



MONTGOMERY COUNTY

2018 FEDERAL PRIORITIES

- **FDA White Oak Campus** - The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the General Services Administration (GSA) are working to consolidate FDA at the government-owned White Oak site. To meet its broader mission related to food safety and other legislative mandates, the FDA will need to accommodate about 6,000 additional employees on or near the FDA campus. We would request that the delegation seek report language in the FY19 Agriculture Appropriations bill urging FDA and GSA to explore innovative financing options, including private-public partnerships, that allow for the space allocation required while maintaining very close proximity to FDA's current headquarters, including property that is contiguous to the White Oak campus.
- **Glen Echo Park Cooperative Management Agreement** - Montgomery County's 15-year cooperative management agreement for Glen Echo Park with the National Park Service (NPS) expired on June 30, 2017. Three years of meetings, phone calls and letters between NPS and the County have proven futile in negotiating an acceptable management plan for the Park. Millions of federal, State, and local dollars have been invested in Glen Echo Park. Without a workable cooperative agreement with the County, Glen Echo Park is in danger of falling into an untenable management situation. It is our hope that NPS will allow the County to assume full and independent responsibility for Glen Echo Park operations, programming, and maintenance, including adhering to all federal protections associated with the property (e.g., national historic preservation regulations, national environmental protections, etc.). The County seeks our delegation's continued help to advance this negotiation.
- **Infrastructure** - Montgomery County is pursuing a multi-modal transportation network that includes expanding transit, adopting innovative roadway technologies, and improving connections for pedestrians and cyclists. We urge that the delegation continue to support funding for the Purple Line, as well as supporting an extension of the annual \$150 million federal appropriation for WMATA. Annual appropriations will also be needed for federal highway and transit programs authorized in the FAST Act, including the FTA Section 5339 bus program which the County can use for its Ride On capital needs, and the FTA Capital Investment Grant program. The Administration's infrastructure plan is essentially a nonstarter, particularly its recommendation for changing the local share of transportation project costs from 20 percent to 80 percent. Local governments are involved in 78 percent of our nation's public transportation

systems, requiring a greater federal partnership, not less, to address the growing list of infrastructure priorities.

- **DCA Overflight Noise** - The implementation in 2015 of the Washington, DC, Optimization of Airspace and Procedures in the Metroplex has resulted in a sharp increase in aircraft noise over Montgomery County residents. Additionally, DCA arrival patterns changed causing an increase in arrival traffic over the County. The pending Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reauthorization is an opportunity to direct the FAA to comply with the original intent of the modernization of our air transportation system (NextGen) as mandated in the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012. Far from its intended purpose to promote new technologies and procedures that would bring about long-term economic and environmental benefits, NextGen has instead caused more and more neighborhoods to experience a greater concentration of overflight noise and pollution. We urge our delegation to pursue amendments to the reauthorization bill that will mitigate the impact of aircraft overflight noise.
- **Human Services** - Through its Care for Kids and Montgomery Cares programs, the County provides access to outpatient care for thousands of uninsured residents. In a 2017 report by Maryland's Department of Legislative Services, ending the ACA's cost-sharing reduction (CSR) subsidies will increase the State's net healthcare costs by more than \$1 billion, jeopardize Medicaid and Medicare payments to hospitals, and increase the number of uninsured residents who rely on healthcare at the local level. Montgomery County urges our delegation to support legislation that will stabilize the ACA including provisions to provide critical multi-year funding for CSR subsidies. Additionally, the County supports fulling funding federal safety net programs including the Social Services Block Grant that provides flexible funding for services used to respond to the opioid crisis, the Community Services Block Grant to help low-income residents move toward economic security, and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program.
- **Radio Frequency (RF) Emissions and Small Cell Equipment** - Montgomery County encourages investment in current and future (5G) wireless infrastructure. Protecting the public interest and public rights of way through local control and licensing, however, must guide this process. Public concern over possible safety and health implications of RF emissions from small cell antennas located in residential areas has led the County to request the delegation's help in prompting the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to complete its 2013 Notice of Inquiry (NOI) reassessing RF standards (ET Docket 13-84, 03-137). Suggested actions that could be taken to advance this issue include a request to GAO to determine which federal agency (e.g., GAO, CBO, NSF) is best suited to study and make recommendations on RF emissions standards, a request to the National Council on Radiation Protections and Measures or an appropriate federal health agency (e.g., NIH, NIST, OSHA) to provide to Congress a review and summary of biological literature or US government studies on the health effects of RF, or possible legislation directing the FCC to conclude the 2013 RF proceeding by a certain date.
- **Immigration** - Montgomery County has more than one million residents, one-third of whom are foreign born. We are proud to have four cities identified by WalletHub- a

finance website that rates things and places- in its top ten list of most “ethno-racially diverse” cities in the country. The County urges our delegation to continue to work toward permanent protections for our residents holding Temporary Protective Status (TPS) as well as those beneficiaries of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).

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