



## UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

### AGENDA

September 16, 2024

### **HYBRID MEETING**

*In Person: Blackrock Center for the Arts*

*12901 Town Commons Dr, Germantown, MD 20874*

*Online: Zoom <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89530528871>*

*Meeting ID: 895 3052 8871 By phone: 301 715 8592*

6:30 p.m. Tour of the Blackrock Center for the Arts facility

7:00 p.m. Call to Order and Welcome – 7pm

7:02 p.m. Roll Call

Present	Absent
Christel Bivens	Matilda Adu
Andrew Saundry	Steve Augustino
Paul Klee	Jay Guan
Wayne Jacas	Melane Hoffman
Steve Robinson	Dana Pauley
Kraig Walsleben	
Lynn Arndt	
Michelle Ashafa	
Jason George	
Paul Lauria	
Mary Keane	
Marc Robles	
Sarah Stevens	
Teresa Watkins	
Matt Woorman	

7:04 p.m. Review/Approve minutes from 7.15 meeting – approved unanimously

7:05 p.m. Police Report

6<sup>th</sup> District – Stancliff – perpetual juvenile crimes perpetrated by same individuals and current law allows police to only release to parent, no assistance or help from district attorney allowed at the present time.

- Changes are needed to help youth/juveniles due to changes in state law
- Juvenile armed robbery was reported, involving repeat offender in a drive-by incident. The suspect has been detained multiple times, highlighting a trend of juveniles committing serious crimes.
- Progress on drone implementation has been delayed due to staffing issues.

5<sup>th</sup> District – Pallas – many juvenile arrests from the same perpetrators.

- Police resources used to apprehend and release but can't get any help to perpetrators. Increased crime with you like bus shooting @NW HS and possession of guns on school property. Laws not helping Police and are preventing youth from getting the help they need to stay away from crime.
- Shooting occurred at Fox Chapel Elementary School. Suspect – 16 years old, fled during an attempted arrest after being found with a loaded handgun. Being charged as an adult.

1<sup>st</sup> District – Dillman – juvenile crime taking a large part of the Police resource where they have no jurisdiction over arrests so repeat offenses occur.

- Annapolis legislation prevents them from including the States Attorney who can then get these juveniles help. Fearful that these youth will grow up without consequences and will become adult criminals when they hit 18. Not helping these youth by releasing them. Costing businesses and residents \$100K's in lost property, damages, and because the youth are 12 years old – they become a safety hazard when stealing cars, both to themselves, and the unsuspecting people on the road. The reduction of SRO's in schools has led to a decrease in intelligence and oversight. They served to build relationships with students and advocated for those youth that needed help but this has gone by the wayside with the removal of the SRO's which the Chief of Police encourage the program to stay. Laws are at the state level. The DJS is broken and is not getting info about juvenile crimes to the district attorney (ex. Juvenile caught 57 times stealing cars – hides in the car lots until closing to steal cars). Local reps need to support new law initiatives at the state level. Can't do anything with juveniles under the age of 13 (ex. 12 yo stealing cars). Children are in need of supervision, without DJS starting the process we can't get these youth help.
- Shooting on August 29<sup>th</sup> on Southlawn Lane resulted in one victim being pronounced DOA at he hospital, while the suspect, who had shot himself was also deceased. Suspect was wanted by PG County for the murder of his wife the night before.

7:15 p.m. County Council Report

Luedtke Office – 10/19&20 – Damascus Place Making Festival

Glass Office – Safe Act Suicide prevention (implemented) fire arm crises hotline

- Great Seneca transit service bus route started from Gaithersburg to Travilah
- Glass will present at October 21<sup>st</sup> Joint Meeting at UCAB

Balcolm Office – Back to School Party – this coming Friday Sept 20<sup>th</sup>

7:25 p.m. Blackrock Center for the Arts Strategic Plan; Presentation and discussion led by Katie Hecklinger, Chief Executive Officer

- BlackRock was designed as a Community Arts Center but does not have many funding sources as downcounty by the way it is situated.
- Many don't know it exists which further causes fundraising issues
- They have received a \$1.2Million grant for much needed updates and would like to expand their theatre to allow for more guests than the 217 guests
- Budgeting for more events which will hopefully increase funding and knowledge about the Arts Center which include the bring back of Oktober Fest, Art Gallery Forums, live music and community players, rental of facilities, films.
- BlackRock operates on a break-even basis with a \$1.6 Million budget, needing to raise 70% of its funding.
- It was noted that Germantown is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest populated city in Maryland, but doesn't get the notoriety as much as downcounty
- Chamber was present and mentioned that they were hosting at Black Rock a meeting with Senator Will Smith on September 25<sup>th</sup> regarding juvenile reform laws.

8:15 p.m. Regional Director's Report – Ruben Rosario

Partnered with Montgomery College in Germantown – National Night out

- Agricultural Fair was successful – August 10-17<sup>th</sup>
- Arson in Clarksburg – condominium complex which affected 24 households on August 17<sup>th</sup>
- Lost Knife fire last week

8:17 p.m. Community Concerns

- Germantown Community Listening Session re: Obtainable Housing center at 7pm Sept 19<sup>th</sup> – is sign up

8:30 p.m. deadline

- UCAB Questionnaire will be sent out for comments

Adjournment @ 8:20pm – First motion was Andrew Second by Paul

