



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3860

OBIE PATTERSON

Councilman, District 8

Dear Colleagues:

I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments relative to the County Executive's proposed multi-year grant spending plan for fiscal years 2017 through 2020. Overall, the plan appears to be heading in the right direction with a few exceptions. I am hopeful the final plan will include a more definitive set of procedures for operation.

This plan provides the County a tremendous opportunity to build a strong community partnership and serves as a message to our residents that they are receiving an equitable share from this project. Below, I have outline several areas of concerns for your and the Local Development Council (LDC) consideration:

1) **Transportation**-I understand that the comprehensive transportation plan as required by Sec. 9-1A-32 of the Maryland State Annotated Code is not a part of the multi-year spending grant plan; however, it is of great importance that the County Council is presented with this plan and have the opportunity to review and make comments well before the doors of MGM opens. Sec. 9-1A-32 requires that the County develop the plan with the consultation of the LDC. It is paramount that we have the ability to review and comment.

Furthermore, I strongly recommend that we revisit CR-13-2014 (see attached) to begin leveraging the 15 million allocated to MD 210 per SB 1 2012.

2) **Community Grant Allocation**-As we made several promises to the community concerning this project, I recommend a significant increase in this category. In Tuesday's briefing, it was mentioned that the amount that the County will receive is fluid. I suggest that a portion of any monies that are above the stated projections be reallocated to this category that will directly impact the community surrounding the casino (up to 50 percent).

3) **Audit of Positions**-I recommend that each position created and funded by the local impact grants receive an internal audit performed by the Office of Audits and Investigation (A&I) annually. In addition, I recommend an external audit every three years.

4) **Funding Sources**-The County is expected to receive millions of dollars worth of funding on an annual basis from the casino. The County has already received millions from the Rosecroft funding required by SB 1 2012, and we have to ensure that the use of these funds are as transparent as possible. Additionally, there are funding requirements created by the

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Community Benefits Agreement. In the spirit of transparency, I recommend the funding that is tied to the casino be presented to the County Council in a supplementary budget request from the County Executive. The intent behind this is to assure the public that the casino monies are not supplanting general fund monies creating a windfall for the County.

5) **LDC and Community Grants**-Anne Arundel County allows the LDC to receive applications and make recommendations for community grants. The members of the LDC are in the immediate proximity and should be the body that makes these decisions. In addition, there should be a director's position created for the LDC that would be funded by the local impact grant funds. The director would assist the LDC in their charge as established by law, and the director would be chosen by the LDC in collaboration with the County Council and the County Executive. The director should be located in the new training facility on Oxon Hill Road.

In closing, Anne Arundel County has done an excellent job of laying out specific procedures, processes, responsible parties, funding, time frames, etc.; therefore, I strongly recommend we use their plan as a template to develop the County's plan. Also, I believe it would be beneficial for the County Council to invite key members from Anne Arundel County to brief us on the intricacies of their plan. Please review the attached materials, and I am available to discuss. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Obie Patterson

Prince George's County Council

District 8