



East County Citizens Advisory Board

March 7, 2019

The Honorable Marc Elrich
County Executive
Executive Office Building
101 Monroe Street, 2nd Floor
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Mr. Elrich,

On behalf of the East County Citizens Advisory Board (ECCAB), I would like to thank you for coming to the East County Regional Services Center, January 22, 2019 to present your Seven-Point Vision and FY20 Budget Priorities, as well as to hear from East County residents. Based on the feedback from our communities, the ECCAB would like to submit our top FY20 Operating Budget Priorities, which align with your vision.

Thriving Youth and Families

East County residents need a robust access to sustainable community-based services including:

- ✓ Expanded healthcare services for vulnerable populations, including mental health
- ✓ Extended affordable summer enrichment programs, including academic and workforce development training programs
- ✓ Expand out-of-school programs and childcare assistance for low income and other working-class families
- ✓ Maintain funding levels for senior employment, transportation, age in place, recreation, education programs and services

A Growing Economy

We support the County's vision and your priorities focused on growing economic opportunities for all residents, including East County. We continue our support and call for:

- ✓ Revitalization of the vacant Burtonsville Crossing Shopping Center
- ✓ Continue to advance implementation of the White Oak Science Gateway Master Plan and connecting East County residents to new economic opportunities
- ✓ Support for small business development (creation, retention and expansion)
- ✓ Community based workforce development (employment, education and training) programs for youth, adults, seniors and vulnerable populations

Easier Commutes

We ask for continued funding and support for transportation infrastructure developments and initiatives in East County:

- ✓ Continued funding for the Bus Rapid Transit System along US29, expansion of (BRT) connector Ride On bus system, and study for the New Hampshire Avenue BRT route
- ✓ Establishment of the White Oak Transportation Management District Program
- ✓ Funding for a regional circulator bus to promote access to recreation centers, school and community events and employment centers for youth and seniors in disconnected and hard-to-reach neighborhoods

A More Affordable & Welcoming Community

There is a growing sense community pride and inclusion in East County. We request County support in the following area:

- ✓ Increased access to safe and affordable housing options for low, middle income, working families and seniors
- ✓ Preserve and grown existing affordable housing
- ✓ Adequate amenities/public services for all populations for proposed new East County developments
- ✓ Support for non-profit community-based services for immigrants, youth and seniors
- ✓ Funding for pedestrian safety, road repairs and crosswalk signalization improvements
- ✓ Increased funding for public safety (MCPD 3rd and 4th Districts)
- ✓ Expanded bike and pedestrian networks
- ✓ Increase funding to Montgomery County Election for election system improvements

We thank you in advance for your kind consideration of the board's FY20 priorities for East County and appreciate your continued support.

Sincerely,



Christopher Bolton
Chair, East County Citizens Advisory Board

cc: Jewru Bandeh, Director
East County Regional Services Center