



MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

News Release

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Leggett Applauds Council Resolution in Support of Senior Agenda

County Executive Isiah Leggett applauded the County Council resolution in support of the County's Senior Agenda. Leggett sent the Council his endorsement of the vision spelled out in the Senior Agenda earlier this year. The County's Commission on Aging drafted the Senior Agenda to advise the County on its policies and planning for older adults and provide a vision that "Montgomery County will be a Community for a Lifetime—a place for older adults to live safe, healthy and vital lives." The Senior Agenda calls for action steps in transportation, housing, socialization and leisure, health and wellness, communications, employment and security and safety.

"Seniors are a critical part of our community," said Leggett. "We want residents of Montgomery County to have the resources and services they need so they can stay here in this community. The Commission's Senior Agenda calls for 'A Community for a Lifetime,' a goal we should all continue to work towards."

The Maryland Department of Planning projects that between 2000 and 2020 the senior population (age 60 and over) of Montgomery County will increase by 74 percent. As a group, seniors are growing at a rate more than seven times faster than non-seniors.

"The Health and Human Services Committee led by Councilmember Leventhal has done outstanding work monitoring this initiative," said Council President Nancy Navarro. "The Council commends the Commission on Aging for developing this useful new blueprint to guide us in our policymaking moving forward."

"More and more, seniors want the place that has been their long-time home to also be the place they retire," said Councilmember George Leventhal, chair of the Council's Health and Human Services Committee. "If our residents are to remain here as seniors—close to their families and friends—we must make this transition easier for them in regard to aspects such as housing options, recreation services, transportation and health services. The Commission on Aging's Senior Agenda provides a blueprint for how the County should address some of these critical issues."

"Most of us want to age where we live and with health, safety and vitality. The Commission on Aging looks forward to working with County government on implementing the Senior Agenda and building a community for a lifetime, and we applaud the County Executive and County Council for making this blueprint a reality," Judith Welles, chair of

the Commission on Aging.

The Commission on Aging advises County government and advocates for services to meet the interests and needs of older adults living in the County. The Commission also serves as the advisory body to the Area Agency on Aging under the Older Americans Act. The Commission has 27 volunteer members, appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council. They bring expertise from business, community service, labor, government, health organizations or agencies concerned with aging.

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