



SILVER SPRING CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

April 15, 2013

Council President
Nancy Navarro
Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850

HHS Committee Chair
George Leventhal
Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850

To Council President Navarro and Chair Leventhal,

We are writing to express our support for two budget items proposed for the Montgomery County FY 14 Operating Budget, Department of Health and Human Services Section: \$200,000 for the implementation of a County-wide Food Recovery Network as recommended by the County's Food Recovery Work Group, and \$25,580 to implement a farmers market "double dollar" program to expand access to healthy foods for low-income residents.

The April 8, 2013 meeting of the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board featured a roundtable discussion on the issue of food, nutrition and hunger in Montgomery County. Through this dialogue, the Board learned of the large percentage of Montgomery County students participating in the Free and Reduced Price Meal Program, as well as the challenges presented in feeding these children during the summer months. Additionally, we heard from a representative of the Food Recovery Network, University of Maryland Chapter, and noted the group's impressive work in seeking to recover surplus food and feed those in need. As the County Council awaits the County Work Group's Interim Report, we strongly urge you to support this important initiative that will expand the practice and spirit of the University's students' efforts to the entire County.

Along with the effort to recover excess food and prevent waste, we must also strive to help those currently receiving assistance obtain fresh and nutritious food products. The County's many farmers markets provide an opportunity for low-income residents to purchase fresh, local food; a number of these markets are currently capable of processing payments through SNAP and other government-provided food benefits. The proposed "double dollar" program will multiply the buying power of these benefits at the Silver Spring market and other critical regions, and we encourage you to support the important goal of ensuring affordable access to healthy food options for all.

We hope you agree that these initiatives are important steps as we seek to end hunger in Montgomery County, and look forward to your support as the Council finalizes the FY14 budget.

Sincerely,

Evan Glass
Chair, Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board
CC: County Council Members & County Executive