

May 29, 2014

The Honorable Isiah Leggett
Montgomery County Executive
101 Monroe Street
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Ike:

Last week, the Inspector General released a report that confirmed what every other review of the Silver Spring Transit Center has found – the County's management of this project has been an unmitigated disaster. I am writing to urge you to hold the manager of this project accountable and relieve General Services Director David Dise of his duties, effective immediately. The taxpayers of Montgomery County – and the commuters of Silver Spring – deserve nothing less.


The Inspector General's report finds that problems were first discovered in 2010 and were ignored by the County. The Silver Spring Transit Center is now four years late, \$30 million over budget, and too unsafe to open. Despite the delays, cost overruns and inconveniences commuters have faced no one in County government has accepted responsibility or been held accountable. Excuses have been made and fingers have been pointed, but we still have no clear plan to open this important transportation hub. It's time for someone to be held accountable, and make sure that this construction fiasco be given the highest level of attention to safely complete and open the transit center.

Despite the obvious problems with the way this project has been managed, Mr. Dise recently testified before the County Council that the County has used "appropriate construction management" of the Silver Spring Transit Center. His comments, however far removed from reality they may be, provide insight into why the people of this County have been waiting so long for this Center to open, since Mr. Dise thinks he has had the right approach on this project.

When I joined with the residents of downtown Silver Spring to lead the successful revitalization of this once-blighted area, we encountered many roadblocks and our share of setbacks. However, rather than take a passive approach to this major effort, I rolled up my sleeves and stood shoulder-to-shoulder with the activists and community leaders fighting to breathe new life into Silver Spring. We put a team in place that was committed to getting things done, and when we encountered challenges, we resolved them – and resolved them quickly.

It's clearly time for a fresh start, and I hope that you will agree that this should start with new project management.

Best,



Douglas M. Duncan