



LOCAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Prince George's County, Maryland

July 19, 2018

The Honorable Rushern Baker
Prince George's County Executive
14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Dear County Executive Baker:

The members of the Prince George's County Local Development Council (LDC) reviewed the County's estimates of the MGM video lottery terminal revenue and its recommendations for expenditure of funds for FY 2019-2020. As we have previously noted, time constraints remain an issue limiting our ability to hear from the community and to adequately provide recommendations to you regarding the spending plan. We continue to strongly urge that a change in the process is necessary. We believe that a strong effort should be made to repeal CB-88-2015, so that both the County and the LDC will have adequate time to formulate and review the local impact spending plan, while also allowing ample time for community input. We continue to believe that these changes will not adversely impact the County Council's opportunities or ability to review and make recommendations throughout the budget process.

After our review, while also taking into consideration input received from the community that we have been appointed to serve, the LDC has developed the following recommendations and questions regarding the proposed spending plan for local impact revenue:

- We are very appreciative of the adjustments to the education expenditures for both Rose Valley and Glassmanor Elementary Schools, that have increased the Community Impact Grant Program to \$750,000. We believe this will greatly increase our abilities to support and promote the work and services of the non-profit organizations serving the citizens within the designated impact area. We further recommend that similar capital projects within the education expense category that can be funded through available alternative funding sources be allocated to said sources and the resulting adjusted funds be allocated to program development, technology and vocational upgrades and other similar educational enhancements to support the schools and students within the designated impact area.
- In the area of Transportation and Public Safety, we understand that legislatively 40% of the MGM Local Impact Funds are allocated to the MD210 Infrastructure Improvement Project. However, we recommend and seek your support to request that an adequate portion of these funds be directed to implement and install pedestrian safety enhancements along this corridor, especially at the intersection

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of Kerby Hill Road and MD210, as soon as possible. Members of the community have strongly advocated for these improved safety enhancements noting the following: lack of adequate lighting, lack of adequate crosswalk or standing space at the intersection and closed sidewalks in the construction areas. Most importantly we propose this recommendation to prevent any additional loss of life along this corridor.

- The LDC would like to receive periodic updates, at least biannually, preferably quarterly, on the funds being allocated and/or disbursed to the various expense categories as listed in the spending plan. In addition, we request a full accounting of the previous fiscal year's expenditures as related to the corresponding multi-year spending plans. This review, along with the ongoing periodic updates will provide the LDC with the evaluation tools and performance measures to make more informed recommendations and revisions as deemed appropriate to meet the needs of the community we have been assembled to serve. We continue to invite and welcome leaders from every expense category to share and report their progress during our general meetings. It is our goal to use these opportunities along with the periodic updates to provide transparency and accountability to the citizens within the impact zone that all funds are properly allocated and used according to the adopted multi-year spending plan.
- Finally, the LDC seeks your support and guidance as it pertains to the current hold-harmless provision and its effect on the local impact funds. While we understand the initial concept and necessity for the implementation of this provision, we are concerned that this provision is no longer meeting its initial purpose of providing jurisdictional fairness in the distribution of VLT revenues. Therefore, we recommend and request that the necessary parties are engaged to review the current hold-harmless provision, looking toward developing the strategies and steps necessary to revise and/or repeal this provision. It is our hope and goal that this will not only limit but ultimately remove the effect of the hold-harmless provision on the Prince George's County Local Impact Funds. We see this as more than an opportunity to increase local impact funding, but more so as an opportunity to maximize our abilities and our reach to serve, support, and meet the needs and concerns of the citizens within the designated impact area.

The members of the LDC appreciate the opportunity to serve our County and our community. We are available at your convenience should you wish to further discuss or seek clarification of any of our concerns and recommendations.

Sincerely,



Rev. Jeffrey Chandler
Chairman
Prince George's County
Local Development Council

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