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

Eastern Montgomery Regional Center

3300 Briggs Chaney Road, Silver Spring, MD 20904

**Wednesday, January 4, 2017**

**MEETING SUMMARY**

**Members Present:** Roy Chavera,Peter Myo Khin, Jerold Samet, Faustina Smith-Neil, Fred Stichnoth, Curtis Watkins, Jeffrey Bond, Melissa Daley, Samantha Blizzard, Richard Romer, Fisseha Adugna and Fatmata Barrie.

**Guests Present**: David Petr, Joy Nurmi, Christopher Conklin, Andrew Bossi, Sgt. John O’Brien, Mara Parker, Elizabeth Ortega, Peter Fosselman, Elisse Barnes, Dan Wilhelm, Ed Weiler, Vicki Garcia, Sarah Watson, Karen Cheeks, Alicia jones, Tina Patterson, Jonathan Genn, Ken Flemmer, Shane Pollin, Mitra Podoeem, Mara Parker, LeeYaffe-Stark, Mensah Adjogah, Mark Pharaoh, Mary Silva, Len Newman.

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

**Special Guest(s) Presentation:** David Petr President/CEO Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation (MCEDC), Joy Nurmi, Special Assistant to the County Executive, Christopher Conklin Deputy Director of Transportation Policy, and Andrew Bossi Senior Engineer Montgomery County Department of Transportation.

* David Petroutlined his professional background and provided an overview and mission of the newly created Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation, located in Rockville, MD. His presentation included plans to have discussions about economic development in conjunction with workforce development.
* David Petrmentioned how his team was looking for the “right fit” to reflect the needs of the surrounding communities.
* David Petrstated that a newsletter is forthcoming, and a calendar for meetings, events, will be soon included on the new MCEDC website, scheduled for release on or about late spring/summer 2017.
* Christopher Conklin spoke about filling requirements for a full range of transportation needs, and funds needed to support transportation infrastructure. MCDOT is coordinating with the State of Maryland Highway Administration.
* Andrew Bossi gave a power point presentation that highlighted the following topics: “White Oak Science Gateway Master Plan Local Area Transportation Review, the methodology utilized, findings, including cost analysis for the White Oak study area – intersections, transit, bikeways, and the White Oak Transportation Management District, and the next steps.
* ECCAB board membersPeter Myo Khin, Richard Romer, Melissa Daley and Fisseha Adugna, asked questions related to economic development and the East County region which were addressed by presenter David Petr.
* Community attendees asked questions related to the MCDOT study, analysis and costs, and concerns specific to specific Hillandale intersections and traffic, which were addressed by MCDOT speaker(s) as well.
* The presenters suggested that now is the time to share views with the County Council the LATR assessment.

**Approval of December 2016 Meeting Summary**: A motion was made to approve the meeting summary with a correction of Peter Myo Khin’s name spelling, then it was seconded and approved unanimously.

**New Business: Update from East County Regional Services Center Director Jewru Bandeh** included anannouncement of a replacement was found for the closed Briggs Chaney Safeway grocery store (Global Food). They plan to open the new store in the Spring of 2017. The County will provide assistance to the owners to recruit new hires, conduct community outreach and the permitting process as needed.

Peter Fosselman, the County’s White Oak Implementation Coordinator introduced himself,commented briefly on the White Oak Master Plan developments and presented a map of the White Oak planning area and related information.

Elizabeth Ortega from Montgomery County Recreation Department spoke about recreation programs and activities offered to the community, which are also published on the Recreation Department’s website. She handed out information packets of upcoming classes offered by her department.

**Update from ECCAB Planning/Economic Development Committee, Chair Peter Myo Khin:** Peter Myo Khin spoke briefly about the discussions and status of the Jesus House mega church, community concerns, and position of the PED committee in looking into the issues presented. The committee invited County Planning Department staff to provide an overview of the Jesus House development application and review process.

Two motions were made/approved by the board to be handled by the Planning and Economic Development committee. The first was for the committee to develop a letter to be sent the County Council and County Executive supporting the County Executive’s Capital Improvement Projects Amendments -$47.2 million for White Oak redevelopment, and the second letter supporting the amendment of Resolution18-195, and the General Development Agreement. Peter Myo Khin was authorized to testify on behalf of ECCAB at the scheduled public hearing.

**Update on ECCAB Quality of Life/Social Issues Committee, Samantha Blizzard:** Samantha Blizzard spoke briefly on the Montgomery County Health and Human Services East County Opportunity (Social Services Delivery Initiative Proposal) presentation by Director Uma Ahluwalia and ECRSC Director Jewru Bandeh, as discussed at the committee meeting. The committee supports the initiative and the need for a community based social services delivery and workforce development programs in East County. They also discussed briefly topics/items in preparation for the County Executive’s FY18 budget forum.

**Update from 3rd District Montgomery County Police:** Sgt. John O’Brien update includeda briefoverview of areacrime statistics, and noted that the highest crime statistics involved thefts from automobiles. He encouraged citizens to be vigilant, not to leave any valuables in plain view and to lock doors.

**Update from Montgomery County Council Staff:** Mara Parker announced an upcoming Council meetings to discuss plans for a supervised visitation center for domestic violence victims, public safety, other future joint Health and Human Services and Education Committees meeting on new school construction.

**Community Comments**: Two community attendees expressed concern regarding the “enormous” size of the proposed Jesus House redevelopment project in Cloverly, with four hundred (400) residents in that vicinity of the construction. There is a petition against the current design of the Jesus House circulating.

**Montgomery County Executive’s January 11, 2017 Operating Budget**: The board announced that its two committees will jointly sponsor/host the County Executive’s January 11, 2017 East County FY2018 Budget Community Forum, in lieu of their regular January meetings.

**Adjournment:** This meeting adjourned about 9:09 pm**.**