal on the use of EMS Transport Fees as a revenue source to the emergency medical services.

Bill 25-08 is a clear and straightforward way to get funding back to the community. It requires no one to pay anything, and results in no change in service. Such fees are in use in more than 60% of jurisdictions nationally, and throughout the DC metropolitan area – except for Montgomery County. These fees will provide Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Services the funds needed to maintain high levels of service to all parts of the County, and support our local volunteer departments.

ECCAB believes the concerns about funding splits with volunteer departments should not be confused with the discussion, since they are being resolved separately. ECCAB is convinced there is no evidence from jurisdictions that have successfully implemented this fee that it deters anyone from calling for needed emergency medical transport assistance. Also, ECCAB believes that speculation about possible insurance increases may never be able to assign any increase to the EMS Transport Fee.

In our final analysis, ECCAB believes the EMS Transport Fee will have little impact on citizens, since there will not be a cost or fee that the resident will ever see, and we believe that the misinformation campaign has misled the average person. In truth, the EMS Transport Fee will have a huge impact in supplying Fire & Rescue Services with the dedicated resources it needs for the services it provides, without having to raise taxes for this purpose.

In September 2004, the Department of Fire and Rescue Services presented information to the CAB on the Fire and Rescues Services' Proposed Emergency Management Services Ambulance Transport Fees. CAB members questioned whether distribution of these funds would take into account areas such as the Mid-County that may have a higher percentage of uninsured residents than reflected overall Statewide, and disparities between the amount expected to be collected in FY05 and the net available to the County for programming. The proposal was referred to the CAB's Joint Committee on Transportation & Public Safety and Community Awareness & Education for review and preparation of a recommendation for the full CAB. The Joint Committee subsequently wrote to the author of the zoning text amendment that would create the ambulance fees to get clarification on a series of questions they had about the proposed legislation. The proposal for an ambulance fee was dropped.

Attachments

East County Demographic Information

On its September monthly meeting, the board reviewed this information about the composition of East County:

- Population is 111,250 people.
- Demographics include: Caucasian (52%), African/African American (29%), Hispanic/Latino (7%), and Asian (14%).
- Income: up to \$30K (13%), \$30-50K (16%), \$51-70K (17%), \$70-100K (21%), Over \$100K(33%)
- Education Level: HS (25%), Some College (7%), BS/BA (29%), Masters &Above (28%)
- The number of businesses: 3,639
- Home Owner Type: Detached/Single Family (59%), Townhouse (18%), Garden Apartments (16%), High Rise (7%)
- **Age Groups: Over 65 (13%), 45-64 (28%), 30-44 (21%), 18-29 (14%), Under 18 (25%)**