

Upcounty Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2015

July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015



Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett



Montgomery County Council



At-Large
George Leventhal
President



At-Large
Nancy Floreen
Vice-President



District 1
Roger Berliner



At-Large
Marc Elrich



District 5
Tom Hucker



District 3
Sidney Katz



District 4
Nancy Navarro



District 2
Craig Rice



At-Large
Hans Riemer

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*Upcounty Citizens
Advisory Board*



UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR, 2014-2015

Thank you very much for the opportunity to serve as the Chair of the Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board this past year. I have been privileged to work with Upcounty Regional Director, Catherine Matthews, UCAB officers, committee chairs and members to discuss the needs of the Upcounty and make recommendations to the County Executive.

In July, we held a planning meeting to identify the topics to be pursued during the year. Each of the UCAB meetings had full agendas with up to three different topics presented. UCAB Committees also had an active schedule, meeting both individually and jointly.

In September, we provided input to the Fire and Rescue Services Master Plan, had a briefing on the MC311 Neighborhood Liaison Program and received an update on the Holy Cross Germantown Hospital.

The October meeting focused on the Achievement Gap in Montgomery County Public Schools. We also approved recommendations from the Quality of Life Committee about the need for more services and activities for Upcounty teens, and from the Land Use Committee regarding updating the Montgomery Village and Gaithersburg East Master Plans at the same time rather than sequentially.

We wanted to obtain a more a regional view of economic development so I invited Helen Prophter from Frederick to join then Economic Development Director Steve Silverman from Montgomery County to the November meeting. They discussed accomplishments and resources for small businesses as well as initiatives such as positioning assets (the National Cybersecurity Center of Excellence, the Women's Business Center, the LSBRP program, etc.). They also identified the challenges as well as synergism among some of the research facilities in Montgomery County and production facilities in Frederick County.

In December, after the unfortunate incidents in Ferguson, Missouri, and New York City, Police Chief Thomas Manger spoke about the impact of the incidents, efforts to bring more diversity to the County police force and the addition of more police officers to cover Germantown Town Center and Clarksburg.

In January, UCAB hosted the County Executive's Budget Forum and I had the opportunity to develop and make a presentation to the County Executive to summarize UCAB discussions and recommendations.

One of the top concerns of Upcounty residents is traffic congestion. The UCAB made low-cost recommendations to improve traffic flow on I-270 with ramp metering (many states use this technique to improve flow by 25%) and marking I-270 southbound HOV lanes from Clarksburg to Shady Grove. Advanced traffic signalization implementation could improve traffic flow on other roads. Twenty-nine miles of express toll lanes on Interstate 95 in Virginia opened in December and I invited Christian Deschauer, Director of Government Relations from Transurban, to the January UCAB to discuss the public/private partnership that was able to complete this highway project using less than \$1B of public funding. We later learned from Maryland State Delegate Aruna Miller that the I-270/US 15 Multi-Modal Corridor Study highway component has been on hold for over ten years and the Upcounty "communities deserve traffic congestion relief."

The January UCAB meeting also featured Casey Anderson, Chair of the Montgomery County Planning Board, who presented future development plans for Clarksburg and Germantown.

The UCAB meeting in February had three topics: Councilmember Roger Berliner and Jerry Pasternak, Vice President at PEPCO, provided the Board with information on the future plans and process of merging PEPCO/Exelon; Sandra Lee Filippi, Campus Planner at Montgomery College, discussed and provided a broad overview of the Montgomery College project and green space (UCAB voted to support this project); and Brooke Farquhar from the Parks Department presented and discussed a Proposed Solar Farms Site Selection Initiative (UCAB voted to support this project).

For the March UCAB Meeting I invited C. Vernon Gray, Chair, Howard County Human Trafficking Task Force, to join us for a discussion with Joy Nurmi, Special Assistant to County Executive Leggett and Kenneth Penrod from the Montgomery County Human Trafficking Task Force. UCAB supported Bill 9-15 that is proposed to provide police with another tool to enforce existing state laws prohibiting human trafficking. Another proposed bill was discussed, "Bill 52-14 Pesticides – Notice Requirements – Non Essential Pesticides – Prohibitions" by Chris Gillis, Legislative Analyst for Councilmember George Leventhal's Office.

At the April and May meetings we heard from two members of the County Council, Sydney Katz and Nancy Floreen. State Delegates Charles Barkley, Kathleen Dumais, Aruna Miller, and David Fraser-Hidalgo provided a summary of the legislative session and we were provided an update from Montgomery County Public Schools.

In addition to the board and committee meetings, members of UCAB served on several other boards, committees and work groups: the Upcounty Regional Recreation Advisory Board, Dickerson Facilities Implementation Group, Montgomery County Airpark Liaison Committee, Speed Camera Advisory Committee, Shady Grove Implementation Advisory Committee, Permitting Services Advisory Committee, Smart Growth Initiative Implementation Advisory Group, Pepco Community Advisory Group, and the Comprehensive Economic Strategy Community Advisory Group.

I want to thank the members of the UCAB and those former members who continued to come to the meetings after their terms had ended.

Over the years, I have respected the positions taken by the UCAB on sometimes controversial issues after deliberating upon the information presented to decide what is best for the Upcounty. I hope that future Boards will continue to develop excellent recommendations regardless of the political or economic climate they might be facing. The residents of the Upcounty are well represented by all the dedicated members of the UCAB.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Nelson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bob Nelson

Chair, 2014-2015

About the Board

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/upcounty

The Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board (UCAB) provides advice and recommendations to the County Executive, County Council, and Upcounty Regional Director on issues affecting the northern portion of the county known as the “Upcounty” in addition to acting as a two-way communication link between the County and the community. The twenty volunteer members of UCAB are appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council.

Geographic Scope The Upcounty region is defined as being roughly north and west of Shady Grove Road and it comprises about one-half of the geographic area of Montgomery County and one-third of its population. It ranges in character from urban to rural in communities such as Barnesville, Boyds, Clarksburg, Damascus, Darnestown, Derwood, Gaithersburg, Germantown, Goshen, Laytonsville, Montgomery Village, North Potomac and Poolesville. Therefore, UCAB’s members are selected for geographic balance as well as for diversity of background, community and professional experience and expertise.

Structure UCAB operates in public meetings and has two standing committees: the Land Use Committee and the Quality of Life Committee. UCAB’s leadership consists of the chairperson, a first vice-chair, and a second vice-chair along with the chair of the Land Use Committee and chair of the Quality of Life Committee. Other UCAB members also provide liaison to various other County boards and committees.

Issues Usually after a planning retreat in July, the UCAB and each of its committees meets monthly from September through June. The UCAB’s committees study a wide variety of issues and help to craft the board’s resulting recommendations. The Land Use Committee has reviewed and commented on master planning practices in the Upcounty, issues related to urbanization, the County’s Growth Policy, development pressures on the Agricultural Reserve, the evolution of the Life Sciences Center at Shady Grove, issues faced by agricultural and related businesses, affordable housing, and growth of the Germantown Campus of Montgomery College. The Quality of Life Committee has reviewed and commented on out-of-school programs for youths, programs for immigrant families and children at risk, mental health services, library services, safety of young drivers and pedestrians, public safety, services for seniors, and the general health of the county’s community. Positions have been taken on many of these issues while others may continue to be examined for comment.

Recommendations During the year, UCAB interacts formally and informally with county officials, county and state agency staff, and community leaders in order to understand issues comprehensively before forwarding comments or recommendations to the County Executive and/or County Council. UCAB also meets with the Executive during the year to discuss Upcounty priorities and to summarize their work at their annual meeting, and traditionally, the Executive’s priorities for both the operating budget and the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) have been responsive to UCAB’s recommendations. In the past, the Board has also hosted receptions for officials and community leaders in order to promote networking and the sharing of ideas. On an annual basis, the board meets with State legislators who represent the Upcounty area in the General Assembly, and various county department heads to explore issues and solutions. Additionally, UCAB traditionally hosts the County Executive’s annual Capital and Operating budget forums to solicit community comments. Those comments are then prioritized by the board and forwarded to Executive Branch departments and the County Executive.

The Upcounty Regional Director, Catherine Matthews, can be contacted at 240.777.8040 or via email at catherine.matthews@montgomerycountymd.gov.

Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board

2014-2015



Left to right sitting: Darlene Kerr (Germantown); Linda Moore (Montgomery Village); Arthur Edmunds (Laytonsville); Tobi Printz-Platnick (Boyd/Germantown) Daisha New (Poolesville); James Wallace (Gaithersburg);

Left to right standing: Kevin Linck (Montgomery Village); Dennis Barnes (Montgomery Village); Robert Nelson (Goshen); Mark Firley (Montgomery Village); Mamady Kamara (Gaithersburg/Germantown); Brian Donohue (Clarksburg); Joel Yesley (Gaithersburg); Kraig Walsleben (Damascus); David Rosenbaum (Germantown)

Not available when photo was taken:



Pat Seals
(North Potomac)



Beth Daly
(Dickerson)



B. Scott Graham
(Comus)



Christine Dunn
(Gaithersburg)

Officers

Chair – Robert Nelson

1st Vice Chair – Pat Seals

2nd Vice Chair – Daisha New

UCAB Committee Chairs

Land Use Committee – Mark Firley

Quality of Life Committee – James Wallace

Liaisons to Other Boards and Committees

Airpark Liaison Committee – (vacant)

Dickerson Facilities Implementation Group – Beth Daly

Permitting Services Advisory Committee – Darlene Kerr

Shady Grove Implementation Advisory Committee – (vacant)

Smart Growth Initiative Implementation Advisory Group – Kevin Linck

Speed Camera Advisory Committee – David Rosenbaum

Upcounty Regional Recreation Advisory Board – Daisha New

PEPCO Community Advisory Group – Kevin Linck

Comprehensive Economic Strategy Community Advisory Group – Pat Seals

Commission on Aging Data Task Force – Robert Nelson

Issues and Comments

Year in Summary

Agricultural Reserve

One of the important elements in land use planning in the North County area is the Agricultural Reserve. Its biological and environmental contribution has led it to be called the “green lung” of the Metropolitan area. The Agricultural Reserve provides a reservoir of economic, cultural, and biodiversity for the county as a whole and for the Northern County area in particular. As urbanization and development are transforming the central and southern parts of the county, the differential levels of density and development make the Reserve even more valuable *because of its differences* with the remainder of the county.

The Land Use Committee recommends to UCAB, as a committee of the whole to continue to support the Agricultural Reserve in its current concept and extent. We believe that the Reserve provides a unique and valuable way of encouraging sensible limits to growth, and that the presence of agricultural resources so close to major population centers can reasonably and viably contribute to the security of our food supply, provide educational and recreational opportunities, and promote biodiversity in the metropolitan region.

Demographic Trends and the Effects of Growth

Population growth as a whole is projected to add almost 250,000 people to Montgomery County alone in the next two and a half decades. Overall, the rate of population growth has been relatively accurately assessed by County planners. What have been more elusive are economic development and job opportunities that are geographically distributed in a pattern that supports sustainable land use practices.

The observation that Montgomery’s population needs new and more affordable mixes of housing dovetails with the expressed difficulties in retaining economically vibrant members of the Millennial generation while also retaining seniors and similar population groups who often skew to the upper quintiles of accumulated wealth (often because of property ownership), but do not necessarily retain the cash-flow income to sustain their quality of life in an admittedly expensive region.

Indeed, demographic data shows Montgomery County gaining population, but with much of that growth occurring in the lower two quintiles of income distribution. If this trend continues, County government will face two significant shifts. The first will be in the demand for services for this population. The second will be an increasing struggle to fund these services given anything like the current financial imperatives of the County. These conditions will put increasing pressure on all other services: transportation, housing, public safety, libraries, etc., just as demand – fueled by population growth – will see what appears to be a rapid increase.

Given that much of the available “target area” for growth in greenfield conditions will be in the North County area, this situation concerns our residents in particular and should encourage a re-examination of current models and zoning.

Developers keep announcing that they will not develop commercial or retail space until high densities are achieved, yet our current system has the effect of postponing critical infrastructure investment by creating more low density bedroom communities in the hope of generating more revenues to devote to funding immediate programmatic needs. We are at risk of a generation of residents in the middle and northern areas of the county who will never see the full benefits of public infrastructure or a nearby economic base.

This pattern of development fails to create the right sort of density, and increases the strain on transportation, public safety, and even our schools.

Review of Montgomery Village / Gaithersburg East Master Plans

The Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board discussed with Planning Department staff its concerns that the proposed schedule, which separates the development of the master plans for Montgomery Village and the area designated Gaithersburg East, in our opinion, does not take into adequate account the degree of interconnection between the two communities, and that **the preference of the Board is to combine the plans if possible.**

However, in the event that adequate resources and staffing are not available and that the schedule cannot be modified, we respectfully ask that extra attention be given to the interconnection between the plans and other efforts, and submit as an example, the widening and development of Goshen Road, which appear in both plans. Decisions affecting this component and others show the tightly interconnected nature of the communities, and we respectfully ask that the planning activity take that condition into account.

Transportation

A challenge remains as to how to grow the northern part of the county without ruinous expense and without destroying the very qualities of life that make the area attractive for settlement. Transportation has a key role in answering that challenge.

To that end, the Land Use Committee has discussed the benefits of coordinated signalization of our roads and techniques such as ramp metering, faster accident clearing and the designation of southbound HOV lanes on I-270 from Clarksburg to Shady Grove that have the potential to significantly improve flow without the massive capital cost of constructing either highways or transit systems. The Land Use Committee **will be forwarding a recommendation to the County Executive about these ideas.**

Public Transit

Over the years UCAB has consistently endorsed the CCT to support the concept of a transit-oriented Clarksburg. The Land Use Committee supports the concept of Rapid Transit Vehicles (also known as Bus Rapid Transit, or BRT) and the Corridor Cities Transitway (CCT). We do not think that either project addresses the commuter problem in the North County area as a priority.

The Land Use Committee believes that relatively minor amendments (including some sidings) would allow express service on the proposed line and improve its competitiveness as part of an overall transportation solution.

BRT is not expected to be deployed into the North County area until fairly late in the build-out schedule. The Land Use Committee believes that this may represent a real missed opportunity for the County to build in conditions closer to “greenfield” status, reducing cost of construction, and providing a “magnet” to shift economic activity into the North County area, where it is (1) needed and (2) removes infrastructure pressure in the southern and eastern ends of the county.

MARC rail service for the Upcounty could be expanded with an investment in an additional parallel track costing about \$20M.

Highways

Over the years UCAB has supported the Mid-County Corridor Study and the MC-DOT preferred alternative announced this year is the same as what the UCAB recommended last year.

The Land Use Committee will recommend to the Board a motion to support the following.

- 1. Repair defective traffic signal sensors and other traffic control mechanisms.**
- 2. Place a high priority on deploying intelligent signalization systems at the first opportunity. This has the potential of benefitting the county as a whole, but we anticipate highest benefit for congested or stressed areas.**
- 3. Ask MCDOT and other involved agencies to consider the following additional remediation measures:**
 - a. Access limitations (i.e., ramp metering) to smooth flow on the Interstate and other limited access highways;**
 - b. Enhanced the clearance of accidents;**
 - c. Designate southbound HOV lanes on I-270**
 - d. Explore the possibility of utilizing shoulder lanes to provide additional rush hour capacity**

Land Use patterns need to change to adapt to changing social, economic, and environmental needs much more rapidly than 50-year horizon Master Plans can accommodate.

Concentrate benefits, disperse costs

By placing populations in proximity to jobs, services, and amenities, we can afford to spread the costs of the growth in the lower income quintiles more easily. This re-enforces and builds on the most successful growth areas, and avoids the concentration of need that often breeds resentment and underfunding.

Spending Rates are not a Substitute for Caring or Community

Expensive real estate or high exactions upon personal wealth to fund community development are not substitutes for an engaged population or for real compassion. One can debate the size and nature of public sector involvement and properly discuss the allocation of resources. But in the end, there is no substitute for stewardship and a familial spirit. Land use and planning are tools that can either encourage or discourage the formation of real communities in an era of tele-bonded "friending."

We encourage our leaders to do all they can to form such real communities, within the means provided by financial, legal, and ethical constraints.

Any community that cannot sustain the preconditions for a materially decent life: public safety, economic opportunity, and rule of law, cannot lay claim to be a desirable or even moral polity. Land use planning, working hand-in-hand with demographic and other planning disciplines represents our best hope for managing change to maximize positive outcomes and minimize problems.

Youth at Risk

The Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board (UCAB) held a Quality of Life committee meeting on September 29, 2014 that featured a public discussion on the status of "Youth Issues and Out-of-School Activities and Opportunities" that highlighted such accomplishments as positive effects on gang activity participation, high school drop-out rates, assimilation challenges of Latino youth, and even testimony from some participants. The meeting featured representation from such organizations as the Montgomery County Department of Recreation, Positive Youth Development Initiative, Thor Teens Program, Clarksburg Foundation Board, and Identity Youth Services, Inc. In addition to accomplishments in serving the needs of "at-risk" youth in Montgomery County, the discussion also concentrated on two main themes.

- The trend of county funding is seemingly disproportionately concentrated on programs and facilities located outside of the Upcounty region. This skewing of priorities to other county regions has left "at-risk" youth in the Upcounty region without convenient access to these valuable services.

- A need for additional Friday and Saturday night recreational activities was also indicated. These activities such as basketball and soccer tournaments and clinics, dances, and movies have proven instrumental in the engaging young people in "wholesome entertainment and pursuits" during the busiest crime periods.

The UCAB recommended that the Montgomery County Council and the County Executive address current funding trends and place a great emphasis on the various programs and funding of out-of-school activities and Opportunities so that "at-risk" youth and their families who reside in the Upcounty region may enjoy the same advantages as residents in other parts of the county. We further recommended that the County Council and County Executive place a greater funding priority to Friday and Saturday evening youth recreation activities along with an increase in the number of programs and facilities, particularly in the Upcounty Region.

Homeowner Associations

The Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board (UCAB) held a Quality of Life committee meeting on November 24, 2014 that featured a public discussion on the Council Bill #44-14: Landlord-Tenant Relations - Licensing of Rental Housing - Common Ownership and Community Fees; and Council Bill #45-14: Common Ownership Communities - Governing Body – Training. Speakers included Mr. Chris Gillis, Senior Legislative Aide to Councilmember George Leventhal; and Ms. Tedi Osias, Senior Legislative Aide to Councilmember Nancy Floreen.

These two bills would impact Common Ownership Communities (homeowner associations). One bill would require members of boards of community associations to undergo training. The other bill would condition the issuance of a rental license for a property in a homeowner or condominium association on being no more than 30 days past due with the association dues or fees.

Bill #44-14 "Landlord-Tenant Relations - Licensing of Rental Housing - Common Ownership Community Fees." This bill would require an owner of a dwelling unit in a common ownership community to certify payment of common ownership community fees in order to receive a rental housing license for the unit. It would also authorize the Director of Housing and Community Affairs to deny, suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew a rental housing license for a dwelling unit in a common ownership community if the owner fails to pay the common ownership community fees due for the unit.

Bill #45-14 "Common Ownership Communities - Governing Body – Training" This bill would require the Commission on Common Ownership Communities to develop an educational curriculum to train a member of the governing body of a common ownership community on the responsibilities of directors. It would also require a member of the governing body of a common ownership community to complete this training or similar training approved by the CCOC within 90 days of their election or appointment.

The UCAB recommended that these bills be passed as they were currently written.

Pedestrian Safety

The UCAB held a Quality of Life committee meeting on March 23, 2014 that featured a public discussion on pedestrian safety in Montgomery County. The discussion centered on the county's initiatives particularly the County's Pedestrian Safety Initiative (first enacted in 2006) that features the following seven steps: 1) Targeting of improvements in high incident areas; 2) Improvement of pedestrian networks and connectivity; 3) Emphasis of pedestrians and bicycles in planning; 4) Construction of corridor and intersection improvements and traffic calming; 5) Upgrade pedestrian signals; 6) Enhanced street lighting; and 7) Modification of behaviors through enhanced enforcement and education.

Efforts directed at young people (e.g., students) were discussed in great detail; Particularly the Pedestrian, Bicycle, and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee, National Bike to School Day, and the Safe Routes to School Program (SRTS). This program is an opportunity to make walking and bicycling to school safer for children and to increase the number of children who choose. SRTS programs can enhance children's health and well-being, ease traffic congestion near the school, improve air quality and improve community members' overall quality of life.

Statistics were also cited. Most salient was a statistic from 2012, there were 423 reported pedestrian collisions in Montgomery County. Of these collisions, 125, or about 30 percent, occurred in parking lots and garages – a 39 percent increase in one year and the third consecutive year that collisions in parking lots increased. Montgomery County is getting the word out to the public about pedestrian collisions in parking lots. Most people are very surprised to learn just how widespread these collisions are and how many of them cause severe injuries. We hope that educating both drivers and pedestrians can help change their attitudes and behaviors in parking lots.

The need to include modifications to dangerous streets and intersections of Upcounty was also emphasized. County officials have discussed with residents plans for improving pedestrian safety by constructing traffic calming features, sidewalks, and enhanced pedestrian crossings based on feedback.

The UCAB deemed the efforts of the county as very proactive and showing positive results. **The UCAB supports the county's efforts and asks for a greater emphasis on the needs of the growing Upcounty region.**

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)

The UCAB held a Quality of Life committee meeting on February 23, 2014 that featured a public discussion on Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). CASA of Montgomery County is a 501(c) (3) not-for-profit organization whose mission is to advocate for the timely placement of abused and neglected children in safe, permanent homes and for the highest quality of their care while they are under the court's jurisdiction. This mission is accomplished through the recruitment, training and on-going support and supervision of volunteers from the community who are appointed by Juvenile Court judges to serve as Court Appointed Special Advocates for these children. CASA Volunteers serve as voices for one of our most vulnerable populations - abused and neglected children.

CASA is a member of the National CASA Association, a national network of over 950 child advocacy organizations. Each year in the United States, almost 570,000 children are removed from their homes and placed in foster care. These children end up in the court system with their only "crime" being that they have been victims of abuse or neglect.

A presentation indicated that CASA is in need of volunteers and also needs news of their work to be better disseminated throughout our community.

The board will continue to advocate for services and opportunities for this group.

Homelessness

The challenges of homelessness span the entire county but services to help this group are lacking in the Upcounty. The homeless risk their lives during panhandling at busy intersections, yet the county can't restrict their activities to ensure that they are safe. More housing is needed for the homeless and construction planned for the site of the Upcounty Regional Services Center is directed toward workforce housing. County programs need seamless transitions as the homeless deal with changing situations such as providing health care during pregnancies.



2014-2015 UCAB Guest Speakers

July 21, 2014	Planning Retreat: UCAB Focus for FY2015
September 8, 2014	Update: “Holy Cross Germantown Hospital” <i>Guest: Doug Ryder, President, Holy Cross</i> Discussion: “Fire & Rescue Services Master Plan” <i>Guest: Scott Gutschick, Planner, Fire & Rescue Services</i> Discussion: “MC311 Neighborhood Liaisons Training” <i>Guests: Leslie Hamm and Brian Roberts, MC311 Call Center</i>
October 6, 2014	Discussion: “The Achievement Gap in Montgomery County Public Schools” <i>Guest: Timothy B. Warner, Chief Engagement and Partnership Officer Montgomery County Public Schools</i>
November 10, 2014	Discussion – “Economic Development” <i>Guests: Steve Silverman, Director, Mont. Co. Dept. of Economic Development Helen Propheter, Manager, Frederick County Business Development & Retention</i>
December 8, 2014	Discussion: “Montgomery County Police Services” <i>Guest: Police Chief Thomas Manger</i>
January 12, 2015	Discussion: “Planning and Transportation” <i>Guests: Casey Anderson, Chair, Montgomery County Planning Board Christian Deschauer, Transurban</i>
February 9, 2015	Discussion: “Proposed Pepco/Exelon Merger” <i>Guest: Montgomery County Councilmember Roger Berliner</i> Update: “Montgomery College Development Project; Science and Applied Studies Building Renovation and Addition” <i>Guest: Sandra Lee Filippi, Campus Planner, Montgomery College</i> Discussion: “Parks Dept. Proposal to Build Solar Farms” <i>Guests: Brooke Farquhar, Parks Department Dominic Quattrocchi, Project Coordinator</i>
March 9, 2015	Discussion: “Update from the Human Trafficking Task Force” <i>Guests: Joy Nurmi, Special Assistant to County Executive Leggett Kenneth Penrod, Montgomery County Human Trafficking Task Force Dr. C. Vernon Gray, Chair, Howard County Human Trafficking Task Force</i> Discussion: “Bill 52-14 – Pesticides – Notice Requirements – Non Essential Pesticides – Prohibitions” <i>Guest: Chris Gillis, Legislative Analyst, Councilmember George Leventhal’s Office</i>
April 13, 2015	Remarks – County Councilmember Sidney Katz, (District 3) Remarks –Guests: Dr. Andrew Zuckerman, Chief of Staff, MCPS Mr. Thomas Klausing, Director, Office of Management, Budget and Planning for MCPS Presentation: “Comprehensive Economic Strategy for the County” <i>Guests: Lily Qi, Special Projects, Office of County Executive Ellen Harpel, Business Development Advisor Alison Wakefield, Special Projects, Office of the County Executive</i>
May 11, 2015	Remarks – County Councilmember Nancy Floreen, (At-Large) Summary of General Assembly 2015 <i>Guests: Del. Charles Barkley, District 39 Del. Kathleen Dumais, District 15 Del. Aruna Miller, District 15 Del. Fraser-Hidalgo, District 15</i>
June 15, 2015	Presentation of UCAB Annual Report

Testimonies and Correspondence



UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

October 6, 2014

Scott A. Gutschick
Planning Section Manager
Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service
Public Safety Headquarters
100 Edison Park Drive, Floor 2, Room E-09
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

Dear Mr. Gutschick:

On behalf of the Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board, I want to thank you for your presentation at our September meeting and for giving us the opportunity to provide input on the Fire and Rescue Service's master plan update. We have attached a list of priorities that categorizes the services and activities, and the level of attention we think each requires.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Robert Nelson
Chair

Attachment

cc: County Executive Isiah Leggett
Timothy Firestine
Fire Chief Steven Lohr

Attachment

Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board's Prioritization of FRS Services October 6, 2014

Response Services

Emergency Services – advance life support, basic life support	High
Fire suppression – structures, vehicles, brush/woods, and automatic fire alarms	High
Extrication/rescue involving vehicle collisions	High
Special operations – hazmat, water/ice/explosives, confined –space rescue	Medium
Non-emergency service calls – e.g., broken water pipe, downed tree w/o injuries, etc.	Low
Desired services other than the above	

Other services

Fire code compliance	Medium
Fire /explosive investigation	Medium
Fire and injury prevention and risk reduction	Low
Child safety seat inspection	Low

Standards of Response Coverage

Response time	High
Apparatus deployment and staffing	High

Other Potential Areas of Interest/Concern

Providing fire/rescue/EMS Services to special needs groups	Medium
Residential fire deaths and injuries	Medium
Fires in multi-family occupancies – high –rises, mid-rises, garden apartments	High
Fires in single-family occupancies – houses, townhouses, mobile	Medium
Pedestrian safety	Low
Mass casualty incidents – transportation related, acts of terrorism	High
Service during major weather events	Medium
Technology use/data analytics	High

100614



UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

October 13, 2014

The Honorable Isiah Leggett
Montgomery County Executive
101 Monroe Street
Rockville, Maryland, 20850

Dear Mr. Leggett:

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- The trend of county funding that is seemingly disproportionately concentrated on programs and facilities located outside of the Upcounty Region. This skewing of priorities to other county regions has left "at-risk" youth in the Upcounty Region without convenient access to these valuable services.
- A need for additional Friday and Saturday night recreational activities was also indicated. These activities such as basketball and soccer tournaments and clinics, dances, and movies have proven instrumental in the engaging young people in "wholesome entertainment and pursuits" during the busiest crime periods.

The UCAB recommends a greater emphasis on the various programs and funding of out-of-school activities and opportunities so that "at-risk" youth and their families who reside in the Upcounty Region may enjoy the same advantages as residents in other parts of the county. We further recommend a greater funding priority to Friday and Saturday evening youth recreation activities along with an increase in the number of programs and facilities, particularly in the Upcounty Region.

The Honorable Isiah Leggett
October 13, 2014
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The UCAB and the citizens of the Upcounty appreciate this opportunity to offer these comments. Please feel free contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Robert Nelson
Chair

Cc: Council President Craig Rice
Gabriel Albornoz



UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

October 13, 2014

The Honorable Craig Rice
President
Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Mr. Rice:

On behalf of the Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board, I would like to share our comments on the decision made to have separate master plan reviews for the Montgomery Village Community and the rest of the Gaithersburg East area.

The Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board discussed with Planning Department staff its concerns that the proposed schedule, which separates the development of the master plans for Montgomery Village and the area designated Gaithersburg East, in our opinion, does not take into adequate account the degree of interconnection between the two communities, and that the preference of the Board is to combine the plans if possible.

However, in the event that adequate resources and staffing are not available and that the schedule cannot be modified, we respectfully ask that extra attention be given to the interconnection between the plans and other efforts, and submit as an example, the widening and development of Goshen Road, which appear in both plans. Decisions affecting this component and others show the tightly interconnected nature of the communities, and we respectfully ask that the planning activity take that condition into account.

Sincerely,


Robert Nelson
Chair

cc: County Executive Isiah Leggett



UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

October 13, 2014

The Honorable Craig Rice
President
Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville Maryland 20850

Dear Mr. Rice:

On behalf of the Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board, I want to share our comments on the proposed master plan update for the Ovid Hazen Wells Park in Clarksburg.

The Board supports Parks Department staff's recommendations for the future of the Park with the expectation that traffic and noise impact studies will be done in consideration of the surrounding residential neighborhoods.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comment on the plan and hope to see a well-received park in the future.

Sincerely,


Robert Nelson
Chair

cc: County Executive Isiah Leggett
Casey Anderson, Planning Board Chair



UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

October 13, 2014

The Honorable Craig Rice
President
Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, Maryland, 20850

Dear Mr. Rice:

The Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board (UCAB) held a Quality of Life Committee meeting on September 29, 2014 that featured a public discussion on the status of "Youth Issues and Out-of-School Activities and Opportunities" that highlighted such accomplishments as positive effects on gang activity participation, high school drop-out rates, assimilation challenges of Latino youth, and even testimony from some participants.

The meeting featured representation from such organizations as the Montgomery County Department of Recreation, Positive Youth Development Initiative, Thor Teens Program, Clarksburg Foundation Board, and Identity Youth Services, Inc. In addition to accomplishments in serving the needs of "at-risk" youth in Montgomery County, the discussion also concentrated on two main themes:

- The trend of county funding that is seemingly disproportionately concentrated on programs and facilities located outside of the Upcounty Region. This skewing of priorities to other county regions has left "at-risk" youth in the Upcounty Region without convenient access to these valuable services.
- A need for additional Friday and Saturday night recreational activities was also indicated. These activities such as basketball and soccer tournaments and clinics, dances, and movies have proven instrumental in the engaging young people in "wholesome entertainment and pursuits" during the busiest crime periods.

The UCAB recommends that the Montgomery County Council address current funding trends and place a great emphasis on the various programs and funding of out-of-school activities and opportunities so that "at-risk" youth and their families who reside in the Upcounty Region may enjoy the same advantages as residents in other parts of the county. We further recommend that the County Council place a greater funding priority to Friday and Saturday evening youth recreation activities along with an increase in the number of programs and facilities, particularly in the Upcounty Region.

The Honorable Craig Rice
October 13, 2014
Page Two of Two

The UCAB and the citizens of the Upcounty appreciate this opportunity to offer these comments. Please feel free contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Nelson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "R" and "N".

Robert Nelson
Chair

cc: County Executive Isiah Leggett
Gabriel Albornoz



UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

December 6, 2014

Tom Pogue
MCDOT Community Relations
101 Monroe Street
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Mr. Pogue,

The Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board would like to nominate David Rosenbaum to serve on the Rapid Transit System Corridor Advisory Committee that will focus on the MD Route 355 North corridor. Mr. Rosenbaum lives in Germantown and already serves on one of the Corridor Cities Transitway Area Advisory Committees so we are confident that he will be able to keep the board informed more comprehensively.

Mr. Rosenbaum's contact information is as follows:

19204 Gunnerfield Lane
Germantown MD 20874
(h) 301-515-7167
(m) 240-832-1378
therosenbaums@verizon.net

The actual nomination form will be forwarded to you separately. Thank you for this opportunity to submit a nomination.

Sincerely,


Robert Nelson
Chair



UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

April 2, 2015

Ms. Sandra Filippi
Campus Planner
Montgomery College
40 West Gude Drive, Suite 200
Rockville, MD 20850-1166

Dear Ms. Filippi,

Thank you for coming to the Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board meeting and presenting the plans for the Montgomery College Development Project. Montgomery College is so important to the Upcounty community and it is very encouraging to know that the campus will continue to reflect the commitment to renewal and growth.

The Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board voted to endorse the plans and wishes you well in obtaining the financing needed to make them a reality.

Warm regards,

Robert Nelson, Chair
Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board

cc: Catherine Matthews

*Upcounty Regional
Services Center*



UPCOUNTY REGIONAL SERVICES CENTER

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

Catherine E. Matthews
Director

Dear Community Friend,

I want to thank the members of the Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board (UCAB) for their dedication to ensuring that their communities are heard on the various important issues that are impacting residents, businesses, places of worship, and small neighborhoods in the northern part of Montgomery County and countywide.

The Board works hard to be inclusive and encourages residents from all interests and demographic groups to stay informed and get involved in their community. One easy way to do that is to attend the meetings of the Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board to learn what the pressing issues of the day are and to share your creative ideas for resolving them. The Board reserves time on their monthly meeting agendas to hear from residents and is interested in knowing what you think.

There is a lot of talent in our community and we need you to share it in order to nurture the Upcounty region as it continues to evolve in the years ahead. As I have said before, our neighborhoods hold untapped resources like you who are skilled in technology, construction trades, the biosciences, landscaping, teaching, and emergency response, or those of you who have that special knack for getting to the core of the issue and encouraging a balanced discussion.

I also want to thank the many County and State officials, departmental staff, and civic leaders for the time and expertise that they generously give to help clarify the issues for the Board and to explore possible solutions.

UCAB has represented this region and county well, and I am fortunate to have the opportunity to work with them. Join us. We look forward to meeting you.

Sincerely,

Catherine Matthews
Regional Services Director

Upcounty Regional Services Boundary Map



Proudly serving approximately 300,000 residents of Barnesville, Beallsville, Boyds, Clarksburg, Damascus, Darnestown, Derwood, Dickerson, Gaithersburg, Germantown, Goshen, Laytonsville, Montgomery Village, North Potomac, Poolesville, Tobytown and Washington Grove.

The Upcounty Regional Services Center

The Upcounty Regional Services Center (URSC) is a 100,000 square foot facility that, in 2012-2013, housed 10 county agencies and 10 community partner agencies who together offered 28 different services. The Center is located at 12900 Middlebrook Road in Germantown, Maryland and provides a county presence for the northern region of Montgomery County where a third of the county's population or more than 280,000 people reside. The service area encompasses approximately 200 square miles and is bordered on the north by Frederick County, on the east by the Olney area, on the south by the Shady Grove Metro area and Rockville, and on the west by the Potomac River.

Administration Office

The Center is anchored by the Upcounty Regional Services Office (URSO) that functions as a link to the County Executive's Office; coordinates policy making and service delivery that focus on the particular needs of the Upcounty area; offers effective and timely problem-solving assistance to neighborhoods, individuals, community organizations, businesses, and agencies; and coordinates service delivery and assistance to the agencies housed in the Center. More specifically, the office offers an effective, timely liaison between Montgomery County and its citizens and businesses, and works with individuals, community groups, regional citizens advisory boards, and other public agencies to:

- research and disseminate information;
- identify and assess regional problems and issues and facilitate solutions;
- bring community perspective to major policy issues;
- assist with site evaluations for public facilities;
- promote a sense of community; and
- provide general on-site supervision of the center and build collaboration among partner agencies.

Major services provided to the public by the URSO this year included:

- providing information and making referrals for county and other governmental entities about local programs, activities, and community issues;
- assisting individuals, groups, and neighborhoods in developing solutions to local problems;
- assisting new non-profits as they get established and build capacity to provide services;
- leveraging funds/resources for community-based initiatives (i.e. transit station safety);
- providing a county government presence and serving as the public's regional access point for communicating with county government;
- serving as one regional repository and the public's point-of-access for government and regional planning documents (master plans, sector plans, county budgets, Capital Improvements Program, maps, Mid-County Corridor Study, etc.);
- providing education and strategic-planning assistance to groups, neighborhoods and communities for local issues; and
- disseminating center and community information and special announcements through the center's webpage, mailing lists, e-newsletter and web-based events calendar.

In a broader effort to bridge the gap between citizen needs and county public services, the Upcounty Regional Services Director regularly looks for opportunities to bring relevant services from a variety of other agencies and organizations to the Center.

Other Center Agencies & Services in 2011-2012:

Conflict Resolution Center of Montgomery County

301-942-7700

Provides dispute prevention, resolution and education to individuals and community organizations. Call to schedule an appointment or visit www.crcmc.org

Gilchrist Welcome Center

240-777-6950

This welcome center for new residents offers information and referral services, County programs and services provided by the County government as well as community organizations and non-profits. At the Upcounty Regional Services Center, the Gilchrist Center offers English as a second language (ESOL), citizenship preparation classes and pro bono legal services. Call for more information regarding other upcoming programs or visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/gilchrist

Office of Community Partnerships - Faith Community Liaison

240-777-2503

The County's Liaison to faith communities offers information and problem-solving assistance primarily to places of worship in order to encourage inclusiveness and engagement in county government initiatives and processes and other civic activities. www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cec

Housing Initiative Partnership (HIP)

301-916-5946

As a contract partner to the County's Department of Housing and Community Affairs, HIP provides foreclosure intervention counseling for Montgomery County homeowners. Bi-monthly foreclosure prevention workshops are provided followed by a one-on-one appointment with a certified housing counselor to discuss options available for families to remain in their homes or transition into other sustainable housing arrangements. Bilingual counseling services are available. www.hiphomes.org

MontgomeryWorks

240-777-2050

(Department of Economic Development/Division of Workforce Services)

MontgomeryWorks is Montgomery County's "One-Stop Career Center," where the State and County work together to provide free employment and training services to job seekers and employers in one place. For job seekers, the center provides computer access, workshops, job listings, access to career fairs and other career resources. For employers, the center offers employer recruitment events, and employment supportive services. www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ded

Peppertree Children's Center

301-540-1170

Montgomery County, as part of a commitment to families and children, provides space in many public buildings for community child care. Peppertree Children's Center is a contractor to the Department of Health & Human Services and offers full-time and part-time care for children ages 6 weeks through 12 years. Morning preschool is also offered. NAEYC accredited. www.pepertreechildrenscenters.com

Department of Health and Human Services

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/hhs

Housing Stabilization Services/Emergency Services

240-777-4448

- Rental assistance
- Eviction prevention
- Foreclosure avoidance
- Court ordered evictions
- Past due or disconnected utilities
- Burial assistance
- Information and referral for food and prescriptions
- Homeless assessment services for families with children

Income Support Programs

240-777-3420

- Temporary Cash Assistance for families
- Food Stamp Program

- Transitional Emergency, Medical and Housing Assistance (TEMHA) for residents who are totally disabled and cannot work
- Medical Assistance

Public Health

240-777-3380

- Maternal and Child case management and home visitation
- “Access” nurse service, including assisting clients with Health Choice access as well as enrolling women into the County maternity program and acting as a health resource to walk-in clients
- Children’s immunization clinics
- Pregnancy tests, information and referral

Service Eligibility Unit (SEU)

240-777-3591

- Helps find health coverage for uninsured Montgomery County residents through: Maryland Children’s Health Program, Prenatal Care, Care for Kids, Dental
- Provides information and phone numbers for food, shelter, and clothing needs (Financial eligibility required)

Dental Program

240-777-3290

- General dental services to children 0-17 years
- General dental services to maternity clients enrolled in the HHS maternity program
- Emergency service limited to preliminary evaluation and provided to children and seniors who are established clients.

Child Welfare

240-777-1742

Continuing protective service, foster care service, case management, and home visitation; assist with family reunification. Aftercare services, in-home monitoring of children returned to families.

Affordable Healthcare Enrollment

240-773-8250

Residents are assisted with enrolling in affordable health plans.

Family Service Agency Inc.

301-972-0307

Serves youth and families from five school cluster communities in Clarksburg, Germantown, Damascus, Gaithersburg, and Poolesville. Services include individual and family counseling, psycho-educational/skills groups, information and referral, crisis intervention, community outreach/education, and tutoring. Visit www.guideprogram.org

Community Use of Public Facilities (CUPF)

240-777-2746

This regional CUPF office offers scheduling of meeting rooms at the Upcounty Regional Services Center, school facilities, library meeting rooms, Executive Office Building space, Council Office Building space, and school fields for community use in the Upcounty area. Visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cupf

Volunteer Center

240-777-2600

Individuals, groups, and businesses can register for volunteer opportunities and offer their skills and talents. Student Service Learning (SSL) students can find projects and get credits to fulfill their graduation requirements. Visit www.montgomeryserves.org.

Office of Human Resources

240-777-5116

The Center serves as the main training site for the County’s Office of Human Resources where county employees are offered workshops, seminars and other training activities as scheduled. www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ohr

Montgomery County Public Schools
Office of Organizational Development
www.montgomeryschools.org

301-601-0300

The mission of the Office is the organizational development of a leading, self-renewing organization focused on achieving the school system goals by strengthening the knowledge, skills, beliefs, and practices of Montgomery County Public School's staff and stakeholders.

Transportation Services

301-840-8130

This office coordinates and administers transportation services for Montgomery County Public Schools.

Maryland Leadership Workshops

301-444-8623

Staff work with individual students and small groups at the middle school and high school levels to develop leadership skills during a summer camp experience. The program is in partnership with the Maryland State Department of Education, Maryland Association of Student Councils, and Leadership Maryland.

*Prepared by the Upcounty Regional Services Center
June 15, 2015*