

Resolution No.: _____
Introduced: May 11, 2004
Adopted: May 11, 2004

COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

By: Councilmember Leventhal

Subject: Comments by the Governor of Maryland Regarding Multiculturalism

Background

1. Governor Robert Ehrlich, speaking on WBAL radio on May 6, said the following: "I reject the idea of multiculturalism. Once you get into this multicultural crap, this bunk, you run into a problem. With respect to this culture, English is the language. Should we encourage young folks here to be assimilated, to learn the culture and values, of course. There's a major distinction to ethnic pride and multiculturalism."
2. Multiculturalism is generally understood as the appreciation of, and celebration of, many different cultures rather than one single culture. It includes a tolerance not only for languages other than English, but for people of many different races, religions and national origin.
3. Montgomery County is home to nearly half of all foreign-born residents of the state of Maryland and has the state's most diverse population.
4. The United States of America is a diverse nation that has always provided a home for refugees from other nations, adherents of many cultures and practitioners of many different religions.

Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following resolution:

The County Council expresses its deep concern over Governor Ehrlich's ill-chosen remarks, which may contribute to a climate of intolerance not only toward those who do not speak English perfectly, but toward those who may speak with an accent, those who practice minority religions, or those who are of minority races.

The County Council reaffirms its pride in our County's open door to those of different ethnic and religious persuasions and for the American and Maryland values of tolerance, acceptance and multiculturalism.

The County Council believes that no Marylander is more entitled to live in our State than any other Marylander, solely because of his or her language ability, religion, race or national origin.

The County Council suggests to Governor Ehrlich the phrase "I'm sorry" as appropriate to the occasion.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

Mary A. Edgar, CMC
Clerk of the Council