



## **EAST COUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD (ECCAB)**

Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center  
3300 Briggs Chaney Road  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20904  
Tel # (240-777-8414)

**Wednesday, February 1, 2023**  
**ECCAB Board Meeting Summary**

**Board Members Present:** Peter Myo Khin, Bill Bentley, Susan Price, Sebastian Smoot, Mark Pharaoh, Len Newman, Roberta Goldberg, Dawn Hill, Fisseha Adugna, Larry Edmonds, Fisseha Adugna, Kimberly Price-Evans

**Guests Present:** Kristin Mink, Dan Wilhelm, Chris Wilhelm, Commander David McBain, David Smith, Margie Goergen-Rood, Eileen Finnigan, Eric Carzon, Harriet Shangarai, Rob Richardson, Ed Weiler, Abdul Kamus

**Staff Present:** Jewru Bandeh, Cicero Salles

**Introduction and Statement from the ECCAB Chair:** Peter Myo Khin called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. There was a motion to appoint Dawn Hill as the new secretary. All members voted in favor. Community members, Council member representatives and ECCAB Board members were introduced.

### **Welcome, Introductions and Comments from the Community:**

A community member raised concern about too many cars being parked along side a residential street near the Calverton area. It is not illegal to park there, but the concern is getting in and out of driveways on that busy street, etc. Also, speeding on East Randolph near Laurie Drive was mentioned. There was a recent crash was reported in this area. The East County Director mentioned speaking with the Department of Transportation about roadway safety concerns on East Randolph.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The January 4, 2023 Meeting Summary was were approved. Larry Edmonds made the motion and Bill Bentley 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion for the approval of the minutes.

### **Dialogue/Discussion with Montgomery County District 5 Councilmember Kristin Mink:**

The Council member talked about various topics of interest to the board and community:

- Mink is working on the Capital Budget and the County Council is concerned about raising affordability. Her office is looking at ways to raise revenue and some budget items may have to be cut if the affordability guidelines aren't met. Burtonsville and Greencastle ES are still in the recommended budget. Mink is asking that these school projects not be cut from the budget, and she has solicited support from the state as well as, making calls to MCPS. There will also be a feature in the Bethesda Beat on this issue. Also, support for JoAnn Leleck ES was brought up by Eileen Finnegan. Kristin Mink clarified that Burtonsville ES is for a rebuild and not renovation

and Greencastle ES is renovation. One community member questioned if the County was seeking state and federal grant money. Mink responded that the proposed affordability guidelines present “a more fiscally conservative mentality.” The council is demanding more transparency from the Board of Education in terms of understanding how they are analyzing the funds and who determines what programs receive them.

- **On Issues Related to Housing** – Councilmember Mink is working with At Large Councilmember Will Jawando on a bill for rent stabilization. She is hoping to partner with 2 or 3 more council members before introducing the bill to the council. State Delegate Vaughn Stewart is pushing for state money to build more affordable housing. Peter emphasized having housing equitably placed throughout the county. There is potential for the state to funnel funds to the county for transit and the council will need to determine how to spend it. There were some comments on the need for a study for Randolph BRT; looking into grant funds from Dept. of Transportation; and placing priority on a section of 198 in Burtonsville.
- She announced that on February 15, 2023, District 14 State Legislators Meeting will be held on 2023 priorities
- **On Issues Related to Economic Development:** Mink’s office will hold a forum on economic development in the coming weeks. Topics included in this forum will be Montgomery College, Viva White Oak, Sears, and other big box stores, Hillandale, and more. Peter brought up marketing/ branding and talent pool recruitment such as, what took place in the \$5million project in White Flint. Co-Ops- allowing renters to own also was suggested.
- **On issues Related to Public Safety:** Crisis response is shorthanded all over the country. Mental health is still at the forefront. 50% of the time medical health specialists are responding to calls without officers. Mink suggested that we staff up and maybe use unsworn officers. More time to free up officers from dealing with mental health crises.

#### **Approval of ECCAB FY24 Operating Budget:**

- The budget was sent to the County Executive’s Office. Bill Bentley motioned to ratify the budget and Roberta Goldberg 2<sup>nd</sup>. The board approved the budget recommendations. In addition, there was approval to hold the joint committee meetings on Monday, February 6, 2023.

#### **Updates from Montgomery County Police 3D and 4D:**

- It was announced that 3D has a new lieutenant who has previous experience in the county. They are looking to restart 5 on 5 sports for kids (The Explorer’s Program). They had success with it in Hillandale, Long Branch, and White Oak. Looking to expand to Burtonsville and Briggs Chaney via Dept. of Parks and Recreation. Councilmember Mink and MCPD stated support for removing officers away from mental health calls as much as possible.
- Property crime is an issue now. Auto theft is up 300% and the Auto-Theft Unit has been re-implemented and MCPD is working with DC and PG County on intel transfer. Theft from auto is also a concern. Midnight officers will patrol neighborhoods with blue lights. 4D has two specialized units for car jackings and auto thefts.
- The department offers overtime detail to allow officers to patrol neighborhoods. They are recruiting officers by reaching out to area colleges to other states. MCPD is offering a 20k signing bonus for recruitment. This upcoming recruitment class is about 30.
- Sharon Brown asked if officers visit schools for career day. MCPD is considering re-implementing the D.A.R.E. Program. Officers are currently getting training on the curriculum.

#### **Montgomery County (Council) Staff Brief Updates:**

- Evan Glass’ staff representative, David Lorenzo-Botello) announced that Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> there will be a CIP Hearings at 1:30pm and 7pm. The deadline to testify is Feb. 6. Also, Feb.7 is Transit Equity Day at 1pm.

- Councilmember Dawn Luedke's staff representative Kate Gardner talked about the 250k design of sidewalk for Rt.108. The construction will begin in 2025. Their office is also focusing on crisis response.
- Councilmember Laurie-Anne Sayles's staff representative (Ezra Pine) mentioned talked about their focus on the CIP budget for wellness centers; resources for mental health for youth; universal broadband; improving homeless services; public safety and workforce development; housing and rental assistance; and streamlining the regulatory process for businesses with a racial equity focus.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 pm