**NIGHTTIME ECONOMY TASK FORCE**

**BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT #1**

Tuesday, May 28th 2013 Meeting:

* Meeting Topic: What obstacles can the County eliminate to create a more attractive nighttime economy?
* Committee approved its work plan
	+ Structured so that each meeting topic will help the committee answer:
		- What steps can Montgomery County take to recruit employees for the jobs of today and the future?
		- What nighttime and other amenities will attract those workers and how do we bring them here?
* Speaker: Robert Wiedmaier, Chef & Restaurateur
	+ Spoke about higher costs of alcohol in Montgomery County
		- Important because restaurants have very slim profit-margins
		- Charge more for alcohol at restaurants in Montgomery County
	+ Spoke about availability of taxicabs in Montgomery County
		- Suggested adding more availability
	+ Spoke about the differences in doing business in Montgomery County, DC, and Northern Virginia.
		- Spoke about the demographic breakdown of his different restaurants
* Next meeting Topic: Who are the employees the County wants to attract and retain and what companies will they work for?