



UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

Full UCAB Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2025

HYBRID MEETING

*In Person: UpCounty Regional Services Center
12900 Middlebrook Rd, Germantown, MD 20874*

Online Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86090967789>

Meeting ID: 860 9096 7789

By phone: 301 715 8592

7:04 p.m. **Call to Order and Welcome – Roll Call** (Minutes from 4.21.25 Meeting moved to next meeting) Roll Call – see attached

Review of votes on letter to County Executive: Operations Budget FY26 (11 in favor, 1 abstain, no other votes received)

Police Report; *Commander Dillman (D#6, Gaithersburg/MontgVllg), Commander Pallas (D#5, Germantown), Commander Satinsky (D#1, Rockville)*

- Crime number are down this year compared to last year
- Arrest of suspects in local crimes are going well and are leading to confiscation of illegal firearms
- Higher concentration in traffic enforcement – up 300%
- Uptick in auto thefts in Waterslanding in Germantown
- Uptick in commercial burglary for scratch off tickets afterhours
- Protests surrounding Tesla dealerships have been peaceful

Community Concerns – none presented

7:25 p.m. **Topic: Current Legislation - Delegate Greg Wims (District 39) and Delegate David Fraser-Hidalgo (District 15)** legislation in process and what has passed.

Greg Wims

- 8:15 p.m. • assisted in passing new legislation that is more punitive to repeat driver offenses in light of Sgt Patrick Kepp who was run over purposely on 270 by a repeat offender driver evading police last year.
- 8:25 p.m. • Municipality Elections Bill signed by Gov Moore. In response to the SBE (State Board of Elections) declaration that it did not have the legal authority to enter agreements with municipalities to lease voting equipment or provide support. The Bill shortens the lead time to join the State ballot from 18 months to 9 months.
- 8:30 p.m. • Susan King was able to secure \$1Million to Upcounty for CIP
- Study of grandchildren of Emory Grove (100 year old+ black neighborhood) owners to come back and reside in the neighborhood now that plumbing and electric facility has been upgraded

David Fraser-Hidalgo

- \$67 Billion increase in budget with a \$3.25 Billion shortfall
- May need to have another session in Fall on the budget based on the outcome of Federal support
- \$2 Billion in tax increases needed – MoCo inevitably will be hit hardest because they are the wealthiest county and will need to disburse the proportionate share of wealth
- Concern about the displacement of federal works of which many live in MoCo – and the uncertainty of the federal gov't lending their due support to unemployment
- State is taking steps to ensure that our residents are covered with unemployment as the federal layoffs unfold
- Seeing that many experienced federal works laid off are being absorbed by consulting companies which in turn could help the success of the business
- White's Ferry is still a priority and funding has been allotted to get the Ferry back up and running again. \$1.5Mil from state \$3M total with County contribution
- Consulting sales tax not off the table and most likely will be implemented to level the playing field with other businesses required to collect which will generate tax revenue
- Study occurring: Auto Insurance Fund-why insurance rates are so expensive
- Didn't have much information on why the Governor vetoed so many bills
- Maryland's focus is turn away from Federal funding and become independent amidst the federal government changes and uncertainty
- AAA bond rating was lost which means getting construction loans will be more expensive due in part to the budget difficulties experienced by Maryland, currently.

County Council Report

Glass Office

- FY26 budget passed last week by straw vote
- Pride flag flown over Executive office building starting June 1st for pride month

Balcolm Office

- White's Ferry – State helping to reopen and supported by CC to open - \$3M total
- Waterslanding School – funds appropriated

Luedtke Office

- Budget passed without tax increase
- Budget included Drone program to expand to include all of urban areas of Germantown
- Speed cameras will work synonymously with red light cameras

Sayles Office – No update

Regional Director's Report – Ruben Rosario

- Gaithersburg Chamber of Commerce included with others for the Germantown place-making
- CIP meeting on May 1st turn out was not great but good ideas exchanged
- In person meeting with DOT to discuss BRT at Gaithersburg MS & Richard Montgomery HS
- Another employment recruiting event to occur this summer on June 12th
- Pool opening weekend of Memorial Day
- June 14th – bus center workshop (Montgomery College)
- June 16th Planning department at Germantown Library to discuss Germantown Sector Plan 6:30-8:30 and at Seneca Valley HS on June 19th
- June 21st – celebration of Juneteeth at Black Rock

- 8:43 p.m. **Board Voting:** a Quorum was present
 Nominees remain uncontested. It was motioned by Paul Klee to vote for the group of nominee and seconded by Andrew Saundry.
 Chair: Christel Bivens
 Vice Chair: Lynn Arndt
 Secretary: Jason George
 QOL Subcommittee: Mary Keane
 LU Subcommittee: Paul Lauria
 At 8:43pm the above group of nominees were voted in by show of hands unanimously, none abstained, none against.
- 8:52 p.m. **New Business** - none
- 8:53 p.m. **Adjourned** by motion from Paul Klee and Seconded by Jason George



UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

2024-2025 Board Members and Committees

Name	Area	Committee
Matilda Adu	Rockville	Quality of Life
Andrew Saundry	Germantown	Land Use
Steve Augustino	Gaithersburg	Quality of Life
Paul Klee	Darnestown	Land Use
Christel Bivens	Germantown	Land Use
Jay Guan	Clarksburg	Quality of Life
Wayne Jacas	Boyds	Land Use
Steve Robinson	Damascus	Land Use
Kraig Walsleben	Damascus	Land Use
Lynn Arndt	Boyds	Quality of Life
Michelle Ashafa	Clarksburg	Quality of Life
Jason George	Germantown	Land Use

Melane Hoffmann	Clarksburg	Land Use
Mary Keane	North Potomac	Quality of Life
Paul Lauria	Gaithersburg	Land Use
Dana Pauley	Boyd's	Quality of Life
Marc Robles	Montgomery Village	Quality of Life
Sarah Stevens	Damascus	Quality of Life
Teresa Watkins	Clarksburg	Land Use
Matthew Woorman	Germantown	Quality of Life

Effective July 2024

Note: Sign language interpreter services will be provided only upon request with notice as far in advance as possible, but no less than 72 hours prior to the event. If these or other services or aids are needed to participate in this activity, contact Jake Adler at 240-447-0216 or at jake.adler@montgomerycountymd.gov

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