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

Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center

3300 Briggs Chaney Road, Silver Spring, MD 20904

Wednesday May 7, 2014

**MEETING SUMMARY**

**Members Present:** Erik Amick,Samantha Blizzard, Roy Chavera, Marya Ford, Alison Praisner-Klumpp, David Kochanski, Peter Myo Khin, Allan Mulligan, Jerold Samet, Ian Swain, Teddy Wu.

**Staff Present:** Jewru Bandeh, Miquitta Scott

**Guests:** Melissa Daley, Zella Shabassan, Ed Weiler, Mensah Adjogah, Lynn Harris, Karen Montgomery, Alexis Reed, Mark Pharoah, Mara Parker, Eric Luedtke, Sheila Hixson, Anne Kaiser, Alice Wilkerson, Craig Zucker.

**Citizens’ Forum**

Ed Weiller brought up issues related to over population of deer and increasing accidents resulting in serious injuries, damage to cars and spread of lime disease.

**Special Guests** (Sen. Karen S. Montgomery, Del. Anne R. Kaiser, Del. Sheila E. Hixson, Del. Eric Luedtke, Del. Craig Zucker, Alice Wilkerson, Chief of Staff for Sen. Jamie Raskin, Montgomery County Councilmember Cherri Branson, Alexis Reed (for Con. John Sarbanes) and Lynn Harris (for Tom Hucker).

* Sen. Karen S. Montgomery spoke about the most recent bills that were passed, such as the medical marijuana and decriminalization, gender/transgender neutrality and anti discrimination laws, Maryland State AAA bond rating and the $38.7 billion balance budget.
* Del. Anne Kaiser, who favored the estate tax, spoke about some of the bills she helped passed, such as the minimum wages legislation, EITC for the low income, expansion of early childhood education services, $40 million school construction funding and speed camera reform.
* Del. Sheila E. Hixson spoke on issues and bills relative to decriminalization of marijuana, middle school education and improving the achievement gap in Montgomery County, the sudden cardiac arrest for athletic student’s bill, and the Pre-K education bill.
* Alice Wilkerson (representing Sen. Jamie Raskin) spoke on the gender identity and discrimination bill, protection of /records from automatic license plate readers and related privacy legislation, decriminalization of marijuana, bill expanding registry for organ donations, repelling Citizens United-democracy agenda, and efforts on the 2nd Chance Act-“Ban the Box” bill.
* Del. Eric Luedtke spoke about his efforts to double the tax credits for volunteer fire fighters, the failed assault on fire fighters bill, ongoing work to help in the revitalization of the Burtonsville Crossing Shopping Center and designation of thearea as a State Enterprise Zone, the RISE program and deer/bow hunting legislation.
* Del. Craig Zucker spoke on continuing problems with foreclosures, State aid for local projects ($1million+ for Districts 14 and 20), focus on economic development assistance authority, congressional STEM challenge, increase in school construction funding for the County.
* Alexis Reed (for Cong. John Sarbanes) spoke about the upcoming art competition and the Stem Challenge for high school students.
* Representative Lynn Harris (for Del. Tom Hucker) spoke on environmental issues, including community solar alternatives bill, secure choice payroll deduction/retirement savings.
* Councilmember Cherri Branson spoke briefly about a scheduled Council briefing on the Silver Spring Transit Center, anticipated Council schedule for the White Oak Master plan, Montgomery County Council meeting with their counter parts in Prince George’s County to discuss issues of joint interest, such as WSSC, Parks, etc., Council briefing on the OLO report, the RFQ for the Burtonsville land behind the shopping center.
* The presentations were followed by questions and answers.

**Directors Report**

A verbal report was provided to the Board. The main highlights included:

* Ribbon cutting event for new traffic signal at new Hampshire and Quaint Acres
* Official opening of new 3rd District Police Station will be on June 7, 2014
* MSHA will close both N/S bound lanes on US 29 for repairs until the end of May
* Two major Strawberry Festivals will be held on May 17, 2014 in East County
* Council discussion on the White Oak SG Master Plan will resume in mid July
* ECCAB election of Officers will be held at the June meeting
* .Planning for Montgomery College expansion to ECRSC is ongoing
* New ECCAB member interviews completed
* Community meeting to discuss renovation of the Good Hope Community Recreation Center scheduled in May

**Chair’s Report: None**

**Council Staff Updates:**

* County Council budget work session on May14th
* Council budget reconciliation list will be out on May 15, straw vote on the budget on May 22nd
* District 3rd Police Station official opening on June 7, 2014
* Interviews for the Planning Board Chair Position – 5 Candidates, July 8th
* Achievement Gap Forum at ECRSC on May 28th
* Discussion on decriminalization of marijuana
* 5th year anniversary of the Family Justice Center located in Rockville
* Support for the County Executive’s Pay Equity Bill

**Committee Reports:**

* ECCAB committee involvement in the Montgomery College expansion in East County
* ECCAB sponsor of a community meeting on the Council’s OLO Report on MCPS Student Achievement Gap
* The MCG Revitalization Plans for Burtonsville is the topic of discussion for the Zoning/Planning Committee next week

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**Announcements:**

* District 5 County Council Candidates Forum at the ECRSC on May 28, 2014
* Burtonsville 5K Run/Walk
* Strawberry Festivals on May 17, 2014

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 9:17pm