

CROSSROADS TASK FORCE

REPORT

MARCH 2002

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- John Porcari, Secretary
- Len Foxwell, Director of Washington Area Transit Programs

Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

- John O'Connor, Secretary
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- Sonya Proctor, Deputy Director
- Bryan Alston, Neighborhood Initiatives Coordinator

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- The Honorable Arthur Dorman

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- Roger van Zee, President, New Hampshire Gardens Citizens Association
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Report of the Crossroads Task Force

Executive Summary

The Crossroads region, or the area emanating outward from the intersection of University Boulevard and New Hampshire Avenue, is an area, much like the State of Maryland, containing great diversity. With that diversity, this unique community faces a number of issues affecting quality of life. Recognizing the unique needs of the Crossroads community, Governor Parris N. Glendening and Lieutenant Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend created the Crossroads Task Force in 2000. This Task Force was charged with examining three major issues impacting the quality of life in the Crossroads region: (1) transit; (2) public safety; and (3) day labor.

In order to address these unique issues, Governor Glendening and Lt. Governor Kennedy Townsend named Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development Secretary David S. Iannucci to facilitate and chair the Task Force. The first meeting of the Crossroads Task Force was July 26, 2001. The initial meeting was followed by meetings August 29, October 4, November 7 and December 11. Each of these meetings spawned additional subcommittee meetings, which usually took place at least once between full Task Force meetings. Subcommittees were created for each of the three issues being examined by the Task Force.

To ensure proper representation, the Governor and Lt. Governor requested the three jurisdictions in the Crossroads region - Prince George's County, Montgomery County and the City of Takoma Park - to select members for the Task Force. The County Executives in Prince George's and Montgomery Counties selected their representatives while the Mayor of Takoma Park and the Takoma Park City Council selected theirs. State government officials were also represented on the Task Force. Representatives from the State of Maryland chaired each of the three Task Force subcommittees. Thanks to the efforts of Task Force members, participation in both the full Task Force meetings and the subcommittee meetings was very strong.

One of the major challenges in the Crossroads region is that three jurisdictions intersect in a busy, diverse community. Obtaining cooperation and collaboration from the jurisdictions was a primary goal of the Task Force. Also, community involvement was vital, and the community responded. The Task Force received extensive input from all sectors of the community, and government and all parties learned a great deal from each other. From this positive dialogue, the Task Force is able to offer a number of recommendations that can benefit this region in the short-term and long-term.

Thanks to the efforts of Montgomery County, Prince George's County and the City of Takoma Park, the Task Force came to an important consensus; a new day labor employment facility is a must for the Crossroads. The Task Force, by majority vote, agreed that current accommodations for the day labor community serve an important role, but are no longer adequate. A separate Crossroads Site Selection team was

recommended, which will have a major impact on addressing day labor needs in the community. This team, consisting of a representative from the State of Maryland and two representatives each from Montgomery County (one from Takoma Park) and Prince George's County, will locate and recommend a new day labor facility, how to fund such a facility and the role for such a facility. The Task Force also recommended that the strong communication enjoyed during the Task Force process be continued in an advisory committee structure.

Transit is an important issue in the Crossroads region. Use of buses and public transportation is as strong as any area of the State. However, services to the region are burdened. Therefore, the Task Force unanimously approved a set of recommendations to help alleviate bus overcrowding, study a bus shuttle that would connect the Crossroads with other population and job centers and a new, permanent bus transit center. Also, the Task Force recommended a number of improvements in transit amenities such as bus access and transit materials and supported the new *TheBus* route linking the Crossroads with employment centers in Beltsville. Finally, the Task Force also recommended their strong support for the Purple Line Metro rail extension. The Purple Line would be a boon to the Crossroads area, boosting business and easing transit overcrowding.

Public safety and crime prevention are issues on the forefront of life in the Crossroads region. Dense population centers sometimes lead to high crime, and this region is no different. Thanks to the positive communication between the police departments of Prince George's and Montgomery Counties and the City of Takoma Park and the hard work of Task Force members, a number of recommendations emerged. The Task Force recommended enlarging the boundaries of the HotSpots program to increase crime fighting efforts. With increased funding, this could be an important step increasing public safety in the Crossroads region. Other recommendations included support for a sobering/treatment center and cross-jurisdictional collaboration on code enforcement. The Task Force, thanks to the input from the three police departments, recommended an enhanced communication system, shared crime analysis and increased community participation.

Overall, the Crossroads Task can be considered a strong success. The community demanded better communication among the three jurisdictions that share the Crossroads region. Only through better communication can important issues such as day laborers, crime and transit receive positive solutions. However, the progress of the Crossroads Task Force does not end with a report. The Task Force recommended the creation of a permanent Commission on Crossroads Development to continue with the positive steps taken during the Task Force process. The Commission allows for continued dialogue between the three jurisdictions and will be a valuable catalyst to affecting change in this community.

Recommendations of the Transit Subcommittee

Chairman – Len Foxwell

1. **The Purple Line:** The Subcommittee supports the ultimate construction of a “Purple Line” – a rail extension that would directly connect the Metrorail Red, Green and Orange Lines and create a new transit alternative along Maryland’s Capital Beltway corridor.
2. **Takoma-Langley Transit Center:** The Subcommittee strongly recommends that securing a site for, and establishing, a permanent bus transit facility at the Takoma-Langley Crossroads remain a top priority for the State of Maryland, Montgomery County and Prince George’s County.
3. **Improvement of Transit Amenities:** To make transit in the Takoma-Langley Crossroads safer and more user-friendly, the Transit Subcommittee recommends that investments be made to improve basic transit amenities. Specific plans to (1) add or improve bus shelters and benches, (2) improve pedestrian access to bus stops, and (3) increase the circulation of transit materials (timetables, safety guides, promotional literature, etc.) published in Spanish should be developed and implemented.
4. **Bus Overcrowding Relief:** Investments should be made to relieve overcrowding on key bus routes serving the Takoma-Langley Crossroads. The State of Maryland, Montgomery County and Prince George’s County should identify specific improvements to existing routes for consideration in next year’s budget.
5. **Takoma-Langley Circulator:** The State and both counties should study the possibility of a bus shuttle that would connect population centers at and near the New Hampshire Avenue-University Boulevard intersection. The routing, scheduling and fare structure would be designed to provide a convenient transit alternative to short vehicle and pedestrian trips. Existing shuttle services of this, which may serve as a model, include the *Bethesda 8* and the *Downtown Dasher*.
6. **New *TheBus* Route:** The Transit Subcommittee strongly supports the new *TheBus* route that will link the Takoma-Langley Crossroads with employment centers in the Beltsville area, and is scheduled to begin this Spring. It urges local elected officials, community leaders and government agencies to promote ridership on this service whenever possible.

Transit Subcommittee Report

The Transit Subcommittee of the Crossroads Task Force met three times at the offices of the Takoma-Langley Crossroads Development Authority. Active participants in the Subcommittee were:

- Len N. Foxwell, MTA
- Peter Shapiro, Prince George's County Council
- Senator Art Dorman
- Rick Gordon, Prince George's County DPWT (or Jim Raszewski)
- Philip McLaughlin, Montgomery County DPWT
- Kimberly Propeack, CASA of Maryland
- Erwin Mack, TLCDA
- Yolanda Takesian, SHA
- Gary Stith, Director, Silver Spring Regional Center, Montgomery County
- Rusty Wallace, Silver Spring Regional Center, Montgomery County

The purpose of the first Subcommittee meeting was to identify the specific challenges facing the Crossroads area. Phil McLaughlin provided a briefing on Ride-On's eviction from the B.F. Saul property, and the alternative boarding and bus staging plan that was being implemented. Len Foxwell, Chairman of the Task Force, provided an overview of the bus overcrowding problem, using both statistical and anecdotal supports. Others, such as Kim Propeack, Councilman Peter Shapiro and Erwin Mack, discussed the language barriers facing monolingual transit riders, particularly a lack of Spanish schedules, pocket guides and updates to routes and timetables.

Following those discussions, the Subcommittee conducted a bus tour of the Crossroads. Particular attention was paid to inadequate transit amenities – such as a lack of shelters and stacked milk crates in lieu of benches – and overcrowding on both Metrobus and Ride-On services.

For the second meeting, Len Foxwell drafted a set of strawman recommendations for Subcommittee review and comment, which – upon approval – would be presented to the full Task Force. The draft recommendations addressed all of the challenges identified in the first meeting. A recommendation of support for a Purple Line was also proposed, without specifying mode or alignment.

The Subcommittee unanimously endorsed all five original recommendations. These five recommendations were presented to the full Task Force on October 4, 2001.

The final Subcommittee meeting addressed timetables for implementing these recommendations. The original five recommendations, along with a sixth recommendation of support for a new TheBus line from Takoma/Langley to Beltsville, were approved by the full Task Force on December 11, 2001.

The Chairman and membership of the Transit Subcommittee wishes to continue meeting on an informal basis. This will sustain the dialogue initiated during the Task Force, while providing a forum for reviewing progress made toward implementation of its priorities.

Recommendations of the Public Safety Subcommittee

Chairman – Sonya Proctor

1. **Enhance Law Enforcement Communication:** The Subcommittee urges increased coordination and dialog between the law enforcement agencies of the three jurisdictions. The Subcommittee recommends that supervisors and officers from Prince George’s County, Montgomery County and the City of Takoma Park be provided with Nextel phones for inter-jurisdictional communication. Joint patrols and special operations are also recommended to address crime in the region. *Thanks to the HotSpots initiative and the Subcommittee’s recommendation, 16 Nextel phones will be purchased immediately for \$2,400.*
2. **Enlarge HotSpot Boundaries:** To increase crime fighting efforts and other resources provided by the Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention, the Subcommittee recommends the expansion of the current boundaries of the HotSpots program. Subcommittee members will engage the International Corridor Hotspot Oversight Committee in this effort.
3. **Strengthen Code Enforcement:** To enhance the quality of life and increase safety of residents of the community, the Subcommittee suggests cross-jurisdictional collaboration regarding code enforcement. Focus should include the dissemination of Spanish and English informational literature providing information about various codes.
4. **Crime Analyst:** The Subcommittee realizes the importance of shared crime trends and data across jurisdictional lines and supports the creation of a crime analyst position for the region. Data would be jointly gathered, centralized and studied, providing all three jurisdictions with access to crime data and trends.
5. **Community Participation:** Realizing that any anti-crime strategy, regardless of how sound, will fail without community involvement, the Subcommittee recommends increased outreach to residents, business owners and other stakeholders. The Community Mobilization element of the HotSpot initiative should provide a vehicle for increased outreach and community safety awareness efforts by hiring a community organizer. *Thanks to the HotSpots initiative and the Subcommittee’s recommendation, a full-time community organizer will be hired immediately at a cost of up to \$30,000.*
6. **Sobering/Treatment Center:** To address the issue of substance abuse of the region, the Subcommittee supports a sobering and treatment center in or near the Crossroads region. The jurisdictions and communities should collaborate and approach the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

Public Safety Subcommittee Report

Acting as lead contact agency for the Crossroads Task Force Public Safety Subcommittee, the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention provided technical assistance, staff support and ultimately funding for some key recommendations. Sonya Proctor served as the Subcommittee Chairman. Bryan Alston attended every meeting, sitting in for Ms. Proctor when necessary.

The mission of the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP) is to make Maryland's communities safe in accordance with the four key areas of Maryland's Crime Control and Prevention Strategy: (1) target high-risk offenders; (2) reclaim at-risk neighborhood; (3) protect and support victims; and (4) prevent youth violence, drug use and gangs.

The Public Safety Subcommittee of the Crossroads Task Force was composed of representatives of law enforcement agencies from Takoma Park, Prince George's and Montgomery Counties and community members. Participants of the Subcommittee grew to include concerned residents, business owners, code enforcement and animal control officers, state attorneys and faith-based representation. The last Subcommittee included several Hispanic/ Latino residents who are active participants in reclaiming their community.

The first meeting of the subcommittee was held at GOCCP's Regional Extension Center (REC) located in Prince George's County. Subsequent meetings were held monthly at the Takoma/ Langley Crossroads Development Authority. The Subcommittee members were given the charge to come up with several recommendations to enhance public safety for the Takoma Park community. The meetings were facilitated by the GOCCP and each member was encouraged to provide his or her feelings on what would make a positive impact on the community. From these open discussions several emerging themes and concerns began to surface. After the Subcommittee agreed on the six items for recommendation to the full Task Force, the Subcommittee began to perfect the items suggested through research and outreach, such as pricing for Nextel phones to enhance inter-jurisdictional communication.

Recommendations of the Day Labor Subcommittee

Chairman – Secretary John O’Connor

1. On the basis of the information reviewed, the Day Labor Subcommittee recommends the establishment of a new site to provide employment services for day laborers:
 - in addition to the permanent existing facilities and services,
 - as close as possible to the University Boulevard and New Hampshire Avenue intersection, and
 - which is selected with careful consideration of sensitive land use issues, such as schools and day care centers, takes into account public safety for pedestrians and traffic and addresses the needs of day laborers and the affected neighborhoods.
2. The Subcommittee further recommends the use of the Best Practice Strategies for identification and selection of the facility.
3. The Subcommittee further recommends that consideration be given to facility and staff to provide additional services such as language and job training for day laborers and other community members. This is in keeping with the preliminary recommendation of assessing the needs and resources of the community and exploring the feasibility of creating a multicultural center to serve the cultural needs of the diverse community.
4. The Subcommittee further recommends that forums be provided to allow for community dialogue, involving all segments of the community, and in appropriate languages, to increase the level of mutual understanding and trust.

Best Practice Guidelines for Identifying and Selecting a Day Labor Site

In addition to the recommendations provided by the Day Labor Subcommittee, the following guidelines are provided to assist in the identification and selection of an appropriate site.

1. Site Selection Team

Due to the nature of site acquisition laws which impact the three jurisdictions and the State of Maryland, the Subcommittee recommends the creation of a Site Selection Team composed of five members, two from Montgomery County, with one representing the City of Takoma Park, two from Prince George's County, and one from the State of Maryland. To this end, we recommend that Prince George's County, Montgomery County, Takoma Park and the State each be requested to designate, by January 15, 2002, individuals with site selection and acquisition background to serve on a site selection team to identify potential sites, possible funding and operational strategies, in consultation with the Advisory Committee.

2. Advisory Committee

An Advisory Committee, to consult with the Site Selection Team, should be established by officials from Prince George's County, Montgomery County, the City of Takoma Park and the State of Maryland. The Advisory Committee should include representatives of all the key stakeholders - government, police, CASA, day laborers, the Takoma/Langley Crossroads Development Authority, Inc., contractors, labor unions and religious, business and neighborhood associations. The Advisory Committee should have equitable representation from the affected jurisdictions - Prince George's County, Montgomery County, Takoma Park and Langley Park. Until the Advisory Committee is appointed, the Day Labor Subcommittee will continue to serve in this advisory capacity.

3. Promote Mutual Understanding and Acceptance

The Advisory Committee should hold open forums to promote mutual understanding and acceptance, have one-on-one meetings with key supporters to familiarize them with best practice information and encourage face-to-face contact among surrounding community and day laborers to promote mutual understanding.

4. On-Going Efforts and Resources

The assessment of resources and staff/volunteers available, the determination of possible strategies for acquiring funding and the identification of a method to deliver services need to be an integral part of this process.

Day Labor Subcommittee Report

This report is designed to address the issue of the large numbers of people, primarily low-income Latino men, congregating in front of businesses at or near the intersection of New Hampshire Avenue and University Boulevard and the accompanying issues affecting the communities around the Takoma/Langley Crossroads. It attempts to identify the most significant components of the issue, provide factual information that describes them, point out important information that is missing, and make recommendations about how the Task Force should proceed.

Why Do People Gather at the Takoma/Langley Crossroads?

To affect change in the behavior of large groups of people, it is important to understand their motivations. The Subcommittee has attempted to clarify the motivations of those who gather in Takoma/Langley Crossroads and generate the concern of property owners, businesses and community members. The quotations in this section come from a quick survey by Professor William Hanna of the University of Maryland conducted in October of 2001 and conveyed to the Task Force in a memo dated October 22, 2001. Other sources are identified in the text.

Informal Job-Seeking

“Groups of people gather (at Takoma/Langley Crossroads) for many reasons, including socializing and exchanging information. If the question focuses on groups of relatively low-skilled men seeking work, then the obvious answer is that they are employment seekers. Of course, while waiting for employment, people enjoy the company of other human beings – thus group formation. We have also interviewed two men in a job-seeking group who were there to socialize, not to obtain work.”

It appears that the catalyst for most gatherings is the presence of job seekers. They provide the critical mass for social interaction and other activities. They choose the site “because their work-availability is visible there, and there are many labor-seeking employers who drive on these streets. The choice of the area near the 7-11 was made, in addition, because of the availability of coffee and snacks during the job waiting period, and because it is within walking distance of a majority of the men’s residences.”

Social Interaction

It is important that the Task Force understand that there is not a single motivation for groups gathering in front of local businesses. There are many types of interaction—positive and negative - just as occur in a town square. Most recent immigrants from the lesser developed countries come from cultures that have a central community-gathering place that attracts shoppers, job seekers, strollers, drunks and criminals. Takoma/Langley Crossroads serves this purpose, even though the town square concept has really disappeared from our urban landscape because cars, shopping centers and more dispersed housing has made it less convenient and less safe just like it is at the intersection of University Boulevard and New Hampshire Avenue. It is in response to this contiguity of a population with lesser developed countries resources and a modern urban environment that the Task Force was formed. The issues faced are many and the

informal job market is just the one that demands the most attention because its impact has been more apparent and objectionable to the established community.

Where Do They Come From?

“Most day laborers live within a mile of the University Boulevard – New Hampshire Avenue crossroads. In August 2001 (once) and again in October 2001 (three times), Langley Park Project staff conducted individual and group interviews at the Langley Park Plaza and (in October only) the temporary labor site on New Hampshire Avenue. From the interviews, it appears that a majority of the men live in Langley Park. However, some men come from beyond Langley Park: in East Silver Spring, Hyattsville, the District of Columbia and elsewhere.”

It appears that the critical mass of local residents creates a magnet for others seeking informal employment.

The majority of the people gathering at the Takoma/Langley Crossroads are Latino males. Year 2000 Census statistics support the local findings by showing that two-thirds of Langley Park residents come from a Spanish-speaking country: 48% Salvadorans, 25% Guatemalans, 12% Mexicans, 4% Hondurans, 3% Dominicans, 2% Nicaraguans. An analysis of the Census statistics also showed that the Langley Park population is disproportionately young, male renters in crowded households.

A comparison with the 1990 census for Langley Park shows that the Spanish-speaking population has increased from less than 40% to more than 60% in the last decade. The disproportion of young, male, renters in crowded households has grown as well.

What Is the Tenure of a Day Laborer?

To adequately address the issue of the informal job market one needs to know how long people participate and what cause them to leave. Is participation a temporary or transitional activity or is it considered a permanent position? There appear to be no data on the tenure of workers in the Takoma/Langley job market. Anecdotal evidence indicates that the situation is temporary for a large number of the participants. Data collected on by the Day Labor Project at the University of California-Los Angeles shows that 48% of day laborers in Los Angeles participate for less than one year. Thirty-one percent participate for two to five years. It is impossible to know how closely the Takoma/Langley Crossroads population matches this group. The proximity of Los Angeles to an international border would seem to be a significant factor that is not present in the D.C. metro area.

The program in Los Angeles has found that there is a high turnover in job seekers on a daily basis, but that many return to the informal market when that job ends—even years after leaving the market. They see themselves as “day laborers.” Many of the laborers establish relationships with particular employers and are actually employed more than full time, but with more than one employer per week.

Can programs that deal with the informal job seekers be designed to limit the tenure of those who see the work as transitional or change the perceptions or knowledge of longer tenured individuals who may be able to move into the permanent job market?

What Is the Impact on the Community?

The impacts discussed so far in the larger and smaller committees are all based on anecdotal evidence. This does not imply that those impacts do not exist or are less significant, but it does limit our ability to mitigate them effectively and efficiently. It would be better if we had data on each of the areas below that could guide us in the development of solutions.

Business

The major impetus for this Task Force and prior attempts to change the situation at the Takoma/Langley Crossroads is the impact of large groups of predominantly men seeking work standing in front of businesses and the traffic generated by businesses seeking temporary employees driving through parking lots.

The very presence of large groups is perceived as detrimental to business. It is believed that these groups discourage other customers from using the business. No data on the actual impact of these groups is available, so most actions are taken based on the sense that there is a significant impact. It is reasonable to assume that if these groups generate trash, relieve themselves in public spaces, or harass customers there is an impact on business. It is commonly accepted that it is better for business when these groups are not present. The experience at University Boulevard and Piney Branch Road in Montgomery County is a good indicator that removing the job seekers from business sites is beneficial for the businesses.

It would be useful to have data that clearly demonstrate the impact on business. Are all impacts negative? Are some impacts the result of misperceptions by businesses, customers, job hunters or other people who gather with the job hunters?

As mentioned above there are more activities at the Takoma/Langley Crossroads than informal job seeking. The town square nature that the intersection has taken on brings in criminals, public drunkenness, and others who ignore existing law and accepted standards of behavior. It is in everyone's best interest - business, customer, job seeker, employer - that the negative and illegal behaviors be stopped. Existing laws are adequate but the available methods of enforcement have had only limited impact.

Residential

The Subcommittee has not had a lot of discussion of the impact on residential areas by the task force. People from neighborhood groups near the current CASA of Maryland job center on University Boulevard attended one meeting of the subcommittee and expressed the working relationship they have built with CASA to resolve issues and problems that have come up over the past ten years. These have included trash and people gathering near but not at the job center. The issues have been resolved but recur periodically due to the turnover of job seekers. The groups providing information

included the Long Branch Neighborhood Initiative, which includes ten neighborhood associations and other community groups near the intersection of Piney Branch and University and New Hampshire Estates Neighborhood Association which includes the site of the CASA of Maryland Center for Employment and Training.

Some residents from Prince George's County neighborhoods that are near possible sites for a new job center have expressed concerns about impacts, but no site has been discussed seriously, so the potential impacts are only hypothetical at this point. It is clear that neighborhood concerns are an important factor in any solution.

The New Hampshire Gardens community stated at one meeting that it is working through elected representatives to mitigate ongoing issues that may or may not be related to informal job-seekers, but some of which could certainly be related to the clash of cultures that results from immigration, e.g., abandoned cars, public drunkenness, sanitation, beautification, enactment of a commercial code and effective code enforcement services. Their representative has also expressed concern about the situation at the Takoma/Langley Crossroads but no specific impacts on the community were presented or documented.

It has been pointed out that trust is the underlying need among the various parties in the situation and that that trust is not present at this point. Building trust among the various communities and organizations should be one of the major goals of any planned solution.

It is imperative that there be a systematic evaluation of impacts on any residential areas that might be affected by any of the solutions proposed by the task force.

Public Spaces

Public spaces exist around all of the gathering places in the Takoma/Langley Crossroads. They are narrow stretches of right-of-way with sidewalks and public roads. These are not safe areas for the stop and go activity of the informal job market. Using these spaces for job seeking causes disruptions to vehicular and pedestrian traffic and is unsafe for participants and other travelers.

The limited amount of public space in the Takoma/Langley Crossroads limits the options of finding an acceptable alternative gathering place.

What Resources Are Currently Available To Address the Need?

The spectrum of resources necessary to deal with the issues facing the Takoma/Langley Crossroads is broad. The issue of the informal job market is only one aspect of those needs. The primary role of the Day Labor Subcommittee is to deal with the informal job market. This cannot be done without consideration of the broader needs. However, it is important that we do not lose sight of the dilemma that has brought the task force together, i.e., how can we mitigate the impact of the informal job market on the Takoma/Langley Crossroads. This subcommittee is focusing on employment related services, but recognizes the broader needs must be part of the short and long term solutions.

CASA of Maryland

The largest provider of employment services serving the informal job market in the Takoma/Langley Crossroads is CASA of Maryland. Using private (60%) and local government (40%) funds, CASA, a grassroots response to a flood of refugees in the mid-1980s, was contracted to develop an employment program that serves thousands of people every year at its Center for Employment and Training (CET) at 734 University Blvd. Montgomery County provides approximately \$150,000 per year and Prince George's County provides \$50,000 for operating the center. In 1993 after a formal site search process, the counties purchased the building that houses the center-

The most recent statistics provided to the subcommittee showed that CASA registered an average of about 140 day laborers per day during June, July and August of 2001. The largest number registered on any one day was 255. CASA found 182 permanent jobs for workers and registered 355 new employers during that same period. One hundred and fifty-eight people received job skills training and 635 attended English for Speakers of Other Languages classes offered by CASA in the first quarter of their fiscal year.

CASA's CET operates Monday through Saturday from 6 am to 12 noon. It uses a lottery model for distributing jobs on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Workers receive a number on these days and are placed on one of two lists depending on their job skills. As employers contact CASA, matches are made and a contract signed between employer and employee that states the agreed upon wages. The lists for Monday and Wednesday are carried over to the following day on a first come-first served basis. The process imposes rules on employee and employer that are designed to be fair. Some workers and employers like this and other do not. Those who do not like this model often move the more informal marketplace at the Takoma/Langley Crossroads.

CASA also holds contracts with Montgomery County to provide housing, education, and health services. In addition the center has a legal program that helps guard workers rights under Maryland law. Last year CASA recovered more than \$225,000 in wages for workers who had been victimized by employers. CASA is also helping the City of Takoma Park operate a temporary job site near New Hampshire Ave. and East/West Highway that is supposed to move the informal job market away from the Takoma/Langley Crossroads. CASA has a staff of 26 and a Board of Directors composed of community members and others who are working with the Latino community in the area.

Catholic Services/Prince George's Work Force Service Corporation

Catholic Charities administers an outreach center in a temporary location at the Langley Park Boys and Girls Club. A permanent location is under renovation and should be available mid-December 2001. The Outreach Center at Langley Park is funded by the Prince George's County Government and provides case management for the following services to individuals and families:

- Information and Referral
- Legal Services/Immigration

- Access to Health Care/Insurance_and_Prescription_Assistance
- Links to Employment Services
- Assistance with Translations and Applications
- Fatherhood Education and Counseling
- Access to Food and Clothing

The Outreach Center and the Prince George's Workforce Services Corporation have a collaborative agreement to provide additional employment and job readiness services to individuals. Eligible customers will receive one or more of the following services as deemed appropriate and as provided by Workforce Services:

- GED preparation/ESOL classes
- Skills assessment
- Career planning/Counseling
- Resume preparation assistance
- Occupational skills training
- Job search assistance
- Job placement
- On the job training

The Outreach Center is contracted to provide permanent job placement and job readiness skills. It is not intended to serve as an informal job market alternative to the Takoma/Langley Crossroads. The intent is to concentrate on other services to meet community needs.

The Outreach Center is a newly funded project. To date it has served 189 unduplicated customers, from August 14, 2001 to November 21, 2001. The following table is reflective of data relative to the service category delivered:

	August	September	October	November	Year to Date
Workforce Services	7	29	52	39	127
Legal Immigration	0	9	8	11	28
Health Insurance	1	12	2	7	22
Food	0	5	0	16	21
Clothing	0	1	5	3	9
Other	0	0	1	3	4

Due to the nature of the efforts in the Langley/Takoma Park Crossroads region, customers receive services regardless of the jurisdiction of their residence. Customers of the Outreach Center reported the following residential information:

Place of Residency	Percentage of
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	total
Hyattsville *	55%
Silver Spring	15%
Takoma Park	6%
Washington, D.C.	4%
Adelphi	2%
Landover	2%
Mitchellville	2%
New Carrollton	2%
Other Prince George's: Beltsville Bladensburg Brentwood College Park Greenbelt Laurel Mt. Rainer Riverdale	6%
Others: Alexandria, Va. Gaithersburg Kensington Wheaton	6%

**Langley Park's mailing address is Hyattsville*

This information is just a glimpse of the data Prince George's County will obtain from customers who frequent the Langley Park Outreach Center. The present location is useful for beginning operations, however, the open layout of the site does not provide for privacy. As noted, renovation at the office site is anticipated for mid-December 2001.

Maryland Job Service

The Maryland Job Service (JS) is a government program that provides a labor exchange service to workers and employers. The offices operate out of One Stop Centers and offer the following programs:

- 1) CareerNet and America's Job Bank: free Internet sites which provide local and nationwide access to employment opportunities, career information and posting of applications and resumes.
- 2) Labor market information
- 3) Tips and resources to assist with job searches
- 4) Veteran services
- 5) Lists of government employment opportunities
- 6) Assistance with resume writing
- 7) Information about career planning, educational, ESL classes and other training opportunities
- 8) Services to migrant and seasonal farm workers

- 9) Employment-related complaint handling
- 10) Referrals to various community agencies such as, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, health clinics, legal services and Department of Social Services
- 11) Outreach workshops to targeted Hispanic population (newly instituted)
- 12) WOTC –tax credit incentives provided to employers to hire hard to place workers. Assists workers in need to find jobs, gain on the job experience and retain jobs.

Job Seekers are required to fill out an application prior to receiving access to the services. The application includes name, address, telephone number, social security number, United States citizenship or U.S. employment authorization, gender, ethnicity, driver's license or transportation, education, work experience, times available for work and type of work sought.

The JS offices that service the Takoma/Langley Crossroads area are located in Landover and Wheaton and are staffed with two bilingual employees who service the, Spanish Speaking, population. Both offices have various bilingual instructional and informational booklets and brochures to assist with the provision of services. The number of registered employers and workers are the following:

**MARYLAND PROGRAM YEAR 2001
(Ended June 30, 2001)**

	Non-Hispanic Workers	Hispanic Workers	% of Total Hispanic	Employers
Prince George's	9,502	238	2.5%	7,000
Montgomery	11,659	1,851	15.87	4,000

Approximately 25 workers have been referred to Allen Foods. The major problem is round trip transportation from Langley Park to Cordova - especially early in the morning. Outreach was conducted to the day laborers in order to recruit workers for jobs in the landscaping and poultry industry. The recruitment was unsuccessful on a couple of occasions because job applicants lacked United States employment authorizations.

The Landover JS representative works Wednesday's with the workforce representatives, located in the Boys and Girls Club in Langley Park, by providing them registration, job search and interview information/workshops. Job Service outreach is conducted by bilingual staff eight hours a week and by appointment at other times.

The majority of the Hispanic workers registered in Montgomery County come into the Wheaton JS office and is serviced by the bilingual JS representative. The Montgomery County and Landover representatives are looking forward to coordinating a more comprehensive outreach to the Hispanic community in the Takoma/Langley Crossroads area.

Outreach registrations and workshops to the Hispanic community in the Langley Park area was initiated September 2001. This service resulted in the referral of 50 workers to landscaping, poultry processing and service industry type jobs, and resulted in the placement of at least 10 workers in permanent employment. None of these activities involved day work.

What Obstacles Limit Effective Solutions?

The task force needs to assess the obstacles that stand in the way of resolving the situation. No matter what the proposed solutions, their success will depend on the ability to address these obstacles.

Resources

The local jurisdictions have a limited ability to provide funding to assist the full complement of immigrants residing in the Takoma/Langley Park Crossroads. Additionally, eligibility for federally funded social, employment and legal assistance is limited due to undocumented immigration status of individuals. The downturn in the economy will result in fewer available dollars for potential programs to obviate this problem and a greater need.

Language

Communication and miscommunication are at the heart of any solution. The fact that most of the people who gather in the Takoma/Langley Crossroads do not speak English is a fundamental obstacle. It affects their ability to learn and understand the broader community's expectations and convey their expectations to the broader community. The fact that most of them speak a single language—Spanish—should make it easier to deal with the obstacle.

Language skills also limit the workers' job opportunities. Many jobs require minimal English or job specific English. An assessment of the impact of this language barrier would be helpful. Language classes are a key part of the job services of all providers mentioned above. It would be good if there were data on the effectiveness of the job related language classes and if there is any relationship with other ESOL classes offered in schools and other institutions. The availability of Spanish speaking social services and public safety personnel is also important for better communication.

Cultural Mores

Social expectations differ between traditional groups in the USA. Immigrants bring expectations that are tied to different economic, environmental, moral, and social mores. The differences can cause significant clashes such as some of the issues raised by the New Hampshire Gardens, Long Branch, and New Hampshire Estates communities.

Immigration Status

One of the obstacles limiting responses to the issues is the immigration status of the people. Many of the people who gather at the Takoma/Langley Crossroads to seek employment lack official immigration status and that status can change quickly as with the recent decision of the White House to provide temporary status in response to

earthquakes in Central America. The Legal Office at CASA of Maryland has an education program that is aimed at employers to inform them of their obligations under the appropriate laws. Catholic Charities is contracted to provide legal services regarding immigration status. A multilingual attorney offers services in Spanish. The attorney assists individuals with applications to Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS) concerning changes in immigration status, employment, location and employment certifications. CASA does not collect information on status and does not offer immigration services. All immigration issues are referred to organizations that provide those services. It is the position of CASA and its funders that CASA is not an employer and provides service regardless of status as is done in public schools and other social and public safety services. The services provided are meant to address a local problem in spite of the larger national context. It is incumbent on the employer and employee to follow appropriate laws.

The fact remains that the state and local governments have no laws addressing immigration status and no power to enforce federal law. Waiting to resolve this larger national problem would beg the questions that confront the task force and the local communities.

Education

The education level of day laborers can vary greatly, but the majority has received little formal education. This limits their opportunities and the potential of any solutions the task force may offer. It is clear that education in language and job skills is offered by job services. However, the lack of basic education is also a serious obstacle. There have been adult education classes taught through the public schools, but these have not been documented. It is recommended that basic education be included on the agenda of services desired for the immigrant community in Takoma/Langley Crossroads.

Distrust

The absence of trust in the myriad relationships among communities, groups, organizations, and governments is a fundamental obstacle to a resolution of the problem. All participants in the task force have offered to cooperate, but the trust to make that happen appears to be lacking. Working together to find solutions could help develop that trust. The areas of trust that require work are:

- Government to government: local to local and local to state
- Government to community: every community has different expectations and fears
- Resident to immigrant: people need to find ways to deal with differences and similarities
- Immigrant to government: the distrust of immigrants contains a fear as well as the typical citizen distrust of the effectiveness of government.
- Organization to government: working relationships between government and non-profits can help overcome the previous distrust
- Community to organization: building working relationships between non-profits and the communities in which they operate is essential.

- Immigrant to organization: outreach is only effective when people reach back. We are all just learning to do this and have a long way to go.

Lack of Established Working Relationships

Each of the participants in the task force may have working relationships with other members but not all members have working relationships with each other. There are also many other organizations and groups that should be part of any effective solution that are not participants. One of the goals of the task force should be to actively build these relationships. This is dependent on the trust discussed above.

What Actions Can Be Taken?

A task force should be action oriented. Reports and studies may be useful communication or education tools, but they do not constitute actions. Any effective solution will require action by many different parties. It must also be clear that there are recent immigrants from many countries speaking many different languages that require the services discussed below. Recommended actions should be identified for each of the following groups.

Institutional

Institutional action is essential to provide the consistency and longevity that volunteer groups like community organizations cannot provide. Institutions can be monitored and be made more accountable than other players.

Government

Local government is and has been the service provider of last resort in solving the issues surrounding day labor. No other stakeholders have the resource or power that can be used by Prince George's and Montgomery Counties and the City of Takoma Park. They have social service and law enforcement agencies that are in a position to address the issues comprehensively. Each of the governments involved has set priorities and implemented services to address the changes that have taken place in the Takoma/Langley Crossroads area over the past ten years. Priorities have differed and cooperation has proven successful but has been intermittent. One of the key models for successful local government service delivery has been working through non-profit groups who are better able to reach a population that is wary of government and often lacks the wherewithal to search out and use government services.

Employers

More employers of the day laborers must become partners in our efforts to resolve the many issues related to this population. There are hundreds of employers who have registered and are working with CASA to improve the situation through the Center for Employment and Training. The positive lessons learned from these efforts should be used to encourage the employers currently using the Takoma/Langley Crossroads informal job market to take responsibility for ensuring that there is a safe and fair process for everyone.

Non-Profit

The non-profit sector has provided valuable interface between the population that generates day laborers and government. CASA of Maryland and Catholic Charities have been mentioned above, but there are many other non-profit groups working to provide services to the meet the needs of the Takoma/Langley Crossroads and the International Corridor.

Community

All parts of the communities surrounding the Takoma/Langley Crossroads area should be engaged in helping to resolve the myriad issues that surround the population that generates day laborers. The primary action they can take is to stay informed of the issues. The second is to provide input to the development of solutions that will be compatible within the diversity of their communities. Change is inevitable in all communities; change can be good if it is participatory and inclusive. Shared aspirations and goals for family and community should be the foundation for change.

Legal

The legal aspects of this issue are significant. It is proposed that the Governor's Crossroads Task Force focus on those laws over which the members have some control or which obligate the members at the state and local level.

Existing Laws

Responding to people gathering in public or quasi-public spaces through law enforcement is a sensitive and difficult task. Using the law to minimize or eliminate the problems at the Takoma/Langley Crossroads is seen as only one aspect of a total solution.

It is clear that there are no loitering laws at the local or state level for the Takoma/Langley Crossroads. The laws invoked by business owners and law enforcement deal with trespassing or other quality of life ordinances that prevent unsanitary or disruptive activities by individuals. There is no indication that loitering laws are wanted or needed to deal with the situation. It appears to be the consensus that existing quality of life ordinances can address the situation adequately.

Contract for Shopping Center

In May 2001, the City of Takoma Park, the CDA, CASA, property owner, and about 100 persons who gathered at the 7-11 contractually agreed that, among other matters, *effective July 17, 2001* the property would be bilingually posted "No Trespassing" and "No Soliciting" and the TPPD would assist in enforcing applicable criminal laws. Thereafter, the parties agreed, the TPPD would "timely respond to reports of unlawful activity, including trespass and shall take appropriate enforcement actions which shall including making arrests when appropriate, in accordance with City, State, and Federal law.

Since July 17, 2001 individuals continue to gather at the intersection of New Hampshire Ave and University Blvd. This is a good example of the limited value of contracts with

only a few individuals and the fact that the people who gather change over time. None of the institutions or governments involved controls the actions of the individuals.

Enforcement

In response to resident's concerns about crime in this area, the TPPD has agreed to make greater use of its substation in the southwest intersection of New Hampshire Ave and University Blvd.

The police departments of both counties and the city participated in a series of community meetings organized by the Takoma/Langley Crossroads Business Association in the year 2000. The law enforcement agencies were unanimous in their opinion that law enforcement alone was not a permanent or temporary solution. The experience in Montgomery County between CASA, Montgomery County Police, and Montgomery Department of Health and Human Services in the 1990s showed that a combination of providing alternative services and enforcing quality of life ordinances did alter the behavior of the people who were gathering at Piney Branch and University and the employers who were seeking temporary workers.

Job Services

Offering services that increase the formality and control of the informal job market have proven effective in alleviating problems like the one at the Takoma/Langley Crossroads. The services described above are already in place but have not resolved the current situation. The services are clearly insufficient in quantity or type.

Additional Job Site

The proposal of an additional job site in Prince George's County has been around for some time. A series of tri-jurisdictional meetings initiated by the Takoma/Langley Crossroads Business Association in the year 2000 reached the conclusion that an additional site was needed. That group included representatives from all three jurisdictions: housing agencies, police departments, neighborhood associations, businesses, the American Civil Liberties Union, non-profit groups, and the faith community. Many of the people serving on or participating in this task force were at those meetings.

New Employment Model

It is clear that the job service models that are being used today do not meet all of the needs of the informal job market. Is there a different model that might help? Or is there a way to make the current models more accessible or useful to those who gather at the crossroad? An exploration of answers to the questions should be included in the agenda for Takoma/Langley Crossroads development.

Social Services

The informal job market that has been the catalyst for the creation of the Task Force in one issue among many others. It is obvious that long term solution must include services beyond day labor and address the needs of the immigrant population that mirror those of earlier major immigrations into the United States. These include:

Language Education

The Spanish speaking population is the largest in the Takoma/Langley Crossroads at the current time. However, there are also thousands of immigrants from African, Asian, and Caribbean nations. A functional grasp of English is essential for anyone's success in the USA. Schools, non-profits, and government agencies provide many language classes. The coordination of these offerings may increase the benefits to the community at large by making the education more consistent and efficient.

Job Skills Education

Job skills education has part of the services provided for years. It continues to be an unmet great need. The coordination of efforts in this area could also benefit the Takoma/Langley Crossroads entire crossroads community—those who need jobs and those who need skilled employees.

Cultural Education

The development of effective cross-cultural education is has been discussed at length with few concrete proposals for action. The need is great for all members of the community to understand those elements which are important to the quality of life of all other members of the community. How this can be done well is the issue before the Task Force and any group that may follow up. Ignorance and the distrust it promotes threaten to undermine all efforts to resolve the issues in the Takoma/Langley Crossroads.

Effective Outreach by Existing Agencies

Effective outreach can only be measured by the number of people who reach back. This is a constant problem for governments, non-profits, schools, and community groups. All of the players in the current situation at the Takoma/Langley Crossroads need to develop more effective forms or outreach—not only to the immigrant community, but also to the community at-large.

Recommendation for a Commission on Crossroads Development

It is the recommendation of the Crossroads Task Force that a permanent commission be established to address tri-jurisdictional issues in the Crossroads region. The entity shall be called the Commission on Crossroads Development.

Purpose

The purpose of this commission is to continue with the successful dialogue borne out of the Crossroads Task Force. This commission will provide a forum for continued communication between Montgomery County, Prince George's County and the City of Takoma Park on issues critical to this diverse community.

Establishment

The commission will be established and will exist for two years and meet, at a minimum, quarterly or at the discretion of the commission chairman. The commission would sunset two years after its inception, with the option of continuing the commission indefinitely thereafter. This commission will be established by a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the State of Maryland and Montgomery County, Prince George's County and the City of Takoma Park (see MOU on page 26 of this report).

Crossroads Boundaries

The boundaries of the Crossroads region are open to interpretation of the commission. However, they must include the communities of Langley Park and the City of Takoma Park.

Chairmen and Membership

This commission would be chaired by a representative of State government and co-chaired on a rotating eight-month basis by a representative from the tri-jurisdictional community. The Governor will appoint the chairman and the chairman will appoint the revolving co-chairmen. The commission shall consist of ten members each from Montgomery County and Prince George's County. At least half of Montgomery County's representation should be from the City of Takoma Park. In Prince George's County, the members are to be selected by the County Executive. In Montgomery County, the members are to be selected by the County Executive and the Takoma Park City Council. Membership should include one member from the following: (1) law enforcement; (2) transportation; (3) social services; (4) labor; (5) business association; and (6) citizens association.

Issue and Scope

The commission is able to determine its issue scope. However, the following issues must be on the commission's primary agenda: (1) immigrant communities; (2) day labor; (3) transit; (4) public safety; and (5) education and training.

Meeting Locations

Commission meetings are open to the public and should be held in a facility that allows for community participation and input.

Community Involvement and Outside Expertise

The commission must seek community involvement. The commission can bring in outside expertise any time it sees fit.

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE STATE OF MARYLAND;
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND;
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND; AND
THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND**

THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (this "MOU"), is made as of _____, 2002, by and between the STATE OF MARYLAND ("State"), PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND; MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND; and THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

RECITALS

WHEREAS, Inter-jurisdictional communication has complicated the resolution of issues in the Takoma Park/Langley Park area of Prince George's County, Montgomery County, and the City of Takoma Park, specifically around the intersections of New Hampshire Avenue and University Boulevard, an area also known as the Crossroads region;

WHEREAS, To better address those issues, the citizens of the Crossroads region requested the Governor to convene a multi-jurisdictional task force to assist in effective communication on issues facing this diverse region;

WHEREAS, The Governor convened the Crossroads Task Force, which determined that important issues facing the Crossroads region include, but are not limited to, day labor, transit and public safety;

WHEREAS, The Crossroads Task Force has offered a list of recommendations to address these substantive issues, as included in the Report of the Task Force dated March 2002;

WHEREAS, To address the long-standing procedural issue of inter-jurisdictional communication in the Crossroads region, it is the recommendation of the Crossroads Task Force that a permanent entity be established to facilitate the resolution of tri-jurisdictional issues in the Crossroads region; and

WHEREAS, It is the intention of the Crossroads Task Force that this permanent inter-jurisdictional commission build on the work of the Task Force, and its subcommittees, in improving communication among officials in the three jurisdictions, and that the shared goal of all jurisdictions and the State of Maryland of enhancing the quality of life of the citizens of this area be realized; and

WHEREAS, The parties to this MOU desire to give effect to the recommendation of the Task Force to create an ongoing inter-jurisdictional commission by undertaking the activities described in this MOU;

NOW THEREFORE, The parties to this MOU agree to carry out their respective responsibilities as described below:

A. There is a Commission on Crossroads Development, the purpose of which is to continue the successful dialogue that resulted from the Crossroads Task Force. This Commission will provide a forum for the continued communication between representatives of Montgomery County, Prince George's County and the City of Takoma Park on issues critical to the diverse communities of the Crossroads region.

B. The boundaries of the Crossroads region are to be determined by the Commission, but must include the communities of Langley Park and the City of Takoma Park, Maryland.

C. The Commission shall be comprised of twenty-one members, as follows:

(1) One member appointed by the Governor, who is an employee or official of the State of Maryland, and who shall serve as Chairperson of the Commission. This member serves at the pleasure of the Governor.

(2) Ten members who represent Montgomery County, of which at least five must represent the City of Takoma Park. The members representing Takoma Park shall be appointed by the Takoma Park City Council. Those representing Montgomery County as a whole shall be appointed by the Montgomery County Executive.

(3) Ten members who represent Prince George's County, who shall be appointed by the Prince George's County Executive.

(4) The Commission members should include representation by at least one member of each of the following constituencies:

- (a) law enforcement;
- (b) transportation;
- (c) social services organizations;
- (d) labor;
- (e) business associations; and
- (f) citizens associations.

(5) A Co-Chairperson selected by the Chairperson for a term of eight months. This role shall rotate among the members of the Commission.

D. (1) The Commission shall meet at the discretion of the chairperson of the Commission, but no less frequently than quarterly.

(2) Commission meetings shall be open to the public and should be held in a facility, and in a manner, that allows for community participation and input.

(3) The Commission must seek community involvement. The Commission may solicit the input of outside experts as it deems appropriate.

(4) The Commission shall operate for at least two years after the effective date of this MOU, after which, at the option of the Commission, the Commission will either cease operation or decide to continue operating on an indefinite basis.

E. The Commission shall determine the scope of the issues it will address, consistent with its purpose as described above. At a minimum, the Commission shall include as primary agenda items exploration of the following issues in the Crossroads region:

(1) day labor ;

(2) transit ;

(3) public safety ;

(4) education and training; and

(5) immigrant communities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned have executed this MOU, in counterpart originals, as of the date first set forth herein.

FOR STATE OF MARYLAND:

FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY:

By: _____
Printed Name: _____
Title: _____

By: _____
Printed Name: _____
Title: _____

FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY:

FOR TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND:

By: _____
Printed Name: _____
Title: _____

By: _____
Printed Name: _____
Title: _____

Appendix

**CROSSROADS TASK FORCE
MEETING MINUTES
JULY 26, 2001**

**Langley Park Community Center
1500 Merrimac Drive**

Attendees -

Task Force Members: Secretary David Iannucci, Deputy Secretary Sandra Long, Secretary John O'Connor, Senator Arthur Dorman, Sonya Proctor, Erwin Mack, Marlene Athie (for Wanda Resto Torres), Councilwoman Share Maack, Fred Thomas, Dwan Little-Graves (for Donna Crocker), Len Foxwell, Ileana O'Brien, Joe Heiney-Gonzalez, Roger van Zee, Dr. Patricia Delaney, Gary Stith, Commander Drew Tracy, Tim Miner, Martha Waddy, Rick Gordon, Councilman Peter Shapiro, Phil McLaughlin (for Carolyn Biggins)

Other participants: Dan Parr, Donna Greenwood, Norma Montenegro, William Stagg, Patrick Dickins, Yolanda Milam, Nurys Carpio, Steve Smitson, Rusty Wallace, Gerald Wilson, Judith Banks-Johnson, Connie Latham, Sharron Mendel, Nicole Richardson, Peter Bath, Erith Bennett, Rick Finn, Roberto Hylton

Press: Brad Bell (Channel 7), Mary Alice Salinas (Channel 4), Dedrick Russell (NewsChannel 8), Norma Montenegro (UNIVISION), Julie Oliver (The Hyattsville Gazette), Greg Simmons (The Silver Spring Gazette), Sarah Brumfield (The Prince George's Journal), Nurith Aizenman (The Washington Post), Susan Goodman (WAMU Radio)

Department of Business and Economic Development Staff: Jacqui Lampell, Brian Levine

I. INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME

Department of Business and Economic Development Secretary David S. Iannucci, Chairman of the Crossroads Task Force, introduced himself to the Task Force then asked the Task Force and audience to introduce themselves. The Chairman explained that the Governor Parris N. Glendening and Lt. Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend are concerned about issues facing the Crossroads region and they asked him to chair the effort to bring the jurisdictions together to seek common solutions complicated by three separate jurisdictions intersection in one region. He noted that the State's role is to facilitate the process of cooperation, to be partners in developing a solution and to bring objectivity to the issues facing this region. The Chairman stated that the Task Force's focus should be to improve day-to-day life for the residents of this community, and not just for the short-term, but the long-term as well. The Chairman urged flexibility and open mindedness. He also said he was struck at how the three issues of the Task Force (crime, transit and day labor) were inter-related. The Chairman remarked that he is open to all appointments to the Task Force by the County Executives of Montgomery County

and Prince George's County or the Mayor of Takoma Park that represent day laborers or any other group that could provide insight. Mr. Iannucci urged the Task Force to keep the agenda specific rather than broad.

II. REMARKS

The Honorable Arthur Dorman
Senator, Maryland General Assembly
General Issues Briefing

Senator Dorman opened the discussion by providing background from the perspective of someone who started an optometry practice in the Crossroads region in 1953. He has represented the area since joining the Maryland General Assembly in 1965. While the Senator was pleased to see the three focus areas of the Task Force, he urged the examination of broader solutions instead of focusing only on a permanent day labor location. He urged solutions to help day laborers assimilate into mainstream society.

Erwin Mack
Executive Director, Takoma/Langley Crossroads Development Authority
Background Briefing

As a longtime resident and activist in the Crossroads region, Mr. Mack provided general background information to the Task Force. This included a large map with boundaries of the Crossroads region, including an explanation of where the Prince George's and Montgomery County divide, along with an explanation of the boundaries of Takoma Park and Langley Park. He also discussed one of the biggest impediments to resolving issues in the region - that three jurisdictions all intersect in the one area. Mr. Mack noted that the jurisdictions must work together and must share information. He then introduced Dr. Peter Bath from the Sligo Seventh-Day Adventist Church, who offered and advocated the assistance of the faith community.

Secretary John O'Connor
Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation
Day Laborers Issues

Secretary O'Connor briefed the Task Force on labor issues, including day laborers, noting that one of the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation's chief concerns for working people is a safe work environment. He also said that a number of the publications his agency issues are in English and Spanish, which benefit the large Spanish speaking community in the Crossroads region.

Len Foxwell
Director, Washington Area Transit Services, Mass Transit Administration
Transit Issues

Mr. Foxwell stated that there is a need for greater transit ridership overall and that mass transit is the lifeblood of the Takoma Park/Langley Park area. He also said that this community faces similar issues as other communities in Maryland such as overcrowding in public transportation (for example, the C2 and C4 buses carry an average 65 passengers in a 43 seat bus while the K6 bus carries an average of 47 passengers) and

sometimes inadequate pedestrian access and safety. Doubling transit ridership by the Year 2020 is the goal of the Glendening Administration and the Maryland Department of Transportation, and the need for transit investment in the region is strong. Since Governor Glendening took office, funding for Ride-On has doubled and while Metrobus funding has increased nearly 40%.

Phil McLaughlin

*Manager of Operations, Montgomery County Ride On
Transit Issues*

Mr. McLaughlin explained new routing for Ride On routes 15, 17 and 18 and said that Route 15 ridership is the highest in Montgomery County. He noted that there is 5.6% growth in ridership in the Crossroads region, one of the busiest in the State of Maryland. Specifically, the two routes in the Crossroads area are Ride On's busiest. Members of the audience said that poor public transportation for young people was a problem in the region and that transportation to jobs would help temporary laborers.

Sonya Proctor

*Deputy Director – Programs, Governor's Office on Crime Control and Prevention
Crime/HotSpots Issues*

Ms. Proctor addressed crime and HotSpots issues, using two maps to show where HotSpots areas are located. One displayed all HotSpots in the State while the other showed the HotSpots area in the Crossroads region. She noted that HotSpots are more about community mobilization than they are about crime. To assist the Crossroads region, the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention opened an office in College Park this year, which assists the community in a number of areas including securing funding for crime initiatives. Ms. Proctor also introduced Dr. Patricia Delaney, HotSpots Coordinator, who noted the importance of transportation issues and cultural diversity in HotSpots. Also, she said that community-oriented policing funding is being mobilized and that the program is in a start-up phase. Senator Dorman asked if it would be more effective to base funding on crime instead of on area.

III. NEXT STEPS

The Task Force agreed upon a plan offered by the Chairman to establish three subcommittees. There will be one subcommittee established for each of the following three issues: (1) day labor; (2) transit; and (3) crime. Each subcommittee will meet once before the next full Task Force meeting and report their progress to the Task Force. Requests for studies, reports and gap analyses were made.

IV. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Crossroads Task Force will be held:
August 29, 2001
3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Langley Park Community Center
1500 Merrimac Drive
Langley Park, Maryland

**CROSSROADS TASK FORCE
MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 29, 2001**

**Langley Park Community Center
1500 Merrimac Drive**

Attendees

Task Force Members: Secretary David Iannucci, Senator Arthur Dorman, Erwin Mack, Wanda Resto Torres, Councilwoman Share Maack, Donna Crocker, Amy Coughenour Betancourt, Jessica Austin de Vides, Len Foxwell, Ileana O'Brien, Joe Heiney-Gonzalez, Tim Miner, Martha Waddy, Rick Gordon, Councilman Peter Shapiro, Phil McLaughlin (for Carolyn Biggins), Noerena Abookire (for Stephen Amos)

Other participants: Dan Parr, Rusty Wallace, Judith Johnson, Mohammad Hanif, Laverne Williams, Julie Sarmiento, Lillian Cruz, Gary Tomelie, Colonel Joe Nattans, Captain Cynthia Creamer, Erith Bennett, Carlos Gutierrez, Maria Cristina Sepulveda, Yolanda Milam, Nurys Carpio, Dr. William Hanna, Patrick Schmitt, Yolanda Takesian, Maria Cristina Chinchilla, Isaias Chinchila

Press: Julie Oliver (The Hyattsville Gazette), Greg Simmons (The Silver Spring Gazette)

Department of Business and Economic Development Staff: Jacqui Lampell, Brian Levine

I. OPENING REMARKS

Mr. David S. Iannucci, Task Force Chairman

Secretary, Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development

Department of Business and Economic Development Secretary David S. Iannucci, Chairman of the Crossroads Task Force, asked Task Force members and those in the audience to introduce themselves. Secretary Iannucci reiterated that this Task Force was put together because Governor Parris N. Glendening and Lt. Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend are concerned about the issues facing the Crossroads area. He then outlined the meeting's agenda, which consisted of an update on what reports, studies and gap analyses the Task Force had received so far, a presentation from CASA of Maryland about their organization and an update from the three subcommittees created at the first meeting. He also stressed again that the focus of the Task Force is to strive to improve the day-to-day life for the residents of this community, for the short-term as well as the long-term. To do this, the Secretary urged that the Task Force to be flexible and open-minded. The Task Force was told that the plan as it stands now is to meet twice more. At the third meeting, the Task Force should be prepared to offer preliminary recommendations on the three issues areas (day laborers, transit, public safety). Finally,

the Chairman offered two meeting dates for the Task Force's next meeting. The Task Force agreed to meet October 4 at 3:30 p.m. at the Langley Park Community Center.

II. UPDATE ON REPORTS RECEIVED BY THE TASK FORCE

Mr. Brian Levine, Task Force Staff

Legislative Liaison, Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development

Brian Levine summarized selected reports, studies and gap analyses received by the Task Force. He began with the "Langley Park Needs Assessment," which was an effort of the Langley Park Project Team within the University of Maryland's Urban Studies and Planning Program. The report's goal is to develop a strategic plan for improving business vitality and job creation in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. The report has a number of sections discussing a wide range of issues including: (1) a description of a Latino neighborhood in Maryland; (2) youth and the neighborhood; (3) the necessity of learning English; and (4) community policing. Recommendations include: (1) starting a small business support center; (2) channeling the unique talents of the people in the community into the business sector; and (3) enhancing agencies' and organizations' job readiness. Professor William Hanna expanded on the topic by saying there are numerous challenges in the area that can be addressed with little or no money. He also said this report is being updated and will be completely overhauled next spring.

The "HotSpot Youth Prevention Component Report," which was recently completed, focuses on the International Corridor area. The report cites crime and fear of crime as having a devastating impact on economic development and investment and on the daily lives of residents. The report found that four key challenges exist in this area: (1) quality of life; (2) crime and fear of crime; (3) the link between young people and crime; and (4) programs and services. The report recommended that Maryland allocate additional resources to after-school programs. Erwin Mack noted that he and Gary Stith are on a HotSpots oversight committee, which is behind schedule. However, he says he looks forward to tri-jurisdictional cooperation on this issue.

The "Glendale Labor Project," which stemmed from information provided by Senator Arthur Dorman, outlines what this California town is doing to address the issue of day laborers. The original objective of the Project was to develop, manage and operate a fixed hiring site where prospective laborers could assemble to lawfully solicit temporary employment without causing problems for the surrounding community. Their plan was instituted in four steps: (1) locate a site for a facility; (2) develop a site that includes all facilities needed for day laborers and staff; (3) staff the facility full-time; and (4) create a new ordinance that requires laborers and employers to use the site. Senator Dorman said he chose the Glendale Labor Project over a number of other initiatives in several other states. Also, he noted that the Council of State Governments has model legislation from Illinois addressing the day laborer issue.

Though not a report per se, the 1993 Task Force "Communities Organized for Multicultural Employment and Training" was summarized. The materials, which were received from Montgomery County Task Force representatives, provides valuable

information about what was accomplished in 1993 regarding temporary worker issues. The Task Force, a collaboration of Montgomery County, Prince George's County and the City of Takoma Park, examined the day laborer issue in the East Silver Spring/Langley Park area. The Task Force was charged with developing recommendations on three issues: (1) a new site for day laborers; (2) better programs and service delivery; and (3) the reduction of large gatherings of day laborers. The Task Force recommended expanding employment opportunities for day laborers by pooling resources and adding training and educational components to the program.

III. BRIEFING ON CASA OF MARYLAND

Ms. Amy Coughenour Betancourt

President, Board of Directors, CASA of Maryland

CASA of Maryland delivered a briefing to educate the Task Force on the day-to-day duties of the organization. Ms. Coughenour Betancourt noted that CASA does more than just work with day laborers. The organization, she said, is considered a national model and has 23 staff members in their locations in Germantown, Takoma Park and Silver Spring. She outlined the following strategic goals for CASA: (1) strengthen and increase CASA's financial resources to ensure an independent and stable funding base; (2) provide high quality programs and services that meet the needs of Latinos and Latinas; (3) advocate for greater access to housing, employment, health, education, legal services, and the political process for Latinos and Latinas; (4) provide opportunities for greater inclusiveness of the community CASA serves and build grassroots support in all aspects of the organization; (5) provide leadership and forge partnerships with other public, private and government entities and build collaborative alliances to ensure support for CASA's mission; (6) strengthen CASA's human resources and build organizational capacity; and (7) seek a permanent site for CASA. She also outlined the following selected accomplishments in 2000: (1) learning English – nearly 1,400 community participants; (2) securing employment – over 6,098 workers in temporary/day jobs and 730 in full-time jobs; (3) organizing and advocating – 300 Latinos advocated in Annapolis, formed statewide Latino rights coalition; and (4) developing leaders – skill building and advocacy training for over 80 community leaders. Ms. Coughenour Betancourt also discussed CASA's missions and programs. A question was posed whether CASA has cultural classes to indoctrinate new immigrants (for example - naturalization and citizenship classes). The answer was that CASA incorporates these issues into everything they do, but there are no specific classes on those subjects. It was said that citizenship classes are sorely needed, but the Chairman noted that this issue is beyond the Task Force's specific scope. Joe Heiney-Gonzalez said these classes are also beyond the scope of CASA. Gary Stith offered that Montgomery County has recognized the needs of new immigrants with the Gilcrest Center for Cultural Diversity.

IV. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Ms. Ileana O'Brien

Chief of Staff, Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

Day Laborers Subcommittee

The Day Laborer Subcommittee briefed the Task Force on its first meeting, which took place August 9. There was agreement on several items including that the Subcommittee would have to undertake an assessment of resources. Though there was good attendance at the first Subcommittee meeting, the problem was not yet defined and more information needed to be gathered. Permanent jobs for day laborers in industries that are experiencing shortages (i.e. health care) were discussed. It was announced that the next meeting of the Subcommittee would be September 5 at 4 p.m.

Councilman Peter Shapiro asked if there was a need for another CASA site to address day laborer issues. After talking to people in the community, he said he learned that the current site is not adequate and the Subcommittee should examine this issue. Tim Minerd asked Councilman Shapiro how one measures the adequacy of the CASA site. Erwin Mack urged everyone to be honest and forthcoming to solve these issues.

Mr. Len Foxwell

Director, Washington Area Transit Services, Mass Transit Administration

Transit Subcommittee

Len Foxwell, Phil McLaughlin and Rick Gordon briefed the Task Force on the Transit Subcommittee's first meeting, which took place August 22. Mr. McLaughlin mentioned the transition of the bus stop at the Hampshire Langley Shopping Center and how they went about the process. Mr. Gordon said that Prince George's County operates one Metrobus route in the region. Len Foxwell said that the area is the largest non-Metro transit center in the region. It was noted that this region has more bus ridership than 23 Metro stations. Needs for the area include a permanent bus facility and a permanent bus staging facility. Overcrowding needs to be relieved, and this issue is being addressed through budgetary means as well as other means. Other areas of improvement include a need for more inter-agency communication and the need for schedules, notices, manuals and promotional literature to be printed in Spanish and other languages. It was noted that this issue is being worked on and transit information in other languages will become easier to obtain. Transit also needs to survey riders to evaluate performance. The region is also being considered for a stop on a possible new Metro line (Purple Line) or for a light rail station. Len Foxwell also introduced Patrick Smith and Yolanda Takesian, who are doing transit assessment needs study in the region.

Ms. Noerena Abookire

Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention

Public Safety Subcommittee

The Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention asked the Task Force to allow for the renaming of the Crime Subcommittee to the Public Safety Subcommittee. This recommendation was accepted. At the first Subcommittee meeting August 22, four action plans were developed. They are: (1) more communication between jurisdictions and stakeholders; (2) respect for diversity; (3) focus on quality of life and nuisance

abatement crimes; and (4) bilingual information on crime prevention techniques. Discussion at the Subcommittee meeting centered around the following: (1) representation from Prince George's County, Montgomery County and Takoma Park law enforcement agencies; (2) faith-based community involvement from all three jurisdictions; (3) involvement from community residents and civic associations; and (4) other anti-crime efforts such as the Weed and Seed program and local business community projects (Street Scape). The Subcommittee's primary focus will be to address and develop remedies to increase coordination of enforcement efforts between the three jurisdictions in the following way: (1) establish tri-jurisdictional patrol and investigation team meetings; and (2) share data and crime statistics between law enforcement agencies. The Chairman said it was imperative that police from the three jurisdictions to participate in Subcommittee meetings. The Task Force also encouraged faith-based participation. It was announced that the next meeting of the Subcommittee would be September 19 at 2 p.m.

V. NEXT STEPS

The Task Force was asked to present preliminary recommendations at the third Task Force meeting. To accomplish this task, the Subcommittees were asked to meet at least once before the third meeting and more than once if appropriate. Requests for studies, reports and gap analyses were again made.

VI. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Crossroads Task Force will be held:
October 4, 2001
1:00 p.m.
Langley Park Community Center
1500 Merrimac Drive
Langley Park, Maryland

**CROSSROADS TASK FORCE
MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 4, 2001**

**Langley Park Community Center
1500 Merrimac Drive**

Attendees -

Task Force Members: Secretary David Iannucci, Secretary John O'Connor, Ileana O'Brien, Len Foxwell, Bryan Alston, Erwin Mack, Wanda Resto Torres, Donna Crocker, Roger van Zee, Carolyn Biggins, Gary Stith, Rick Gordon

Other participants: Sonya Proctor, Dan Parr, Yolanda Milam, Nurys Carpio, Sharron Mendel, Erith Bennett, Rick Finn, Kevin Kowitz, Mary Ann Buckley, Connie Latham, Duane Austin, Roberto DeNecochea, Julie Sarmiento, Reverend George Taylor, Gustavo Torres, Elias Martinez, Dania Carmona, Steve Smitson, Carlos Moretta, Reverend Whit Hutchison, Jamie Salaverria, Wagner Maldonado, Luis Villatizes, Kim Propeack, Francisco Darheno, Tomas Diaz, Carlos Juares Lopes, Guadalupe Adams, Elmer Romero, John Bonowski, Wanda Ramos, Isaias Chinchilla, Maria Cristina Chinchilla, Dan Parr, Phil McLaughlin, Lynn Bagorazzi, Roberto Hylton, Gerald Wilson, Sue Page, Dwan Little-Graves

Press: Greg Simmons (The Silver Spring Gazette)

Department of Business and Economic Development Staff: Jacqui Lampell, Brian Levine

I. INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME

Department of Business and Economic Development Secretary David S. Iannucci, Chairman of the Crossroads Task Force, welcomed everyone to the third meeting of the Task Force and asked members and those in the audience to introduce themselves. The Chairman explained that there would be no conclusions drawn on this particular day and that everyone was present to hear each other's thoughts. The Chairman asked each subcommittee to report on their activities and preliminary recommendations.

II. REMARKS

*Secretary John O'Connor
Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation
Day Laborer Subcommittee*

Secretary O'Connor briefed the Task Force on the activities of the Day Labor Subcommittee and offered preliminary recommendations: (1) explore the feasibility of creating a multi-cultural center; (2) provide forums to allow for community dialogue to increase the level of mutual understanding and trust; (3) attempt to define the day labor challenge and make recommendations based on the defined factors; and (4) conduct

research and gather data to base recommendations on the best available information. Debate over the need for a multi-cultural center and whether a needs assessment needs to be completed first led to the creation by Chairman Iannucci of a multi-jurisdictional group to discuss the matter. This group, led by Task Force member Gary Stith, consists of one member from each jurisdiction and will meet before the next Task Force meeting and work out whether a needs assessment is required. Currently, Prince George's County is conducting a needs assessment, though it does not take the entire Crossroads region into account. Chairman Iannucci reiterated that the State's role is to facilitate a solution.

Len Foxwell

*Director, Washington Area Transit Services, Mass Transit Administration
Transit Subcommittee*

Mr. Foxwell outlined his Subcommittee's five recommendations. They are as follows: (1) support for the ultimate construction of the Purple Line, a rail extension that would connect to the existing Metro system and create a new transit alternative along Maryland's Capital Beltway corridor; (2) establish a Takoma-Langley Transit Center, a site for establishing a permanent bus transit facility in the Crossroads region; (3) improve transit amenities such as bus shelters, benches, pedestrian access to bus stops and circulation of transit materials published in Spanish; (4) invest in bus overcrowding relief; and (5) study of the possibility of a bus shuttle that would connect population centers at or near the New Hampshire Avenue-University Boulevard Crossroads. Mr. Foxwell noted that the fifth preliminary recommendation would receive further review. Chairman Iannucci commended the short-term results and relief provided by recommendations two through five.

Sonya Proctor

*Deputy Director – Programs, Governor's Office on Crime Control and Prevention
Public Safety Subcommittee*

Ms. Proctor presented the Public Safety Subcommittee's preliminary recommendations, which are as follows: (1) enlarge the boundaries of the current International Corridor HotSpot; (2) institute a sobering/treatment center to address the issues of substance abuse; (3) increase code enforcement and zoning to prevent overcrowding; (4) recruit and promote Spanish speaking officers for the region; (5) enhance police communication by providing police supervisors with Nextel phones for inter-jurisdictional communication; and (6) enhance communication among jurisdiction's crime analysts for profiling area crime. She also outlined the Subcommittee's outreach efforts to: (1) code enforcement; (2) apartment managers; (3) animal control; (4) liquor board; and (5) zoning. Ms. Proctor said that these recommendations are long-term solutions and the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention was committed to seeing them through.

Brian Levine

*Staff, Crossroads Task Force
Department of Business and Economic Development*

Mr. Levine presented a recommendation that would establish a permanent Crossroads commission to continue and expand upon the Crossroads Task Force. The recommendation states that the Crossroads Task Force supports the establishment of a

permanent commission to address tri-jurisdictional issues in the Crossroads region. The recommendation states that the commission is to continue on with the successful dialogue borne out of the Crossroads Task Force and provide a forum for the continued communication between Montgomery County, Prince George's County and the City of Takoma Park on issues critical to this diverse community. The boundaries of the Crossroads region are open to interpretation of the commission. However, they must include Langley Park and Takoma Park. The commission would be flexible enough to determine its own scope, but must include the following issues on the commission's primary agenda: (1) day labor; (2) transit; (3) public safety and (4) immigrant communities. Mr. Levine solicited comments from any interested parties who wish to review this recommendation.

III. NEXT STEPS

The Task Force agreed that the three subcommittees shall meet again at least once before the next meeting to hone their recommendations, to answer lingering questions and to finish outstanding issues. The subcommittees should be prepared with final recommendations for the next Task Force meeting. At the next Task Force meeting, the Task Force will decide on the need for one final meeting in an effort to complete their work by December.

IV. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Crossroads Task Force will be held:
November 7, 2001
3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Langley Park Community Center
1500 Merrimac Drive
Langley Park, Maryland

**CROSSROADS TASK FORCE
MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 7, 2001**

**Langley Park Community Center
1500 Merrimac Drive**

Attendees -

Task Force Members: Secretary David Iannucci, Senator Arthur Dorman, Ileana O'Brien, Len Foxwell, Bryan Alston, Erwin Mack, Wanda Resto Torres, Roger van Zee, Gary Stith, Rick Gordon, Commander Drew Tracy, Donna Crocker, Joe Heiney-Gonzalez, Councilman Peter Shapiro, Fred Thomas, Jessica Austin de Vides, Martha Waddy, Dr. Patricia Delaney

Other participants: Rick Finn, Gustavo Torres, Steve Smitson, Kim Propeack, Wanda Ramos, Isaias Chinchilla, Maria Cristina Chinchilla, Dan Parr, Phil McLaughlin, Lynn Bagorazzi, Dwan Little-Graves, Wilfredo Casas, Sharon Mendel, Jose Gonzalez, Jose Mendez, Moris Garcia, Mauricio Mendez, Nurys Carpio, Jose Vasquez, Daniel Joya, Dr. William Hanna, Daniel Jones, Dania Cararones

Press: Greg Simmons (The Silver Spring Gazette), Julia Oliver (Hyattsville/Prince George's Gazette)

Department of Business and Economic Development Staff: Jacqui Lampell, Brian Levine

I. INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME

Department of Business and Economic Development Secretary David S. Iannucci, Chairman of the Crossroads Task Force, welcomed everyone to the fourth meeting of the Task Force and asked members and those in the audience to introduce themselves. The Chairman hoped that the Task Force involvement for this meeting would consist of commentary, advice and response. It was established that one more full Task Force meeting would take place. The Task Force agreed to meet a final time December 11 at 3:30 p.m. at the Langley Park Community Center. The Chairman asked each subcommittee to report on their activities and preliminary recommendations. Chairmen Iannucci then asked Mr. Gary Stith to discuss the Multi-Cultural Needs Assessment Subcommittee, which was established at the third Task Force meeting to examine the need for a multi-cultural center needs assessment. Specifically, the subcommittee examined whether a needs assessment being conducted in Prince George's County could satisfy the needs in the Crossroads region.

II. REMARKS

Mr. Gary Stith

Director, Silver Spring Regional Center

Multi-Cultural Center Needs Assessment Subcommittee

Mr. Gary Stith, Chairmen of the Multi-Cultural Center Needs Assessment Subcommittee, briefed the Task Force on the group's efforts. This Subcommittee, which consists of one member from each jurisdiction, met October 31. Mr. Stith said the Multi-Cultural Needs Assessment Subcommittee examined the Prince George's County's needs assessment report, which is looking at what kind of facility may be beneficial for the community. Councilman Peter Shapiro, who initiated the needs assessment well before the creation of the Crossroads Task Force, said that the study is going to be an ongoing process and may be a way to work with neighboring groups. He also noted though that day labor is a separate issue and that a potential multi-cultural center would not specifically serve the needs of day laborers. Chairman Iannucci asked if it was the right thing to draw a line between a potential center and a possible day labor location. Senator Arthur Dorman said he could not envision separating day labor from any potential center. Councilman Shapiro said that he would not rule anything out, but day labor needs are immediate. Any multi-cultural center would not be operational for three to five years. Chairman Iannucci agreed that timing is important. Councilman Shapiro said the assessment is due in December, at least in draft form.

Ms. Ileana O'Brien

Chief of Staff, Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

Day Laborer Subcommittee

Chairman Iannucci said that the preliminary Day Laborer Subcommittee report is the essence of what the Task Force is doing, but while the State is here to help, the jurisdictions, community groups and all who have a stake in the Crossroads region must communicate thoroughly. Community leaders need to band together to solve these tough problems.

Ms. O'Brien briefed the Task Force on the activities of the Day Labor Subcommittee and again reviewed the preliminary recommendations. These include the establishment of a new site to provide employment services for day laborers in addition to permanent, existing facilities and services and should be as close as possible to the University Boulevard and New Hampshire Avenue intersection. Other recommendations include: (1) day labor strategies that are consistent with those discussed in the Day Laborer Hiring Sites Report from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and those successfully utilized in the selection of the existing CASA facility; (2) consideration to allow the facility and staff to provide additional services, such as language and job training, for day laborers and other community members; and (3) provide forums to allow for community dialogue to increase the level of mutual understanding and trust.

Councilman Shapiro moved to approve the recommendations. Mr. Erwin Mack seconded the motion. Chairman Iannucci asked to hear from the jurisdictions. Mr. Stith said Montgomery County was supportive. Mr. Rick Finn said the City of Takoma Park was

supportive. The Task Force debated some of the recommendations and requested further clarification. Ms. Donna Crocker noted that there may be re-allocation of resources to accomplish some of the Task Force's goals, but it is unlikely any new money will be appropriated. Mr. Mack asked where these recommendations, and the recommendations of the full Task Force, go once work is completed. Chairman Iannucci said that the recommendations would be delivered to the Governor, Lt. Governor, legislative leadership in the Maryland General Assembly, the County Executives of Montgomery and Prince George's Counties, the Mayor of Takoma Park, the Takoma Park City Council and others who may be interested. The final report would be the recommendations of the Crossroads Task Force, and would provide a strong message that the status quo is not adequate.

Bryan Alston

Regional Extension Center Manager, Governor's Office on Crime Control and Prevention

Public Safety Subcommittee

Mr. Alston presented the Public Safety Subcommittee's preliminary recommendations, which were as follows: (1) enlarge the boundaries of the current International Corridor HotSpot; (2) institute a sobering/treatment center to address the issues of substance abuse; (3) increase code enforcement and zoning to prevent overcrowding; (4) recruit and promote Spanish speaking officers for the region; (5) enhance police communication by providing police supervisors with Nextel phones for inter-jurisdictional communication; and (6) enhance communication among jurisdiction's crime analysts for profiling area crime. Mr. Alston asked Commander Drew Tracy to explain the Nextel phone communication system recommendation. The Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention then offered to pay for the Nextel phone recommendation, which received unanimous support of the Task Force. Councilman Shapiro said he would only support the enlargement of HotSpot boundaries if monetary allocation also increased. Additional debate centered on what effects increased crowding code enforcement has on the community, especially the poor. Crime against day laborers and day laborers not receiving proper compensation from employers were mentioned as issues that should be addressed at the next Subcommittee meeting, which is scheduled for November 15.

Len Foxwell

*Director, Washington Area Transit Services, Mass Transit Administration
Transit Subcommittee*

Mr. Foxwell outlined his Subcommittee's five recommendations, which have seen little change since the previous Task Force meeting. They are as follows: (1) support for the ultimate construction of the Purple Line, a rail extension that would connect to the existing Metro system and create a new transit alternative along Maryland's Capital Beltway corridor; (2) establish a Takoma-Langley Transit Center, a site for establishing a permanent bus transit facility in the Crossroads region; (3) improve transit amenities such as bus shelters, benches, pedestrian access to bus stops and circulation of transit materials published in Spanish; (4) invest in bus overcrowding relief; and (5) study of the

possibility of a bus shuttle that would connect population centers at or near the New Hampshire Avenue-University Boulevard Crossroads. Mr. Foxwell said that though the Transit Subcommittee's recommendations are nearly complete, he wanted to hold another Subcommittee meeting. He noted the importance of continuous dialogue. Senator Dorman asked if these recommendations are being worked on. Mr. Foxwell said these recommendations are being worked on right now.

Brian Levine

Staff, Crossroads Task Force

Department of Business and Economic Development

Mr. Levine briefly addressed a recommendation for a permanent entity to continue to positive steps taken by the Crossroads Task Force. He solicited the Task Force to share any suggestions on the creation of a permanent Crossroads commission by November 16.

III. NEXT STEPS

The Task Force agreed that the three subcommittees will meet again at least once before the next meeting to continue to hone their recommendations, to answer lingering questions and to finish outstanding issues. The subcommittees should be prepared with final recommendations for approval at the final Task Force meeting. At the last Task Force meeting, the Task Force will approve recommendations for a final report.

IV. NEXT MEETING

The next and final meeting of the Crossroads Task Force will be held:

December 11, 2001

3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Langley Park Community Center

1500 Merrimac Drive

Langley Park, Maryland

**CROSSROADS TASK FORCE
MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 11, 2001**

**Langley Park Community Center
1500 Merrimac Drive**

Attendees -

Task Force Members: Secretary David Iannucci, Senator Arthur Dorman, Secretary John O'Connor, Ileana O'Brien, Len Foxwell, Sonya Proctor, Bryan Alston, Erwin Mack, Wanda Resto Torres, Gary Stith, Rick Gordon, Commander Drew Tracy, Donna Crocker, Joe Heiney-Gonzalez, Councilman Peter Shapiro, Councilwoman Share Maack, Fred Thomas, Jessica Austin de Vides, Martha Waddy

Other participants: Rick Finn, Wanda Ramos, Isaias Chinchilla, Maria Cristina Chinchilla, Dan Parr, Dwan Little-Graves, Sharon Mendel, Lloyd Johnson, Rusty Wallace, Erith Bennett, Elaine Terretta Benko, Norman Harley, Maurice Hicks, Major Roberto Hylton, Jose Vasquez

Press: Julia Oliver (Hyattsville/Prince George's Gazette)

Department of Business and Economic Development Staff: Tori Leonard, Brian Levine

I. INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME

Department of Business and Economic Development Secretary David S. Iannucci, Chairman of the Crossroads Task Force, welcomed everyone to the fifth and final meeting of the Task Force and asked members and those in the audience to introduce themselves.

II. REMARKS

Ms. Sonya Proctor

*Deputy Director, Governor's Office on Crime Control and Prevention
Public Safety Subcommittee*

Ms. Proctor presented the Public Safety Subcommittee's final recommendations, which were as follows: (1) enhance police communication by providing police supervisors with Nextel phones for inter-jurisdictional communication; (2) enlarge the boundaries of the current HotSpots program; (3) strengthen code enforcement to enhance quality of life and increase safety; (4) create a crime analyst position for the region; (5) anti-crime outreach to residents, business owners and stakeholders to increase community participation; and (6) support for a sobering/treatment center to address the issues of substance abuse. Ms. Proctor announced funding for the purchase of Nextel phones under recommendation one. She also announced that a full-time community organizer would be hired under

recommendation five. For recommendation six, Chairman Iannucci asked if Ms. Proctor had contacted the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Ms. Proctor said she would be meeting with them soon. Councilman Shapiro requested that any dialogue with the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene regarding a sobering center include careful coordination with the jurisdictions. Ms. Proctor also announced that the Public Safety Subcommittee would continue to meet. The next meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2002. At this meeting, the three jurisdictions will bring code enforcement representatives. Chairman Iannucci thanked the Subcommittee for their hard work on this crucial component of the Task Force.

Chairman Iannucci asked the Task Force to consider the Subcommittee recommendations for a vote. Rick Finn made a motion to approve the recommendations and Councilman Shapiro seconded the motion. The Task Force voted unanimously to approve the Public Safety's Subcommittee's recommendations.

Len Foxwell

*Director, Washington Area Transit Services, Mass Transit Administration
Transit Subcommittee*

Mr. Foxwell reviewed his Subcommittee's five recommendations, which were as follows: (1) support for the ultimate construction of the Purple Line, a rail extension that would connect to the existing Metro system and create a new transit alternative along Maryland's Capital Beltway corridor; (2) establishment of a Takoma-Langley Transit Center, a site for establishing a permanent bus transit facility in the Crossroads region; (3) improvement of transit amenities such as bus shelters, benches, pedestrian access to bus stops and circulation of transit materials published in Spanish; (4) investment in bus overcrowding relief; and (5) study of a bus shuttle that would connect population centers at or near the New Hampshire Avenue-University Boulevard Crossroads. Mr. Foxwell also announced that the Transit Subcommittee, in order to maintain positive dialogue, would continue to meet. He also announced that a new bus route would serve the Crossroads region. Rick Gordon clarified some of the details. Councilman Shapiro suggested adding support for the new bus route to the Transit Subcommittee's recommendations, which was approved. Councilman Shapiro also cited public safety concerns, particularly with recommendations two and three. He stated that public safety and transit issues should be consciously linked to each other. Donna Crocker asked if there was a specific deadline for recommendation two. The answer was no, but Mr. Foxwell said that buses staging on a street was unacceptable and Ride On is working on this important issue. Chairman Iannucci thanked the Subcommittee.

Chairman Iannucci asked the Task Force to consider the Subcommittee recommendations for a vote. Joe Heiney-Gonzalez made a motion to approve the recommendations and Martha Waddy seconded the motion. The Task Force voted unanimously to approve the Transit Subcommittee's recommendations.

Secretary John O'Connor
Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation
Day Laborer Subcommittee

Secretary O'Connor reviewed the final recommendations of the Day Laborer Subcommittee and solicited feedback from the Task Force and those in attendance. Recommendations were as follows: (1) the establishment of a new site to provide employment services for day laborers in addition to the permanent existing facilities and services, as close as possible to the University Boulevard and New Hampshire Avenue intersection, and one that is selected with careful consideration of sensitive land use issues, such as schools and day care centers, takes into account public safety for pedestrians and traffic and addresses the needs of day laborers and the affected neighborhood; (2) the use of the *Best Practice Strategies* for identification and selection of the facility; (3) that consideration be given to providing the facility and staff to provide additional services, such as language and job training, for day laborers and other community members; (4) that forums be provided to allow for community dialogue, involving all segments of the community, to increase the level of mutual understanding and trust; and (5) support for the recommendation that an ongoing multi-jurisdictional group be established to provide the opportunity for continued dialogue amongst Prince George's County, Montgomery County, the City of Takoma Park and the affected "communities" (i.e.; formally organized business, civic associations, etc.) surrounding the Takoma/Langley Crossroads.

Secretary O'Connor also introduced the recommendation for the creation of a four person team to select a site for a permanent day labor facility. Chairman Iannucci noted that the process would be open-ended and a transit center could be incorporated into plans for a facility. The Task Force agreed to add one representative from Prince George's County to the team (for a total of two representatives) so Montgomery and Prince George's Counties had equal representation. Senator Dorman said this team and the selection of a site is a number one priority. Councilman Shapiro moved to extend the deadline for selection of team members from January 8, 2002 to January 15, 2002. The Task Force approved this amendment. It was also established that the Day Labor Subcommittee would continue to operate until the establishment of the advisory committee recommended in the *Best Practices Guidelines*.

Chairman Iannucci asked the Task Force to consider the Subcommittee recommendations for a vote. Councilman Shapiro made a motion to approve the recommendations. Erwin Mack seconded the motion. The Task Force voted to approve the Day Labor Subcommittee's recommendations.

Mr. Brian Levine
Staff, Crossroads Task Force
Department of Business and Economic Development

Mr. Levine reviewed the recommendation for a permanent Crossroads Commission to continue addressing issues important to the Crossroads community. The Commission would exist for two years and hold the option to continue indefinitely. The boundaries of the Crossroads region would be open to interpretation, but must include the communities

of Langley Park and Takoma Park. The Commission would be chaired by a representative of State government and would consist of ten members from Prince George's County and ten members from Montgomery County, half of which should be from the City of Takoma Park. Membership should include one member from the following: (1) law enforcement; (2) transportation; (3) social services; (4) labor; (5) business association; and (6) citizens association. The Commission is able to determine its issue scope. However, the following issues must be on the commission's primary agenda: (1) immigrant communities; (2) day labor; (3) transit; (4) public safety; and (5) education and training. The Task Force voted that this commission should be established through a Governor's Executive Order.

Chairman Iannucci asked the Task Force to consider this recommendation for a vote. Erwin Mack made a motion to approve the recommendation. The Task Force voted unanimously to approve the Permanent Commission recommendation.

III. CLOSING REMARKS

Chairman Iannucci closed the final meeting of the Task Force by thanking everyone for their hard work. He expressed gratitude for the dedication that the Task Force showed for the community and the good that this is doing for the Crossroads region.

IV. NEXT STEPS

This was the final meeting of the Crossroads Task Force. However, the subcommittees may continue to meet to bridge the gap between the last Task Force meeting and the first Crossroads commission meeting. Chairman Iannucci pledged that the Task Force would not dissolve formally until the Crossroads commission is set up. Final recommendations are to go to Task Force members via e-mail for final review. Once this process is complete, the Crossroads Task Force final report will be compiled and mailed to Task Force members and appropriate government officials in the three jurisdictions and the State of Maryland.