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Joint Board Matter with Chairman McKay and Supervisor Lusk

My Brother's Keeper

Members of the Board,

Pursuant to Chairman McKay's Board Matter directing the Successful Children and Youth Policy Team (SCYPT) to pursue the possibility of the County becoming a "My Brother's Keeper (MBK)" community, the Board received an update and recommendation as part of its February 28, 2023 Health and Human Services Committee meeting. Specifically, the Board directive was for SCYPT to identify and engage community partners in shaping the participation and infrastructure necessary for building, improving, and scaling initiatives that serve and support improved life outcomes for boys and young men of color and to determine the resource needs to implement organizational and operational recommendations. Accordingly, SCYPT has worked with Venture Philanthropy Partners, the Capital Youth Empowerment Foundation, and Edu-Futuro to lead the preparations necessary to join the MBK Alliance.

President Obama launched MBK in February 2014 as a White House initiative to address the persistent opportunity gaps boys and young men of color face and to ensure all young people can reach their full potential. It is now an Obama Foundation program rooted in the belief that communities are the unit of change to realize improved life outcomes for our boys.

MBK is aligned with the One Fairfax policy and is rooted in six key life milestones that research shows are especially predictive of later success, and where interventions can have the greatest impact. While MBK Fairfax will adopt all six, the initial focus in Fairfax County is the following milestones: graduating from high school college and career ready; completing postsecondary education or training; entering the workforce successfully; and keeping kids on track and re-engaging them when they need it.

In order for Fairfax County to become a certified MBK community, a formal Board vote to accept the challenge is required. Mr. Chairman, I, therefore, move that Fairfax County join the My Brother's Keeper Alliance and take the necessary steps of becoming a certified My Brother's Keeper Community and subsequently unleash the power of communities working together to solve problems for boys and youth men of color at a level to improve real-life outcomes. So moved.



JEFFREY C. MCKAY
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Board Matter

Chairman McKay

June 23, 2020

Launched by President Obama in 2014, the My Brother's Keeper Initiative currently partners with over 250 counties, cities, towns, and tribal nations to address opportunity gaps that exist for boys and young men of color. My Brother's Keeper Communities work across sectors to implement policies and action that, among other key principles, aim to improve literacy and college and career readiness for young men of color. The My Brother's Keeper Initiative also aims to address the disproportional amount of contact with law enforcement our youth of color experience while improving and promoting "second chances" for youth following contact with the criminal justice system.

I believe the mission and work of the My Brother's Keeper Initiative aligns with that of our One Fairfax priorities to consider equity in all areas of the County and work towards making Fairfax County a place where all can thrive. This equity lens must be applied towards the experiences of our youngest residents, as these experiences are crucial to determining their success later in life.

Therefore, I ask without objection that our Successful Children and Youth Policy Team (SCYPT) facilitate a partnership between Fairfax County and the My Brother's Keeper Alliance to make Fairfax County an official "My Brother's Keeper Community." SCYPT is directed to identify and engage community partners in shaping the participation and infrastructure necessary for building, improving, and scaling initiatives that serve and support improved life outcomes for boys and young men of color and to determine the resource needs to implement organizational and operational recommendations.

HOW TO BECOME A NEW MBK COMMUNITY

Step One: Accept the MBK Community Challenge

A mayor, county executive or tribal leader officially accepts the Challenge by appointing a designated point of contact to lead the MBK effort and pledging to build and execute a plan to accomplish as many of the goals listed below as possible:

1. Ensuring all children enter school cognitively, physically, socially and emotionally ready
2. Ensuring all children read at grade level by 3rd grade
3. Ensuring all youth graduate from high school
4. Ensuring all youth complete post-secondary education or training
5. Ensuring all youth out of school are employed
6. Ensuring all youth remain safe from violent crime

Step Two: Complete an Onboarding Process with the MBK Alliance Team

Designated point of contact registers for onboarding with MBK Alliance that provides practical advice and guidance on how to generate public commitment from elected officials, convene a collective impact table, scan the local policy landscape, and develop an impactful, measurable and results-driven local action plan.

Please reach out to Jared Brown at jbrown@obama.org for more information.

Once you complete the onboarding process, MBK Alliance will begin connecting you with other MBK Communities and sending you notifications to take part in technical assistance and convenings for MBK Communities working to address persistent opportunity gaps and ensuring all youth can achieve their full potential.

Step Three: Convene a Local Action Summit to Build an MBK Community

This effort will require a coalition of partners with an ownership stake in the strategy, and a sense of empowerment to help lead the effort. Within 180 days of accepting the challenge, host a Local Action Summit with key stakeholders to assess needs and assets, determine priorities, and set concrete goals.

Step Four: Conduct a Policy Review & Form Recommendations for Action

Following your Local Action Summit, direct a working group of pertinent government stakeholders to scour existing local policies, programs, and practices in search of ways to introduce or expand on existing efforts to better serve the needs of the community's youth. The working group should assess the impact of both existing and proposed programs. Within 180 days of hosting your Local Action Summit, this body should produce a report with recommendations for action on your selected areas of focus (from Step 1), standards for tracking and sharing data across public agencies and community partners, and structural recommendations for institutionalizing the effort until goals are reached.

Step Five: Launch a Plan of Action, Next Steps & Timeline for Review

Within 90 days of completing your policy review and report, convene key partners to publicly launch a plan of action for accomplishing selected goals based off the results of your policy review. It should include a protocol for tracking data, benchmarks and timelines for review to ensure the transparent assessment of progress towards goals, and the open examination and retooling of ineffective strategies. Include a blueprint for resourcing your efforts which outlines plans to use or redirect existing resources, new public or private sector commitments, and specific areas where additional commitments, investment, or partnership could help your community reach its MBK goals and help potential new partners target their involvement.