



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COUNTY EXECUTIVE IKE LEGGETT HONORED FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING EFFORTS

Leggett to Receive First “Robert Weaver Housing Champion Award”



Former HUD Secretary
Robert Weaver

When: Monday, May 3, 2010, 12:30 p.m.

Where: 19th Annual Affordable Housing Conference, Bethesda North Marriott Conference Center, 5701 Marinelli Rd., North Bethesda

On Monday, May 3, 2010, County Executive Ike Leggett will become the first recipient of the “Robert Weaver Housing Champion Award.” The Award, sponsored by the Affordable Housing Conference of Montgomery, Maryland, is named in honor of Dr. Robert C. Weaver, the first Secretary of HUD and the first African-American to hold a Presidential Administration Cabinet position.

The Award honors those individuals or groups in Montgomery County that have had a significant impact on affordable housing. Throughout his entire career, Mr. Leggett has been, and continues to be, a strong advocate for the construction, management and preservation of affordable housing in Montgomery County. One of his first efforts after taking office in 2006 was to significantly raise the funding for the

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County's Housing Initiative Fund (HIF) from \$18 million to \$58 million. The HIF finances the development of low to moderate income housing, special needs and elderly housing in Montgomery County. Other notable efforts by Leggett include:

- Added and preserved more than 3,400 affordable units over the past three years, with an additional 1,600 units currently under construction;
- Created an Affordable Housing Task Force, comprised of housing experts in Montgomery County to create strategies to increase the County's supply of affordable, special needs and workforce housing;
- Implemented 8 of the 17 recommendations from the Affordable Housing Task Force, with another 6 recommendations in the works;
- Launched a concentrated Housing Code Enforcement program to monitor vacant and/or foreclosed homes, including creating an online public reporting system. 1,000 homes are currently on the "watch" list;
- Convened the first-ever County Tenants' Working Group to recommend policy changes to assist renters. Among their work has been a first-ever survey of County renters;
- Expanded the County's right-of-first-refusal authority to acquire at-risk rental housing developments;
- Used HIF and Neighborhood Stabilization funding to purchase, rehab, and reoccupy 40 vacant, foreclosed homes in target areas over the past ten months, partnering with Habitat for Humanity, the Housing Opportunities Commission, and others;
- Inaugurated a program to weatherize 600 County homes using Federal Recovery Act funding;
- Began preparing for construction at five publicly-owned sites to produce 478 mixed-income housing units, including 327 affordable units; and
- Began planning for use of Federal Recovery Act funds to increase code enforcement, infrastructure maintenance, and other activities in target neighborhoods.

"County Executive Ike Leggett has been – and continues to be -- a friend and ally to developers, service providers and others working to alleviate the shortage of affordable housing in our community," said Barbara Goldberg-Goldman, co-founder of the Affordable Housing Conference.

"The Affordable Housing Conference is proud to give this award to the most deserving advocate for affordable housing – our very own County Executive Ike Leggett."

"This award's namesake – Dr. Robert Weaver, the first Secretary of HUD -- was committed to improve the quality of life for low to moderate income families and was often referred to as the 'Master Builder of

the Great Society.’ Similarly, Ike Leggett consistently stands on the side of those in our community who need some assistance to help them achieve their goals and dreams,” said Goldberg-Goldman.

“The Affordable Housing Conference is proud to give this award to County Executive Ike Leggett,” Goldberg-Goldman added.

The award presentation will take place during the luncheon at the 19th Annual Affordable Housing Conference Summit on Monday, May 3, 2010 at the Bethesda North Marriott Conference Center, 5701 Marinelli Road, North Bethesda.

HUD Deputy Secretary Ron Sims, the Keynote Speaker at the Conference, will make the award presentation to County Executive Ike Leggett at 12:30 p.m.

--ALL MEDIA INVITED--

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