



MID-COUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

Ana L. van Balen
Director

June 20, 2013

County Executive Isiah Leggett
101 Monroe Street,
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Mr. Leggett,

The impact of foreclosures and evictions on residents is of concern to the Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board (MCCAB). The intent of this letter is to obtain further information from you and your staff regarding foreclosures and evictions in the mid-county area and the effectiveness of current related prevention programs. This information will be useful to the MCCAB as we examine issues surrounding foreclosures and evictions, and other housing issues in the mid-county area.

The MCCAB's understanding is that the Montgomery County Sheriff's office carries out home evictions pursuant to orders for repossession or eviction issued by Maryland courts. The process involves a deputy sheriff and hired crew removing the debtor's personal property from the house or apartment which is the subject of an order and placing it outside, in front of the dwelling.

The people whose property is removed in the foregoing process may often be destitute. The causes of their poverty may include bills resulting from expensive medical events and loss of gainful employment. The individuals and families who lose their places of residence by court order have had prior written notices and opportunities to plead their case in court and to seek assistance programs from the County. In many instances, these notifications and programs may have been insufficient to prevent the foreclosure or eviction from occurring.

The displaced sometimes go to homeless shelters, or to live in their vehicle (if they have one), or into the woods (as some homeless people have done). There are County programs to house the displaced in a residence, but these are time limited. In the meantime, personal property (including furniture, clothing and personal records that were moved outside) is subject to pilfering before the remainder is transferred to a solid waste facility a few days later. Homelessness and this loss of personal property are of concern to the MCCAB.

Hence, we would appreciate it if you would provide the MCCAB data on the number of foreclosures and evictions that have been carried out in the mid-county region in 2012 and 2013. We would also request you provide any data on the number of families served by the current foreclosure and eviction assistance programs, the total dollars spent, and the total dollars

expended per individual or family. Finally, we request information on the outcomes and effectiveness of these assistance programs such as the number of evictions prevented and any other case study data available. This data will be useful to the MCCAB as it examines options for keeping mid-county residents in homes and providing assistance to the newly evicted.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Richard Newman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Richard Newman, Chair
Mid-County Citizen's Advisory Board