



P.O. Box 702 Germantown Maryland 20875

**To:** Michael Knapp, Montgomery County Council President  
Councilmember, District 2

**From:** Beverly Magda, Chair, Germantown Alliance

**Date:** April 14, 2008

**Re:** Testimony for Montgomery County Operating Budget

Please accept this testimony regarding the 2009 Montgomery County operating budget on behalf of the Germantown Alliance.

**Montgomery College**

Montgomery College has received only 50% of its requested increase. This reduced funding will be inadequate to address enrollment that grew by almost 1000 students last year. A well funded Montgomery College is essential to ensure equitable educational opportunity for the 25% of County graduating seniors that begin their post-secondary education at the College and for enrollment that is 60% minority. It is critical to the future of the County that all students be given the opportunity to succeed and that the workforce pipeline to employment remain open to support the County's high tech economy.

Of particular concern to the Germantown community that sufficient resources be made available to the Germantown Campus to ensure that the renovated space in the Goldenrod Building is available to the College for the fall 2008 semester. This vital addition to classroom, computer laboratory and faculty space is critical to meeting the already crowded conditions on the Germantown Campus. This renovated space will also be shared with the County's newest business incubator which will ensure the growing synergy between industry and the College. Please ensure that the funds are available to open Goldenrod this fall.

**Germantown West Fire Station**

The Germantown West Fire Station is critical to the needs of the community. The Germantown Alliance is pleased to see that 33 firefighters will be added to the budget for this station.

**Germantown Glory**

The Germantown Alliance is pleased to see that the funding for Germantown Glory fireworks has been restored to the operating budget. This event brings friends and neighbors together to create a sense of community in Germantown.

Please share this testimony with the entire County Council on behalf of the Germantown Alliance.

Thank you.