



February 24, 2023

The Honorable Evan Glass
Council President
Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear President Glass and Councilmembers:

Re: MNCPPC Planning Board Commissioner Appointments

On behalf of the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC), we appreciate the opportunity to comment on the selection of three commissioners for the Montgomery County Planning Board. Our community is fortunate to have so many qualified candidates with integrity and experience who would be able to fulfill the duties of these positions.

MCCC asserts that these appointments should be based on the qualifications, integrity, and commitment of the applicant and should recognize applicants who have both knowledge of relevant planning and development issues, and a balanced, thoughtful, and deliberative approach to resolving those issues.

Based on interviews with candidates and their submitted application materials, MCCC recommends the following for the three Planning Board openings:

- Democrat – MCCC recommends James Hedrick because of his strong understanding of housing and transit issues. MCCC also recommends Raj Barr-Kumar because he understands the County’s economic competitive challenges and the principles of economic growth and how that ties into the planning and development processes.
- Republican – MCCC recommends David Winstead because we are impressed with his public service and private sector experiences, his support for more housing and more affordable housing and a welcoming business climate, and his support of Thrive 2050’s goals and objectives.
- Unaffiliated – MCCC recommends Mitra Pedoeem because of her deep understanding of County government and MNCPPC as well as her dedication to Montgomery County. MCCC also recommends Don Silverstein because he has a strong private sector real estate background as well as a broader perspective of regional development challenges and how the County can learn from other jurisdictions.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Godwin".

Georgette “Gigi” Godwin
President & CEO
Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce

cc: County Executive Marc Elrich
Gus Bauman, Chair, MCCC Infrastructure and Land Use Committee
Bob Elliott, Co-Chair, MCCC Infrastructure and Land Use Committee

Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce
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