



# Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett's Six Point Economic Plan

December 1, 2014

## 1. Move/Build Program

● **To remain competitive, I am recommending that we accelerate our program to turn vacant office space and land into productive assets.**

Earlier this year, I established the MOVE program to provide incentives for eligible companies to locate in Montgomery County.

It is our long term interest to hone this approach and provide even greater incentives for businesses to locate in the county.

Therefore, I am recommending a \$30 million tax abatement BUILD program to expand the current MOVE initiative to attract additional companies to existing office space, and further support shovel-ready commercial office projects.

## 2. MC Squared

● **To better nurture our entrepreneurial culture, I plan to create a new start-up business accelerator called "MC Squared" to nurture the next generation of tech savvy entrepreneurs.**

Montgomery County already has a vibrant small business community, but we need to create value generators by taking emerging start-ups and unleashing their potential by pairing them with managers from successful tech companies and VC funding opportunities.

This is truly the future for transforming budding businesses into stars.

## 3. Independent Transit Authority

● **I recommend the creation of an independent transit authority for Montgomery County to move transit projects forward.**

The authority would focus attention and resources on our growing transit needs as we compete for jobs, talents and investments.

A state-of-the art transit network is essential to unlocking our County's economic potential and linking our economic centers of excellence throughout the County.

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## 4. Streamlining Developments

● **We have made enormous strides in streamlining our development process but, I want to go even further because businesses need more certainty.**

I am ready to commit in this coming year to a timeline that guarantees that if you come to us with a project that is ready, the Department of Permitting Services (DPS) will turn your plan around in 30 days.

To that end, and with the advice and counsel of the business community, I am recommending appointing a Development Ombudsperson to help facilitate problem-solving and ensure transparency and responsiveness for our business community.

## 5. Ultra Montgomery

● **We live at a time when Internet connectivity and network infrastructure is just as fundamental to our economic future as are transportation systems, which requires us to have robust fiber networks to connect people with opportunities, and move our economy at the speed of our ideas.**

I am, therefore, launching Ultra Montgomery, a high-speed fiber network that will connect our business, academic and federal institutions along major corridors and transit-oriented smart-growth communities.

## 6. Montgomery Moving Forward Workforce Coalition

● **I am recommending the county support the Montgomery Workforce Coalition agenda by consolidating all our workforce programs and developing innovative ways to address both community needs and market demands.**

Our partnership with Montgomery Moving Forward, a network of community leaders from public, private, education and nonprofit sectors, will place us in a leadership position in the nation for workforce development.

Montgomery County has one of the most highly educated and accomplished workforces in the nation.

We have one of the finest public school systems in the country, a nationally known community college, and the internationally recognized institutions of higher learning, Johns Hopkins and the Universities at Shady Grove.

Yet we face the reality that 22 percent of our MCPS graduates do not attend any form of college.

Therefore, today, I am also announcing the establishment of a work group comprised of members of our business community, MCPS, and community leaders to work hand-in-hand with Montgomery Moving Forward to expand and create additional vocational apprenticeship programs in the County.

By matching our workforce to our businesses, we will be poised to take advantage of our best human and institutional assets to build an even stronger economy and thriving community.

