



November 29, 2021

The Honorable Tom Hucker
Council President
Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Council President Hucker and Members of the Montgomery County Council:

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC) supports ZTA 21-09, *Office and Professional – Biohealth Priority Campus* and believes this creates an impactful economic development tool for Montgomery County. MCCC thanks the lead sponsor, Councilmember Friedson, for its introduction and members of the County Council for their support

MCCC is supportive of any amendments the County Council and the sponsor seek to strengthen what the ZTA intends to accomplish. This may include allowing eligibility to other rapid transit options like the Corridor Cities Transitway and examining whether to apply the ZTA to multiple collocated users instead of to a single commercial or industrial organization.

ZTA 21-09 creates a new definition for Biohealth Priority Campus that includes Life Sciences, Research and Development, or Medical/Scientific Manufacturing and Production. The ZTA applies to biohealth facilities of 150,000 square feet or more or existing County facilities that are expanding by 50,000 square feet or more. ZTA 21-09 is allowed in Commercial/Residential and Employment Office zones, within or adjacent to a red policy area, within Opportunity Zones, or within a half mile of a Bus Rapid Transit route.

The ZTA is an economic development tool that seeks to attract and retain biohealth companies and will further bolster Montgomery County's reputation as a welcoming place for innovative and cutting-edge technologies. Montgomery County is home to a thriving biohealth industry thanks to its status as a strategic economic industry and the foresight of policymakers. Today, Montgomery County has thousands of biohealth-related jobs and nearly 500 companies call it home, including global leaders in the development of life-saving vaccines and therapeutics.

County leaders play an indispensable role in creating a favorable climate for biohealth companies to locate, grow, and expand in Montgomery County. ZTA 21-09 continues the legacy of these efforts by creating a more business-friendly regulatory environment, removing impediments to growth, and fast-tracking important economic development projects.

Again, MCCC supports the passage of ZTA 21-09 and any amendments the County Council and the sponsor seek to strengthen what the ZTA. We look forward to continuing to partner on ways to move Montgomery County forward. As you continue your important work, please do not hesitate to reach out to us if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

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

Georgette "Gigi" Godwin
President & CEO

