



# Montgomery County Council

*From the Office of Councilmember George Leventhal*

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**For Immediate Release**

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## **LEVENTHAL PROPOSES COUNTY “COMMUNITY PHARMACY”**

Flanked by non-profit groups that provide health services to County residents, Councilmember George Leventhal today proposed the establishment of a County-run “Community Pharmacy.”

The Community Pharmacy would be stocked with the 13 most-used generic prescription drugs and would service the many non-profit groups, organized into the Primary Care Coalition, that seek to provide care to the estimated 100,000 County residents without health insurance.

“This Community Pharmacy can help our providers do their job even better – and in a more cost-effective way,” said Councilmember Leventhal, who chairs the Council’s Health & Human Services Committee. “The County can use its buying power to get a better deal on the most-used drugs and so reduce drug costs and staff costs. Instead of each group having to buy their own supplies, or simply reimbursing clients who fill prescriptions at the local drug store, we can do more for less.”

Councilmember Leventhal indicated that he would push for \$350,000 to the FY-05 Operating Budget to establish the Community Pharmacy with a year’s supply of the most-used drugs. The project would be evaluated after its first year.

“This is just another step in our efforts to build a unified system to respond to the needs of those County families without health insurance,” said Councilmember Leventhal.

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