



MID-COUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

Lisa Montero-Diaz
Mid-County RSC Director

June 30, 2016

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

Dear Council President Floreen:

The Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board (MCCAB) would like to express its support of Bill 12-16 (Human Rights and Civil Liberties - County Minimum Wage), which would gradually increase the minimum wage to \$15.00 per hour by July 1, 2020, and would require, beginning in 2021, an annual adjustment to the minimum wage by the annual average increase, if any, in the Consumer Price Index.

If enacted, the legislation would bring direct benefits not only to the families of the hard working men and women in this County but also would bring other benefits to our neighborhoods. We believe that good paying jobs lead to stronger families and communities. When low income workers must take on two or three jobs to support their families, time spent with their children on important activities is often sacrificed. Families must not have to make the difficult and unfair choice, for instance, between putting food on the table and spending important time with their children to improve their educational skills. Increasing the minimum wage would help some families to avoid having to make such choices. This bill offers a fair approach to help families to thrive in an environment of steadily increasing costs for basic necessities. An additional reason the bill makes sense is that there are many studies and other data suggesting that there is a strong correlation between higher wages and a reduction in the crime rate.¹ We believe that the County should take heed of this relationship.

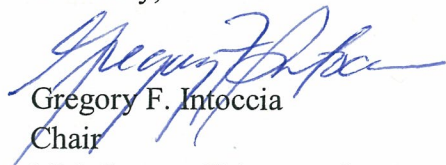
The need for this type of legislation is being increasingly recognized by many jurisdictions. In the past several years, lawmakers in Washington DC, Montgomery County, and

¹ See National Bureau of Economic Research, *Higher Youth Wages Mean Lower Crime Rates* (National Bureau of Economic Research, June 8, 2016). See also Research Communications, *Higher Crime Rate Linked to Low Wages and Unemployment, Study Finds* (Ohio State University, April 10, 2002).

Prince George's County have been making efforts to move toward increasing the minimum wage in their respective jurisdictions.² Recently announced legislation passed in the District of Columbia will raise the minimum wage in the District to \$15.00 per hour by 2020.³ Moreover, businesses are becoming increasingly supportive of raising the minimum wage.⁴ Further, other areas of the country, such as New York City and California, have moved toward similar goals in their own jurisdictions.⁵ We believe this is encouraging news for the middle class and working poor in this nation.

We hope that all our County leaders will support Bill 12-6. We thank you for your consideration of this important measure.

Sincerely,



Gregory F. Intoccia
Chair

Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board

cc: Council Members:

Roger Berliner

Marc Elrich

Tom Hucker

Sidney Katz

George Leventhal

Nancy Navarro

Craig Rice

Hans Riemer

County Executive Isiah Leggett

² See *Montgomery County Council Member Introduces Bill to Raise Minimum Wage to \$15*, Bethesda Beat, April 13, 2016). See also Testimony of Margaret Singleton, Interim President & CEO, DC Chamber of Commerce, Before the Committee on Business, Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, on May 26, 2016.

³ Erin Musgave and Bob Keener, *Passage of D.C. \$15 Minimum Wage Will Boost Local Economy, Businesses*, 1 (Business for a Fair Minimum Wage, June 7, 2016). Small Business Majority, *Small Businesses Support Raising the Minimum Wage to \$12* (Small Business Majority, July 29, 2015). United States Department of Labor, *Minimum Wage Mythbusters* (United States Department of Labor, June 2016).

⁴ See Erin Musgave and Bob Keener, *Passage of D.C. \$15 Minimum Wage Will Boost Local Economy, Businesses*, 1-2 (Business for a Fair Minimum Wage, June 7, 2016). United States Department of Labor, *Minimum Wage Mythbusters* (United States Department of Labor, June 2016).

⁵ See Bill Turque, *This large D.C. suburb will consider a \$15-an-hour minimum wage* (Washington Post, March 31, 2016) https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/md-politics/this-large-dc-suburb-will-consider-a-15-an-hour-minimum-wage/2016/03/31/cfc0806a-f741-11e5-a3ce-f06b5ba21f33_story.html.