

County Councilman David Marks Fifth District Newsletter

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MESSAGE FROM COUNCILMAN MARKS: **WHY TRADEPOINT ATLANTIC MATTERS**

[On December 17th, the Baltimore County Council passed a financial incentive package for Tradepoint Atlantic](#), the redevelopment project at the site of the former Bethlehem Steel shipyard. I would like to explain why this financial package is different than others considered by the County Council.

Tradepoint Atlantic will be a hub of maritime, logistics, and retail operations spread out over 3,100 acres. Under the agreement approved by the County Council, private developers will build the infrastructure needed for the businesses locating to Sparrows Point; once constructed, Baltimore County will reimburse the developers, but still own the infrastructure. This arrangement not only induces businesses to relocate to Sparrows Point, but it produces property taxes for Baltimore County faster.

[Tradepoint Atlantic is creating new employment right now](#)—and will generate more than 17,000 jobs in the future—but there are profound impacts that will shape



the entire region. For Baltimore County to pay for new schools and infrastructure without massive tax increases, we need growth in places like Sparrows Point.

Throughout history, every wave of economic development has been preceded by investment in infrastructure. The Transcontinental Railroad opened up the West, and Interstate highways allowed for rapid transportation between cities. Tradepoint Atlantic is a consequential project—but it needed support at the beginning from Baltimore county government.

PUBLIC SAFETY TOWN MEETING SET FOR JANUARY 3RD

Councilman Marks will join with Senator Kathy Klausmeier in sponsoring a town hall meeting on public safety on Thursday, January 3rd at 7 p.m. at St. Michael Lutheran Church in Perry Hall (9534 Belair Road). Police captains from the Parkville and White Marsh precincts will be present to answer questions.

In the event of inclement weather that closes county schools, the meeting will be rescheduled. For more information, check Councilman Marks' Facebook page at www.facebook.com/countycouncilmandavidmarks.

SOCIAL HOST ORDINANCE TO BE AMENDED TO REQUIRE LOCAL SERVICE

Councilman Marks has introduced legislation that modifies the county's social host ordinance, the legislation designed to deter unruly disturbances in communities near Towson University, Goucher College, and the University of Maryland Baltimore County. [The social host ordinance has been widely praised for reducing unruly disturbances](#) since its passage by the County Council in 2016.

Under current law, when offenders are penalized, judges have wide discretion over how to administer community service requirements. The proposal by Councilman Marks would require the community service to be completed within two miles of the disturbance.

COUNCILMAN MARKS: SPEED CAMERA SHOULD BE USED FOR SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

Councilman Marks has also introduced legislation that specifies how speed camera revenue must be used. Under current law, there are no legal stipulations as to how the revenue should be spent, although it has generally been used for a variety of public safety functions.

Under the bill submitted by Councilman Marks, 25 percent of speed camera revenue must be used for traffic calming, radar signs, and other safety improvements. Half of that amount would be prioritized for improvements near the county's public schools.

Every Councilmember is inundated with requests for improvements to slow down traffic, and there is never enough money to complete these projects. This legislation mandates that speed camera revenue goes for specific purposes—to slow down traffic. To view the legislation under consideration by the County Council, visit www.baltimorecountymd.gov.

PROGRAM HONORS FIFTH DISTRICT CITIZENS OF THE YEAR

Upon taking office in 2010, Councilman Marks created a Fifth District Citizens of the Year program to recognize local residents who demonstrate exceptional community service and acts of heroism. This year, Councilman Marks has recognized the neighbors along Perry Hall's Linwen Way who responded swiftly and heroically during [the death of Officer Amy Caprio in May](#).



Councilman Marks has also recognized Joy Freedman and Julianne Zimmer, two Fifth District residents who helped advance Oscar's Law, [animal welfare legislation passed by the County Council last spring](#). Finally, he has posthumously recognized Steve Cupit, a Towson community leader who died in August.

STAY UPDATED ON WEATHER EMERGENCIES

In the event of weather emergencies, stay informed through Baltimore County's Stormfighter page: <https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/publicworks/StormFighter/index.html>. This is also the Internet site where residents can report storm-related issues such as downed trees. For an emergency, dial 911.