



Montgomery County Council

From the office of Councilmembers Marilyn Praisner & Phil Andrews

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Statement of County Councilmembers Phil Andrews and Marilyn Praisner regarding proposals for targeted property tax relief

“Today’s proposal for targeted property tax relief wouldn’t provide any relief to 97% of homeowners (there are approximately 300,000 residential homeowners in Montgomery County). Many of these homeowners are being squeezed, and could see their tax bills double in less than 10 years if the Council doesn’t substantially reduce the property tax rate.

“To keep faith with County taxpayers in a year of strong revenues, it is critical that the County Council abide by the Charter Limit on property tax revenues in FY 06. Although all forms of property tax relief count towards the Charter Limit on property tax revenues, today’s proposal for targeted property tax relief would not get the Council to the Charter Limit.

“Reducing the property tax rate by 7.2 cents, which would abide by the Charter Limit, would save the owner of a \$400,000 home (approximately the County median) \$318 compared to current rates.

“Targeted property tax relief for those on fixed incomes can supplement across-the-board property tax relief, but it cannot be a substitute to meeting the Charter Limit. The Council must respect the Charter Limit to retain the trust of county residents.”

Note: Councilmember Praisner is chair of the Management and Fiscal Policy Committee, and Councilmember Andrews is one of the two other members of the committee and chairs the Public Safety Committee.