

Answers for questions from Cecil Land Use Alliance
March 20, 2012 – James G. Crouse

- 1) Jobs would have to be the ‘top issue’ facing Cecil County. However, the need for infrastructure and collaboration with existing employers to grow is essential to meeting the needs of ALL the people of Cecil County. We cannot continue ‘talking’ it is time we start accomplishing the important goals identified in the strategic plan. Most importantly is for the governing body to work together to get things done. Discussion and debate of all topics are very important but RESULTS will advance our County more efficiently and effectively.

- 2) Residential development is a contributor to the growth of the tax base however, it does put additional strain for need of services from the county government. We need to continue to focus any growth in the defined corridor after answers, particularly on cost, as to how the necessary services for that growth to take place.

- 3) It is obvious that the cost is too great for our county and outside funding is essential. The State of Maryland, The federal government hopefully will provide some grants but we are still left with a potential burden on the taxpayer. Cecil County will need to meet its reduction target as ‘mandated by the state’ using the most cost efficient management practices possible. However, it remains that the biggest challenge is a funding source.

- 4) My visions are to first, survey and identify the needs of our existing industrial and commercial companies to be sure their needs are being met. Encourage them to consider growth within their existing businesses and to employ more individuals. I feel we should offer the existing businesses incentives to grow through potential tax reductions for a defined period, and low interest loans for the improvements. The funds that will be lost for a short period of time, 3-5 years would be made up by the new jobs and payment of county income tax.

- 5) The county departments will be required to perform a thorough due diligence on both financial and development proposals which the county pursues. I see the Finance Department having the responsibility to see that this is performed and report results to the appropriate Board.