



UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

Full UCAB Meeting MINUTES

February 23, 2026

VIRTUAL MEETING

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

Meeting ID: 867 6441 8255

By phone: 301-715-8592

7:02 p.m. **Call to Order/Roll Call**

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

7:05 p.m. **Police Report**
Commander Dillman (D#6, Gaithersburg/Montgomery Village):
Introduced new Deputy Commander Josh Walter
Noted increased traffic enforcement—both seen as public safety and because vehicles can be used as conveyance for criminal activity;
Noted death of six year-old child who found an unsecured firearm in home
Crime is down, likely related to winter/cold weather.

Commander Picerno (D#5, Germantown):
Noted increased traffic enforcement
Juvenile-involved crime increase—noted lack of accountability (e.g., theft from auto—about 90 percent attributable to group of about six juveniles—typically, Hyundias, Kias
Local intake has agreed to meet with commanders regarding placement decisions for juveniles

Noted several peeping sex crime arrests over past few months (cis-man dressed as woman in locker room; another filming in outlet dressing rooml another indecent exposure)

General discussion:
ICE activity—no section 287 agreements between ICE and MoCo
Emphasized 1st Amendment right to protest, but no interference
Notification of protest laws

Asked about ICE apprehending parents—minors left behind—police would contact appropriate authorities to ensure minor’s safety.

What are police doing to protect MoCo residents from ICE?

Police not involved in determining appropriateness of detention; will not step in unless given guidance ICE is acting illegally.

Darnestown House Party: noted criminal hearing postponed—agreement between defendants and State that no house parties; civil cases on-going.

7:27 p.m.

County Council Updates

Glass: Noted legislation for Task Force on Data Centers

Sayles: noted upcoming appropriation bill to support senior services

Public hearing on data centers was 2/24

Women's History Event 3/27 at BlackRock

Leudtke: noted bill allowing for additional uses of green bank revenue for climate resilience

Balcombe: reiterated ZTA on data centers and public hearings

7:35 p.m.

**Data Centers: zoning, environmental and other community impacts (ZTA 26-01)
Council Vice President Balcombe**

Maryland has 44 data centers, Loudoun County has over 400

Currently there are only four small-scale data centers in MoCo, none like the large data centers which have been built over the past few years

County Executive policy statement—best practice guardrails

Benefit of data centers—significant tax revenue through personal property tax (paid by businesses on the equipment)—probably about \$50 million from the five buildings at the Dickerson site. There are some discussions on ensuring that the communities around Dickerson benefit from that revenue.

At this moment, energy technology has not caught up with data centers. Hopefully, over time, AI will use less data and data centers will use less energy.

Proposed data center at Dickerson has been in planning for three years. They obtained conditional approval for concept 18 months ago and now at site plan review. The site plan proposal is with the Planning Board.

Challenges with data centers—electricity supply, Maryland is a net energy importer (generation costs). Thus, our electricity is doled out via the PJM Interconnect—a multi-state grid. Data centers even far away in other states could increase energy prices in Maryland because of strain on the PJM Interconnect.

Cost of grid upgrades (distribution costs) are set by companies with approval from the Public Service Commission

Current zoning regulates as cable communications, which are allowed nearly anywhere—ZTA would (1) define a data center and (2) restrict data centers to industrial zones (most notably around Air Park, Kensington, Deerwood/Shady Grove)—realistically only 2-3

sites over 200 acres; industrial zones could expand in future, but possibility seems remote as not much land in MoCo is left outside of Ag Reserve.

Even within Industrial Zones, create a conditional use

Back-up generators—low-emission diesel meeting Tier 4 EPA standards (highest tier)

Water: can amend to protect acquirer—not use groundwater, except in bathrooms and kitchens

Hook up to electricity grid and water is not within County’s jurisdiction

Very few sites that could accommodate data centers within MoCo, given the cost of land and set backs required in the ZTA.

Closer to operations, legislation may require reporting requirements on electric use, water use and temperature, noise level, and light pollution.

Notes improvements in cooling systems—closed loop system—uses less water by cooling through evaporation. Will know type of system Dickerson will employ with proposal which is with the Planning Board (not released at time of 2/23 meeting).

Bring your own energy—State looking at legislation, but data centers would not likely rely on solar or wind—probably small natural gas or small nuclear reactors; also battery storage—including at Dickerson site

Water use from Potomac in drought—about 500,000 gallons per day—small impact.

Kraig: noted about \$100 million cost per building—data center companies looking for speed to market and consistency need 150-200 acres as well as connections to grid, water, and sewer. Uses less water than a coal plant. Best locations are former coal plants.

Brett: Noted that data centers prefer hook-up to city water which contains chloride; relying on Potomac would require putting additives into the water.

Environmental concerns:

Discussion of Dickerson industrial zone generally, noted two leaks at the incinerator in the past month.

8:43 p.m.

Community Concerns

Marc noted concerns about ICE staging around Lake Forest Mall site

8:44 p.m.

Regional Director’s Update

Noted continued discussion after last month’s meeting—producing one-pagers for county processes and grants.

Noted the Germantown-Gaithersburg Chamber is taking applications for website design related to their Germantown Business Improvement District study

For Seniors—Age Friendly MoCo meeting (held 2/24)

Applications opened for Place-Based Grants--\$50,000 available for Damascus

Notes Trust Act passed—prevents County employees from requesting or investigating a person's immigrant status
Noted resources available through Gilchrist Immigrant Center—240-777-4940—encouraged preparedness plans.

Environmental Open Houses—3/2 with Waste Management
Department of Permitting Services—3/3 Stakeholders Meeting

8:50 p.m.

Committee Reports

Noted County Review of Committees and Boards—no request to consolidate or refocus our CAB after reporting.

Homelessness Task Force moving forward—an RV for laundry/showering not viable—need a consistent facility

Land use: encouraged others to take Planning Academy though Planning Department—self-study course

Green Building Codes—concern regarding whether timeline was pragmatic

DPS Advisory Committee—not very active

aul summarized meeting with Laurie Babb from the Montgomery County Economic

Quality of Life: incinerator—exploring revamping or exporting waste; noted County runs trash services for most downcounty communities; legislation is from 50 years ago when UpCounty was very rural, however HOAs can take over responsibility

DAFIGL noted shutting down of Dickerson incinerator—tower 3 has serious leak, tower 2 is failing—emits dioxin and feron 36x higher than EPA limit.

Also noted discussion of Dickerson Data Center.

Noted: Marilyn Balcombe responded to UCAB's letter on Capital Budget.

9:01 p.m.

Adjourn

Moved by Paul Klee; seconded by Mary Keane

Roll Call (P) Present (EA) Excused Absence (A) Absent

Andrew Saundry (P)

Christel Bivens (P)

Colin Richard (P)

Constance Golleher (P)

Dana Pauley (P)

Denesh Malaveetil (P)

Jason George (P)

Lynn Arndt (P)

Marc Robles (P)

Mary Keane (P)

Matthew Woorman (P)

Melane Hoffmann (P)

Michelle Ashafa (P)

Paul Klee (P)

Paul Lauria (P)

Sarah Stevens (P)

Sharon Anthony (P)

Steven Muse (P)

Teresa Watkins (EA)

Woody Woodroof (P)