

# SSCAB COMMITTEE MEETINGS Monday, October 27

## Neighborhood Committee: "Know Your Rights" Dialogue

Approximately 45-50 parents, students, community leaders and concerned residents attended and participated in a discussion with panelists on knowing one's individual rights when encountering police. This moderated discussion between legal experts, county officials, law enforcement and community members was a step towards building a more durable trust with local law enforcement and bridging the disconnect often felt between civilian and law enforcement personnel.

Adam Vicks moderated discussion between the panelists that translated simultaneously into Spanish by CASA de Maryland's community organizer Ana Martinez - and community members, panelists had a productive and open discussion about what community members can expect in police-citizen interactions, what the rights and responsibilities are of both civilians and police officers and how, as a community, can we work to bridge the disconnect perceived and/or experienced by minority populations in the community when they interact with the police?

Organizations present included:

- [GWUL Young Professionals](#)
- [Casa De Maryland](#)
- [J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association, Inc.](#)

Panelists were:

- George Simms, Esq., Chief of Juvenile Division, State's Attorney's
- Commander Marcus Jones, Montgomery County Police, 3rd District
- Brandon Johns, Executive Director, Making a New United People (MANUP)
- Sulma Guzman, Esq., Staff Attorney, CASA de Maryland, Inc.
- Justin Hollimon, Esq., Maryland Office of the Public Defender.

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### **Commercial Economic Development Committee: How can area residents help small businesses and entrepreneurs?**

Panel:

- Councilmember Nancy Floreen, chair, Economic Development Committee, Montgomery County Council.
- Jane Redicker, president, Silver Spring Chamber of Commerce.
- Judy Stephenson, Small Business Navigator for Montgomery County.
- B. Kyle Bayliss, Regional Director - Capital Region, Maryland Small Business & Technology Development Center, University of Maryland

Councilmember Floreen discussed at length the necessity to focusing on job creation as the principal building block of the county's future, adding that the recent recession required the county to look hard at its economic assumptions. Floreen also stressed the importance of expanding the county's tax base while providing details about a number of county initiatives meant to draw investments, including Visit Montgomery (<http://visitmontgomery.com>).

Redicker of the Chamber of Commerce discussed the challenging regulatory environment businesses face in the county, adding that the Green Building Law had been particularly cumbersome. She also called for less regulations.

Stephenson, the county's point person for small business, outlined a number of programs established to promote innovative business initiatives. She also discussed the county's extensive database for small businesses while providing details how local businesses could apply for county contracts.

Bayliss, the regional director for the Capital Region at the University of Maryland, spoke at length about initiatives designated to strengthen entrepreneurship within Montgomery County's hispanic community while promoting international trade, notably with Latin American countries.

Following the respective presentations, residents and a number of local entrepreneurs, participated in a dynamic exchange about the general business environment in Montgomery County. One of them, Franca Brilliant of the Takoma Park Business Association, revealed how the group had successfully worked with the Maryland District 20 delegation to pass a law that would allow Maryland small businesses to borrow money from Maryland residents and pay interest on those loans without going through cumbersome security registration. The limit for the loan is \$100,000 and for the individual is \$100 (per business; individuals can invest in multiple businesses). The low cap on individuals' loans is meant to protect consumers as there is no oversight of the loan offering and no guarantee of repayment.

The event was moderated by Sigurd Neubauer, co-chair of the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board's Committee on Economic Development.