

**TESTIMONY ON BEHALF OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE MARC ELRICH
ON BILL 20-20, ADMINISTRATION – OFFICE OF THE COUNTY
EXECUTIVE – BUSINESS ADVANCEMENT TEAM – ESTABLISHED**

May 5, 2020

Good afternoon. I am Dale Tibbitts, Special Assistant to the County Executive and am here today testifying on his behalf.

Bill 20-20 will establish the Business Advancement Team in the Office of the County Executive by renaming the existing Business Solutions Group to the Business Advancement Team and by assigning additional duties to this new team.

When the Department of Economic Development was abolished three years ago, those remaining staff members providing direct support to our local business community were transferred to several different departments and offices, including the Department of Finance, Business Solutions Group and the Office of the County Executive. We are advocating this strategic approach in order to better coordinate the delivery of County services in support of business development and related projects.

There are several benefits to this structure, including:

- A visible point of entry within the County government for the business community;
- More efficient deployment of County resources and staff;
- Better coordination with outside business development entities, which will help to ensure more success as the County jointly pursues its economic development objectives; and
- More effective use of County and State programs and resources that are available to serve Montgomery County companies.

We appreciate your support of Bill 20-20, which will result in more efficient use of County resources in order to better serve the local business community.