

Upcounty Citizen's Advisory Board
Testimony for the County Council on the FY 13 CIP Budget
February 7, 2012

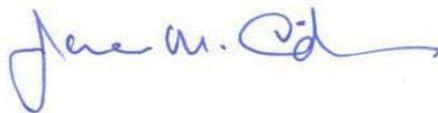
Good evening Council President Berliner, Vice President Navarro and council. For the record, my name is Juan Cardenas and I am the chair of the Upcounty Citizen's Advisory Board. We thank you for allowing us to provide tonight's testimony on behalf of the 300,000 citizens residing in the upcounty region.

We applaud the county executive's efforts to reduce the level of new obligation debt—debt service currently eats more than \$290 million of the operating budget. We feel it is important to hold the line on spending to maintain our county's excellent credit rating.

Our advice is shaped by the citizens who attend our meetings and by the neighbors in our communities.

- Our priorities include transportation and infrastructure projects including the Corridor Cities Transitway, improvements to Stringtown Road, Clarksburg Transportation Connections project, and Snouffer School Road near the Webb tract
- We have for several years recommended the upgrade of the traffic management system and now see that this project is entering its final phase. We push this project because we believe that it is more important than any road we could build. All you have to do is remember when the system malfunctioned in 2009
- We recommend the improvements in and around Montgomery College Germantown related to science and technology education and job training. With the new hospital, Germantown is poised to bring a hub of economic activity for the county;
- Funding of the new upcounty elementary school and several school modernization projects and maintaining critical school infrastructure—including HVAC replacement and PLAR (Planned Life-Cycle Asset Replacement) efforts;

- High School Wellness centers at Gaithersburg and Watkins Mill High schools.
- Despite the economic challenge, Montgomery County has not backed down from making improvements in the community. The groundbreaking ceremonies at Plum Gar recreation center and the Gaithersburg Library are testaments to the executive and council's commitment to the upcounty—we want to see these projects through as well as design plans for Little Bennett Regional, Seneca Crossing, and Germantown Town Center Urban parks. We understand the need to delay the Clarksburg Library, but please don't forget about it—we will remind you next year.
- We are pleased with the project for sidewalks needed in Hyattstown and sewer lines for the Clarksburg Historic District.
- In closing, I know we are asking a lot but we have one more item for you to consider—we are willing to wait until the time is right for funding the permanent 6th District Police station. We understand that District 2 and 3 have needs that are more urgent. We would like you to consider adding police officers in the operating budget. That along with working with the state on plans for the Watkins Mill extended 270 overpass.
- Thank you for your service to the residents of Montgomery County.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Juan M. Cardenas".

Juan Cardenas
Chair