



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Friday, March 28, 2008**

**CONTACT: Susan Yancy: 240-773-9060**  
**Charlie Maier: 301-424-4141**  
**Lise Tracey: 301-520-1587**

**County Executive Ike Leggett to Present New Solutions for Affordable Housing Shortage in Montgomery County on April 4<sup>th</sup> at 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Affordable Housing Conference**

This year's Affordable Housing Conference, "Affordable Housing in Crisis: Revitalizing the Mission and Seeking Solutions" is the platform from which County Executive Ike Leggett will announce the findings from his Affordable Housing Task Force in Montgomery County – a year-long effort that challenged its more than 30 members to find new ways to address the ever-increasing affordable housing shortage in the County.

County Executive Ike Leggett is scheduled to speak Friday, April 4, during the opening session of the Conference at 9 a.m. at the Bethesda North Marriott Conference Center, 5701 Marinelli Road, North Bethesda.

"I look forward to evaluating the recommendations of the Affordable Housing Task Force," said County Executive Isiah Leggett. "I have already started to address the issue with the \$54 million I am recommending for the Housing Initiative Fund in my Fiscal Year 2009 operating budget. We have more than doubled the amount in the fund since I became County Executive and we will continually look for new ways to address this important issue."

Additional invited speakers during the opening session of the conference are: Senator Ben Cardin, Congressman Chris Van Hollen and Council President Michael Knapp. The keynote speaker at the Conference's Awards Luncheon will be the Secretary of the Maryland state Department of Housing and Community Development, Raymond A. Skinner.

Several awards are presented during the Conference luncheon, which begins at 12:30 p.m. The conference will award the winners of its "Break the Barrier to Homeownership" contest, which offers cash awards to eligible first-time homebuyers. The winners of the Paul Sarbanes Excellence in Community Service Award and the Chevy Chase Bank Architectural Awards will be on hand to accept their awards. This year, James A. Brown, Jr., President of Victory Housing, will receive the award for Excellence in Community Service.

-MORE-

The Conference has also scheduled a series of panels on affordable housing issues that will be held from 10:10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. During the panels, attendees will hear from various housing experts, including the Director of Montgomery County Department of Housing and Community Affairs Richard Y. Nelson, Jr.; Planning Board Chairman Royce Hanson; and Housing Opportunities Commission Executive Director D. Scott Minton. Discussions and question-and-answer sessions will take place.

The Affordable Housing Conference is sponsored by Chevy Chase Bank, the Housing Opportunities Commission, PNC Bank, Bank of America, Fannie Mae, Norman Dreyfuss, Rick Edson, Edgewood Management/Mid City Urban LLC, Linowes & Blocher, LLP, Merrill Lynch, "Grafik Marketing Communications, Ltd., and others.

Further information about the Conference can be found by visiting [www.affordablehousingconference.org](http://www.affordablehousingconference.org) .

The Affordable Housing Conference (AHC) of Montgomery County, Maryland gathers elected officials, housing and community development leaders, business professionals, activists and other community members for an intensive day focused on affordable housing solutions. Typically, this Annual Summit draws more than 400 participants and guests.

Throughout its 17-year history, AHC has relied upon the financial support of donors in the public, private, corporate and nonprofit sectors of Montgomery County and the surrounding region to fund operating costs of the Summit and a separate, smaller Roundtable event and the "Break the Barrier to Home Ownership" contest. To date, \$105,000 in closing cost assistance has been awarded directly to 16 families, with an average of \$5,000 going to each recipient.

**ALL MEDIA ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND**

**###**