



EAST COUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

February 15, 2015

The Honorable Isiah Leggett
County Executive
Executive Office Building
101 Monroe Street, 2nd Floor
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Mr. Leggett,

On behalf of the East County Citizens Advisory Board (ECCAB), I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present to you the top FY16 Operating Budget Priorities we have identified for the East County region. In recognizing the major budget challenges the County is faced with and your need to establish a sustainable budget, we limited our priorities to those most critical in promoting needed growth and enhancing the quality of life for East County residents. ECCAB's FY16 operating budget priorities align well with your plan for economic development and goals in support of adequate public safety, quality education, transportation, and combating poverty in Montgomery County.

Economic Development

With the approval of the White Oak Science Gateway Master Plan (WOSGMP), the East County region is now receiving needed attention for economic development and transportation that has previously been focused on other parts of the County. We continue to support efforts for the relocation of the Washington Adventist Hospital to White Oak; focus on initiatives pushing forward the development of the Life Science Village joint program with Percontee, including funding for the establishment of the White Oak Transportation Management District. We also fully support funding to jump start the revitalization of the Burtonsville Crossing Shopping Center.

Public Safety

We continue to have concerns regarding crime and public safety in many East County neighborhoods, particularly in White Oak, Briggs Chaney and Hillandale. The persistent crime in our communities directly affects the quality of life of residents, as well as certain communities'

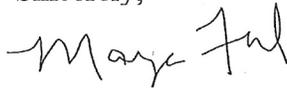
ability to attract new businesses and development and efforts to eradicate negative perceptions associated with the area in general. We request that you enhance funding for additional police officers to beef up community based engagement and programming. We support funding for services, activities and after school education opportunities for youth to promote positive youth development, gang involvement/violence prevention and to address persistent education gaps and related challenges in East County. In addition maintaining focus on pedestrian safety related issues, progression of the Good Hope Community Recreation Center construction schedule and addressing neighborhood blight resulting from unattended foreclosed properties are public safety related issues of importance to East County. We request that you maintain or enhance funding for code enforcement, community education and outreach resources.

Community-based Human Services & Workforce Development Program Delivery System

Even with recent and newly planned developments in East County, the region remains largely as one of the neediest areas of the County in terms of community based access to many human/social services and workforce development opportunities for adults, youth and families. Families are disconnected when it comes to many essential support services, and must endure long travel time and transportation challenges to access services in other parts of the county. East County needs a sustainable community based human services delivery mechanism with workforce development programming opportunities. We support the East County Regional Services Center's collaboration with Montgomery College, Gilchrist Center and other service providers & would like to see the concept expanded. This also necessitates expansion of space within the Center (vacated Police substation space) to expand and diversify services in great demand by residents. We request funding for the Department of Health & Human Services (in coordination with the ECRSC) to establish a (East County) community-based human services delivering structure to assist East County families, adults & youth in need.

We thank you in advance for your favorable consideration of the ECCAB FY16 priorities for East County, and we appreciate your continued support.

Sincerely,



Marya Ford

Chair, East County Citizens Advisory Board

cc: Jewru Bandeh, ECRSC Director
Councilmember George Leventhal, MC Council President
Councilmember Tom Hucker, District 5
Councilmember Nancy Navarro, District 4