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Germantown Alliance

Testimony for Montgomery County CIP Budget

February 6, 2008

Good evening. My name is Beverly Magda. I'm the chair of the Germantown Alliance, which is an Alliance of organizations, businesses, and citizens of Germantown. I am also a citizen of Germantown

*We're pleased to see Locbury Drive & the Germantown Town Center Park in the budget recommendations. The costs compared to the benefit of these projects is minimal, but taken together these projects help complete the Town Center. The Park seems to be a reasonable compromise and we applaud those that worked to bring it to this point. We are looking forward to these projects moving ahead and staying on track.. Along with this, in order for our Town Center to survive economically and attract businesses and consumers for these types of commercial and cultural centers that are not urban districts, there needs to be a capital maintenance plan to address streetscape issues and to provide user-friendly and safe access to facilities when needed.

*We're also very pleased to see the Germantown Fire Stations East & West in the budget. They are critical to the needs of the community and we want to be sure these projects move ahead.

* We're happy to see PlumGar Recreation Center is scheduled for renovation and it is moving forward. But, we hope that the renovation does not preclude a new full service stand alone recreation center similar to the Damascus Community Rec Center which would respond to needs being identified in the Germantown Community-Based Collaboration on Youth Development..

*Montgomery College - we understand and are pleased to see the incubator opening in the spring and that the college is working with the state, federal, and county to move ahead with the business park. There is a serious need for the BioScience Education Center since Germantown enrollments in the lab sciences have grown 84% since 2000. Also, MC is turning away students in these

programs; students who are the future workforce for this industry that is so important to Montgomery County. The increasing demand is not going away. I'm not a county employee, not affiliated with the county in any way, nor am I affiliated with Montgomery College. I'm just a citizen and a person that has worked in the technology field for the past 20 years, I personally can tell you that I am concerned about the lack of future workforce in the science & technology sectors. We can't be turning students away from these types of programs. The future is grim if we cannot compete in the global market place. Not only does Germantown need this BioScience Education Center, but Montgomery County needs it, and the U.S. needs it. We ask the council to do everything in its power to increase the priority for this project. This will also help to avoid the possibility that plans being developed now will need revision before construction because of the time lapse.

On behalf of the Germantown Alliance, I thank you.