



Asian-American
Advisory Group



April 7, 2010

Council President Nancy Floreen
and Members of the Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Council President Floreen and Members of the Council:

On behalf of the members and leadership of our organizations, we wish to inform you that we strongly support the proposed Science Center in Gaithersburg West and the new jobs and career opportunities in science, healthcare and education that it will bring, as well as the access to new public transit. Our community can greatly benefit from these high-paying jobs; additionally, we are committed to the type of “smart growth” and transit-oriented-development that this plan represents. We also feel that Montgomery County needs the estimated \$1 billion in net new revenue that this project will produce.

Our organizations and their constituents will be looking at your vote on the Gaithersburg West Master Plan as a defining issue in determining our future support. We plan to keep our members, constituents, and partner community organizations informed on our position on this matter, and of your willingness to support this much needed project and the benefits that it stands to offer our communities.

We believe that the plan, as it stands, will result in significant benefits in terms of federal and state investments in public transit infrastructure, parks, and the engagement of key players in the development of the Science Center. We believe that scaling back or further delaying this plan would reduce the expected benefits of the plan, and therefore we oppose such reductions and delays. Furthermore, the plan as it exists already reflects extensive community input and now includes adequate staging requirements, new transportation facilities, more parks and other benefits to the surrounding community.

Your vote for the Gaithersburg West Master Plan is critical to the future of this County and efforts to keep us competitive in key industries like bioscience, technology and healthcare, and to protect and improve our quality of life for ourselves and our children. We respectfully urge your vote IN SUPPORT of the Gaithersburg West Master Plan, as it was approved by the County Planning Board, without any further delay. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Carmen Otiz Larsen
Vice Chair, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
of Montgomery County

Janice M. Freeman
President & CEO, African-American Chamber of
Commerce of Montgomery County

Wonro Lee
Co-Chair, Asian-American Advisory Group
for Montgomery County

John Young, MD
Chairman, Asian Pacific American Chamber
of Commerce, Inc.

cc: Mayor and Council, City of Gaithersburg; Mayor and Council, City of Rockville