



EAST COUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD (ECCAB)

Wednesday June 5, 2024 Meeting Summary

Board Members Present: George Brown, Radwan Chowdhury, Sheala Durant, Metassebia Kefelegn, Peter Myo Khin, Len Newman, Mark Pharaoh, Susan Price, Kimberly Price-Evans, Calandra Tate Moore, and Dan Wilhelm. **Board members absent:** Fisseha Adugna, Bill Bentley, LaTonya Brooks, Rachel Evans, Ken Flemmer, Roberta Goldberg, and Gertrude Jones.

Guests Present: Sharon Brown, Police Lt Gregory Chmiel, Eileen Finnegan, Ken Jones, Daniele Moxley, Rob Richardson, Margie Goergen-Rood, Abdul Kamus, Ed Weiler and Keyna Anyiam

County Regional Office Staff Present: Jewru Bandeh, Cicero Salles, and Ayanna King.

Welcome and Introductions: The meeting was called to order at 7:12 p.m. by Chair Peter Myo Khin because members were late in arriving. Peter asked Board members to be on time so as not to delay the meeting. Board members, government officials, and public members introduced themselves.

Approval of Meeting Summary: The meeting summary for the May 1, 2024 meeting was approved with no objections.

Police Report. Lt. Geogory Chmiel, District 3 Deputy Commander, provided the police report. He indicated that crime is picking up now that summer is here, but the rates are still a good deal better than a year ago. He reported that there had been three homicides and two vehicle accident deaths, one of which was a motorcyclist who was driving recklessly and lost control. Thefts of auto airbags and catalytic converts have increased substantially. There were four police-sponsored basketball tournaments, all well-attended and enjoyed by the children.

Presentation/Discussion: Dr Gilberto Zelaya gave a presentation on the election process. He is the County Board of Elections Community Engagement and Public Relations Officer. He indicated that for the May 2024 primary, the data showed the following number of individuals voted:

By Mail	80K
Early In-Person	20K
Election day	65K
Provisional	7K
Total:	172K, out of 687K eligible to vote (25% rate)

The deadline for registering to vote in the November 5 Election is October 15. To qualify, a person must be a US citizen, Maryland resident, and at least 16 years old. Early voting occurs October 24-31. The deadline for requesting a mail-in ballot is October 29.

The election process followed by the Board of Elections is established by law. If people want changes in the process, they should contact their state delegates and senators.

Some 3500 people work at the polls on election day. They are paid a stipend, which is intended to cover expenses, such as food and transportation. All poll workers go through an extensive training process concerning the rules and procedures. Poll watchers must be certified but have no real role in the election day process. Dr. Zelaya expressed the opinion that poll watchers could be more involved if they became poll workers.

The Board involves children as early as the 6th grade to participate in the process, which is the youngest age anywhere in the world. The purpose of including young children is education. They can't become poll workers until age 16, but they can handle some administrative tasks like handing out "I Voted" stickers.

Committee Reports:

- **Quality of Life/Services Committee Report:** Peter Myo Khin provided the report about the fall listening session since Roberta Goldberg was absent. The session will consist of a panel composed of at most 8 government officials, including Health and Human Services, Police, MCPS and the council. The objective is to hear from the community. After the session, the committee will write a report and send it to the council for them to consider possible actions.
- **Planning and Economic Development Committee Report:** No report.

Old Business: At the May 1 meeting, the Board voted to write a letter urging the county to fund an alternatives study for Randolph Rd and include integration with the two US29 BRT corridors and the New Hampshire Ave BRT corridor and transfers to Ride On/Metrobus. The letter was approved by the Executive Board after that meeting for transmission to the Executive and Council. That letter had been sent to the Board. The Board at this June 5 meeting ratified the letter without objection.

New Business, and announcements

Jewru Bandeh, East County Regional Office Director, reported the following:

- He indicated the Executive had received three applications to join the ECCAB. The first step is to determine the number of vacancies, including whether any existing members had too many absences.
- Reminded everyone that the Board does not meet in July and August. Also, there will be a Board retreat before the September meeting. Peter will propose possible dates in an email to the Board for everyone to indicate their availability.

- Reminded the Board that members could request reimbursement of expenses to attend board meetings. He indicated he would email instructions for anyone who needs them. The form must be completed by June 17.
- He encouraged everyone to read the newsletters and other County/community announcements he sends out.
- He handed out a flier announcing the grand reopening of the Columbia Local Park, on June 29 at 11 am. The rain date is June 30. The park will include a dog park, pickleball courts and soccer field.
- He handed out a flyer from Councilmember Laurie-Anne Sayles announcing she is holding a series of sessions about creating safe and vibrant communities. The one in east county is July 8 at the Government Center starting at 6 pm. It is aimed at addressing increased crime rates.
- The Council approved the operating and capital budgets.

Daniele Moxley reminded everyone about summer recreation programs. Mark Pharaoh indicated two new programs will be starting later this year: pickleball and flag football for girls.

Eileen Finnegan indicated she had heard that AutoZone is interested in leasing the empty Sears store and asked if anyone had more information. No one had any information. The assumption was that if true, AutoZone would likely only be interested in the auto building based upon the services they provide.

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm.