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Special Appropriation to the Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budget Montgomery County
Government Department of Finance, Economic Development Fund, Support for COVID-19
Response – Expansion of the Telework Assistance Program, \$1,250,000
PUBLIC HEARING – May 14, 2020
SUPPORT

The Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce supports the \$1,250,000 expansion of the Telework Assistance Program. While the initial Public Health Emergency Grant (PHEG) program included a \$2500 telework grant, the stringent eligibility requirements have been difficult to meet. The new Telework Assistance Program will provide much needed support to small businesses. We appreciate the quick implementation of the program and thank MCEDC for their efforts in making the application process easy to navigate.

When the emergency shut-down occurred in mid-March, businesses in all industries had to pivot. As the CEO of the Chamber, I had to make quick decisions to ensure my employees were up and running as efficiently as possible. All businesses had to come up with ways to “keep the doors open” even though we were all working from home. We had to invest in additional IT services, meeting platforms, additional hardware for staff, etc. We had to incur additional expense at the same time as our cash flow was being seriously depleted. Recouping some of this cost would be very beneficial to small businesses.

There have been a number of financial support packages available to businesses. Unfortunately, only a small fraction of businesses were able to receive assistance due to the overwhelming demand.

The need for financial support continues for our small businesses. Please support expansion of the Telework Assistance Program

Thank you.

Marilyn Balcombe

President & CEO

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