



UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

(Meeting Summary)

The County Executive's Annual Budget Forum Black Rock Center for the Arts January 23, 2012

UCAB Chair Juan Cardenas welcomed those attending County Executive Leggett's annual public forum on the FY13 Operating Budget. Introductions were.

A budget process overview and budget highlights were presented by Alex Espinosa, Office of Management and Budget.

County Executive Ike Leggett shared his perspective on the budget with the audience.

Questions/comments were then entertained by the Executive from those attending.

- (Marilyn Balcombe, President, Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce) - We need a robust economic development budget and we should allow the energy tax to sunset.
- (Connie Robinson) We must be vigilant of the people who use the HHS services—as the budget grows there is a tendency for people to see the demand and abuse the system.
- (Friends of the Library) Importance of new technology in the library including the demand for e-readers.
- (Dennis Barnes) What is your position on M-83, specifically the impact of alternative 4?
- (Quince Orchard Libraries) Need to show libraries as a separate category in the budget. (In his presentation, Mr. Espinosa had Libraries grouped with recreation in order to streamline the chart.)
- (Jim Delganis [sp?]) What are you doing to cut waste? Cutting waste on larger budget items would realize savings that could be used for libraries.
- (Andy Aviles, UCAB) Thank you for protection of the Ag Reserve, the county's jewel. Are you considering endorsement of a rapid transit vehicle option for the CCT so we can see it and the Great Seneca Science Corridor projects move forward in our lifetime?
- (Tony Bosnic) HHS does help to protect our most vulnerable, our children.
- (Patty Larson, Gilchrist Center) How can we address the growing need for assistance by our immigrant population? Programs are full.
- (Joe Nelson) Fund afterschool programs.
- (Doug Noble, UCAB) Strengthen the unity between the non-profits and government help. We need more oversight of assisted-living organizations.
- (Lois Newman) No cuts to libraries.
- (Ken Smondrowski [sp?]) Can't we get better terms on our debt service? *Note: He misunderstood that debt service is actually through bonds we issue.*
- (Bruce Goldensohn) Let us know what the 99 efficiencies are that you are lobbying for and we will deliver the message to the council.
- (Paul Yanoshick) We need more bang for the buck. Do you think the current structure of the school board overseeing the school budget is efficient?
- (A parent) Successful schools mean a successful community.

- (Massad Mohammed [sp?]) We have a social responsibility to assist immigrants with jobs. Those who recently arrived are discriminated against because of lack of experience.
- (Kevin Linck, UCAB) Complete the 6th district police station. What will happen to Goshen Road as a result of development of the Webb tract?
- (Library patron) In regard to library technology—can we get savings by negotiating with the internet/communications services providers?
- (Donna Lowell) Concern that political redistricting has divided the residents of the Ag Reserve. Also worried about large class size in Monocacy Elementary School.
- (Connie Robinson) Final word on making sure services go to those only in need. Look what happened to thriving neighborhoods in Pittsburg when social services became such a burden it brought down schools and other services.

The forum/meeting ended at 8:40 p.m.

UCAB members present – Juan Cardenas, Matthew Leakan, Andres Aviles, Joel Cockrell, Scott Graham, Kevin Link, Robert Nelson, Doug Noble, Pat Seals, Robert Thompson, James Wallace. Former Board member George Donovan was also in attendance.