**East County Citizens Advisory Board (ECCAB)**

Eastern Montgomery Regional Center

3300 Briggs Chaney Road, Silver Spring, MD 20904

**Wednesday, December 7, 2016**

**MEETING SUMMARY**

**Members Present:** Roy Chavera,Peter Myo Khin, Jerold Samet, Faustina Smith-Neil, Fred Stichnoth, Curtis Watkins, Jeffrey Bond, Dr. Shivonne Laird, Hildegarde Sylla, Melissa Daley and Samantha Blizzard.

**Guests Present**: Director, Montgomery County (MC) Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Uma Ahluwalia; CEO Strathmore Hall Foundation Eliot Pfanstiehl, Strathmore President Monica Jeffries-Hazangeles,and Strathmore East County Choral Director Colin Brown, MCPD Sgt. E.J. Harrell from 3rd District and Lt. Joe Onderko from 4th District; MC Council Member Mara Parker and Brian Anleu.

**Staff Present:** MC East County Regional Director Jewru Bandeh.

**Special Guest Presentation: Eliot Pfanstiehl, CEO Strathmore,** presented an Overview/Update on the Strathmore’s recent, current and future active presence in East County. He and his colleagues explained the Strathmore’s goal is to empower artists and the community in active participation in the arts. Strathmore seeks to impact citizens of EC in lasting ways to increase the value of performing arts in their lives, and highlighted, including but not limited to the following initiatives:

* For FY16/17they started six sustainable community programs.
* Tentatively planned concerts are February 25th at Lutheran Church St. Andrews, and either March 18th or 25th at 7th Day Adventist facility, a festival of voices on April 29th at Blake High School. More can be learned at the Strathmore website [www.strathmore.org/ECI](http://www.strathmore.org/ECI).

**Approval of November 2016 Meeting Summary**: Summary was approved.

**Update from ECCAB Quality of Life Ex-Committee Chair Samantha Blizzard.** Currently seeking a Chair for this sub-committee. The next meeting will be January 11th, same day as budget planning meeting.

**Special Guest Presentation: Director HHS Uma Ahluwalia** briefed on the EC Net Public-Private Collaboration which included but was not limited to: history of how the work came about, statistics and visuals for locations of poverty, unemployment, use of public transportation, current opportunities, principals driving their mission, food summit updates, work groups created, timetable of plans, Health and Wellness matters, Youth Development initiatives, and options to pursue for future decision making.

**Comments/questions from ECCAB board members included but were not limited to Chair Roy Chavera:** Executive board members attended the county wide CAB meeting which was a positive. Regarding the HHS presentation, he expressed concern that the delivery model did not capture all sectors of EC, particularly when the school boundary changes, i.e. Springbrook cluster area; Melissa Daley expressed concern about foreign transfer education initiatives. HHS response was acknowledged.

**New Business: Update from East County Regional Services Center Director’s Report Jewru Bandeh:** People’s Community Baptist Church Wellness clinic is closing end of year. He briefed on progress with DHHS and Mobile medical services staff to expand in some of the vacated spaces; discussions are ongoing to expand African American health and education outreach; expansion of adult literacy outreach programs to include White Oak area, efforts to identify replacement grocery store for Safeway/Briggs Chaney are ongoing, working closely with MCPD 3rd District to address minor crimes.

**Update from Montgomery County Council Staff Member Brian Anleu:** He presented a letter from Tom Hucker/Council Member District 5, to County Executive Isiah Leggett, that included but was not limited to the following: introduction of tax credits to encourage businesses to invest in EC and introduction of amendment to encourage mixed-use transit oriented development, request that Edens solicit community input on Burtonsville Crossing Shopping Center, set deadline for Edens to develop and present proposal, require mixed-use re-development and consider creative redevelopment proposals, reissue RFP to development Park and Ride Lot if mixed-use development is not included in the proposal.

**Update from 3rd and 4th Districts Montgomery County Police Sgt. E.J. Harrell and Lt. Joe Onderko respectively:**

* In general, no current trends identified regarding criminal activity, citizens are encouraged to be extra vigilant particularly during holiday season, which in general accounts for increases in minor crimes. Small crimes reported as usual, largely from juveniles.

**Update from Montgomery County Council Staff Member Mara Parker included but was not limited to the following matters**: legislation passed on landlord/tenant matters which enhanced rights of tenants including but not limited to more inspections and increased notification for rent increases, and via Bill 12:16 minimum wage to be increased incrementally to $15 an hour by the year 2020.

**Update from ECCAB Planning/Economic Development Committee Chair Peter Khin:** Peter Khin made a motion for board to support Tom Hucker’s initiatives in referenced letter submitted by Brian Anleu on behalf of Tom Hucker, and motion was approved for ECCAB to draft a letter in support. Also, Peter Khin made a second motion to " send to the County Council and the County Executive a letter from the Board in support of a special appropriation to the County Government’s Fiscal Year 2017 operating budget for the Department of Housing and Community Affairs and Motor Pool NDA in the appropriations amount of $690,955 for housing code enforcement enhancements." He also encouraged ECCAB board members to participate in the upcoming webinars regarding BRT, last one 12/14/2016.

**Citizens’ Comments:**  Comments included mostly short positive acknowledgements of presentation/briefings.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned about 9:17 pm**.**