

MONTGOMERY COUNTY 2015 FEDERAL PRIORITIES

Food and Drug Administration (FDA) White Oak Campus. The FDA's growth in recent years will mean that soon it will have more employees than it has office space to accommodate them. Montgomery County has a solution for the FDA's office space problem through a government-to-government proposal in which the County would use a public-private venture to build the office space required on land that it owns adjacent to the White Oak campus and would then lease the property to the FDA. The County seeks the Congressional delegation's support for this unsolicited proposal to the General Services Administration (GSA).

National Capital Region Federal Cybersecurity Campus. The federal government wants to address the country's non-military cybersecurity threats more efficiently and in cooperation with the private sector. Currently, federal civil cyber functions are dispersed throughout the region in more than 600,000 square feet of office space, 92 percent of which is leased from the private sector. The General Services Administration (GSA) has been tasked with creating a consolidated civilian cyber campus that will create a centralized, visible, civilian-led organization with global capability; promoting secure collaboration while leveraging shared capabilities and infrastructure and enhancing public-private cooperation with increased opportunities for collaboration. The County will promote its cyber-related assets, including the new National Cybersecurity Center of Excellence (NCCoE), CyberMaryland, and a coalition of international entrepreneurs, investors, academics, students and government officials. Montgomery County requests our Congressional delegation's help to ensure that GSA's location requirements for this campus will allow Maryland jurisdictions to competitively participate in the governmental site selection process.

Advancing life sciences in Montgomery County. Last year, the County submitted to our Congressional delegation four bio-related initiatives (e.g., Center for Biomolecular Therapeutics, Biomedical Entrepreneurs in Residence expansion, Centers for Accelerated Innovations, and the Intramural Opportunity Grant Fund) intended to signal Montgomery County's strong support for the life sciences, protect core portions of the budget funding the National Institutes of Health (NIH) that benefit the County, and better integrate Maryland's flagship universities into the County's future as the State's primary hub for life sciences activity. Montgomery County requests the delegation's support for appropriations report language to advance medical innovation and improvements in health care nationally while strengthening Montgomery County's bioscience sector.

Glen Echo Park long-term lease with the National Park Service (NPS). The cooperative management agreement between Montgomery County and NPS expires in 2017. Our experience in working with NPS since 2002 has led us to conclude that the current structure is not viable for the continued success of the Park and should be replaced with a long-term lease. This would allow the County and our partner, the Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture (GEPPAC), to operate the programs and facilities at the Park with reduced risk and uncertainty. The County is willing to assume all remaining NPS responsibilities at Glen Echo Park, freeing up resources currently expended by NPS for other uses. We do not propose any change in use, nor do we propose anything that would threaten the historic integrity of the property or the environmental assets of the Park. We will continue to work with our Congressional delegation and seek its support in facilitating discussions between Montgomery County and NPS that will lead toward a negotiated long-term lease

and management structure that will ensure future Park operations and programs and preserve Glen Echo Park.

General Services Administration (GSA) Rent Caps. GSA's rent cap for Montgomery and Prince George's Counties is \$8-\$10 lower than the fair market rate for new construction. This limits facility and locational options for GSA and their tenant needs as well as severely impacts the ability of Montgomery County landlords to compete. The County requests that our Congressional delegation engage on this issue by sending a letter to GSA's Public Buildings Services Commission requesting a meeting between GSA and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to address the substantial rent cap disparity that exists within the Washington, DC metropolitan region.

Purple Line New Starts Project. Our Congressional delegation understands the importance of this transit project to the Washington, D.C. metropolitan region. The 16-mile east-west transit line connecting New Carrollton to Bethesda will provide better Metrorail connections, improve connectivity in the communities in the corridor, decrease highway congestion in the area, connect major business districts, and provide a direct link to the University of Maryland College Park. Montgomery County appreciates the efforts of our Congressional delegation to secure \$100 million in FY15 funds for the Purple Line which will go toward an anticipated \$900 million federal funding commitment to the project and urges additional appropriations within the Federal Transit Administration's New Starts Program for the Purple Line project in FY16.

Municipal Bonds. Comprehensive tax reform will likely be a major issue for the 113th Congress. Hurricane Sandy offers policymakers a blunt reminder about the critical role of tax-exempt financing as an essential infrastructure financing tool. Municipal bonds are a tried-and-true vehicle that allows communities to meet the needs of their residents. Repealing, replacing or limiting the tax-exemption on municipal bond interest would cause governments and taxpayers to pay more for their infrastructure needs. This would result in higher taxes and fees, which translates into less infrastructure investment, fewer jobs and higher costs to states and localities that are already under fiscal stress. As the country looks for ways to address a more than \$4 trillion infrastructure deficit, we urge our Congressional delegation to work with their colleagues toward developing a federal tax package that strengthens, not weakens, the tax-exempt bond market that is essential for infrastructure investment in our communities.