



## **EAST COUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD (ECCAB)**

### **Wednesday, October 4, 2023 Meeting Summary**

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

**Members Absent:** Susan Price

**Staff Present:** Jewru Bandeh and Ayanna King

**Welcome:** The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.; introduction of new members (Radwan Chowdhury, LaTonya Brooks, Dr. Calandra Tate Moore, Sheala Durant, George Brown, Metassebia Kefelegn) and meeting attendees

**Meeting Minutes:** Minutes from the September 6, 2023, ECCAB meeting were approved.

**Guest Presenters: Sherwin Collette, Senior Vice President, Administrative and Fiscal Needs:** The facility is currently under construction and the master plan is the 55,000 square foot building reconfigured for continuing education classes, a community engagement space, and health sciences courses, and comprehensive programming to meet the needs of East County residents. They are currently on schedule for an April 1<sup>st</sup> opening. Also, Montgomery College will be putting up signage in front of the building soon. This is phase one and they are deeply committed to a full campus in East County. They will share at the October 16<sup>th</sup> meeting to include the planning and design work of the East County Campus, so they are dual tracking while they are working on the Campus proposal.

**Sharon Fechter, Acting Senior Vice President, Academic Affairs:** The East County Education Center as a hub to retrain and to continue education. There will be some technology courses, nursing, health sciences, EKG technicians, and ESOL classes for all levels. Some classes will be taught in Spanish. The noncredit and certificate programs will start this May and the longer structured courses will begin in the fall of 2024. ECCAB member asked about French classes at the East County Center given the large French speaking population in East County.

**Steve Greenfield, Dean, Workforce Development** – Workforce courses will be offered, and they are shorter courses like 3 months, 6 months, or more. These courses are in direct alignment for residents to get into quality jobs with career progression. These are courses that are in demand. Worksource works with the industry to make certain that the careers are in alignment, so they are building the pipeline for the workforce. Questions asked included: Do you have a partnership with

Adventist? (Yes); Signed an MOU with Adventist already (Montgomery College is in close communication with the hospital, anticipating a strong collaborative partnership). What is the expectation for enrollment? (6-8k annually); Will there be remediation at the campus? (Yes- tutoring, and virtual class remediation); Will the credits transfer to a 4-year college? (Yes- and have agreements with various universities); What is the marketing for this new site? (Half a million dollars will go into marketing in addition to the new signage that will be going up soon in front of the development); Role of the Worksource Board and the Career Paths and link in the career counseling (The MD Blueprint and to connect the school career advisor from grade 6<sup>th</sup> and up to start working with the youth to address careers through Worksource); How does the College support individuals who are struggling with daily life? (They have food pantries on campus, they are working to look at how they can provide additional support and wrap around services for the students to address housing, food, and clothing. Montgomery College has received grants to support laptops for students who cannot afford them); Will you be doing any classes for businesses? (We have an entire Entrepreneurial Certification Program. Montgomery College has a robust student affair to support retention and they understand that there are challenges with retention. Montgomery College has 156 Countries represented and are a sister city with Gonda, Ethiopia); How do you address immigrants who do not speak English? (These students can connect in real time with available staff to assist them).

### **Montgomery County Police Department (3<sup>rd</sup>) District Update:**

- Auto theft still a huge problem, gun violence is up, and White Oak to Burtonsville and Gun violence has come down.
- Staffing is still very slow, and they can only do academies every 6 months. The next academy is next year (2024).
- Most of the auto theft are committed by juveniles, and when arrested they get released to their parents and many of them are repeat offenders. The juvenile delinquency is handled by the State, so the county doesn't have the authority to address the repeat offenders in the juvenile system.
- Chris Wilhelm (Councilmember Kristin Mink's Office) offered to the board to do events on public safety to provide the residents with tips around auto theft and other safety issues. Last Year to date (missed county total) 234 auto thefts occurred in District 3 and this year to date 1,763 for the County.
- Smash and grab crime in Hillandale is a common crime but they have been coming in waves. We usually have quick response as they become a priority.
- Commercial vehicles parked in residential areas remains an issue for some communities.

### **Ratify/Approval of the ECCAB Executive Committees' Recommendations (Letters) to the County Executive/Council – Fairland Briggs Chaney Master Plan and Montgomery County Parks Departments' Skating Parks Location**

- Motion to approved by Bill Bentley and seconded by Fisseha Adugna-approved.
- Members approved recommendation to sponsor the FY25 Operating Budget Forum on November 15 in White Oak. This will in lieu of the two Committees' meeting dates for November in support/sponsorship of the forum.

**Update from ECRSC Director:** Jewru Bandeh

- Thanked Councilwoman Mink for her support on getting two (County Executive appointed) members confirmed for the East County Advisory Board.
- Provided a brief update on upcoming community events in East County
- Announced the FY25 Operating Budget conversations/forums with the County Executive in November, including one in Amharic and another for the Eastern Region.

**Staff Council Updates:**

Councilmember Kristin Mink's Office – Novo vax for vaccination

- Thank the ECCAB for the advocacy for the Fairland/Briggs Chaney Master Plan and the Parks Department Skating Parks Locations recommendations.

Lorenzo-Botello – Councilmember Evan Glass's office:

- Safe Streets Act is finally law.
- Had a press conference on the new bill was introduced Suicide Prevention and Firearms Act.

**New Business/ Old Business, Community Announcements/Additional Comments:**

- ECCAB member Bill Bentley brought up old business and suggested that the by-laws for the two committees Chair to become a part of the ECCAB Executive Committee. This issue will be brought up at the next meeting.

**Adjournment:** A motion was made by Bill Bentley to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m. The motion was seconded by Roberta Goldberg and unanimously approved.