



EAST COUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD (ECCAB)

Wednesday, February 2, 2022

Summary of Virtual ECCAB Board Meeting

ATTENDANCE

ECCAB Members Present

Rachael Evans, Bill Bentley, Sebastian Smoot, Chris Bolton, Larry Edmonds, Fisseha Adugna Raju Chebium, Roberta Goldberg, Dawn Hill, Len Newman, Susan Price, Kimberly Price-Evans
Lucille Smith

Guests Present:

Lt. Sunyoung Kim, Lt. Douglas Miller, Brian Anleu, Sharon Brown
Ed Weiler, David Lorenzo-Botello, Eileen Finnegan, Daniel Koroma, Leo Frankel, Peter Myo Khin
Ruth Pineda, Barbara Buchanon, Paul Geller, Margie Georgen-Rood

Staff Present: Jewru Bandeh, Linda Cooper

MEETING INITIATION

Welcome: The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: The meeting summary for January 5, 2022 was approved.

PRESENTATION BY SPECIAL GUESTS

Topic 1: Discussion with Montgomery County Police Department on Crime and Public Safety in East County (3rd and 4th Districts):

- There are three sectors in District 3: 1) George Sector: DTSS. 2) Henry Sector: Piney Branch. 3) Ida Sector: White Oak, Calverton, Fairland, Burtonsville
- Recent trend of commercial thefts. MCPD recently arrested three individuals that were responsible for several of the burglaries.
- Recent trends of theft of auto were discussed.
- Automated enforcement is useful, esp. for school buses. However, automated enforcement has limitations. The human-to-human interaction during officer traffic stops can result in arrests of people with warrants, remove guns from people who shouldn't have one, get drunk drivers off the road, and issue tickets for behaviors that are not detected by automated enforcement (dangerous driving, etc.).
- MCPD has found and removed "ghost guns" in Montgomery County.
- Morale is a challenge. Montgomery County police are paid lower than surrounding jurisdictions.

Topic 2: ECCAB Members Review, Comment and Approve the Thrive Montgomery 2050 Letter to the County Executive and County Council:

- On Wednesday, January 5, the board assigned the ECCAB’s Planning and Economic Development/Quality of Life and Issues Joint Committee with the task of reviewing Thrive at their upcoming meeting.
- On Wednesday, January 12, the ECCAB PED/QLI Joint Committee invited Pamela Dunn, (Montgomery County Council Senior Legislative Analyst) and Khalid Afzal (Montgomery County Planning Department Project Manager) to discuss Thrive. The Joint Committee established an ad-hoc committee to draft a letter in support of Thrive for the ECCAB’s consideration and approval.
- The ad-hoc committee met on Wednesday, January 19 to draft a letter, based on comments raised by Board members and the general public at previous meetings. The draft letter was shared with the full Board on Tuesday, January 25.
- A motion was made to approve the draft letter and submit it to the County Council; the ECCAB Executive Board will “clean up” the letter for grammar and clarity before the letter is sent. This motion passed without objection.

REPORTS/UPDATES

Jewru Bandeh, Regional Service Center Director, provided the following updates.

- Gertrude Jones will be joining the ECCAB in March. Wendy Johnson resigned.
- MCDOT invites individuals to sign up for the New Hampshire BRT Corridor Advisory Committee.
- Montgomery College will be establishing an East County campus.
- The White Oak Science Gateway Planning Manager position has been filled. They will start February 28. County Executive will make an announcement in the upcoming weeks.
- White Oak Town Center signage application approved
- The Regional Office forward weekly planning agenda/schedules with important regional/local planning and land use information.

Julio Murillo provided the following update on behalf of District 5 Councilmember Tom Hucker’s office.

- Bill 44-21 was enacted this week. The “Montgomery County Green Buildings Now Act” creates dedicated funding to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the building sector and advance climate goals. The bill provides \$20 million to the Montgomery County Green Bank and can be leveraged to \$100 million. More info at: https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2022/20220201/20220201_10B.pdf

David Lorenzo-Botello provided the following update on behalf of Councilmember Evan Glass:

- Councilmember Glass introduced Bill 9-21 this week. The Shovel Our Sidewalks Act requires the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) to clear snow on arterial roads in areas of the county where these narrow sidewalks see significant pedestrian traffic. More info at: https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2021/20210223/20210223_15B.pdf

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

None, due to time constraints.

JOURNMENT

The motion to adjourn was seconded and approved without objections at 9:08 p.m..