



EAST COUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

April 7, 2021

Jerome Fletcher, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer
Executive Office Building
101 Monroe Street, 2nd Floor
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Mr. Fletcher,

On behalf of the East County Citizens Advisory Board (ECCAB), I would like to thank you for attending our February board meeting to discuss Montgomery County's Covid-19 Pandemic Economic Development Strategy/Efforts.

We appreciate how seriously you are taking our concerns about geographic and racial equity in the economic recovery effort. As you are well aware, certain neighborhoods and populations in Montgomery County have been harder hit than others, in particular East County. The members of the ECCAB urge the County to continue to uphold its commitment to racial equity and prioritize communities that need the most help, for example, our immigrant, lower-income, and non-white population. These communities generally tend to be less engaged with local government in the traditional means of communication (e.g., emails, social media, town halls, public hearings). We urge you and your colleagues to strive for new outreach approaches, such as through in-person outreach, including using former census workers, to personally contact members of these at-risk groups. Please keep us updated on your efforts to reach out further to those that are in most need of assistance.

Finally, we request that the county publish demographic (race, ethnicity, immigrant status) and geographic (zip code/census block) data of the business/nonprofit grant applicants and recipients.

We thank you again for your thoughtful consideration of the Board's comments regarding the economic development strategy and efforts for East County and appreciate your continued support.

Sincerely,

Rachael Evans
Chair, East County Citizens Advisory Board

cc:

Tom Hucker, Montgomery County Council President
Jewru Bandeh, Director, East County Regional Office

Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center

3300 Briggs Chaney Road, Silver Spring, Maryland 20904, 240-777-8400, FAX 240-777-8410