



For Immediate Release
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Contact: Lise Tracey, 301-520-1587;
Susan Yancy, 240-773-9060;
Charlie Maier, 301-424-4141

***HUD Deputy Secretary Ron Sims is Keynote Speaker at 19th Annual
Affordable Housing Summit in Montgomery County
on Monday, May 3, 2010***

The Affordable Housing Conference's annual Summit on Monday, May 3 will be held at the Bethesda North Marriott Conference Center, 5701 Marinelli Road, North Bethesda, 8:00 am to 2:30 pm.

HUD Deputy Secretary Ron Sims will address the Conference at **12:45 p.m.** during the luncheon awards program. As the second most senior official at HUD, Sims is responsible for managing the Department's day-to-day operations, a nearly \$40 billion annual operating budget, and the agency's 8,500 employees.

"You cannot underestimate the important role that HUD is playing in the United States at this moment in time," said Barbara Goldberg-Goldman, the founder and co-chair of the Affordable Housing Conference of Montgomery County.

"There is a renewed focus by HUD on preservation and development of multifamily rental housing in the United States. They will play a pivotal role in alleviating the affordable housing crisis in the United States and we are honored to have Ron Sims speak at our Summit," added Goldberg-Goldman.

Sims previously served as the Executive for the King County, Washington, the 13th largest county in the nation in a metropolitan area of 1.8 million residents and 39 cities including the cities of Seattle, Bellevue and Redmond. While serving three terms in King County, Sims was nationally recognized for his work on transportation, homelessness, climate change, health care reform, urban development and affordable housing. His leadership in affordable housing and multiple community and housing partnerships funded 5,632 units of housing during his tenure.

The Summit, which runs from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m will feature presentations by state and local elected officials, including invited speakers County Executive Ike Leggett, Senator Ben Cardin, and Congressman

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Chris Van Hollen, and an estimated 400 guests and participants. Eight panels are scheduled during the day, focusing on different aspects of affordable housing, including: Foreclosure Updates, Housing for Seniors and Persons with Developmental Disabilities, Housing Realities/Myths at Urban/Suburban Centers, Low Income Housing Tax Credit Updates, Green Housing Initiatives, Business & Housing: A Nexus with No-cost Affordability, the Landscape for Tomorrow's Housing and the Outlook for Affordable Rental Housing. Housing and community development experts will offer information and updates on each subject area during the panels.

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

- Winners of the annual "Break the Barrier to Home Ownership Contest" who will receive cash assistance for closing costs for the purchase of their first home in Montgomery County. These awards are sponsored by: Amanter Philanthropy, Norman Dreyfuss, PNC Bank, HSBC Bank, GCAAR and the Montgomery County Teachers (MCT) Federal Credit Union.
- Presentation of the Paul Sarbanes Award for Excellence in Community Service. This year, the Conference is honoring attorney Charles L. Edson, who has been an advocate of affordable housing since the 1960s and is credited with helping create the Low Income Housing Tax Credit and the Section 8 program.
- Presentation of the Developer of the Year Award. This year, the Conference is presenting the award to Donald R. Hague of Home Properties.
- Presentation of the annual Architect's award for best affordable housing development.

For more information about the Affordable Housing of Montgomery County, visit:

www.affordablehousingconference.org

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