



Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett's

Six Point Economic *Plan*

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MOVE/BUILD Incentives: MOVE is a business attraction tool to bring companies to Montgomery County and fill vacant office space by providing a leasing subsidy to new office tenants.

- **MOVE Program:** The MOVE program has attracted 26 new businesses to Montgomery County that collectively absorbed 103,176 square feet of office spaces, and added 187 jobs with a projection of another 343 new jobs over the next three years. The space filled to date is roughly the equivalent of the Executive Office Building!

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MC Square: a collection of new entrepreneurship resources and programs to build the County's innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem.

- **Relevant Health:** This month, BioHealth Innovation, a very successful public private partnership supported by the County, launched Relevant Health, the first accelerator in Montgomery County. This highly selective health IT-focused accelerator is currently hosting the first class of 7 companies for 5-months where they will work to launch viable health tech products ready for market traction, bringing minds to market.
- **Venture Mentoring Service:** MIT's Venture Mentoring Service is now active in Montgomery County and is available to the County's entrepreneurs. Our thanks to the Tech Council of Maryland who is leading this program, which is starting with 15 founding mentors who represent the County's serial technology entrepreneurs, angel and venture capitalists, seasoned professional services providers, and government contracting experts. The Venture Mentoring Service has been used in 50 communities worldwide and has shown stunning outcomes in the 15 years since it was started.
- **1776 Partnership:** The formal partnership between Montgomery County and 1776, DC's tech hub, is now live. This partnership will give County businesses access to 1776's resources and expertise and allows companies with public-serving technologies to test and deploy them in real-life settings. Our thanks to Councilmember Riemer for championing this effort.

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Montgomery County Transit Authority: Expanding transit in Montgomery County is critical to our continued economic success and a transit authority will help the county advance that goal.

- In April 2015, the County Executive reconvened the Transit Task Force to examine the proposed transit authority legislation and propose workable alternatives. The task force delivered a report in October.
- The County Executive has asked the Dept. of Transportation to propose less expensive alternatives to the existing plans and to focus on 1-2 routes.

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Streamling Development: a multi-year, multi-agency priority that is in direct response to feedback from the business community to make county services more business-friendly and easier to navigate.

- **Development Ombudsman:** Michael Smith was appointed to the position of Development Ombudsman in June of this year. Mike is shepherding commercial and residential development projects through the development pipelines as an important part of our community building and placemaking efforts.
- **30-Day Building Permit Review:** Last year we committed to accomplish 30 day initial reviews for electronically submitted plans by the beginning of October. We reached this goal 3 months ahead of schedule (in July) and are exceeding expectations. With approximately 30% of our projects coming in as electronic plans, we currently average 19 days to complete initial reviews for both electronic and paper plans combined.

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ultraMontgomery: develop public private partnerships to develop a high-speed fiber network that will connect our business, academic and federal institutions along major corridors and transit-oriented smart-growth communities.

- Montgomery County is partnering with the private sector to connect County businesses, federal agencies, and educational institutions to the heart of the internet with a direct, low-latency fiber route under the Potomac River. Through this partnership, the County will expedite County and State approval processes to make this connection a reality. We are also allowing service providers to use the County's FiberNet as a last-mile connection to access the new route. Construction is also underway to create a 100 gigabit Federal Exchange at NIST that will also be connected to FiberNet.
- The County launched ultraGig at the Silver Spring Innovation Center, making it a wireless 1 gigabit test bed.
- The County anticipates releasing a Broadband Roadmap and Broadband Market Report within the coming weeks that will identify existing infrastructure and needs for the future.

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Realigning the Workforce System: define a new workforce system with a lead entity to coordinate all workforce programs in the County.

- In October 2015, WorkSource Montgomery, Inc. became the County's designated workforce development entity. The non-profit will unify and coordinate the many workforce program and organizations to connect our residents and employers with one another. WorkSource Montgomery, Inc. will serve our unemployed and underemployed residents as well as County businesses who need access to talent. The creation of WorkSource Montgomery, Inc. and the new system builds on the momentum created with our partners in the County Council and Montgomery Moving Forward.

