

East County Citizens Advisory Board (ECCAB)
Eastern Montgomery Regional Center
3300 Briggs Chaney Road, Silver Spring, MD 20904

Wednesday, November 4, 2015

MEETING SUMMARY

Members Present: Marya Ford, Fatmata Barrie, Peter Myo Khin, Curtis Watkins, Frederick Stichnoth, Faustina Smith-Neil, Peter Myo Khin, Fisseha Adugna, Jerold Samet, Teddy Wu, Melissa Daley, Samantha Blizzard, Erik Amick, Anthony Ramirez

Guest Present: Dennis Linders, Roy Chavez, Ed Weiler, June Henderson, Tracie Potts, Margaret Poore, Frank Cockrell, Lee Yaffe-Stark, Dan Wilhelm, Mara Parker, Debbie Keller, Michelle Ngwafon

Staff Present: Jewru Bandeh, Chiffon Smith.

Citizens' Forum: Issues/comments received from citizens included- Reported burglary in the Broadmore Hills area (a call to 911, but they had no one to send over-10 minutes later, 1 officer with a gun showed up with a back-up later). Concern that there are only 4 officers working in Police IDA Sectors 1 & 2; Commendations to 311calls/response-they are good with sending people out to investigate even though they only have 25 investigators for one million people; Thanks to Jewru, North White Oak Civic Association and County Police: illegally packed trucks on Old Columbia Pike are gone. However, there is a new problem occurring in the area - people are moving traffic barriers and driving over the bridge on Old Columbia Pike; Calverton – speeding on Calverton continues to be problematic. The Calverton Civic Association will have weed warriors on Saturdays at 10-11:30am. Stated concerns related to 311 supervisors/ inspectors closing out complaints without full investigations; Complaint against SHA for lack of proper maintenance of a main storm water drain in Burtonsville - still not maintained, even after 2 years of phone calls. Community needs help to get SHS address this long standing problem; Banneker Middle School PTSA – large community basketball tournament to be held next week, PTSA is advocating for improvement funds as the school is 40 years old but no repairs planned until 2026.

Special Guest Presentation: Dennis Linder, Montgomery CountyStat Analyst. Presentation covered these general areas:

- Montgomery County departments' use the Countystat program for performance monitoring/measurements- to better serve the community and promote a better quality of life.
- Open performance
 - Performance plan for all departments-it is published & interactive.
 - It shows how well the county is doing
 - It looks at Department of Economic Development, DOT and all other functions of County Government.
- The 311 system also publishes its performance results-they capture information and do comparisons as to who responds best & holds 311 accountable – how long it takes to respond & if they are falling short or successful.
- Community Analytics Initiative
 - Community dashboard – general population – age, race, ethnicity, income, jobs (poverty – 5.9%; East County – 6.0%)
 - Summit on Aging is in December & Countystat is working to get data together for that event

- Montgomery County Diversity Explorer is used to track data by census tract (example, census tract – 225)
- It is important to note that Affluent Montgomery County has pockets of poverty, with most in East County: There is a growing aging and immigrant populations in East County, with lower income base, home values, service industry-as compared to for example Bethesda; unemployment is higher closer to Prince George's county; the highest poverty concentrations are in East County: 18-64 year olds, children and a vast large female population, food stamp recipients, language isolated households, growing language barriers for many immigrant families, etc.
- Looking at changes over time in Montgomery County– 2010 (majority minority population, robust population); exponential growth in Hispanic, Asian & Black populations.
- East County is the most diverse part of the County – sharp increase in minority population with Bethesda being much lower – sharp drop in white population (50,000 in 1990 & 30,000 in 2010), sharp increase in black population, including Africans and Caribbean.
 - 90% growth from overseas, number 2 in African immigrants. Number 1 is Ethiopian and Cameroonian immigrants, Number 2 is Sierra Leoneans, Liberians, & Ghana, a third of all Africans are in East County.
- Rapid aging is occurring in the county – top 5 for life expectancy (2010 – 34%; 2040 – 57%).
- 65+ residents live in East County (Colesville & Burtonsville – aging greater than children)
- White Oak – 66% are renters
- Calverton has many group homes.
- Rate of seniors working has gone up.

Approval of Meeting Summary – The ECCAB October 7, 2015 meeting summaries were approved.

East County Regional Services Center Director's Report: Jewru Bandeh provided a brief report highlighting:

- Thank you to board members who completed the countystat survey & also thanked the commander for ending the illegal truck parking with the help of councilmembers Tom Hucker and Marc Elrich.
- Montgomery College classes continue to expand and grow with recommendations from community members.
- 1st East County Service Providers Network established – 18 of them will meet quarterly.
- Met with a local church group – proposal for youth tutorial/engagement in East County; including after-school activities.
- December 17th – Maryland State Health Commission to meet to decide on the Washington Adventist Certificate of Need application.
- Commander Jones was questioned about the IDA sector and the fact that a meeting hasn't been held. He responded that when he attends the ECCAB meetings he is reporting on the IDA sector police related but that Lt. Fitzgerald can have a separate meeting if the community so desires. He indicated that things have been pretty steady and that they currently have a recruitment class.

Chair's Report: Anthony Ramirez remarks included:

- He also thanked members who completed the countystat survey.
- He thanked two members of the board who left ECCAB - Roy Chavez & Ian Swain
- A full Transit Pedestrian Safety study/audit for Lockwood Drive/Stewart Lane on Colesville Road to be done by the Montgomery County Department of Transportation. There was a pedestrian fatality on 29 at Oakleaf. Residents want better crosswalks in the area.

Council Staff Updates: Updates highlighted:

- The Praisner early voting site will remain open.
- Delegate Eric Luedtke looking into include a 10th voting site – in Potomac.
- Council hearing on the Prostitution bill – 8 of the 9 Councilmembers co-sponsored it. The goal is to drive down human trafficking more so than prostitution. They had a sting and within one hour 10 men were arrested. The state of MD is #2 in human trafficking & Mark Elrich proposed change to include exchange of goods.
- Monday Nov. 9th at 2pm is the date set for the Fire Rescue Risk Reduction Master Plan presentation.
- There will be an update by the Council Education committee hearing on cultural and linguistic training for the public schools.
- Nov. 30th at 2pm – Court Watch Montgomery will make a presentation to the Council PHED committee. Discussion will include the anti-gun possession/purchase law. If a person is convicted of domestic violence they have to turn in their weapons – out of 140 cases, only 1 case were the violators told that they must give up their weapons. There is 500% chance of violence if a person has a weapon. There is a question of whether to train family members.

Committee Reports

- **Planning and Economic Development Committee:** Brief update on the Transit Task Force report and recommendations, with more information to be provided at a later date. Fairland/Briggs Chaney – look to include businesses and have the community more involved. The County Executive is not going to ask for the Transit Taskforce legislation. The committee is exploring ways to engage the Greater Silver Spring Chamber of Commerce in business related discussion/activities for East County.
- **Quality of Life/Services Committee** – Montgomery County Commission for Women had a panel discussion on domestic violence which included domestic violence survivors. The Chair stated that all board members should be on at least one committee. Next committee meeting is on the 18th of November.

Old Business:

- A new board member training was held last week.
- The newly named White Oak Development Coordinator is Peter Fosselman – Mayor of Kensington.

New Business:

- Members complained about some parents driving aggressively at some of the schools and asked if the Police department can assign officer there.
- There is a legislation out to change the County Liquor Control System – to end County liquor store monopoly.
- Some Burtonsville Day Executive board members are retiring and the group needs more people to volunteers.

Announcements: None

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.