

Local Development Council April Meeting

April 16, 2025

Attendance: Dr. Toye Latimore, Barbara Holt Streeter, A'Lana Lester, DeAnna Baker-Mims, Veronica Turner, James Ballentine, Ernest Lewis, Evalina Huggins, Ebonique Bethea, Dani Moore-King, TeQuilla Taylor, and Dolapo Olomo.

Meeting called to order at 7:08pm

Welcome and Remarks

- **Barbara Holt Streeter**
 - Welcomed all participants

Minutes

- Dr Latimore – motion to approve the March 19, 2025, LDC Meeting Minutes
- Seconded by Veronica Turner
- All in favor
 - Approved and passed with unanimous consent

County Executive Office Updates

- **Barbara Holt Streeter**
 - Provided an update on current and upcoming administrative transitions.
 - In June 2025, there will be a new County Executive/new administration.
 - Encouraged members to stay connected by signing up for the Community Connections newsletter.

Elected Officials Reports

- **Delegate Turner**
 - There is confusion and concern among members about the LDC's authority, role and the process for local impact grant (LIG) allocations, especially regarding the County Council's role.
 - The LDC bylaws, specify that allocation authority for local impact grant funds resides with the County Executive and the LDC, with the County Councils role limited to approval, not modification.
 - Other Maryland Jurisdictions (Anne Arundel, Pimlico, Baltimore City, Worcester, Ocean Downs) follow similar structures.

- Any suggestion that the County Council can amend or redirect LDC recommendations is inaccurate and contrary to legislative intent.
- The LDC has acted properly and legally in handling funds and grant applications.
- Barbara Holt Streeter
 - The zeros in the 2027 and 2027 columns of the LIG budget are for planning purposes and do not guarantee zero funding: actual allocations depend on future budgets.
- Dr. Latimore
 - According to the County Council, the LDC is not supposed to give out grant funds because it is not specified in state law.
 - If the LDC is not supposed to handle grant funds, why has it done so for the past six to eight years, and why was this only raised this year?
 - Legal clarification is needed on whether the LDC is authorized to give out grants and where state law addresses this issue.

Purpose and Current Role of the LDC Amidst Funding Loss

- **Delegate Turner**
 - The LDC's original purpose was to support the community with grants, but without funding, its role is unclear.
 - Despite lack of funds this year, the LDC still has the responsibility to review and provide input to the budget.

Reason for Lack of Funding and Oversight of MGM Funds

- **Ernest Lewis**
 - MGM is to hold a meeting to investigate the funding decision and provide an overview to the LDC.
- **Dr. Latimore**
 - MGM funds have historically supported critical community services through the LDC.
 - Dental work for low-income families, childcare for infants, and food banks.
 - The LDC was not briefed about the Edward Burroughs Leadership Academy.
 - The LDC would have supported the academy if informed, and nonprofits could have benefited from student volunteers.
 - There is a lack of transparency between the County Council and the LDC.

Recommendation and Allocation of \$1.8 Million Funding

- LDC members agreed to send a revised recommendation for the \$1.8 million funding.
- The recommendation will be sent to the County Executive office for review, then to the County Council for final approval.

LDC Board Member Resignations

- **Barbara Holt Streeter**
 - Board members planning to resign should send their letters to the chair and the County Executive office, who will forward them to the appointments office.
- **Delegate Turner**
 - The LDC is supposed to have at least 15 members, and upcoming resignations will reduce the number further.
- **Dr. Latimore**
 - Recommends waiting for the new County Executive to handle new appointment letters. The new County Executive can appoint a new chair and Dr. Latimore will stay on until the transition is complete.

Motion to Adjourn by Dr. Latimore at 8:07pm

- Seconded by James Ballentine
- All in favor