



East County Citizens Advisory Board Annual Report

September 2010 – August 2011

Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center

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About the East County Citizens Advisory Board

In March 1993, the County Executive, with the approval of the County Council, established the East County Citizens Advisory Board (ECCAB).

Currently, ECCAB has 15 members representing the residential and business communities covered by the Master Plan areas of Cloverly, Fairland, and White Oak. These areas are roughly bound on the west by the Northwest Branch, on the north by the Howard County line, on the east by the Prince George's County line, and on the south by the Capital Beltway.

Mission

The mission of ECCAB is to advise the Montgomery County Executive and the County Council on concerns and issues facing our region and advocate for regional priorities.

Monthly Board Meetings

ECCAB holds its meeting on the first Wednesday of the month, from September through June. Committee meetings are held the following Wednesday.

The Board receives presentations on matters of public interest, many of which relate to budget, transportation, and land use issues. Community residents can express concerns to the Board during its monthly meetings. Issues raised by community members are sent to either to a committee to be vetted or to the appropriate County departments for action and tracked by the Regional Service Center staff. Discussions during the Board's meetings provide a balanced assessment of problems faced by residents and businesses in the regional service area and help to identify potential solutions.

2010-11 Board Members

Marva Deskins, *Chair*
David Kochanski, *Vice Chair*
Alan Mulligan, *Parliamentarian*
Anthony Ramirez, *Secretary*
Tom Aylward
Lucretia Bartley
Tamika Bennett
Sally Colgan (resigned)
Peter Myo Khin
Paul Myers
Len Newman
Alfreda Payne (resigned)
Odessa Shannon
Saschane Stevenson (resigned)
Benoy Thomas
Rachel Whavers
Ned Williams
Teddy Wu

Board Priorities

In April 2011, ECCAB members participated in a Board retreat. At the retreat, the board voted on a new committee structure and identified the primary issues of focus for the coming year:

Zoning, Planning, & Infrastructure Committee

- Revitalization of shopping centers- Hillandale, White Oak, & Briggs Chaney (emphasis on safety)
- Burtonsville Master Plan
- Life Science Center
- Continuing Education Facilities
- Employment & Transportation (“live here, work here”)

Quality of Life Committee

- Youth Town Hall Meetings
- HOAs & Neighborhood Watch
- Libraries
- Retail Sales
- Parent Safety Concerns

Services Committee

- Public Safety: Gangs, IDA Sector, Panhandling
- Services Need: Impact of lower staff levels at Regional Service Centers and lack of sufficient non-profit capacity in the area
- Traffic Safety

Board Meeting Presentations

September 1, 2010

- Khalid Afzal of the Planning Department gave an update on the East County Science Center Master Plan (now renamed the White Oak Science Gateway Master Plan)
- Chuck Crisostomo gave a presentation on community preparedness and the severe storms of July and August 2010

October 6, 2010

- Chris Jones of the BMC Property group discussed the Burtonsville Town Square shopping center and the opening of the new Giant
- Kathy Mahmud of DHCA updated the board on the Burtonsville façade improvements
- DHCA’s Burtonsville Community Legacy Plan consultants described the progress on implementation of the plan

November 3, 2010

- Dylan Morris of the Montgomery County Police Department’s Third District spoke on gangs and crime

- Kathy Knight of the State's Attorneys Office gang prosecution unit described the unit's work
- Luis Cardona and Richard Brown of the HHS Community Street Outreach Program gave a presentation on the program

December 1, 2010

- Chris Jones of the BMC Property Group requested support for a state law allowing a liquor license at a Burtonsville Town Center restaurant
- Bruce Adams of the Office of Community Partnerships described the work of the OCP

January 5, 2011

- Leslie Hamm of MC311 gave a status update

February 2, 2011

- Rodney Barnes, School Resource Officer at Paint Branch and Springbrook High Schools described the SRO program
- The members of the East County Youth Advisory Committee gave a presentation

March 2, 2011

- Patrick Lacefield, Director of the County's Public Information Office, Reginald Jetter of the Department of Permitting Services and Julia Thom of the Department of Housing and Community Affairs gave an overview of the new code enforcement laws

April 6, 2011

- Rollin Stanley, Director, Montgomery County Planning Department, gave an update on the zoning ordinance rewrite

May 4, 2011

- Senator Karen S. Montgomery, Montgomery County, District 14
- Delegate Anne R. Kaiser, Montgomery County, District 14
- Delegate Eric G. Luedtke, Montgomery County, District 14
- Delegate Craig J. Zucker, Montgomery County District 14
- Senator Jamin Raskin, Montgomery County, District 20
- Delegate Tom Hucker, Montgomery County, District 20

June 1, 2011

- Councilmembers Nancy Navarro and Marc Elrich discussed the FY12 budget

Issues & Advocacy

Code Enforcement

On October 13, 2010, the Board wrote to Council President Floreen in support of the County Executive's "code enforcement" legislation.

Pedestrian & Traffic Safety

On December 2, 2010, the Board wrote to County Executive Leggett requesting a number of pedestrian safety improvements in east county, including several sidewalks.

On November 16, 2010, the Board asked County Executive Leggett to request that the Maryland State Highway Administration conduct a study on serious safety issues along Route 198 from McKnew Road to Santini Road in Burtonsville.

Budget

ECCAB Chair Marva Deskins testified at the Council's FY12 budget hearings. In her testimony, she requested that the Council (1) keep the East County police satellite station open, (2) ensure that the White Oak Recreation Center remains on schedule to open in 2012, (3) review cuts to Volunteer Fire Departments and consider restoration of funding, and (4) maintain adequate staffing at the regional service centers.

On July 21, 2011 ECCAB submitted its recommendations regarding the 2013-18 Capital Improvements Program. The Board urged the County Executive to include the following projects in the capital budget: (1) improvements to East County schools, (2) a new fire station in Calverton, and (3) the Burtonsville Access Road.

Economic Development

On January 5, 2011 the Board urged County Executive Leggett and Council President Valerie Ervin to support Local Bill MC 2-11, which would waive the distance requirement from a school to a point of sale for liquor in the new Burtonsville Town Center shopping mall.

On March 11, 2011 the Board urged the County Executive to support Washington Adventist Hospital's Certificate of Need application for its relocation from Takoma Park to White Oak.

On July 7, 2011 the Board wrote to Councilmember Nancy Floreen, chair of the Planning, Housing and Economic Development Committee, in support of Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA) 11-05 with an amendment proposed by Councilmember Marc Elrich. This ZTA, which passed with the proposed amendment, allows expansion of existing automobile facilities in the Cherry Hill employment area while retaining the prohibition against new automobile sales and repair facilities.

Pepco Work Group

On January 5, 2011 the Board made several recommendations to the County Executive's Pepco Work Group. These recommendations include (1) that Pepco's infrastructure upgrades take no longer than twenty years to complete, (2) that Pepco commit a percentage of its annual gross income to infrastructure improvements, and (3) that the Maryland Public Service Commission step up its regulation of Pepco.

Master Plans

The Board continues to closely follow the progress of the Burtonsville Crossroads Neighborhood Plan and the White Oak Science Gateway Master Plan. Several ECCAB members regularly attend the Citizens Advisory Committee meetings for the White Oak plan.

Public Safety

The Regional Service Center continued hosting community meetings with the Third District Police, homeowners associations, residents, businesses, apartment managers and local school officials to discuss resident and business concerns about crime and have the police provide an update on criminal activity in the region. ECCAB members have attended these meetings and have reported back any issues of concern.