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February 12, 2018

Mr. Sidney Katz
Councilmember
Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850

Re: Municipal Tax Duplication

Dear Councilmember Katz:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our recommendations for moving toward resolution on municipal tax duplication. We appreciate your support and willingness to make real progress on this long-standing issue between the county and municipalities. We apologize for our delay in responding, however, it was important for us to be able to speak as one voice on this issue given our unique and varied membership, so that we could provide you with a clear proposal.

We acknowledge that there are numerous areas of agreement that have been reached in recent years in the discussions between the county and municipalities. We recommend focusing on and formalizing these areas of agreement as a sound starting point for FY2019, as outlined below.

The formula for calculating the **road maintenance** reimbursement impacts all municipalities that receive tax duplication payments as all municipalities—regardless of size—perform full, independent maintenance of the municipal roadways within their boundaries. This formula represents the per mile cost the County spends on road maintenance and is easy to compute and is, in fact, computed annually. Road maintenance is not a discretionary responsibility for a municipality. Therefore, we recommend that beginning in FY2019 all municipalities receive their full road maintenance payment, with a commitment from the county for full payment going forward.

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As stated at the outset, we appreciate the opportunity to establish a process for bringing this matter to resolution. We remain willing and eager for further discussion on next steps.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jarrett Smith", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jarrett Smith
President, Montgomery County Chapter
of the Maryland Municipal League

cc: Montgomery County Council
Mr. Isiah Leggett, Montgomery County Executive
Member Municipalities, Montgomery Chapter of the Maryland Municipal League