



MID-COUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

Marc Elrich
County Executive

Louis Mozzano
Board Chair

Luisa Montero-Diaz
Regional Director

April 17, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Navarro
President, Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Ave
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Council President Navarro:

The Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board (MCCAB) welcomes the opportunity to share our observations about County Executive Elrich's Recommended FY20 Operating Budget on the following pages. Please let us know if you have any questions or would like additional information on any of the recommendations provided.

We understand the difficulty of dealing with competing needs amid fiscal realities. We thank you for considering our input as the budget process works through.

Sincerely,



Louis Mozzano,
Chair, MCCAB

CC: County Executive Marc Elrich
County Council Members:
Gabe Albornoz
Andrew Friedson
Evan Glass
Tom Hucker
Will Jawando
Sidney Katz, Vice President
Craig Rice
Hans Riemer

MID-COUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD – FY20 Operating Budget Comments & Recommendations

Economic Development

- Revitalization of the Glenmont Shopping Center – While we recognize the County Council's and County Executive's attempts to revitalize the Glenmont Shopping Center, we would like to further reiterate our disappointment with the lack of tangible progress. We support efforts to improve the underutilized assets of the Glenmont Shopping Center.
- Support of Food Entrepreneurship and Restaurant Incubator – We support the efforts to set up business incubators and in particular the restaurant incubator concept. The Glenmont Shopping Center would be an excellent location for that program.
- Assistance to Small Businesses – We support programs that provide technical assistance to entrepreneurs and small businesses, particularly in the Glenmont, Wheaton, Aspen Hill and Olney areas. This support should go beyond assistance dealing with the County government such as licensing and permitting to include business establishment and development.
- Workforce Development – We support improvements to programs that provide workforce training by bolstering existing programs, such as those offered by Montgomery College, across multiple industries to provide employers with trained employees.

Affordable Housing

- Inspections and Maintenance of Existing Property – We support increasing staff for code inspection and enforcement.
- Tenant and Landlord Support – We support additional funding for the programs that protect the rights of tenants and landlords by providing information and dispute mediation.
- Supportive Housing – We support programs that provide additional services, such as home sharing, to older adults and residents with disabilities that enable them to remain in their communities.
- Excess Revenue – Should housing programs provide revenue beyond expected levels, we recommend that excess funds be targeted to DHCA programs instead of being added to the General Fund.

Traffic & Pedestrian Safety and Transportation

- Shared Priorities – The budget priorities for FY 19, Effective and Efficient Transportation Network and Safe Streets with Safe Neighborhoods, should be retained as priorities in the FY 20 Budget. We are concerned about the reduced funding levels for the Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Program, the Street Light Program, and the Transportation Design Program, and recommend reinstating funds to last year's levels.
- Continued Monitoring of Vision Zero Progress – We reiterate the need to monitor the changes made by MCDOT and SHA in support of the Vision Zero initiative, such as those made to Georgia Ave, to ensure they are effective and without negative unintended consequences.

MID-COUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD
FY20 Operating Budget Comments & Recommendations

Page 2

- Street Paving – The street paving budget is set to cover approximately 38% of the needs of the County roads per year, causing two-thirds of the backlog to be carried forward each year. We support an increase in funding for paving.
- Transit – We support the innovative pilot programs that Ride-On is proposing that would increase ridership and bring services closer to communities, such as Ride On FLEX and programs for older adults and people with disabilities.
- Ride Sharing Taxes and Fees – We recommend that taxes and fees paid to the county from ride sharing services such as Uber and Lyft be targeted to increasing services for older adults and residents with disabilities who may not be able to use those services effectively.

Additional Priorities

- Libraries – We support the additional staffing for the reopening of the Wheaton Library. We recommend an increase in overall MC Public Library staffing.