



**Mid-County Regional Office  
Mid County Citizens Advisory Board**

*Susanna Parker*  
MCCAB Chair

*Luisa Montero-Diaz*  
Mid-County Regional Director

May 6, 2021

Hon. Tom Hucker  
President, Montgomery County Council  
100 Maryland Avenue  
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear County Council President Hucker:

The Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board (MCCAB) would like to take the opportunity to provide our comments and advice regarding the FY 2022 Operating Budget that directly bears on the Mid-County area, as you work on the budget approval process. We understand that the extraordinary costs associated with the COVID-19 pandemic are being covered through State and Federal reimbursement programs, which ease the financial impact for the upcoming fiscal year. In this context, these are the priorities that we encourage you to emphasize:

- **Affordable and mid-range housing** – We support a wide range of solutions for the housing cost crisis in our area beyond the emphasis on MPDUs especially in light of the impact of COVID-19 on housing. In addition to affordable housing for people in the lowest income brackets, we also see cost pressures on midrange housing, sometimes called workforce housing, in our region.
- **Economic development** – We strongly encourage the County and MCEDC to prioritize economic development opportunities and the associated creation of jobs in Mid County. We urge new development along our corridors while also supporting re-investment in existing commercial centers, such as Glenmont, Aspen Hill, and Olney.
- **Youth investment** – We recommend that initiatives that provide affordable childcare and universal Pre-K efforts are prioritized. Restoring after-school programs will provide families much needed assistance.
- **Support for Wheaton Urban District** – We support full funding for the Wheaton Urban District regardless of the revenue generated from parking fees. We welcome and appreciate having the Marian Fryer Town Plaza in the Wheaton CBD and expect to see the promised outdoor stage AV equipment installed and usable, along with appropriate staffing and programming at the site.
- **Support for Public Safety (Emergency Services)** – We support the Reimagining Public Safety Taskforce recommendation to include funding for three new positions for the Mobile Crisis Outreach in the community. We also support Fire & Rescue's request for an additional paramedic chase unit and a new ambulance.

- **Support for Olney Town Center** - In accordance with the 2005 Olney Master Plan, we support funding for two specific, interrelated planning studies addressing the development of a town commons and civic center in the Olney Town Center:
  - (1) A Stage Two Olney Town Commons Planning Report, to develop an implementation strategy for the site selection, design, and construction of a town commons/public green space area in the Olney Town Center; and
  - (2) An initial Olney Civic Center Planning Report to evaluate the programming needs and project/site requirements for an indoor facility that is needed to provide the growing community of Olney with a centralized campus for public meetings, teen and senior activities, and arts and recreation.
- **Support for regional offices** – We strongly believe the County needs to increase financial support of the Mid-County Regional Service Office and the four other such offices in the County. These offices have an evolving role that needs clearer definition and adequate County staffing.

Thank you for your attention to our recommendations and comments.

Sincerely,



Susanna Parker, MCCAB Chair

cc: Honorable County Executive Marc Elrich  
Council Vice President Albornoz  
County Councilmember Navarro  
County Councilmember Katz  
County Councilmember Rice  
County Councilmember Friedson  
County Councilmember Glass  
County Councilmember Reimer  
County Councilmember Rice