

## **Being Responsive to Citizen Concerns**

One of our greatest political concerns as citizens is that our government does not hear us, or does not care what we think. At the local level, it is especially important that government be responsive. When a Metrobus runs up on the curb and causes a storm drain to collapse, someone needs to fix it. When graffiti appears on a park entrance sign or a school wall, someone needs to clean it. When a property down the street is running an illegal business, or an illegal boarding house, or piling trash in the yard and creating a health hazard, someone needs to enforce the law. And, of course, when there is an emergency and you call 911, you deserve a prompt and effective response. It is the job of the County Supervisor to make sure these things happen.

I will put responsiveness to citizen concerns first on my agenda. I will always return your phone calls and respond to your emails as soon as humanly possible. When there is a problem in a community, I will help neighborhood leaders address it. I will also hold “constituent days,” when I will come to the community and citizens may come in, without appointment, to discuss whatever is on *their* agenda. My agenda in these meetings will be to listen and to learn. I will move in my first 60 days in office to create a “business roundtable,” where business owners in Braddock District can come together to discuss common concerns and work to address problems and opportunities they are facing. I will also form a citizen’s advisory committee on the County budget, where citizens can help forge a common sense approach to setting priorities within our County budget.

I will not be just your representative in government, but will be your representative to government. I want to represent your concerns to our Federal and State legislators, agencies and executives, to help make your government work better for all of us. I pledge not to forget that the people create government to serve them, not the other way around.