



UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES

December 16, 2024

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

- 7:01 p.m. Call to Order and Welcome
- 7:02 p.m. Roll Call – see list attached
- 7:04 p.m. Review/Approve minutes from 11.18 meeting – approved with no changes
- 7:05 p.m. Police Report – each Commander from District 1, 5 & 6
- 7:15 p.m. County Council Reports – Balcolm, Luedtke, and Glass representatives updated UCAB with upcoming events. M-83 public hearing by the Planning Board on December 19th in Downcounty and one meeting set in the Upcounty region in January for Upcounty residents to appear more easily.
- 7:25 p.m. Issues Faced by the Unhoused in our Community: Lt. Roderick Cox, MCPD; Liz Krueger, LCSW-C, MPH, Director of Homeless Services, Interfaith Works; Sonia Sotoglo, Founder & CEO, The CORE Foundation. Representative from DHHS, Evan Langfolt, Director of homelessness & housing support for Evermind.

Lt Cox reported about the increasing need for homeless services in Upcounty and mental health care required for a large population of the homeless. Currently no homeless shelter available for Upcounty. MCPD tries to create solutions for the homeless by offering shelters, but many homeless don't want to go to the shelter and leave their belongings behind. He also gave a background on one of the homeless persons as an example of the amount of time they spend helping because there are no walk-in services. Also mentioned that Upcounty had to request for additional services from a non-profit to Gaithersburg to help in the Germantown area where such services did not exist.

Presentation of current homelessness facts for Montgomery County given by Christine Hong, Division Chief of Services to Prevent Homelessness. Discussion ensued between the panel of homelessness in Montgomery County. More families are homeless than in the past and the number continues to rise due to cost of living inflation and the lack of affordable housing. The need for services in Upcounty is required, currently no shelters with exception of Rockville and Silver Spring exist. Homeless don't want to go to shelters because they feel unsafe and don't want to leave their items behind. Sonia from CORE helps homeless get basic services like showers (at Black Rock who opens their shower on certain days for the homeless that Sonia brings), clothes, toiletries, a safe environment, where Upcounty lacks such services. The overwhelming resonance was the mission to prevent homelessness, rather than establishing a shelter, addressing safe temporary housing to help people who are homeless get back on their feet and to find solutions that prevent people from becoming homeless by eviction due to job loss or other circumstances. It was expressed by some that education and assistance goes further than shelters to get those close to homelessness back on their feet. The services available to

Upcounty residents (locally) are less than what is needed to address the current and expected homeless population, despite the efforts from many non-profits and private funding. The homelessness does not apply to just populated areas, but areas spread far and wide in the Upcounty that are inclusive of the Ag Reserve area where services do not exist at all with exception of some missionaries and non-profit outreach.

- 8:30 p.m. Regional Director's Report – additional time was given to discuss this important topic and therefor the regional report was articulated through the website, newsletter, and email
- 9:00 p.m. Community Concerns – no community concerns
- 9:05 p.m. Adjourn – Paul Klee (1st motion) Andrew Saundry (2nd motion)

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

12900 Middlebrook Road, Suite 1000, Germantown, Maryland 20874



UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING ROLL CALL DECEMBER 16, 2025

(A) Absent (P) Present

2024-2025 Board Members and Committees

Name	Area	Committee
Matilda Adu (A)	Rockville	Quality of Life
Andrew Saundry (P)	Germantown	Land Use
Steve Augustino (P)	Gaithersburg	Quality of Life
Paul Klee (P)	Darnestown	Land Use
Christel Bivens (P)	Germantown	Land Use
Jay Guan (A)	Clarksburg	Quality of Life
Wayne Jacas (P)	Boys	Land Use
Steve Robinson (P)	Damascus	Land Use
Kraig Walsleben (P)	Damascus	Land Use
Lynn Arndt (P)	Boys	Quality of Life
Michelle Ashafa (P)	Clarksburg	Quality of Life
Jason George (P)	Germantown	Land Use
Melane Hoffmann (P)	Clarksburg	Land Use
Mary Keane (P)	North Potomac	Quality of Life
Paul Lauria (P)	Gaithersburg	Land Use
Dana Pauley (P)	Boys	Quality of Life
Marc Robles (A)	Montgomery Village	Quality of Life
Sarah Stevens (P)	Damascus	Quality of Life
Teresa Watkins (P)	Clarksburg	Land Use
Matthew Woorman (P)	Germantown	Quality of Life

Effective July 2024