



East County Citizens Advisory Board

December 9, 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, November 13, 2019 to present your Seven-Point Vision and FY21 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 FY21 Operating Budget Priorities, which align with your vision.

A Growing Economy

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

- ✓ Continue to advance implementation of the White Oak Science Gateway Master Plan, including funding of a (White Oak) Marketing and Placemaking Action Plan and other community development related investments for sustainable affordable middle income and workforce housing
- ✓ Connecting East County residents to new economic development opportunities through well-paying sustainable jobs at the FDA, White Oak Medical Center and other major development projects in the region and County areas
- ✓ Revitalization of the vacant Burtonsville Crossing Shopping Center
- ✓ 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 FLASH Bus Rapid Transit System along US29; expansion of community feeder/connector Ride On bus system to Flash BRT; and study for a 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 again County support in the following very important areas for the Eastern region:

- ✓ Increased access to safe and affordable housing options for low, middle income, working families and seniors
- ✓ Preserve and grow 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)-more police recruits
- ✓ Expanded bike and pedestrian networks

Thriving Youth and Families

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

- ✓ Expanded health and human services for vulnerable populations, including mental health and food security
- ✓ Increase support to Strathmore East County programs
- ✓ Provide extended affordable summer enrichment programs, including academic and workforce development training programs particularly for youth/young adults

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:

Sydney Katz, Montgomery County Council President
Jewru Bandeh, Director, East County Regional Office