



MID-COUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

Marc Elrich
County Executive

Louis Mozzano
Board Chair

Luisa Montero-Diaz
Regional Director

February 28, 2019

Hon. Marc Elrich
Montgomery County Executive
101 Monroe Street
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear County Executive Elrich:

The Mid County Citizens Advisory Board would like to take the opportunity to provide advice regarding the FY 2020 operating budget that you and your staff are currently constructing. Government budgets are where communities express their priorities in a concrete way. The mid county area has a wide range of issues and needs. Understanding that the county is facing budget constraints, we encourage attention to these priorities:

- **Economic development around small businesses** – We strongly support placing economic development resources in the Regional Service Centers. Local business can use resources for physical improvement such as modernizing facades, and assistance with the permitting processes and resolving landlord-tenant issues. As part of this, we recommend support and resources for the Wheaton Arts & Entertainment District and the planned arts facility. We continue to encourage efforts to improve the Glenmont Shopping Center and surrounding area.
- **Affordable housing and maintenance of existing housing** – Mid County has a large number of older multi-family dwellings. The current efforts by DHCA to conduct inspections of multi-family housing should continue to be funded to encourage landlords to make repairs without undue rent increases and provision for tenants to be educated of their rights and responsibilities. We encourage other efforts to maintain and increase the stock of affordable housing.
- **Pedestrian and traffic safety** – The Georgia Ave corridor is the backbone of Mid County. The majority of Georgia Ave from Forest Glen to Olney has been identified as part of the Vision Zero High Injury Network. We urge a systemic review of the Georgia Ave corridor and continued oversight of the actions taken by MCDOT and SHA to make sure recommendations are followed through and that the changes are effective in reducing injuries for all users.

The MC CAB appreciated being able to host the recent Budget Forum with you and the opportunity to promote the priorities of the Mid County area in the upcoming budget.

Sincerely,

Louis Mozzano
Chair, Mid County Citizens Advisory Board

cc: Rich Madaleno, OMB Director