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HEADLINE: Hrabowski tells Duncan `no';
UMBC chief's name floated as potential No. 2 on Democrat's ticket

BYLINE: JENNIFER SKALKA, SUN REPORTER

BODY:

A potential candidate for lieutenant governor floated by Montgomery County Executive Douglas M. Duncan's campaign last week said yesterday that he is not interested in the job.

Freeman Hrabowski, president of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, told colleagues in an e-mail yesterday that was obtained by The Sun that he is excited about the work he does at the college.

"I have no interest in elected public office," Hrabowski wrote. "As I often say, it is an honor to be president of UMBC."

Hrabowski is the second person mentioned by the Duncan campaign to deny interest in running with him. Baltimore City Councilman Keiffer J. Mitchell Jr. said last week that he had no idea he was being considered by Duncan. "The mayor and I are very good friends," Mitchell said.

Neither Mitchell nor Hrabowski could be reached yesterday.

State Sen. Gwendolyn T. Britt, a Prince George's Democrat, is still on Duncan's short list.

Sources close to the campaign said Duncan is also considering state Sen. Joan Carter Conway of Baltimore and Joan M. Pratt, the city's comptroller, among others.

Duncan spokeswoman Jodi Couser said Duncan has "undertaken an extensive and exhaustive process," talking with labor, political, business and faith leaders. She said he will announce his running mate before the General Assembly session begins next month.

Couser expressed regret about Hrabowski. "Dr. Hrabowski is a tremendous educator and true leader," she said. "If Dr. Hrabowski had been interested, Doug would have definitely seriously considered him."

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Del. Anthony G. Brown, a Prince George's Democrat and Harvard-educated attorney who served in Iraq, has emerged as O'Malley's top pick. A source close to the mayor's selection process said he also considered Rockville Mayor Larry Giammo, Montgomery County Councilman Tom Perez and Ocean City Mayor Jim Mathias, a Hampden native.

Anne Arundel County Executive Janet S. Owens also was a contender, among others.

O'Malley's announcement is expected this month.

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