



UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Summary September 18, 2017

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Arthur Edmunds and introductions were done.

The meeting summary from July 17, 2017 was approved by unanimous vote as amended (corrected spelling of Board member Walsleben's name). (moved by M. Firley; seconded by T. Ferleman)

Update from the County Council – see notes below from County Councilmember George Leventhal.

Update from the Regional Director – Regional Director Catherine Matthews informed the board that the restructured route for Ride On bus #75 will continue to serve Clarksburg High School students with stops at the school before classes, right after the dismissal bell, and with an additional stop for students needing transit service from afterschool activities and for those traveling to jobs. She also announced the launch of County Executive's Renters Have Rights campaign that increases inspections and outreach to tenants. More information is available on the county's website. Ms. Matthews mentioned that the Top Golf Entertainment facility was approved by the Planning Board this month. The facility will be built in the center of Germantown commercial district. September is Emergency Preparedness Month and Ms. Matthews urged everyone, including businesses, to have a plan to implement if necessary. Ms. Matthews stated that County Executive Leggett will hold another live discussion or virtual town hall on September 20, 1pm-2pm. Questions and comments will be taken before, during and after the session. Ms. Matthews then ceded the rest of her time on the agenda to staff from the Executive's CountyStat office.

CountyStat – Dennis Linders and Thomas Tippet from the Executive's CountyStat office asked board members to complete the annual survey about the Upcounty Regional Services Center and Regional Director's efforts. All five of the regional citizens advisory boards are completing the survey for their respective centers and directors. Results will be provided to the Regional Directors soon after the meeting and the responses and comments will serve as indicators for the Regional Directors to consider in moving forward with their work. The CountyStat office will also continue to assist the directors when possible.

Discussion - A Council Perspective from Councilmember George Leventhal – Councilmember Leventhal discussed the Council's and his thoughts about transportation projects (especially I-270 and the Mid-County Highway Extension/M83), the county's efforts in addressing homelessness, and short-term lodging rentals (i.e. AirBnB). Councilmember Dennis Barnes asked for clarification on small businesses (i.e. child care centers) operating in residential neighborhoods. Board member Cheng Tu asked how to keep small businesses in the county and how to encourage more businesses to establish in the Upcounty region which would help to reduce the amount of traffic on roads. Board member Bob Nelson asked for clarification on the proposed Council resolution on "Transportation Solutions for Northwest Montgomery County." Board member Kevin Linck commented on the State's improvements planned for I-270. Mr. Nelson announced that a community forum would be held at Wims Elem. School in Clarksburg on September 25. Board member William Roberts inquired about school funding in light of continued construction demands. Residents in attendance also asked questions and offered comments to Councilmember Leventhal.

Presentation – I-270 Innovative Congestion Management Project – Jeffrey T. Folden, from the MD State Highway Administration's Highway Development office, presented the proposal selected by Governor Hogan to implement immediately to address traffic congestion on I-270. Construction is expected to begin in a couple of weeks on the I-270 West Spur at the I-495 Outer Loop. The project will introduce a variety of road improvements, techniques and technologies on I-270 between I-70 and I-495. The presentation is available at <http://roads.maryland.gov/pages/DistrictNews.aspx?did=d3&id=388>. The State will continue their community outreach efforts with information about the project, the phases, and timelines.

Chair's Report –none.

Committee/ Liaison Reports – none.

Community Concerns/Comments – Ms. Rosemary Arkoian commented about the Mid-County Highway (M-83) project. Ms. Susan Soderberg from the Germantown Historic Society explained challenges new development has when encountering old burial sites in the county and that one is being examined where the Dorsey Mill Road is planned to cross I-270 in Germantown. She also updated the board on the local entrepreneur's plan to use the historic Cider Barrel for a pastry shop. Ms. Soderberg also asked why Germantown and Clarksburg weren't incorporated cities. Councilmember Leventhal explained the protocol. Mr. Richard Wilder asked the status of the county's airplane and if residents could ride in it. Mr. Leventhal responded that it was still operating and that his office could arrange a trip for the resident. Ms. Donna Baron asked about the mention of a trade school in

the Upcounty. Ms. Matthews explained that the establishment of a trade or vocational school in the Upcounty was suggested at the recent CIP forum hosted by UCAB. The board included the school in correspondence to the County Executive about their priorities for the Upcounty region.

The meeting was adjourned. (Printz-Platnick moved; Roberts seconded)

Board Attendance: Dennis Barnes, Andrew DiBonge, Arthur Edmunds, Mark Firley, Mamady Kamara, Darlene Kerr, Kevin Linck, Linda Moore, Robert Nelson, Tobi Printz-Platnick, William Roberts, David Rosenbaum, Cheng Tu, Kraig Walsleben, Joel Yesley, Alan Young.

Visitors: (see sign in sheet).

Staff: Catherine Matthews, Linda Cooper