



For Immediate Release
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20th annual Housing Affordable Housing Summit focuses on rental housing, transit issues and affordable home ownership, at Bethesda North Marriott on Monday, May 9th :

~ 20/20 Vision for Affordable Housing for Montgomery County ~

Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett, Congressman Chris Van Hollen, Governor Martin O'Malley, Lt. Governor Anthony Brown and HUD officials to provide housing outlook for the region.

The 20th annual Conference, which runs from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., will begin with remarks from County Executive Ike Leggett. Capital One Architectural Design awards will be given to five local architectural firms for their affordable housing designs and the morning keynote is Eugene Robinson, a Pulitzer prize-winning Columnist, Washington Post. Luncheon speakers, beginning at 12:45 p.m., include Congressman Chris Van Hollen, and Governor Martin O'Malley, the keynote speaker.

There are 8 panels scheduled during the day, focusing on different aspects of affordable housing, including: foreclosure, emerging trends/challenges in rental housing, urban-suburban poverty, transit-oriented housing development, development pains/pressures, green housing, the housing credit squeeze and the future at White Flint. Housing experts will offer information and updates on each subject area during the panels. Housing experts include Rick Nelson, Director of Montgomery County Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Jerry Robinson, Acting Director of Housing Opportunities Commission, Josh Silver of NCRC, Tracy Evans of Fannie Mae, Kelly Vaughn of Maryland DHCD, Kim Griffiths of Freddie Mac, and Roger Lewis, FAIA & Planner, Columnist, "Shaping the City" The Washington Post.

Beginning at 12:45 p.m., the Affordable Housing Conference will hold the annual luncheon and award ceremonies. This year's award ceremony features:

Lt. Governor Anthony Brown, who will receive the prestigious "Robert C. Weaver Housing Champion award for his efforts with BRAC military housing.

Annie Alston, former executive director of Housing Opportunities Commission, who will receive the “Paul Sarbanes Excellence in Community Service” award for her 39 years of service to HOC and community service throughout Montgomery County.

DHCD Secretary Raymond Skinner will receive a special 20th anniversary award for his efforts to improve the lives of many Marylanders who have been affected by foreclosure events.

Winners of the annual AHCMC “**Break the Barrier to Home Ownership Contest**” will receive cash assistance for closing costs for the purchase of their first home in Montgomery County. These awards are sponsored by: PNC Bank, Norman Dreyfuss, GCAAR and Wiencek + Associates.

The Affordable Housing Conference is open to the public.

Persons interested in attending:
register online at www.affordablehousingconference.org.

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