



UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

Full UCAB Meeting MINUTES

November 17, 2025

HYBRID MEETING

In Person: UpCounty Regional Services Center

12900 Middlebrook Rd, Germantown, MD 20874

Online Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86764418255>

Meeting ID: 867 6441 8255

By phone: 301-715-8592

7:03 p.m. **Call to Order/Roll Call**

7:03 p.m. **Minutes Approved** (Moved by Andrew Saundry, Seconded by Connie Golleher)

7:04 p.m. **Police Report**

Commander Dillman (D#6, Gaithersburg/Montgomery Village): Most crime, especially violent crime, is down. However, arrests of juveniles persist, especially juvenile in possession of firearms.

Noted a sexual assault outside of Shady Grove Hospital; violent offender released from hospital and assaulted a nurse who was waiting for a bus stop. Suspect apprehended and now being held without bail.

Commander Picerno (D#5, Germantown): Trends similar to D6, noted juvenile crime persists, including one juvenile who has been arrested 15 times.

Noted a homicide that occurred in early November; do not expect retaliation or a trend.

Noted a suspect had been arrested who was seen recording women showering in a gym locker room; the suspect had begun to dress as a woman to gain entry into women's locker rooms, though there has been no indication that the suspect identified as a woman or was transgender.

Commander Satinsky (D#1, Rockville): Usually see an uptick in commercial thefts this time of year. D1 is starting a task force to combat.

Bike patrol trial in Poolesville a success—learned of more information from community with visibility.

Noted criminal investigation re illegal house parties in Darnestown remains on-going.

7:17 p.m. *Balcombe:* Council has approved funding for the transportation promised when M83 was removed from the Master Plan of Highways; no timeline has yet been set.

Please continue to reach out re No Turn on Red

Glass: Noted approval of \$7.7 million for MOVE Grants; passage of HERO Act—immediate pension eligibility for surviving spouse of firefighter killed in line of duty.

Leudtke: 12/4 Public Safety Townhall at Damascus High School

Continued discussion of No Turn on Red, especially continued presence of contradictory signs as Wisteria Drive and Father Hurley Boulevard.

7:25 p.m.

Montgomery County Public Schools. Capital Budget

Karla Silvestre, At-Large, Board of Education

Adnan Mamoon, Chief Operations Officer Division District Operations

Reported that MCPS has 238 buildings, 211 of which are schools. Even though building has occurred over past 30 years, capital and maintenance budgets have not kept up proportionally.

On Damascus High School rebuild—will take 2 years to design and 3 years to build.

Previous plans were only proof of concept. Design phase will have more details necessary for beginning construction.

The costs is estimated to be \$308 million. It was noted that construction design would focus on sustainability and functionality rather than architectural features to keep costs down.

New Crown High School could be used as a holding school.

Community Member from Hallie Wells PTA noted that school redistricting would be effective for the 2027-2028 school year. This plan adds 700 students to Damascus High School in anticipation of bigger building. However, Damascus High School would be in build phase at best. It was suggested that redistricting affecting Damascus High School would be delayed.

However, Board Members was noted that this would impact neighboring high schools, and that the Planning Board was recommending zoning changes in the Clarksburg Gateway Sector Plan that would add 9,000 residents, with the promise that there would be enough school space in the out years. This point was emphasized for Councilmember staff still on the call.

Decision on capital spending includes building score, utilization, FARMS population, industry requirements.

Decision vs Rebuild and Renovation involves materials, age of school, and ability to meet ADA and code standards.

Damascus High School and HVAC repairs are top priorities.

Damascus Elementary School—problems over summer were because a new electric line was needed—required temporary outage to school by Pepco.

Ongoing maintenance is part of the operational budget, not the capital budget.

Education Quality: superintendent is a good manager, demographic changes, with increasing poverty, has required the need for more resources and cross-functional teams.

Noted teacher pay driven by Blueprint; meet \$60,000 starting salary for teachers two years ago. However, it was noted that other jurisdictions have better starting pay, cheaper cost of living. Board expressed disconnect between property tax burden and school funding, low teacher pay, and performance.

Discussed use of solar on rooftops at schools and why that is not being pursued in design.

Discussion of turf fields vs. natural fields. Concern that studies published by industry may be influencing MCPS decision. However, assured that turf fields not made from more natural material now, not harmful material which caused concerns in the past.

Community member from Darnestown questioned redistricting decision regarding Darnestown Elementary School, and asked if current options were restricted because Darnestown Elementary was grouped as a Region 6 school. It was noted that a California company is being used as a consultant in redistricting process.

8:45 p.m. **Introduction of New Members of UCAB**

9:00 p.m. **Regional Director's Report (via e-mail)**

The Upcounty Hub celebrated its 5th anniversary on September 30th

On November 5th, Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless held a public rally at Seneca Heights Apartments to bring light to impact of funding cuts by HUD.

Councilmember Sayles—Farm to Table Symposium at BlackRock on November 10th.

November 22, 2025—Senator Alsobrooks is hosting a utility and internet services fair from 11am-1:30pm at the East County Community Center to help residents learn more about their utility bills, restructure payment plans, and resolve billing disputes.

November 29, 2025—Town of Poolesville and County will be hosting ceremony to unveil a commemorative sign to recognize the Rosenwald School at 19200 Jerusalem Road.

December 4, 2025—Councilmember Luedtke Public Safety Town Hall, Damascus High School, 7 p.m.

9:05 p.m. **Discussion and Approval of Letter Regarding Clarksburg Gateway Sector Plan**
Moved for approval by Paul Klee, Seconded by Connie Golleher

9:10 p.m. **Update from the Quality of Life Committee:** noted similar frustrations from Committee meeting regarding redistricting as were expressed in tonight's discussion.

Suggested that a letter should be drafted on school renovations and redistricting.

9:14 p.m. **Community Concerns:** none

9:14 p.m. **Adjourn** (moved by Christel Bivens, seconded by Paul Klee)