

Governor Martin O'Malley, Mayor Adrian Fenty Announce Continued Public Safety Cross-Border Partnership

Commitment to regular sessions enhances coordinated crime reduction efforts throughout region



WASHINGTON, DC (April 2, 2009) –Maryland Governor Martin O’Malley and Washington, DC Mayor Adrian M. Fenty met today to discuss ongoing efforts to enhance cross-border coordination in improving public safety throughout the region. In addressing the media, the leaders announced the establishment of regular joint sessions that will focus on implementing regional commitments to public safety and other initiatives, and measuring the attainment of the regional goals through Maryland’s StateStat office and the District’s CapStat program. These regional public safety commitments include information sharing on high risk offenders, expediting the execution of warrants for individuals wanted by another jurisdiction, tracking progress on monitoring repeat violent offenders and other issues.

“Our most solemn obligation to our citizens is protecting the public safety, improving the quality of life for working families throughout our region,” said Governor O’Malley. “Crime does not stop at the border, and criminals know the shortcomings of law enforcement agencies that don’t talk to each other. These cross-border partnerships are built on effective principles that enhance public safety and stop violent offenders in their tracks.”

“We welcome this great opportunity to partner with Maryland as we continue our work to ensure public safety for District residents,” said Mayor Fenty. “Working together to improve our information-sharing capabilities is a win-win for better law enforcement practices and for protecting citizens throughout our region.”



In September 2008, Mayor Fenty, Governor O’Malley and Virginia Governor Tim Kaine held a regional summit to discuss cross-border crime and techniques to reduce it. Regional leaders agreed to several, coordinated crime prevention efforts, including improved regional supervision of offenders through identification of the most violent area offenders, information-sharing between probation officers and local police departments, and containing violent offenders by assigning them to handpicked agents with lighter caseloads. This agreement effectively opened the borders between jurisdictions while providing essential tracking information of the activities of violent offenders in the area.

This regional collaboration, information-sharing, and needs assessment is a first-in-the-nation for cross-border, regional

cooperative efforts. The agreement also empowers public safety officials to not only share data, but also to hold violent offenders accountable for their actions. For the last year and a half, Maryland has shared live arrest data with D.C. to enable Parole and Probation to get serial offenders off the street. So far, information is shared on an average of 200 offenders per month.

Since the September summit, local and state law enforcement officials have facilitated bimonthly planning sessions with parole, probation and juvenile justice officials from Washington, DC, Maryland and Virginia to develop a regional crime prevention strategy and identify goals and deliverables. The Metropolitan Police Department has developed the Most Violent Person (MVP) List of offenders who have multiple violent offenses, at least one gun charge, and a history of parole or probation violations in order to focus law enforcement activities on the region's most violent offenders. The region has also implemented a joint warrant task force, a collaboration between the local and state governments in Maryland and the District, as well as with the US Marshals Service. The task force works to apprehend dangerous fugitives across jurisdictions.



During the current legislative session in Maryland, the O'Malley-Brown Administration proposed legislation allowing the sharing of Maryland juvenile court records with other states and the District of Columbia, as well as with other state and federal agencies that perform the same function as the Department of Juvenile Services.

In 2008, Maryland and Washington, D.C. exchanged information on more than 1,500 adult offenders as part of an initiative to exchange live data with Maryland's Department of Public Safety and counterparts in D.C. During this time, the Prince George's Police Department reported a six percent decrease in homicides from 2007 to 2008. Over this same time period, violent crime decreased by nearly nine percent and overall crime declined by nearly four percent in Prince George's County.

[Additional Press Releases](#)



Statement from Governor O'Malley Supporting Efforts to Crack Down on Credit Card Interest Rate Practices

ANNAPOLIS, MD (April 2, 2009) – Governor Martin O'Malley today issued the following statement in support of Delegate Bill Frick's legislation that will prohibit credit card companies from applying higher interest rates on existing credit balances. A hearing on House Bill 1048 Commercial Law – Consumer Contracts Prohibited Provisions – was held in the Senate Finance Committee today.

“At this time of national economic uncertainty when our families and small business are struggling, it is more important than ever that we put our families first ahead of corporate interests.”

“I am pleased to join with Delegate Frick to support this legislation to prohibit credit card companies from unfairly applying higher interest rates on existing credit card debt in cases where the consumer has met his or her obligations under the credit card agreement.”

“If our families are playing by the rules, than the credit card companies should play by the rules too.”

Background:

Under existing law, companies can impose higher interest rates for reasons unrelated to the consumer's credit card payments and in some cases, for no reason at all. This practice can severely burden Maryland families, resulting in hundreds or even thousands of dollars in additional interest charges.

Additional Press Releases



Governor O'Malley Announces Legislation to Keep the Preakness Stakes in Maryland



ANNAPOLIS, MD (April 8, 2009) – Governor Martin O'Malley announced today the introduction of legislation designed to give the State greater authority over the Preakness Stakes to keep it in Maryland.

“We are introducing legislation today to protect Maryland’s interests in the Preakness, and preserve the options available to the State to keep the rich tradition of the Preakness here in Maryland, where it belongs,” said Governor O'Malley. “Maryland’s horse industry not only generates tens of thousands of jobs and produces a substantial economic impact for our State, but our centuries-old heritage of horse racing and horse breeding is woven deeply into the cultural fabric of Maryland.”

“The State of Maryland is taking the action necessary to ensure the Preakness Stakes remains a Maryland tradition and a source of pride for Marylanders,” said Attorney General Gansler. “Through this legislation, the State will have the power to exercise its authority over Pimlico, Laurel Park, and the Bowie Race Course, ensuring the horse racing industry continues to be a vital asset to the State.”

Under the legislation introduced today, the State is authorized to acquire by purchase or exercise eminent domain over, Laurel Park, the Bowie Race Course Training center, and Pimlico Race Course – the second oldest race track in America – and all rights and racing events that are associated with the Preakness Stakes and its trophy, the Woodlawn Vase. The bill also authorizes the Maryland Economic Development Corporation to issue bonds for these purposes.

“The Preakness is part of Maryland’s cultural heritage,” said Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr. “It’s not just a matter of pride – it’s also a matter of economic development for the City of Baltimore and the State.”



Maryland’s horseracing industry began in 1873 with the first running of the Preakness Stakes, the second leg of the Triple Crown. The equine industry is a critical component of Maryland’s economy, generating more than 20,000 jobs and an annual economic impact of \$1.5 billion. These figures also do not include the economic impact of the horse industry on tourism and the economic enhancement to real estate values, estimated at \$100 million annually.

“The Preakness is an important part of Maryland's history and an economic engine for our State,” said Speaker Michael E.

Busch. “This bill would give the State another tool to help protect this second jewel of the Triple Crown.”

Horse breeding and horse racing have an economic impact on the state that more than triples all other sports combined, and comprised 78 percent of the total estimated annual sports impact of \$1.1 billion. Horse farms in Maryland occupy over 200,000 acres of farmland, preserving valued green space and serving as a buffer to development. They are a critical element in the maintenance of the state’s agricultural heritage.

Additional Press Releases



Governor Martin O'Malley Swears In Christian Johansson as Secretary to Department of Business and Economic Development; Members of State Board of Education and University System Board of Regents



ANNAPOLIS, MD (April 9, 2009) – Governor Martin O'Malley today swore in Christian S. Johansson today as Secretary of Maryland's Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED) at a ceremony in the Governor's Reception Room. Governor O'Malley today also swore in Donna Hill Staton to the State Board of Education and Gary L. Attman to the University System Board of Regents.

"I am proud to swear in Mr. Johansson for this vital position to the future economic health of our One Maryland," said Governor O'Malley. "The knowledge and expertise that Mr. Johansson brings to DBED illustrates our commitment to keeping cutting-edge industry here in Maryland and attracting good jobs for the working families of our State. DBED's core functions are critical to our State now more than ever as we navigate these uncertain economic times by bringing jobs and business home to Maryland."

"It's an honor to serve Governor O'Malley and the citizens of the great state of Maryland at a time when the work that we do at DBED to attract companies and create jobs is more important than ever," said Secretary Johansson. "I look forward to building on our unparalleled assets – our world-class workforce, our top-rated education system and our superior business climate – to ensure that Maryland remains competitive in the global economy."

Christian Johansson joined DBED from Continental Equity, a private equity firm in Baltimore, where as Managing Director he focused on investing in diverse-owned companies and teams. Prior to that, Johansson served as President and CEO of the Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore, a public-private partnership that markets Central Maryland for new investment. He has also served as Senior Consultant for Sag Harbor Group in New York, and is Co-founder of inka.net, a customer relationship management enterprise software company, and Dola Health Systems, an international health care firm.



Johansson received a BA from Brown University and an MBA from Harvard Business

School. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for Hippodrome Foundation, Inc. as well as the BB&T Metro Area Advisory Board, the Greater Baltimore Committee Leadership Program, and the President's Board of Visitors of the University of Maryland Baltimore County. Johansson was a member of President Obama's Executive Committee for Urban and Metropolitan Policy during the Presidential campaign and served as an advisor to President Obama's transition team. He also served as co-chair of the O'Malley-Brown Transition Committee for DBED in 2006.

"I am also proud to swear in Ms. Staton to the State Board of Education and Mr. Attman to the University System of Maryland Board of Regents," Governor O'Malley said. "I am confident Ms. Staton and Mr. Attman will work to protect the investments we have made in our education institutions to ensure that all of Maryland students gets a world class education."

Ms. Staton was sworn in as a member of the Maryland State Board of Education. She served as Deputy Attorney General to Maryland Attorney General J. Joseph Curran, Jr. She also served as an Associate Judge on the Circuit Court of Howard County, becoming the first African-American trial judge in Howard County and the second African-American woman to serve on any Circuit Court in the State. She has taught as an adjunct Professor of Law at the University of Maryland, School of Law. Ms. Staton has also been recognized as one of Daily Record's "Maryland's Top 100 Women." She is a trustee for the Client Protection Fund of the Bar of Maryland (Court of Appeals Appointment) and the Bar Foundation of Howard County. She received her Bachelor's degree at Princeton University and her Juris Doctor at the George Washington University Law School. She is a Howard County resident.

Mr. Attman was sworn in as a member of the Board of Regents. He is President of FutureCare Health and Management Corporation, which he co-founded in 1985. He is a member of the Maryland Bar, a CPA, and a licensed real estate broker. Mr. Attman received a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from the University of Maryland (magna cum laude) and a Juris Doctor from the University of Maryland School of Law. He is a Baltimore County resident.

Additional Press Releases



Statement from Governor O'Malley on the Passing of Ryan Andrew Myers, Son of Delegate LeRoy Myers

ANNAPOLIS, MD (April 10, 2009) – Today, Governor Martin O'Malley released the following statement following the death of Ryan Andrew Myers, son of Delegate LeRoy Myers:

"I want to extend my deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Ryan Andrew Myers, who died suddenly in a tragic motorcycle accident yesterday.

"My thoughts, and the thoughts and prayers of all Marylanders, are with the family of Ryan Myers, including his father, Delegate LeRoy Myers, on this very difficult and sad day."

[Additional Press Releases](#)



Statement by Governor Martin O'Malley on American Recovery and Reinvestment Funding

ANNAPOLIS, MD (April 10, 2009) – Governor Martin O'Malley issued the following statement today following two announcements by the Obama Administration regarding American Recovery and Reinvestment funding.

Today, Vice President Joe Biden announced the Administration will make \$2.3 billion available for crucial health and human services programs that help to provide care for children and prevent disease. In addition, U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano announced the availability of \$100 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds for the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP), provided through a FEMA grant.

“The Recovery and Reinvestment funding announced today represents some of the many ways we are working with our federal partners to expand the safety net to Maryland’s families during these difficult economic times.”

“Maryland’s more than \$24 million for childcare and development will support child care services for more working families, allowing parents to receive the job training, education, or employment they need to get ahead.”

“In addition, Maryland will use its \$1.4 million share of the in Emergency Food and Shelter Program funding to serve families with a variety of services, including mass shelter and feeding, food distribution through pantries and food banks, rent and mortgage assistance, and transition assistance from shelters to stable living conditions.”

“As we work to rebuild our economic infrastructure and create jobs, we do so while putting families first and protecting the most vulnerable among us.”

States will receive \$2 billion in Recovery Act funding to support child care for working families. The Administration also plans to make \$300 million in vaccines and grants available to ensure more underserved Americans receive the vaccines they need. These funds will be used by states to provide vouchers to families for child care or to provide access to care through contracts with child care centers or invest in quality improvements. Recovery Act dollars will support a wide range of child care providers, including child care centers and home-based programs. Maryland’s share of these dollars includes nearly \$2 million in quality expansion, more than \$1.1 million for infants and toddler programs, and nearly \$21 million in childcare and development discretionary funds.

The Emergency Food and Shelter Program uses measures of unemployment and poverty to allocate the funds it receives from FEMA to city and county jurisdictions around the country. To serve areas in need that do not qualify based on this formula, the National Board established the State Set-Aside Program in 1987 to award additional funds to each state based on a number of extenuating variables, including recent spikes in unemployment and isolated pockets of homelessness or poverty, among others. Objectives of the program are to allocate funds to the neediest areas; to ensure fast response; to foster public-private sector partnerships; to ensure local decision-making; and to maintain minimal but accountable reporting.

[Additional Press Releases](#)

Statement from Governor Martin O'Malley

ANNAPOLIS, MD (April 10, 2009) – Governor Martin O'Malley issued the following statement today following President Barack Obama's announcement of his intent to nominate John Porcari, Maryland Secretary of Transportation, as Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation:

"I want to congratulate John Porcari on today's announcement, and wish him well in his new endeavor at the U.S. Department of Transportation.

"John has served the people of Maryland as Secretary of Transportation during an unprecedented time of growth and reinvestment in our State's infrastructure, including the beginning stages of the InterCounty Connector, the Woodrow Wilson Bridge Project, and over \$1 billion in Recovery and Reinvestment projects throughout Maryland, including the nation's first federally-approved highway project utilizing these funds. John's leadership as an advocate for infrastructure investment impacts the lives of all Marylanders as they travel on resurfaced highways, restored bridges, or new hybrid buses.

"John's career as a public servant is to be commended, and will serve him well as he joins U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood and the entire Obama Administration. I will work with John during this transition and his confirmation process, as the White House formally nominates him to serve as Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation."

Additional Press Releases



Statement from Governor Martin O'Malley Following Emergency Legislation to Keep Preakness in Maryland

ANNAPOLIS, MD (April 13, 2009) – Governor Martin O'Malley issued the following statement today following the passage of emergency legislation designed to give the State greater authority over the Preakness Stakes to keep it in Maryland.

“Today, we have acted swiftly and efficiently to preserve the options available to the State to keep the rich tradition of the Preakness here in Maryland, where it belongs.”

“The authority granted in this legislation protects the economic interests we share in the Preakness, which generates thousands of jobs and millions for the local economy. The centuries-old heritage of horse racing and horse breeding is woven deeply into the cultural fabric of Maryland, and we will take advantage of every available tool to ensure it remains.”

Maryland's horseracing industry began in 1873 with the first running of the Preakness Stakes, the second leg of the Triple Crown. The equine industry is a critical component of Maryland's economy, generating more than 20,000 jobs and an annual economic impact of \$1.5 billion. These figures also do not include the economic impact of the horse industry on tourism and the economic enhancement to real estate values, estimated at \$100 million annually.

Additional Press Releases



Governor O'Malley Signs Legislation Putting Maryland Families First

With signature, O'Malley protects Maryland's interests in the Preakness, expands unemployment benefits, strengthens mortgage lending regulations, and cracks down on unequal pay for women



ANNAPOLIS, MD (April 14, 2009) – Governor Martin O'Malley today joined Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller Jr., House Speaker Michael E. Busch, and Lieutenant Governor Anthony G. Brown, to sign legislation putting Maryland families first during these difficult economic times.

Governor O'Malley's budget and legislative proposals this year focused on putting families first during this national economic downturn, including record funding for public schools, unprecedented levels of school construction funding, and full funding of the Thornton Bridge to Excellence Plan. In addition, Governor O'Malley fought to make college affordable and accessible for more families, rather than fewer, by freezing college tuition at zero percent increase for the fourth straight year.

“During this national recession, we know our families and small businesses are hurting, and we must do all we can to put our families and kids first,” said Governor O'Malley. “The legislation we're signing today expands the safety net available to our families during these tough economic times, and cracks down on unfair business practices that keep Maryland working families from getting ahead.”

Today, Governor O'Malley signed into law an emergency bill designed to give the State greater authority over the **Preakness Stakes to keep it in Maryland**. Under the legislation, the State is authorized to acquire by purchase or exercise eminent domain over, Laurel Park, the Bowie Race Course Training center, and Pimlico Race Course – the second oldest race track in America – and all rights and racing events that are associated with the Preakness Stakes and its trophy, the Woodlawn Vase. The equine industry is a critical component of Maryland's economy, generating more than 20,000 jobs and an annual economic impact of \$1.5 billion.

“Even during these tough times, Governor O'Malley and I, with our partners in the General Assembly, have protected the priorities that put families first,” said Lt. Governor Brown. “We've invested in our first-class human capital in an effort to help us survive this economic crisis and thrive for years to come.”



Governor O'Malley also signed legislation that will **expand unemployment benefits to part-time employees**, thus modernizing the unemployment insurance program and recognizing the changing dynamic of the American workforce. In Maryland, more than 420,000 individuals work part-time, nearly 15 percent of Maryland workers. The negligible costs associated with the implementation of this provision are easily offset by the positive economic impact unemployment benefits have overall. It is estimated that every \$1 paid in unemployment generates \$2.15 in economic activity. The new law signed today will ensure that those Marylanders who are unable to work full time because of family, medical or other obligations can still access the critical safety net that unemployment insurance provides to take care of their families, particularly during times of economic distress.

“From the beginning of session, we promised Marylanders we would do everything in our power to help them weather the economic storm,” said Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr. “The bills we are signing today will help real people handle the serious challenges that they face everyday.”

In addition, building on Maryland's nation-leading foreclosure reforms passed last year, Governor O'Malley signed legislation today revises the State's mortgage lender and loan originator laws to ensure that Maryland meets all federal mandates while at the same time retaining enhancements in our new laws that strengthen mortgage lending regulation and consumer protections. This bill brings Maryland into compliance with the federal Secure and Fair Enforcement for Mortgage Licensing Act of 2008 (SAFE Act), and ensures that consumers are protected by optimal state and federal regulation of mortgage lenders.

“The General Assembly worked hard to protect core services for Marylanders weathering this difficult economic climate,” said Speaker Michael E. Busch. “Maryland is in a far better position than many of our neighbors to continue progress in education, higher education and economic development, without raising any taxes or fees and retaining a triple-A bond rating.”

Also today, Governor O'Malley signed into law the **Lilly Ledbetter Civil Rights Restoration Act**. This law expands the time period for which an employee may seek relief for an unlawful employment practice and authorizes the recovery of back pay for up to two years preceding the filing of a complaint. Ledbetter was the plaintiff in a landmark discrimination suit *Ledbetter vs. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.* in 2007, the decision for which held that employers cannot be sued under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act over race or gender pay discrimination if the claims are based on decisions made by the employer 180 days ago or more. This bill, sponsored by Senator Raskin and Delegate Rosenberg, authorizes the payment of back pay for up to two years preceding the filing of a complaint that occurred outside the statute of limitations if it was similar to an unlawful practice that occurred during the complaint filing period.

The O'Malley-Brown Administration fought to make Maryland neighborhoods safer this year by successfully implementing legislation to take firearms out of the hands of domestic abusers and legislation to prohibit the State Police from conducting surveillance on individuals without reason. The Administration also upgraded Maryland's state-of-the-art fingerprinting system and expanded DNA sampling to target violent criminals and make communities safer. In

addition, the O'Malley-Brown legislative agenda included tougher penalties for drunk drivers, increased restrictions and sanctions for young drivers, and legislation to place speed cameras in our school zones.

Over the past three years, the O'Malley-Brown Administration has achieved real progress, including record funding for Maryland schools, resulting in Education Week Magazine ranking Maryland public schools #1 in the nation. For the first time in Maryland's history, school construction funding will exceed \$1 billion over a three-year period. Governor O'Malley recently outlined an ambitious agenda to make Maryland's schools the best in the world, including international benchmarking of students and the expansion of curricula to prepare students for the careers of tomorrow.

In addition to K-12 education, the O'Malley-Brown Administration has increased community college funding by \$60 million in just three years, and fought for the largest capital investment in Maryland history in our Community Colleges – over \$84 million this year alone and over \$235 million in three years – for new buildings and state-of-the-art learning facilities. That's a 55 percent growth over the previous administration.

[Additional Press Releases](#)



Related Documents

['Putting Families First' Overview](#)

[Legislative Accomplishments](#)

[State of the State Commitments Kept](#)

[State Budget Comparisons](#)

[Summary of Bills signed April 14, 2009](#)

Future Bill Signings

- May 7, 2009 @ 10am
- May 19, 2009 @ 10am

Statement from Governor Martin O'Malley Following EPA Greenhouse Gas Proposal

ANNAPOLIS, MD (April 17, 2009) – Governor Martin O'Malley issued the following statement today after Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Lisa Jackson announced a proposal confirming the threat of greenhouse gases to the environment:

“We applaud EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson's proposal today confirming the science-proven threat that greenhouse gases pose to our people and our environment, as well as President Obama's pledge to find solutions that create jobs and help our country become energy independent. We are glad to see the EPA is back on the job protecting our air, land, and water and enforcing environmental laws.”

“Today's EPA decision comes just days after Maryland passed the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act, committing our State to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 25 percent by 2020. I look forward to signing this bill into law and the environmental and economic benefits that will surely result.”

“Maryland is a national leader when it comes to curbing climate change, not only for its importance to the long term health of our environment and our families, but also for the thousands of jobs that a clean energy infrastructure will bring to our State. Thanks to the renewed efforts on the federal level to invest in a clean energy infrastructure, we look forward to reaching our goal of 100,000 Maryland green jobs by 2015.”

Additional Press Releases



Governor O'Malley Announces Maryland Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights

O'Malley celebrates Earth Day with local students, Receives Partnership for Children in Nature report & recommendations

[[video with transcript](#)]

MILLERSVILLE, MD (April 21, 2009) – Governor Martin O'Malley began Earth Day celebrations a day early this year, joining more than 40 third-grade students from Annapolis' Georgetown East Elementary School for an afternoon of hands-on outdoor learning activities, including a canoe along the Severn River at Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center in Millersville. The Governor took the opportunity to unveil the Maryland Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights, as he was presented with a recently completed report from the Maryland Partnership for Children in Nature.

"Being out here and enjoying with these great kids the natural treasures our State has to offer is what the Children's Bill of Rights is all about," said Governor O'Malley. "It is one of the tools we'll be using to heighten awareness and ensure all Maryland children have many opportunities to connect with nature at an early age and build upon that connection as they grow."

Recognizing the importance of outdoor play and environmental education in the development of Maryland's young people, Governor O'Malley established the Maryland Partnership for Children in Nature (CIN) by Executive Order in April 2008. Co-chaired by State Schools Superintendent Nancy S. Grasmick and Natural Resources Secretary John R. Griffin, the Governor tasked the partnership with creating an environmental literacy plan for Maryland students, increasing opportunities for structured outdoor learning in state parks and conservation lands, and enhancing school and community natural areas to enable more play and learning outdoors.

Kevin Maxwell, Superintendent of Anne Arundel County Schools and co-chair of the CIN Environmental Literacy workgroup, and Jackie Carrera, Executive Director of Parks & People Foundation and co-chair of the CIN Community & Public Lands workgroup presented the report to the Governor on behalf of the Partnership.

"This report represents Maryland's exceptional leadership by ensuring that all of our State's children will have access to Maryland's great outdoors to play, learn and develop real world skills," said Carrera. "By integrating our outstanding public education system with our awe-inspiring public lands, Governor Martin O'Malley, Secretary Griffin and Dr.

Grasmick have created a plan that will make certain our children will possess the knowledge, intellectual skills, attitudes, experiences and motivation to make and act upon responsible environmental decisions as individuals and as members of their community -- a plan to ensure an environmentally-literate public.”

“I am sincerely grateful to the more than 80 volunteers who worked together over the past several months to help us achieve our collective vision of One Maryland, where children from all walks of life are inspired by nature to develop to their fullest potential and to grow to become informed and responsible stewards of our environment,” said Governor O’Malley. “I look forward to reviewing your report and working with Dr. Grasmick and Secretary Griffin to develop a plan for implementing your recommendations for Maryland’s children and families.”

Last year under the CIN initiative, Governor O’Malley created the Maryland Civic Justice Corps, a summer job and environmental education program that employs at risk youth in Maryland State Parks, which will be expanding this summer. During the 2009 legislative session, the O’Malley-Brown Administration secured record funding for Maryland’s #1 ranked public schools for the third consecutive year, investing more than \$5.5 billion this year in our schools.

Over the past two years, the O’Malley-Brown Administration has passed landmark clean cars legislation, created incentives to help homeowners and businesses utilize green energy, and during the most recent legislative session, passed legislation which set ambitious goals for reducing our carbon footprint by reducing greenhouse gases. In addition, through Program Open Space, Governor O’Malley has preserved more than 21,000 acres of green space throughout Maryland – more than five times the amount preserved under the previous administration.

**Maryland Partnership for Children in Nature:
Report and Recommendations - Executive Summary**

Maryland Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights

Additional Press Releases



Related Documents

Maryland Partnership for Children in Nature Report and Recommendations

Maryland Partnership for Children in Nature Executive Summary

Maryland Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights

Governor O'Malley Talks with Students about College Affordability

Governor discusses fourth straight year of tuition freeze and the challenges ahead

TOWSON, MD (April 23, 2009) – Today, immediately following the official vote by the University System of Maryland Board of Regents unanimously approving the Governor's proposed tuition freeze for the fourth consecutive year, Governor Martin O'Malley sat down with students at Towson University to discuss the impact the freeze will have on the University System community.

"I want to thank the members of the Board of Regents for working with us to make Maryland the only state in the nation that is able to freeze in-state college tuition for a fourth straight year even in these tough times," said Governor O'Malley. "Investments in Maryland's workforce are more important now during a national recession than at any other time, and that's why our budget included this tuition freeze and why the Board of Regents just affirmed the importance of this action."

The freeze in in-state college tuition moves the University System of Maryland from the sixth highest tuition in the nation in 2004 to an anticipated 18th.

"With the Board freezing tuition for the fourth year in a row, we have something very important to celebrate," noted William E. "Brit" Kirwan, *chancellor* for the University System of Maryland. "We are providing direct and seriously-needed relief to the middle class. This is relief that other states simply are not providing."

Four Maryland institutions now rank among the best values in public higher education according to [Princeton Review and USA Today](#) – Salisbury University, Towson University, University of Maryland Baltimore County, and St. Mary's College. Governor O'Malley's budget and legislative priorities sought to maintain and improve upon this distinction.

"Today's action by the Board of Regents would not have been possible without the tremendous leadership of Governor O'Malley," said Clifford M. Kendall, *Chairman of the Board of Regents*. "The O'Malley-Brown Administration and the General Assembly have made affordable access to higher education a priority and have made the necessary funding available to achieve that goal."

The O'Malley-Brown Administration is putting Families First, not only by freezing college tuition for the 4th consecutive year at every Maryland public four-year college and university, as well as Morgan State University, but also by successfully leading the fight to reauthorize the Higher Education Investment Fund, Maryland's first-ever dedicated funding source for higher education. Since it was originally proposed by the Governor in 2007, the HEIF has invested more than \$100 million in Maryland's institutions of higher learning, with more than \$46 million being provided this year alone to help keep tuition affordable in Maryland and to make critical investments in higher education and workforce development possible across our State.

This year, the O'Malley-Brown Administration has secured more than \$266 million for Maryland's exceptional community colleges, a 3.8 percent increase that brings the three-year commitment to community colleges to over \$760 million, nearly 40 percent more than the prior administration invested in the comparable time period. In addition, the O'Malley-Brown Administration secured the largest capital investment in Maryland history for community colleges across our State, bringing the three-year investment to \$235 million, more than the prior administration's entire four-year commitment to capital projects at community colleges.

In three years, the Governor O'Malley has provided a record \$355 million for student financial assistance to help students

and families across Maryland realize their dreams of receiving a world-class higher education, including more than \$2 million in financial assistance for veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Additional Press Releases



Governor O'Malley Declares Westminster 'Capital for a Day'; Signs Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Agreement with U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack

A copy of Secretary Vilsack's letter about CREP can be found here: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/opinion/oped/bal-op.viewpoint14may14,0,2334378.story>



WESTMINSTER, MD (April 24, 2009) – Today, Governor Martin O'Malley and Maryland's Executive Cabinet spent the day in Westminster, declaring it Maryland's "Capital for a Day." The monthly program brings the State Capital to every corner of Maryland through a series of events across a diverse selection of Maryland cities, towns and communities.

"I am proud to officially proclaim Westminster Maryland's 'Capital for a Day,'" said Governor O'Malley, making his announcement at McDaniel College following an official Cabinet Meeting and presentation by local officials. "It's important, particularly during these tough times, that we work together to strengthen state and local partnerships. It's equally important for families across Maryland to know they their government is working for them – putting families first and fighting to expand the safety net for working families during these difficult economic times. Strengthening our local partnerships is absolutely critical to the progress of areas like Westminster."

Even in difficult economic times, development and progress continues in many parts of Carroll County, built on the foundation of a strong partnership with the State. Carroll County has received over \$29 million in school construction funding over the past three years, representing a 41 percent increase over school construction funding in the same time period under the previous administration. In addition, Carroll Community College received more than \$8.5 million, an increase of over eight percent over the previous administration.



"We welcome Governor O'Malley and his cabinet to Carroll County as part of his Capital for a Day initiative," Commission President Julia W. Gouge. "His visit provides us a unique opportunity to meet face to face, and talk about issues that affect Carroll County and its residents. The budget - state and local - the elements of our comprehensive plan and our commitment to develop water resources and maintain water quality will be key discussion points."

In addition to progress in education and infrastructure, the O'Malley-Brown Administration's land conservation efforts

have resulted in the acquisition of 232 acres in Carroll County using funds from the State's Program Open Space and the preservation of 534 acres of land through the Rural Legacy Program.

"It is a genuine honor and privilege to have Governor O'Malley visit Westminster and Carroll County for his 'Capital for a Day' initiative," said Westminster Mayor Tom Ferguson. "By coming to local jurisdictions, the Governor and his Cabinet gain valuable insights into local issues, and it provides local elected officials the opportunity to meet with the Governor for an open and candid discussion about our issues and concerns. This visit demonstrates the Governor's commitment to shared responsibility between the State and its local jurisdictions."



The Governor began the day with US Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack to sign a revised agreement to encourage enrollment in Maryland's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) by streamlining the program and increasing incentives. Maryland's CREP is designed to protect soil and water quality in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries by offering financial incentives to farmers and ranchers. The goal is for them to take voluntary environmental conservation actions that buffer farmland from streams and to undertake other measures to protect streams and rivers from nutrient runoff. Since the inception of CREP, Maryland farmers, ranchers and landowners have enrolled more than 74,000 acres toward a goal of 100,000 acres and removed sensitive cropland and marginal pastureland out of production. Instead of tilling these acres, they have used program incentives to plant streamside buffers, establish wetlands, protect highly erodible land and create wildlife habitat.

Following this official agreement which took place at the farm of Richard Soper, Jr. and family, Governor O'Malley continued his day in Westminster by walking through Main Street, greeting citizens and merchants along the way. The Governor stopped in to several Main Street businesses, including Coffee Music, which received \$325,000 under the Neighborhood BusinessWorks Loan Program, administered by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development. The funds were used for the acquisition and renovation of the former Mathers Department Store into a music store.



Following the Governor's walk on Main Street, he conducted an official Cabinet Meeting with members of this Executive Cabinet who had been meeting with their local counterparts throughout the day. At the Cabinet Meeting, Carroll County Commission President Julia W. Gouge and Westminster Mayor Tom Ferguson presented local challenges and opportunities for state partnership.

"Capital for a Day," a program launched by Governor O'Malley in 2007, brings the State Capital to every corner of Maryland through a series of monthly events across a diverse selection of Maryland cities, towns and communities. 2008 Capitals included Hagerstown, Chestertown, Leonardtown, the Port Towns of Prince George's County, Cumberland, Pocomoke City, Gaithersburg and Ellicott City.

Governor O'Malley Opens Maryland Swine Flu Command Center

Statewide monitoring and response system in place; no swine flu reported in Maryland as illness spreads across US

BALTIMORE, MD (April 27, 2009) – Governor Martin O'Malley announced the opening of the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's (DHMH) Swine Flu Operation Center in Baltimore today. The DHMH Office of Preparedness and Response has begun monitoring and assisting health care partners across Maryland to prepare and respond should the swine flu present a health emergency for state residents.

“We want the citizens of Maryland to know that their government is doing everything we can at this time to prepare for any contingency with regard to swine flu,” said Governor Martin O'Malley, “I want to thank our health and emergency professionals for their quick and thorough efforts as we take these precautions to protect the citizens of Maryland.”

There are no known cases or probable cases of this novel strain of swine flu in Maryland to date. All Maryland hospitals, health centers, clinics, doctors and other health care providers are now on alert with specific instructions to identify and manage accordingly, anyone who calls or visits their facilities while experiencing flu-like symptoms.

Maryland has extended the existing influenza surveillance period beyond its original end date of May 20, 2009, until further notice. Any health care provider with a suspected case of flu is requested to contact their local health department and submit samples to the State Public Health Laboratory for testing on all cases of flu-like illness that fit the appropriate characteristics.



“Just as we've planned and practiced for years, we are taking the necessary precautions to be ready if and when swine flu comes to Maryland,” said John M. Colmers, DHMH secretary. “We want to emphasize that the greatest tool for combating this serious health threat is the common sense approach anyone can take, such as washing your hands frequently and covering your mouth when you cough.”

As with any other seasonal flu, Marylanders should be advised to exercise precautionary measures to avoid becoming ill or spreading an illness to others.

For more information on swine flu Marylanders can go to: <http://www.dhmh.state.md.us/> or <http://www.maryland.gov/>

The Common Sense Swine Flu Checklist

IF YOU HAVE FLU-LIKE ILLNESS INCLUDING:

Fever greater than or equal to 100°F (37.8°C)

AND

Cough

OR

Sore throat

AND**History of TRAVEL to an AFFECTED AREA within 7 days of illness onset****OR****CONTACT WITH AN ILL PERSON fitting the travel description above WITHIN 7 DAYS of illness onset****THEN****Stay Home and CALL your Doctor**

IF no link to *affected areas* or *travelers from affected areas*, but you are mildly sick with flu-like symptoms – STAY HOME and recover, unless you have the following worrisome **WARNING SIGNS**:

For Children:

Emergency warning signs that need urgent medical attention include:

- Fast breathing or trouble breathing
- Bluish skin color
- Not drinking enough fluids
- Not waking up or not interacting
- Being so irritable that the child does not want to be held
- Flu-like symptoms improve but then return with fever and worse cough
- Fever with a rash

For Adults:

Emergency warning signs that need urgent medical attention include:

- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- Pain or pressure in the chest or abdomen
- Sudden dizziness
- Confusion
- Severe or persistent vomiting

Common Sense Precautions Include:

- Wash your hands often, especially after coughing, sneezing, and wiping or blowing the nose.
- Cover your mouth when coughing or sneezing.
- Use paper tissues when wiping or blowing your nose; throw tissues away after each use.
- Stay away from crowded living and sleeping spaces, if possible.

Stay home and avoid contact with other people to protect them from catching your illness.

For more information on swine flu Marylanders can go to: <http://www.dhmh.state.md.us/> or <http://www.maryland.gov/>

Governor O'Malley Appoints Buddy Hance as Secretary to the Maryland Department of Agriculture

Roger Richardson retires after decades of service to Maryland agriculture

ANNAPOLIS, MD (April 28, 2009) – Governor Martin O'Malley today announced the appointment of Deputy Secretary Earl "Buddy" Hance as Secretary to the Department of Agriculture, and thanked Roger Richardson for his dedicated service to the State of Maryland, and his work in the agricultural community. Roger Richardson, 75, today announced that he would retire to travel and to spend more time with his family. His last day is May 5.

"I want to thank Secretary Richardson for his service to the State of Maryland and to the agricultural community," said Governor O'Malley. "Secretary Richardson is a lifelong farmer, has served in numerous capacities in Maryland's agricultural community, and has been instrumental in working together with the environmental community to help build a sustainable future for Maryland."

Governor O'Malley added, "I am also proud to appoint Deputy Secretary Buddy Hance as Secretary to oversee Maryland's department of Agriculture. Buddy is highly respected in both the environmental and agricultural communities and I am confident that he will continue the work that Secretary Richardson has done to build our vision for a smarter, greener, more sustainable State, while protecting our family owned farms, and Maryland's rich agricultural heritage."

Under Secretary Richardson's leadership over the last two years, the Department of Agriculture has:

- Expanded consumer demand for and sales of locally-grown products here in Maryland at farmers markets, grocery stores, restaurants, schools and other outlets;
- Helped farmers reach new markets around the nation and the world, with an international focus on South Korea, the Philippines, Cuba and Russia;
- Increased participation among farmers in cover crops and other soil and water quality best management conservation programs;
- Oversaw the increase in compliance with the nutrient management law by farmers to 98 percent; and
- Together with farmers and local governments, permanently preserved over 25,000 acres of agricultural land for farming.

A fourth generation Southern Maryland farmer, Earl F. Hance was selected as deputy secretary of the Maryland Department of Agriculture in February 2007. Prior to this appointment, he served most recently as president of the Maryland Farm Bureau, chairman of the Maryland State Tobacco Authority, and as chairman of the Southern Maryland Agricultural Commission among other farm and community activities.

Hance also was active in numerous local, state, and national farm and civic organizations. At the national level, he represented the Northeastern states on the American Farm Bureau Federation and is a member of the Nationwide Insurance Company Board Council. In Maryland, he served as a member of the Rural Maryland Council, the Patuxent River Commission, the Southern Maryland Tourism Council, the Maryland State Tobacco Authority, the Calvert Farmland Trust, the Board of the Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum and the Board of the Calvert County Farm Bureau. He continues to serve the Prince Frederick Volunteer Fire Department.

A former tobacco farmer, Deputy Secretary Hance and his family farm 400 acres of corn and soybeans and operate several commercial greenhouses. Buddy and his wife Robin live in Port Republic, Calvert County and have three children.

Secretary Richardson is a life-long farmer from Worcester County. His family farms 3,500 acres of grain on the Lower Eastern Shore and operates a trucking company. He has a long history of leadership positions in agriculture. Before accepting the job of Agriculture Secretary, he served in a variety of positions including, director of the Maryland Center for Agro-Ecology; director of the American Corn Growers Association; member and now chairman of the Maryland Department of Agriculture's Board of Review; President of the Snow Hill Grain Co-op; member serving two terms on the Worcester County Farmland Preservation Committee; and member and former president of the Worcester County Farm Bureau. He has also served on the Maryland Farm Service Agency, Maryland Agriculture Stabilization Committee, the Worcester County Soil Conservation District, and the Agricultural Stewardship Commission in 2006.

He married Fay Pusey in 1954 and they have two daughters, six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. He currently farms with a brother-in-law and a grandson.

Additional Press Releases



Governor Martin O'Malley, Senator Barbara Mikulski Announce Recovery Act Funding to Improve Public Safety

WASHINGTON, DC (April 28, 2009) –Governor Martin O'Malley and U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski jointly praised the announcement today of more than \$26.5 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding through the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program (BJAG) at the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). This formula program allows states and local governments to support a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime and to improve the criminal justice system.

“The most solemn obligation we have as public servants is to protect the families of our State,” said Governor O'Malley. “Senator Mikulski and our federal delegation fight everyday for resources that will help and expand our ability to improve public safety in every neighborhood of our state. In Maryland, we will put these recovery dollars to use immediately to support the hiring of new police officers, monitor juvenile offenders and track and analyze gang activity.”

“Our state and local law enforcement work around the clock to keep violent crime in check and our children and communities safe. Congress has a responsibility to make sure they're not walking a thin blue line when it comes to funding and resources,” Senator Mikulski said. “That's why I fought to include this funding in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. This funding means more cops on the beat to protect the public. As Chairwoman of the CJS Appropriations Subcommittee, I am committed to giving law enforcement the tools they need to clean up the streets and protect our families.”

The funds announced today were allocated as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, passed just 27 days into President Obama's term. As Chairwoman of the Senate Commerce, Justice and Science (CJS) Appropriations Subcommittee, Senator Mikulski was responsible for securing this portion of federal funding in the final American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. BJAG funding is fast, flexible and effective in helping states address emerging crime problems.

In Maryland, the funds will be used for critical public safety projects, including:

- *Live Scan Fingerprint Machines:* Over 12,400 inked fingerprint cards were manually scanned into the state fingerprint database, due to lack of available technology in many local agencies. Live Scan fingerprint machines will make it possible to electronically transmit arrestees' fingerprints to the Central Repository to quickly establish identity, often within 20 minutes.
- *Kiosks for the Division of Parole & Probation:* Kiosks are stand-alone structures strategically placed in our communities where they are easily accessible to non-violent low risk offenders.
- *Gang Intelligence Analyst:* Gathering, analyzing and sharing intelligence information is crucial to combating prison gangs and the impact they have in our communities.
- *MEMEX Gang Program:* To help combat the narcotics trafficking, witness intimidation and other criminal activity engaged in by gangs, the Maryland State Police will use funding to establish a gang database at the Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center. This information sharing tool will enable law enforcement agencies throughout Maryland more effectively manage and coordinate cases and facilitate data integration among agencies.
- *E-TIX:* Electronic Ticket Information Exchange (E-TIX) allows police officers to issue traffic citations and warnings electronically. It enhances efficiency and improves officer safety.
- *GPS Monitoring:* Funding will be used to enable the Department of Juvenile Services to place additional youth under GPS monitoring for their own safety and for the safety of our citizens and communities.

- *Warrant Service:* Funds will be used to help law enforcement agencies in Maryland pursue wanted offenders to remove potentially violent criminals from the streets.
- *Law Enforcement Technology:* Law enforcement agencies will have the ability to purchase things such as License Plate Recognition systems; mobile fingerprint readers (Fast ID); closed circuit television systems; laboratory equipment and enhancements, including improvements in crime scene evidence collection and DNA improvements.
- *Law enforcement overtime:* Since protecting the public safety never stops, even during difficult economic times, these grants are designed to support local government and local law enforcement agencies. This overtime grant supports local budgets, gets violent offenders off the street and puts money in the pockets of our first responders.
- *Police hiring:* State and local law enforcement agencies are eligible to apply directly to DOJ's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) for funding to support the hiring of full time sworn police officers. In Maryland, BJAG funding will supplement costs of new hires not covered by the COPS program, and will help train and equip officers hired with COPS grants.

Additional Press Releases



Governor O'Malley Announces Federal, State and Local Support for Foreclosure Prevention

Governor holds roundtable discussion with counselors and homeowners on foreclosure prevention initiatives

ANNAPOLIS, MD (April 29, 2009) – Today, Governor Martin O'Malley joined housing counselors, pro-bono attorneys and homeowners from Prince George's County to announce the latest federal, state and local funding awards totaling more than \$2.5 million to help prevent foreclosures in Maryland.

"Housing counselors are the first line of defense for homeowners threatened with foreclosure," said Governor O'Malley. "These funds will support and strengthen these efforts, protecting families throughout Maryland and supporting their efforts to avoid foreclosure. These awards recognize the hard work of these counselors and are symbolic of our appreciation for their public service."



The Governor's roundtable discussion was made at the New Chapel Baptist Church, which is affiliated with KAIROS Community Development Corporation, an agency providing foreclosure prevention counseling. Governor O'Malley was joined by Harold Davis, Executive Director of the KAIROS Community Development Corporation and Reverend Kerry Hill, President of the Collective Banking Group.

"We are so grateful for the Governor's support of this effort," said Reverend Hill. "When we began this crisis it was all about subprime lending. As this crisis has grown, we see people losing jobs and everything completely unraveling in their lives as they struggle with multiple challenges. I am very worried about the seniors in our community and the families that are over extended and now owe more than their houses are worth."

The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) supports a statewide network of 30 nonprofit housing counseling agencies and 2 nonprofit legal services providers as part of its Home Ownership Preserving Equity (HOPE) initiative.

The Governor's announcement includes nearly \$1.8 million of federal National Foreclosure Mitigation Counseling (NFMC) - NeighborWorks funds and \$500,000 from the State of Maryland. In addition, during the roundtable discussion, DHCD Secretary Raymond A. Skinner highlighted \$240,000 in matching funds from Montgomery County for housing counseling agencies operating in that County.



"Maryland's housing counseling community has been an important partner in this

fight to combat foreclosures,” said Secretary Skinner. “Not only do they continue to fulfill their traditional role in providing financial and mortgage guidance, but they have advocating mightily for the better part of two years on behalf on thousands of families who are threatened with losing their homes. Their work is greatly appreciated.”

Thirty non-profit housing counseling agencies statewide and two legal service providers will share in the NFMC funds. Of those, nine including Belair-Edison Neighborhood, St. Ambrose Housing Aid Center, Druid Heights CDC, Home Free USA, Housing Initiative Partnership (HIP), Kairos CDC and Sowing Empowerment & Economic Development (SEED) and statewide legal services organizations Civil Justice Network and the Pro Bono Resource Center, will receive additional funds from the State’s \$500,000 contribution.

Overall, the State has distributed more than \$5.5 million in assistance since the summer of 2007. The counseling network has assisted nearly 23,000 consumers and helped more than 6,800 homeowners avoid foreclosure. Through a statewide Foreclosure Prevention Pro Bono Project, more than 700 lawyers have volunteered their time to help distressed homeowners in need of legal assistance. The State of Maryland’s “Mortgage Late? Don’t Wait!” campaign has brought thousands of Marylanders to the HOPE Hotline, 1-877-462-7555 and the HOPE Web Site, www.mdhope.org.

In November, Governor O’Malley announced agreements with six mortgage servicing companies to create a streamlined and transparent loss mitigation process for distressed Maryland homeowners. Together, these companies service 23 percent of home loans in Maryland. The agreements are part of the O’Malley-Brown Administration’s comprehensive efforts to combat what has become the worst housing crisis the nation has seen since the Great Depression. Last year Governor O’Malley signed into law a legislative package that *The Washington Post* called “among the most sweeping in the country” to help keep families in their homes. The package included legislation that:

- Lengthened the foreclosure process to approximately 150 days, providing homeowners with more time and notice before a foreclosure sale;
- Made mortgage fraud a crime for anyone involved in the mortgage transaction and cracked down on foreclosure rescue scams;
- Reformed lending practices by banning pre-payment penalties on mortgage loans, requiring lenders to verify a borrower’s ability to repay a loan and strengthening the licensing requirements for mortgage professionals.

This announcement comes on the heels of DHCD's release of the first quarter 2009 foreclosure report. The report shows 9,289 property foreclosures in Maryland during the first quarter of 2009 which is a reduction of 7.5% from the previous quarter and a decline of 18.5 % from the same time a year ago. Total foreclosure filings in Maryland posted the second lowest number since the first quarter of 2008 when the State's foreclosure prevention legislation went into effect. To view the report, log on to www.mdhope.org.

Additional Press Releases



Six "Probable" Swine Flu Cases in Maryland

Samples sent to Centers for Disease Control (CDC) for further testing

BALTIMORE, MD (April 29, 2009) - Governor Martin O'Malley and the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) announced today that six "probable" swine flu cases have been identified in Maryland and sent to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) for testing. The samples have been tested by the State Public Health Laboratories at DHMH and have been identified as influenza but require further testing for confirmation by the CDC.

The definition of a "probable" swine flu case is an individual with flu-like symptoms who has a recent history of travel to an area affected by swine flu or contact with another person who has.

"The State of Maryland is doing everything it can at this time to prepare for and respond to any circumstance that arises regarding swine flu," said Governor Martin O'Malley. "Our health officials have trained for this and we have established a command center for exactly this purpose. This is not a time for alarm, but rather heightened awareness and care for our families, ourselves and each other."

Of the six cases, three are from Anne Arundel County. They are members of the same family with no history of foreign travel, although a family member did recently return from an affected area. The other 3 cases are from Baltimore County. They include two members of the same family, one of whom recently returned from travel to an affected area. The third case is a Baltimore County resident who recently traveled out of Maryland to a place that is not considered an affected area.

All patients are recovering from their illness and none have been hospitalized. Due to confidentiality considerations, no further information about the patients will be released.

"This development is what we have expected and prepared for since news of the H1N1 swine flu broke last week," said DHMH Secretary John M. Colmers. "Governor Martin O'Malley asked DHMH to set up our command center on Monday and as a result, we are working together with local health officials and health care providers in every corner of the state to detect and respond rapidly to this serious health care concern."

As with any other seasonal flu, Marylanders are being advised to exercise precautionary measures to avoid becoming ill or spreading an illness to others.

For more information on swine flu Marylanders can go to: www.swineflu.maryland.gov

Additional Press Releases



Governor Martin O'Malley Announces Swine Flu Medical Advisory Board

Six leaders in the medical community to advise Governor, DHMH on necessary actions

ANNAPOLIS, MD (April 30, 2009) – Governor Martin O'Malley today named six individuals to an advisory board to advise him and the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene on issues related to swine flu in Maryland. The advisory board has already provided advice and recommendations as the state deals with six “probable” cases swine flu. Further testing is now being done by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

“The members of this advisory board represent some of the best minds in medicine, infectious disease and pediatrics and have already provided invaluable advice and guidance,” said Governor O'Malley. “While we making every preparation we can as a state, the decisions ahead may broadly impact the lives of all Marylanders, and each member of this advisory board brings the scientific, clinical and academic guidance that will be immensely valuable in this decision-making process. We fully expect to see more cases of swine flu in Maryland, and will continue to provide the public with the latest information possible.”

The Governor appointed Drs. John G. Bartlett, Frank M. Calia, Thomas V. Inglesby, James P. Nataro, Ina Stephens and Ivan C.A. Walks to the advisory board, who have been working closely with the Governor and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene for the past several days.

Dr. Bartlett is a Professor of Medicine in the division of the Johns Hopkins University School Medicine. He previously served for 26 years as chief of the Infectious Disease Division at the school. He has worked in several areas of research, all related to his specialty in infectious diseases. His major interests at Hopkins have been HIV/AIDS, managed care of patients with HIV infection, and bioterrorism. In 2005, Dr. Bartlett was awarded the Infectious Diseases Society of America Alexander Fleming Award and the Finland Award from the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases. He has authored more than 500 articles and reviews.

Dr. Calia is chairman of the Department of Medicine at the University of Maryland School of Medicine and professor emeritus of Medicine and Microbiology and Immunology at the School of Medicine. He also served as chief of Medical Services at the Baltimore VA Medical Center. He has contributed to 10 books and over 50 publications in refereed journals and serves as a reviewer for a number of professional medical journals. Dr. Calia's major interests are in infectious diseases, bacterial diarrhea, staphylococcal infections, vibrio infections and clinical pharmacology.

Dr. Inglesby is the Chief Operating Officer and Deputy Director for the Baltimore-based Center for Biosecurity of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. Board-certified in infectious diseases, he also is associate professor of Medicine and Public Health at the University of Pittsburgh Schools of Medicine and Public Health. He was one of the founding members of the Johns Hopkins Center for Civilian Biodefense Strategies, where he was Deputy Director from 1999-2003. Dr. Inglesby was a principal designer, author and controller of the widely-recognized *Atlantic Storm* exercise of 2005 and of the *Dark Winter* smallpox exercise of 2001.

Dr. Nataro is a board-certified practitioner in pediatrics and pediatric infectious diseases. He serves as professor of Pediatrics, Medicine and Microbiology, and Immunology at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. He also is the Associate Director of the Center for Vaccine Development, Vice Chair of the Department of Pediatrics, and head of the Division of Infectious Diseases and Tropical Pediatrics. His research focuses on vaccine development and rapid molecular diagnostic techniques for infectious diseases, including detection of respiratory viruses.

Dr. Stephens is assistant professor of Pediatric Infectious Diseases and General Pediatrics, and Associate Program

Director of Pediatrics at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. She also serves as program director of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Fellowship at the School of Medicine. She is board-certified in Pediatrics and Pediatric Infectious Diseases. Dr. Stephens is principal investigator in an ongoing research project for an open-label study of intramuscular inactivated influenza a/H5N1 vaccine in health children aged two years to 10 years.

Dr. Walks is the CEO and President of Ivan Walks and Associates in Montgomery County, a firm that counts among its many accomplishments disaster preparedness training in jurisdictions across the nation. He is a former Chief Health Officer for the District of Columbia and was the Director of the Department of Public Health for the District. Dr. Walks was instrumental in establishing a District-wide health policy, and was instrumental in developing proactive programs and interventions that resulted in a twenty percent drop in infant mortality, the lowest rate and unprecedented reduction in the District's history.

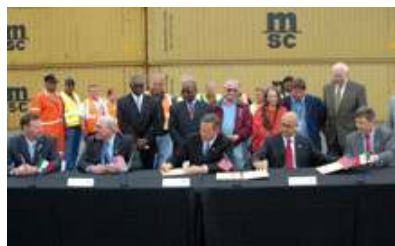
For more information on the swine flu in Maryland and the latest updates, please visit www.maryland.gov

Additional Press Releases



Governor O'Malley and Port of Baltimore Sign New Agreement Keeping Jobs in Maryland

Six-year extension with leading international shipping company will protect hundreds of Maryland jobs



BALTIMORE, MD (April 30, 2009) –Governor Martin O’Malley today joined officials of Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC) to sign a six-year extension of the current contract between the Port of Baltimore and the Geneva-based international container shipping giant. The deal maintains 628 direct jobs and the continued shipment of MSC containerized cargo through the Port of Baltimore.

“In these difficult economic times, I am very pleased to receive an extended commitment from one of the top container shipping companies in the world,” said Governor O’Malley. “This extension keeps good-paying, family-supporting jobs at the economic engine that is the Port of Baltimore. Maryland is proud to be signing the third long-term contract in a year when many ports are facing much harder times.”

The new agreement extends the current contract with MSC, the Port’s top container shipping company, to December 31, 2014. The extension requires MSC to bring a minimum of 100,000 containers annually to the Port – three times the amount the original 10-year contract required.

“We are very happy to secure MSC, our top container customer, for another six years,” said Maryland Port Administration (MPA) Executive Director James J. White. “This extension amends the original contract and requires MSC to bring more business to this Port for the next several years.”

In addition to maintaining the 628 jobs, the agreement also will retain about \$25 million in wages and salaries and \$14 million in state and local taxes as a result of keeping MSC at the Port of Baltimore.



MSC began a weekly service to Baltimore in 1988. In 1988, about 4,500 containers were brought to the Port of Baltimore on MSC vessels. By 2008, that number increased 30 fold to more than 136,000 containers. MSC also was the first container shipping company to work out of the Seagirt Marine Terminal after it opened in 1990.

“At this time of great uncertainty in the global economy it’s refreshing that the relationship between Mediterranean Shipping Company and the Maryland Port Administration is stable and based on mutual respect and cooperation,” said Captain Nicola Arena, chairman of the board and chief executive officer for MSC. “We look forward to many more years at the Port of Baltimore.”

In addition to the MSC contract, the Port of Baltimore has signed long-term, 10-year contracts with Taiwan-based container company Evergreen Marine Corporation and Finland-based paper manufacturer UPM within the last year. Earlier this week, the Port also kicked off the first of its record 79 cruises in 2009, including the first year-round cruising program.



The Port of Baltimore employs about 16,500 workers. Out of about 360 U.S. ports, Baltimore is ranked number one for handling roll on/roll off cargo; trucks; imported forest products; and imported gypsum, sugar and iron ore. The Port of Baltimore is ranked 14th nationally for total foreign cargo tonnage and 12th for total dollar value of cargo. In 2006, the Port was responsible for \$3.6 billion in personal wage and salary income. Activities at the Port of Baltimore generated \$388 million in state and local taxes.

As a result of its outstanding work to increase U.S. exports, the Maryland Port Administration (MPA) which oversees the public terminals at the Port of Baltimore, was honored in 2007 with the Presidential "E" award. The award was created in 1961 to recognize persons, firms, or organizations that contribute significantly to increase U.S. exports. The MPA was awarded this special distinction for its increased export business over the last several years. The MPA, which also won the "E" award in 1964, is only the 23rd port organization out of 361 total ports in the U.S. to win the highly acclaimed recognition. It is only the fourth port to win the award twice

Additional Press Releases



Governor O'Malley Appoints Four Trial Court Judges

Appointments made to the Baltimore County, Charles County, and Montgomery County Circuit Courts, and the Charles County District Court

ANNAPOLIS, MD (April 30, 2009) –Governor O'Malley today announced the appointments of four judicial appointments to the Circuit Courts for Baltimore, Montgomery and Charles County, and the District Court for Charles County. Governor O'Malley appointed Sherrie R. Bailey to the Circuit Court for Baltimore County; Cynthia Callahan to the Circuit Court for Montgomery County; the Honorable Helen I. Harrington to the Circuit Court for Charles County; and Kenneth A. Talley to the District Court for Charles County.

“I am proud to appoint such a highly qualified and diverse group of candidates to serve in courts across our State,” said Governor O'Malley. “Sherrie Bailey, Cynthia Callahan, Helen Harrington, and Kenneth Talley possess the leadership skills, work ethic, sound judgment, and legal expertise necessary to be excellent judges. I am confident that they will ensure that our laws are upheld, while treating each party who comes before them with dignity and respect.”

Sherrie R. Bailey, an Assistant Public Defender and former prosecutor, will fill a vacancy on the Circuit Court for Baltimore County created by the retirement of the Honorable Dana M. Levitz. Ms. Bailey has dedicated her career to public service. Since 2006, she has been an Assistant Public Defender in Baltimore County, where she represents indigent clients in felony cases. Prior to joining the Public Defender's Office, Ms. Bailey served for 22 years as an Assistant State's Attorney for Baltimore City. Among other duties, she was the Chief of the office's District Court Division. She has extensive experience in felony trial work, including homicide, rape, and narcotics cases.

Ms. Bailey is a trustee of St. Mary's College of Maryland, and a past president of the college's Alumni Council. She is a member of the Baltimore County Bar Association and the Maryland State Bar Association. She graduated from the Notre Dame Law School.

Cynthia Callahan, an attorney specializing in family law, will fill a vacancy on the Circuit Court for Montgomery County created by the retirement of the Honorable William J. Rowan, III. Ms. Callahan has practiced law for over 25 years. Since 1999, she has been a partner at the Rockville-based law firm of Dragga, Callahan, Hannon, Hessler & Wills, LLP. In addition to trying cases, she has served as a guardian *ad litem* for children and persons with disabilities, and as a mediator and arbitrator. Prior to practicing family law, Ms. Callahan was a litigation associate with Donovan & Nash, where she handled cases involving workers' compensation, medical malpractice, and criminal defense.

Ms. Callahan is active in several bar associations and has received awards for her commitment to community service. She has served on the Pro Bono Committee of the Montgomery County Bar Association, and she received the Maryland Governor's Volunteer Service Award and the Marriott Spirit to Serve Award in 2006. Ms. Callahan graduated from the Columbus School of Law of the Catholic University of America.

Helen I. Harrington, a Domestic Relations Master, will fill a vacancy on the Circuit Court for Charles County created by the retirement of the Honorable Christopher C. Henderson. Ms. Harrington was appointed as Charles County's first Domestic Relations Master in 1992. In this capacity, she has presided over divorce, child custody, visitation, marital property, alimony, and child support cases. Prior to her appointment, Master Harrington was an Assistant State's Attorney for Charles County. In addition, she spent several years as an attorney in private practice, concentrating in business law, criminal cases, and regulatory matters.

Master Harrington is a past president of the Charles County Bar Association. She received the Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service Partnership Award in 2000. She has volunteered for numerous community organizations and served on the Board of the Children's Aid Society of Charles County. Master Harrington graduated from the Georgetown University Law Center.

Kenneth Talley, an Assistant State's Attorney, will fill a vacancy on the District Court for Charles County created by the retirement of the Honorable Richard A. Cooper. Mr. Talley has had a diverse legal career in both public service and private practice. Most recently, he has been an Assistant State's Attorney for Charles County, handling major felony cases and District Court prosecutions. For five years, Mr. Talley was an Assistant Public Defender for the Charles County Public Defender's Office, where he handled juvenile and felony cases. He received an Assistant Public Defender of the Year Award in 2001. For several years, Mr. Talley was in private practice handling a variety of matters, including criminal defense, family law cases, and landlord-tenant litigation.

Mr. Talley is active in community service and the Charles County Bar Association. He is a past secretary of the bar association, and he received an Award for Outstanding Service to the Charles County Teen Court Program. Mr. Talley graduated from the University of Maryland School of Law, and he clerked for the Honorable Herman C. Dawson of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County.

The appointees were nominated by the Trial Courts Judicial Nominating Commissions. More information on the nominating commissions established by Governor O'Malley can be found at <http://www.gov.state.md.us/executiveorders/01.01.2008.04eo.pdf>.

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