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## Statement from Governor Martin O'Malley Congratulating The Baltimore Ravens

ANNAPOLIS, MD (January 5, 2009) – Governor Martin O'Malley issued the following statement today congratulating Coach John Harbaugh on their decisive victory over the Miami Dolphins and wishing them luck on their next playoff game against the Tennessee Titans.

*"I want to congratulate Coach Harbaugh and the entire Ravens organization on soundly defeating the Miami Dolphins in the first round of the playoffs. This victory not only allows the team to advance to the next round, but it also secures the Ravens' position among the NFL's best teams as they continue their pursuit for a championship.*

*"Best of luck to Joe Flacco, Ray Lewis, Ed Reed, and the entire team as they roll to victory in Tennessee on Saturday. Go Ravens!"*

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## Governor O'Malley Helps Open Newly Renovated Recovery Center in Baltimore

*The Baltimore Station has undergone a \$4.4 million renovation project to expand its services*

**BALTIMORE, MD (January 6, 2009)** – Governor Martin O'Malley joined state, local, and nonprofit leaders in a ribbon cutting ceremony today at The Baltimore Station, a center that provides a therapeutic residential recovery program to help men in Baltimore, most of which are veterans of U.S. wars, transition from substance abuse, homelessness and economic dependency to self-sufficient, productive lives. Also participating in the ribbon cutting were Baltimore City Council President Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Brigadier General James Adkins of the Maryland Veteran's Administration, Secretary Raymond Skinner of the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, and Shale Stiller of The Weinberg Foundation.

“Far too often, our veterans in need return to a nation unable or unwilling to provide the services they require and as a result, some of them end up homeless or addicted,” said Governor O'Malley. “Veterans constitute eighty percent of The Baltimore Station's residency, and this expansion allows these valuable services to reach even more. The residents of this unique program and the people of Maryland owe The Baltimore Station a tremendous debt of gratitude.”

According to the Baltimore Homeless Census, there are between 3,000 and 4,000 people who are homeless in Baltimore on any given night. It is estimated that addiction is the root cause of homelessness for up to 80 percent of homeless men in Baltimore. The Baltimore Station serves this demand with two locations, in Seton Hill and Sharp-Leadenhall neighborhoods, with a capacity to serve over 130 residents between both locations.

“The Baltimore Station is grateful to its many funding partners who have come together to make this expansion project happen on time and on budget,” said Michael V. Seipp, Executive Director of The Baltimore Station. “Funds from federal, state, and city governments, along with many individuals, foundations and corporations, have allowed The Baltimore Station to continue providing our successful therapeutic residential community, life-skills training, and access to health care, education, vocational rehabilitation and employment to existing residents and now, an additional 42 veterans who are homeless due their addictions.”

The South Baltimore Station expansion project included the rehabilitation of the existing structure, a former fire house, and the new construction of a three-story addition. The expansion accommodates 92 beds, including 76 beds within two dormitory areas and 16 beds in four smaller suite-style bedrooms. Funding for the expansion project came from the Veterans Administration, Baltimore City Homeless Services, local, state and federal grants, community organizations, businesses, faith organizations, special events, individual contributions, and private foundations.

The recovery-oriented program is for men who have become homeless largely due to a history of chronic substance abuse and addiction. Supportive services stress personal responsibility for residents' life and behavior and implement life skills. Residents can stay up to 24 months. The project targets veterans of military service, with at least 75 percent of the

residents being honorably discharged military veterans.

The O'Malley-Brown Administration has made real and steady progress for our servicemen and servicewomen and helped ease the transition for our returning veterans. Initiatives include those focusing on behavioral health services for Maryland veterans, disability benefits and compensation claims, veterans' scholarships, and reintegration services.

In addition, the O'Malley-Brown Administration has championed a number of initiatives aimed at helping Maryland's most vulnerable citizens, including the creation of the Maryland State Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council as part of a comprehensive strategy to coordinate substance abuse prevention, intervention, and treatment services, and improve the criminal justice and correctional systems' links to these services. In addition, Governor O'Malley provided funding for the expansion of residential treatment services for juvenile offenders, and created a statewide Buprenorphine initiative for the treatment of heroin addiction.

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## Governor O'Malley Urges Marylanders to Donate Blood

**ANNAPOLIS, MD (January 6, 2009)** – Since 1970, January has been recognized as National Blood Donor Month. To help ensure an adequate blood supply, Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley is joining forces with the American Red Cross, Greater Chesapeake and Potomac Blood Services Region and the American Association of Blood Banks to stress the importance of donating blood. The Governor urges all eligible blood donors to call 1-800-GIVE LIFE (1-800-448-3543) right away to schedule a blood donation appointment.

“Particularly following the holiday season, when donations typically decline, it is important to make blood donation a habit,” states Governor O'Malley. “It is our civic responsibility to ensure that our friends, neighbors, and even ourselves and members of our own families can rely on a stable blood supply should they require a transfusion. There is no such thing as a spare Marylander, and therefore all Marylanders are encouraged to learn more about giving blood and schedule a donation appointment by calling 1-800-GIVE LIFE.”

Every two seconds, someone needs blood. Each day, patients across the country receive approximately 39,000 units of this lifesaving resource. This year alone, as many as five million patients will require blood transfusions, as accident victims, people undergoing surgery, and patients receiving treatment for leukemia, cancer and other diseases. According to Gary J. Ouellette, Chief Executive Officer for the GC&P Region, “If everyone who was eligible donated blood regularly – about 3 to 4 times a year – blood needs could be met and we could make blood shortages a thing of the past.”

The Red Cross urges all community members who are eligible to give blood to donate as soon and as frequently as possible. Call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE (1-800-448-3543) and schedule an appointment to donate blood today and save a life. Platelet donors may call 1-800-272-2123.

### WHO CAN GIVE BLOOD?

The Red Cross advises the community that the demand for blood remains constant and donors are needed every day to maintain a safe and sufficient blood supply. The American Red Cross asks local donors to commit to donating regularly to help stabilize the blood supply for the area.

Donors must:

- Be in generally good health;
- Be at least 17 years of age, or, in the states of Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia; 16 years of age with parental consent
- Weigh no less than 110 pounds;
- Have NOT received a tattoo within the past year;
- Have NOT donated whole blood within the past 56 days.

Members of the community are asked to call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE immediately to schedule an appointment to donate at any American Red Cross Donor Center or community blood drive. Information about Regional Blood Donor Centers or community blood drive locations and times can be found at [www.my-redcross.org](http://www.my-redcross.org). Business and community groups interested in hosting blood drives may call 1-800-787-9282, ex. 4925 for more information.

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## Governor O'Malley Appoints Paula A. Price to the District Court for Somerset County

**ANNAPOLIS, MD (January 7, 2009)** – Governor Martin O'Malley announced today the appointment of Paula A. Price to the District Court for Somerset County. Ms. Price will fill a vacancy on the court created by the retirement of the Honorable R. Patrick Hayman.

“Paula Price will be an outstanding judge on the District Court for Somerset County,” said Governor O'Malley. “Ms. Price is an exceptionally skilled and hard-working attorney who is dedicated to serving the community.”

Ms. Price has practiced law in Salisbury, Maryland for over 16 years. Most recently, she has been a solo practitioner concentrating in civil litigation. She has extensive experience representing clients in a wide variety of areas, including estate planning, family law, guardianship cases, criminal matters, landlord-tenant disputes, real estate transactions, mental health law, mediation, and administrative hearings. Ms. Price has served as a facilitator for domestic cases in the Circuit Courts for Somerset and Wicomico Counties. She also has served as a Court Auditor for Wicomico County.

Ms. Price is a past president of the Wicomico County Bar Association and the Eastern Shore Chapter of the Women's Bar Association. She has served on the boards of many community organizations, including the Wicomico County Free Library and the Salisbury Food Bank. In 2004, she received a certificate of appreciation from the Women's Business Roundtable.

Ms. Price graduated from the University of Baltimore School of Law. She has given numerous presentations at community programs on family law, business formation, and estate planning.

Ms. Price was appointed from among nominees selected by the Trial Courts Judicial Nominating Commission for District 1. 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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## Governor O'Malley Selects Richard E. Jordan to Fill Upcoming Vacancy on the Montgomery County Circuit Court

**ANNAPOLIS, MD (January 7, 2009)** – Governor O'Malley announced today the selection of Richard E. "Rick" Jordan to fill an upcoming vacancy on the Circuit Court for Montgomery County. Mr. Jordan will fill a vacancy created by the retirement this February of the Honorable S. Michael Pincus. Judge Pincus announced in November that he will retire effective February 25, 2009.

"I am proud to appoint Rick Jordan to serve on the Montgomery County Circuit Court," said Governor O'Malley. "Mr. Jordan has the intellect, integrity, dedication, and compassion necessary to be an excellent judge. I also would like to thank Judge Pincus for his valuable contributions to the Maryland judiciary and the people of Montgomery County. Judge Pincus should be commended for his many years of distinguished service on the Montgomery County bench."

Mr. Jordan has been a trial attorney for over 30 years, and he is currently a partner at the law firm of Hamilton and Hamilton, LLP. Mr. Jordan specializes in personal injury cases, but he also has represented individual and corporate clients in a wide variety of matters, including business disputes, employment claims, and trusts and estates. Earlier in his career, Mr. Jordan was a prosecutor for the Office of the State's Attorney for Montgomery County. He prosecuted criminal and juvenile cases in the District and Circuit Courts for Montgomery County.

Mr. Jordan has served on various committees of the Montgomery County Bar Association, including the Fee Dispute Arbitration Committee and the Judicial Selections Panel Committee. He is a past chair of the Gettysburg College Parents Advisory Board.

Mr. Jordan graduated from the Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law, where he served on the Catholic University Law Review. After law school, he clerked for the Honorable Joseph M. Mathias of the Circuit Court for Montgomery County.

Mr. Jordan was nominated by the Trial Courts Judicial Nominating Commission for Montgomery County. 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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## Governor O'Malley Launches Website Aimed at Government Transparency and Accountability

ANNAPOLIS, MD (January 7, 2009) – Governor Martin O'Malley announced the launch of a new state website today aimed at providing public accountability for state spending. The website, created and maintained entirely with Maryland Department of Information Technology (DoIT) resources and staff, provides a searchable format which displays state payment data, capturing the name of the payee receiving payment, location of the payee by zip code, amount of the payment and the name of the state agency making the payment.

“This new tool will allow the public to see first-hand where tax dollars are spent, ushering in a new era of government accountability and transparency to Annapolis that has become a hallmark of our Administration,” said Governor O'Malley. “Our goal from the beginning was to make government work again for the people it serves, and this important website serves as another step toward that end.”

The [Maryland Funding Accountability website](#) is a public website which allows citizens of Maryland and visitors to search and view summary information on payments made to vendors that received \$25,000 or more for the respective fiscal year. Currently, information contained on the website is for Fiscal Year 2008, which began July 1, 2007 and ends June 30, 2008.

“The new funding accountability and transparency website provided the Department of Information Technology with an opportunity to support one of Governor O'Malley's priorities to restore fiscal responsibility to State government,” said Elliot Schlanger, Maryland Secretary of Information Technology. “The website, which was developed with internal resources, serves as a view into the State's ‘check register’ to allow constituents the ability to see how their dollars are being spent. DoIT has crafted the website to be easy-to-use and intuitively navigable.”

The website was originally created by House Bill 358 in the 2008 legislative session and applies to all units of the Executive branch. It can be directly accessed at [www.spending.dbm.maryland.gov](http://www.spending.dbm.maryland.gov).

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# Statement from Governor Martin O'Malley on Maryland's Number One Ranking in Education Week's 2009 Quality Counts Annual Report

## *Maryland's Public School System Leads the Nation*

ANNAPOLIS, MD (January 7, 2009) – Governor Martin O'Malley today made the following statement regarding Maryland's number one ranking in *Education Week's* 2009 Quality Counts annual report:

“This is tremendous news for the State of Maryland. Today, *Education Week* announced that Maryland's public school system ranks first in the nation among all 50 states – moving up from third in the nation last year. It is a great tribute to the students, teachers, and parents who, in response to the increased investments made by all Marylanders, continue to achieve at unprecedented levels.”

Since the passage of the Thornton Bridge to Excellence Plan, State funding for local school systems has increased by \$2.029 billion dollars, an 82 percent increase. Later today, the Maryland State Department of Education will release the final report of its consultant (MGT America) evaluating the effect of increased state aid to local school systems through Thornton's Bridge to Excellence Plan.

Last year, the State of Maryland has invested an historic \$5.3 billion in public education, and has invested over \$740 million in school construction to build classrooms and schools for the 21st century. The O'Malley-Brown Administration also froze college tuition for a third consecutive year to ensure that a higher education is accessible for more Maryland families. In addition, last year, the Milken Institute ranked Maryland No. 2 nationwide for technology economy preparedness, and ranked Maryland first in the nation for human capital investment.

Each year, *Education Week* issues an education report card. Each of the 50 States and the District of Columbia receives an overall letter grade spanning all six categories that constitute Quality Counts' analytic framework: Chance for Success; transitions and alignment; school finance; K-12 achievement; standards, assessments, and accountability; and the teaching profession.

Maryland ranked number one in transitions and alignment policies, which measures a State's ability to connect the K-12 education system with early learning, higher education and the workforce. Maryland earned a grade of 100 for early-childhood education, earned a grade of 90 for college readiness, and earned a grade of 100 for the economy and the workforce.

“Now is more important than ever, even in these difficult times, to continue to protect our investments in public education to ensure that every child receives a world class education and a better future. The people of Maryland are our greatest asset and our continued economic strength depends upon our ability to invest in them, and prepare our children today for the jobs of tomorrow.”

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# Governor O'Malley Delivers Keynote Address at Maryland Association of Counties 2009 Winter Conference

## *Focuses on Strengthening Partnerships to Get Maryland Families through These Tough Fiscal Times*

**CAMBRIDGE, MD (January 8, 2009)** – Governor Martin O'Malley today delivered the keynote address at the Maryland Association of Counties (MACO) 2009 Winter Conference. The Governor's remarks focused on strengthening partnerships between State and local governments to help Maryland families get through these tough economic times.

"Here in Maryland, we have some difficult choices ahead of us as we navigate through the turbulent waters of this national recession," said Governor O'Malley. "I want to spend our time together this evening talking about a few of these choices, and about what we can do – and are doing – to help Maryland families through these tough times. This is the most serious economic crisis our country has gone through in my lifetime, but I firmly believe that we are going to get through it, just as we always have: by working together."

Governor O'Malley outlined what the State is doing to offer relief to Maryland's struggling families on a number of fronts, including: the passage of sweeping foreclosure legislation that extends the foreclosure process to keep Maryland families in their homes; the expansion of healthcare to 100,000 more Marylanders, including assistance to small businesses so they can provide coverage to their employees, while also closing the Medicaid donut hole so that our seniors can get the prescriptions that rely upon; the extension of hours at our call centers so those who have lost their jobs have quicker access to Unemployment Insurance, and access to new jobs and training opportunities; and the enactment of the nation's first Living Wage law so that our workers get paid fairly for their work.

Governor O'Malley stressed the need to affirm partnerships to advance the common good of the State, and outlined examples of how working together, Maryland has made progress.

"As we have faced some difficult challenges, it has been our partnerships which have swung open the door of progress – partnerships that have helped us achieve a No. 1 ranking from Education Week, which now says we have the best public school system in America, partnerships that have allowed us to hold the line on college tuition for three years in a row, partnerships that helped us restore fiscal responsibility to the State, partnerships that have made our streets safer, and partnerships that have allowed us to find ways to grow smarter," he said.

Governor O'Malley announced a commitment to work closely with local government as he works to find ways to combat a \$2 billion deficit for FY 2010.

"We have worked very hard these past two years to shield local aid and protect these valuable funds, even as we have had to enact oftentimes painful spending cuts throughout the rest of our State budget. As we face a new wave of difficult fiscal decisions flowing from the national recession, I would like to tell you that we can continue moving forward without making cuts in local aid, but it is simply not within our means as we face a \$2 billion deficit for FY2010 – and we will have to reduce some spending on local aid. We intend to work with you very closely on this – and to do everything within our power to ensure that these cuts are as temporary and painless as possible given the circumstances."

Governor O'Malley, however, outlined reasons why Maryland is in a better position to climb out this national recession than most of our counterparts in other states.

"Over the course of the past year, when our nation as a whole lost nearly 2 million jobs – and most states shed more jobs

than they gained – we in Maryland actually created jobs – 12,700 new jobs to be exact, which is more than all but two other states,” Governor O’Malley said. “When viewing these gains as a percentage of our total workforce, our rate of job growth increased .5 percent in a declining economy – only nine other states posted a better rate of job growth last year. And as we stand here today, our rate of unemployment – while still higher than we would like it to be – remains more than 20% lower than that of the nation as a whole.”

Governor O’Malley also highlighted other reasons to be optimistic: Maryland exports out of the Port of Baltimore increased 34 percent last year, more than twice the national average; six foreign-owned companies have set up shop in Maryland over the past six months while 60 more are considering doing the same; and Maryland’s business development representatives are working with more than 140 business prospects that are looking to expand or relocate in Maryland.

“I do not say these things to sugarcoat the challenges that are ahead of us. We won’t climb out of this recession overnight. But there are some very valid and encouraging reasons to be optimistic that we, in our One Maryland, are going to bounce back more quickly than other states.”

Governor O’Malley concluded: “There is an African proverb which reminds us that ‘*smooth seas do not make skillful sailors.*’ Indeed, the best days in life are not always the easiest days – but from our challenges I continue to believe that we will create opportunities – and from our adversity, once again we will rise up together as One Maryland. As we do the value of our partnerships is greater than ever. These tough times won’t last because we in Maryland are committed to fighting for a better tomorrow the way we have fought for so many generations: by working together. Thank you for standing up and defending our State’s greatest asset: the strong and resilient people of Maryland.”

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACO) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that includes representatives from Maryland’s 23 counties and Baltimore City meets holds its annual summer conference in Ocean City, Maryland. During the conference, attendees from every Maryland jurisdiction have an opportunity to attend workshops, policy presentations, and gather with other elected officials to form partnerships and learn about innovations in governance.

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# Statement from Governor Martin O'Malley on the Princeton Review's Ranking of Four Maryland Colleges Among the Nation's "Best Values"

ANNAPOLIS, MD (January 8, 2009) – Governor Martin O'Malley issued the following statement today following the Princeton Review's publication, in cooperation with USA Today, of four Maryland institutions among the nation's **top 50 "Best Value" public colleges** for 2009.

*"I want to congratulate the students, faculty, and administration of Towson University, Salisbury University, St. Mary's College of Maryland, and the University of Maryland Baltimore County for the extraordinary distinction among the top 50 'Best Value' public colleges in America by the Princeton Review.*

*"Over the past two years, even in difficult economic conditions, we have continued to protect our shared priority of making quality, affordable higher education accessible to more Marylanders rather than fewer. By freezing in-state college tuition for the past three years, we have not only made national recognition like this possible, but we have allowed the dream of a college education to become a reality for Maryland families for whom it may not have been possible otherwise.*

*"Coupled with this week's top national ranking of Maryland's public school system by Education Week, our State is quickly emerging as a national model for education. The people of Maryland represent our greatest competitive advantage as a State. Our continued economic strength depends upon our ability to invest in them, and prepare today's students for the opportunities of tomorrow."*

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## Governor O'Malley Appoints Diane McGraw to the Maryland Lottery Commission

**ANNAPOLIS, MD (January 9, 2009)** – Governor Martin O'Malley today announced the appointment of Diane L. McGraw of Worcester County to the Maryland Lottery Commission. The Maryland State Lottery Commission serves as an advisory board to the State Lottery Agency. The Commission's nine members are appointed to four-year terms by the Governor with Senate advice and consent. The Governor also appoints a liaison member from the Maryland Racing Commission. In November 2008, the Commission assumed responsibility for regulating the operation of video lottery terminals in Maryland.

"I am proud to appoint Ms. McGraw to the Maryland Lottery Commission," said Governor O'Malley. "Ms. McGraw brings a wealth of expertise in the computer programming and national security industry and is a long time civic volunteer for a number of organizations. I am confident that together with the other members of the Lottery Commission, they will oversee the operations of video lottery terminals in the State of Maryland with the utmost integrity and with the best interest of the citizens of Maryland in mind."

Ms. McGraw retired from the National Security Agency in January of 2001 after 24 years of service. During her career, Ms. McGraw deployed computer systems to military bases worldwide, wrote user manuals, designed user templates, designed a communications subsystem, programmed super computers, served as a technical representative on projects and managed technical personnel. She served at the highest level of the National Security Agency as Civilian Assistant to NSA/CSS Directors from 1998 to 1999.

Ms. McGraw is a member-at-large for the Worcester County Commission for Women, is a volunteer for Habitat for Humanity of Worcester County where she also served as President from 2003 to 2004, is a docent of the Worcester County Veteran Memorial, is a member of the Maryland Coastal Bays Foundation, is the treasurer of the Women's Club of Ocean Pines, a member of the Ocean Pines Association, and serves as a member of the Ad Hoc Committee on Community Activities and a member of the Website Design and Support team for the Parke at Ocean Pines Association.

Ms. McGraw received her Associate's degree in 1982 from Howard Community College in Columbia, Maryland. She received her Bachelor of Science in Computer Science from the University of Maryland Baltimore County in 1985 and received her Master of Science in Computer Science from the Johns Hopkins University in 1988. She has been a Maryland resident since 1947.

In December of last year, Governor O'Malley announced the appointments of Kimberly Robertson of Prince George's County, Howard Dennis of Montgomery County, Ray Presley of Allegany County, and Vernon Boozer of Baltimore County to the expanded Commission, and announced the appointments of Linda Read of Cecil County, Ella Pierce of Baltimore City, and Chairman Donald C. Fry to the Facility Location Commission.

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## Governor O'Malley Makes Appointments to Somerset County and Caroline County Boards of Education

**ANNAPOLIS, MD (January 9, 2009)** – Today, Governor Martin O'Malley announced the appointments of Dr. H. DeWayne Whittington and Ret. Brigadier General Warner Sumpter to the Somerset County Board of Education. Governor O'Malley today also announced the appointment of George Abner to the Caroline County Board of Education.

“I am pleased to appoint Dr. Whittington, General Sumpter, and Mr. Abner to the Somerset and Caroline County Boards of Education,” said Governor O'Malley. “I am confident that these new Board Members possess the skill and the leadership necessary to ensure every child in Somerset County and Caroline County receives the quality public education they deserve.”

### **Below is background information on the three appointments:**

**Dr. H. DeWayne Whittington** - In 1992, Dr. Whittington retired as Superintendent of Somerset County School System. He worked in the Somerset County for 38 years as a teacher, principal and finally superintendent of schools. Dr. Whittington was the first African-American Superintendent of Schools since integration in Somerset County. In addition, Dr. Whittington has served as a representative to the National Education Association, President of the Eastern Shore Superintendent's Association, as well as Director of Field Experience and Visiting Lecturer at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. Dr. Whittington graduated from Morgan State College in 1952 with a Bachelor of Science Degree. He later received his Master's in Education from Pennsylvania State University and in 1980 Dr. Whittington received his doctorate from Nova University.

**(Ret.) Brigadier General Warner Sumpter** brings over forty years of organizational and budgetary expertise to the Somerset County Board of Education. He is retired from the U.S. Army and currently serves as the Director of Public Safety at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. He has over 20 ½ years of service with the Maryland State Police. He also spent 7 ½ years in the Maryland National Guard. In 2004, General Sumpter retired as the Commanding General of the United State Army Military Intelligence Center in Fort Huachuca, Arizona, where he also served as the Chief of the Military Intelligence Corps. Subsequent to his retirement from the Army, General Sumpter accepted a position as the Assistant Secretary of Law Enforcement and Security Operations for the Maryland Department of General Services. General Sumpter has served in the community as Vice President and President of his community association and has provided oversight for the state and regional programs for youth in danger of dropping out of school and for youth who had dropped out of school. General Sumpter is a graduate of Anne Arundel Community College and later he went on to graduate from the University of Baltimore with a Bachelor's of Science Degree with honors. He has conducted Masters level work at the University of Louisville, Kentucky, the Southern Policy Institute as an honor graduate. He also attended the United States Command and Staff College and the National Defense University where he received a Masters of Science Degree in National Security Strategy.

**George Abner** – As a staunch supporter of the youth in the community, Mr. Abner serves as a mentor to youth at the Big Brother Big Sisters of Talbot County. He has served as President and Vice President of Preston Elementary School Parent Teacher Association as well as Vice President and Treasurer of the Caroline County Council PTA. He has also served as

President for the Colonel Richardson Middle School PTA, and serves as a member on the Citizens Advisory Council as well as the School Health Council in Caroline County. This background and as the parent of two boys who are students in the Caroline County Public Schools he brings a fresh consumer's perspective to the Board. Mr. Abner currently works as a sales representative at Warrens Woodworks, Inc. in Easton, Maryland. Mr. Abner also served in the Maryland National Guard for 4 years, retiring in 1991. Mr. Abner has also worked at the Talbot County Department of Corrections for 9 years before assuming his current position.

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## Governor O'Malley Introduces 2009 Smart, Green and Growing Legislative Initiatives

### *Statewide Task Force presents report on smart growth in Maryland*

ANNAPOLIS, MD (January 12, 2009) – Governor Martin O'Malley today unveiled a series of initiatives comprising part of the O'Malley-Brown Administration's 2009 legislative agenda. Today's legislative announcements served to further Maryland's Smart, Green and Growing initiative, and also included a presentation of the *Task Force on the Future for Growth and Development in Maryland* report and recommendations.

“Our Smart, Green and Growing legislative agenda is focused on protecting Maryland's precious, yet limited, land resources in every region of our State, so that our families and children will someday be able to share these natural treasures with their own kids in the same way that our parents and grandparents shared them with us, said Governor Martin O'Malley. “It's time to move from twenty years of treading water to twenty years of cleaner water and more sustainable growth.”

The O'Malley-Brown Administration's Smart, Green and Growing legislative agenda includes a number of smart growth initiatives, including protecting the integrity of Comprehensive Plans, modernizing the State's Planning Visions, and developing Smart Growth Markers for state and local governments. In addition, Governor O'Malley is proposing measures to revise and reauthorize the Maryland Heritage Structure Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program and reinforce the Transit Oriented Development (TOD) bill from the 2008 legislative session.

Governor O'Malley, joined by Maryland Department of Planning Secretary Richard E. Hall, announced 6 related bills that would:

1. Strengthen local government Comprehensive Plans to protect communal investment in the plans and maintain their integrity by overturning the *Terrapin Run* case;
2. Modernize the State's Planning Visions to address current challenges and expand them to include priorities such as economic development, housing, and public participation;
3. Collect good information on how Maryland is growing to inform local, regional and state planning through Smart Growth Measures or Markers;
4. Reauthorize, green, and enhance the Maryland Heritage Structure Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program; and
5. Broaden public revenue sources that can be used for Tax Increment Financing for Transit Oriented Development.
6. Provide regulatory authority to establish Aquaculture Enterprise Zones while revising shellfish leasing terms, streamlining the process for aquaculture businesses to flourish in Maryland.

“These legislative initiatives represent responsible steps the O'Malley-Brown Administration can take toward a sustainable future for Maryland – a future that is smart, green and growing,” said Secretary Richard E. Hall of the Maryland Department of Planning. “I am proud to work closely with Governor O'Malley and the Maryland General Assembly as we seek to move these proposals forward in Maryland.”

The *Task Force on the Future for Growth and Development in Maryland* also delivered its report to Governor O'Malley. The 21-member task force, created under HB 773 in the 2007 legislative session, began meeting in January 2008 with 13 specific charges to fulfill. The Task Force continues until December 2010. The 89-page report entitled "Where Do We Grow from Here?" presents an assessment of current conditions in the State and outlines 52 recommendations for furthering smart, sustainable growth in Maryland.

"Maryland has long been a national leader in progressive land use policy, from the creation of the first state planning commission in 1933 to the well-known Smart Growth legislation of 1997. More than a decade after the advent of Smart Growth, however, we continue to face significant land use challenges," said Jon Laria, Chair of the task force. "Maryland is a wonderful place to live, but expected population growth promises increased pressure on farmlands, forests, and waterways, including our precious Chesapeake Bay and the window of opportunity to confront and solve these challenges is shrinking."

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## Governor O'Malley Swears In, Announces Members of the Maryland Council for New Americans

**ANNAPOLIS, MD (January 13, 2009)** – Governor Martin O'Malley today swore in members for the newly established Maryland Council for New Americans. Last December, Governor O'Malley signed Executive Order 01.01.2008.18 creating the Council for New Americans to assist the Governor and State agencies in maximizing immigrant integration into Maryland. Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett and Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation Secretary Tom Perez were named as Co-Chairs to the statewide Council.

“Given today’s economic climate, it is vital that we integrate New American families into Maryland’s workforce and civic life,” said Governor O'Malley. “This new Council will ensure that Maryland is addressing chronic labor shortages in a number of critical industries, as immigrants living and working in Maryland are a vital component of Maryland’s economic engine, Maryland’s tax base, and Maryland’s social and cultural fabric. Together, under the leadership of County Executive Leggett and Secretary Perez as Co-Chairs, I am confident that the Council will be instrumental in creating a proactive policy for New Americans in Maryland within a fair and legal framework to ensure that workers get the protection they deserve, while increasing Maryland’s economic competitiveness.”

“Maryland’s immigrant community has a wealth of knowledge and experience that can help our state grow and prosper. It is our duty to ensure New Americans living in our State are given the opportunities to use that knowledge to realize their highest potential, and to participate fully in our workforce, our economy and our communities,” said Secretary Perez. “I applaud Governor O'Malley for creating the Council for New Americans, and I look forward to working with the Council to ensure immigrants to Maryland can become part of our vibrant cultural fabric.”

The Council for new Americans will consist of a partnership between public, private and civic sectors in Maryland and is charged with reviewing and recommending new policies and practices to expedite immigrant integration into the economic and civic life of the State and will prepare a comprehensive report with recommendations for the public, private, and nonprofit sectors, due nine months from the signing of the Executive Order.

The members of the Maryland Council for New Americans include:

### **One Maryland County Executive**

**The Honorable Isiah Leggett** is Chair of the Council and is the current County Executive of Montgomery County. County Executive Leggett holds four higher education degrees: Bachelor of Arts from Southern University, a Master of Arts degree and a Juris Doctorate degree from Howard University, and a Master of Laws from George Washington University. He is the first African American County Executive for Montgomery County and was elected in 2006.

### **One Additional Representative from County government**

**David Gray** is the Vice President of the Board of County Commissioners for Frederick County. He received his Bachelor of Science in electrical engineering in 1963, is a tax consultant and a former engineer.

### **One Representative from Municipal Government**

**Renee Samuels** is the Director for the Mayor's Office of International and Immigrant Affairs in Baltimore City. She was designated by Baltimore City Mayor Sheila Dixon.

### **Three Representatives from Nonprofit Social Service Organizations**

**Barbara L. Gradet** is the Executive Director of Jewish Community Services, is a member of the Baltimore County Commission on Aging and is a Board member for the International Association of Jewish Vocational Services. She is a resident of Baltimore County.

**Michael C. Lin, Ph.D.** is the former National Executive Director and National President of the Organizations of Chinese Americans, he is the Vice Chair of the Montgomery College Board of Trustees, and is President of the Asian American Political Alliance. He is a resident of Montgomery County.

**Gustavo Torres** is the Executive Director of CASA of Maryland, is a Board member for the National Coalition for Immigration Comprehension, and is a Board member for Washington Adventist Hospital. He is a resident of Montgomery County.

### **Three Representatives from Private Sector Employers**

**Jimmie Walton Paschall** is the Global Diversity Officer and Senior Vice President of External Affairs for Marriott International. She is a member of Patton Boggs' Diversity Advisory Board and a member of the Georgetown University Chief Diversity Officers Consortium.

**Pamela Paulk** is the Vice President of Human Resources for the Johns Hopkins Hospital, a member of the Baltimore Workforce Investment Board, and is the founder of the Baltimore Alliance for Careers in Healthcare.

**Jere Stocks** is the President of the Washington Adventist Hospital and is a board member of the Greater Silver Spring Chamber of Commerce.

### **Eleven Representatives from faith-based organizations and the clergy**

**Earl Al-Amin** is the Imam at the Muslim Community Cultural Center in Baltimore City. He is a Baltimore City resident.

**Rev. Jamal Bryant** is the Pastor at the African Methodist Episcopal Empowerment Temple. He is a resident of Baltimore County.

**Reverend Kerry Hill** is the Pastor of the New Chapel Baptist Church. He is a resident of Prince George's County.

**John K. Jenkins, Sr.** is the Senior Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Glenarden in Landover, MD. He is Chairman of Project Bridges and a Trustee for Bethel University. He is a resident of Prince George's County.

**Pastor Jamila Woods-Jones** is the Vice Chair for the African American Leadership Committee, is President of the Partnership for Renewal for Southern and Central Maryland and sits on the Charles County Juvenile Drug Court. She is a pastor in Charles County and a resident of Prince George's County.

**Walter Lee** is the Pastor of Bethel Korean Presbyterian Church in Ellicott City. He recently served on Howard County Public School System's Equity Council. He is a resident of Howard County.

**Rev. Joseph L. Muth, Jr.** is a Pastor at St. Matthew's Church and is the founder and a Board Member of the Immigration Outreach Service Center at St. Matthew's Church. He is a resident of Baltimore City.

**Pastor John Odukoya** is the Board Chairman for Well of Restoration, is the Outreach Coordinator of The Fountain of Life Church, and is a member of World Vision. He is a resident of Prince George's County.

**Pastor Ghandi Olaoye** is the Pastor of the Jesus House, and is the Coordinator-in-charge of Conventions and Special

Projects for The Redeemed Christian Church of God RCCG, North America. He is a resident of Montgomery County.

**Rabbi Stuart Weinblatt** is the Rabbi at B'nai Tzedek. He is a resident of Montgomery County.

**Reverend Harlie Wilson** is the Pastor at Israel Baptist Church and is a resident of Baltimore City.

#### **One Representative from Higher Education**

**Lenneal J. Henderson, Jr., Ph.D.** is a distinguished Professor at the School of Public Affairs at the University of Baltimore, is a Senior Research Associate at the Schaefer Center for Public Policy, and a Senior Fellow at the Hoffberger Center for Professional Ethics. She is a resident of Howard County.

#### **One Representative with Expertise in Adult Education and Language Acquisition**

**Young-Chan Han** is a Family Involvement Specialist for the Maryland State Department of Education and is a Board Member of the Foreign Born Information and Referral Network (FIRN). He is a resident of Howard County.

#### **One Representative from the Banking and Financial Services Sector**

**William Couper** is the Mid-Atlantic President of Bank of America.

#### **One Representative from the Healthcare Sector**

**Vinod Shah, M.D.** is a physician with Shah & Associates, is the incoming President of the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin, and he is a former Board Member of St. Mary's College. He is a resident of St. Mary's County.

#### **One Representative from Organized Labor**

**Jaime Contreras** is the District Chair and Supervisor for the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) 32BJ for District 82.

#### **One Representative from Small Business**

**Margaret Kim** is the President and Chief Operating Officer of AllCare of Maryland, LLC. She is an advisory Board Member for the Asian Student Achievement Program and is a Board of Trustees Member for the Howard County General Hospital Foundation. She is a resident of Howard County.

#### **One Representative from a National Organization with Expertise in Demographic Trends and Public Policy**

**Michael Fix** is the Senior Vice President and Director of Studies for the Migration Policy Institute.

#### **One Representative from the Philanthropic Sector**

**Irene Lee** is the Senior Programmer for the Annie E. Casey Foundation, is the Finance Committee Chair of the Washington Regional Association of Grantmakers, and is a member of the Task Force on Remittances for the Inter-American Dialogue Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees. She is a resident of Montgomery County.

The following representatives will be ex-officio members on the Council and were in attendance:

- Secretary Tom Perez (Co-Chair of the Council), Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation
- Deputy Secretary Clarence Bishop, Department of Business and Economic Development
- Deputy Secretary Matt Power, Department of Planning; Secretary Rich Hall will be in attendance
- Deputy Secretary Stacy Rodgers, Department of Human Resources
- Secretary Ray Skinner, Department of Housing and Community Development
- Executive Director Eric M. Seleznow, Governor's Workforce Investment Board
- Executive Director Izzy Patoka, Governor's Office of Community Initiatives

- Special Secretary Luwanda Jenkins, Governor's Office of Minority Affairs
- Chair Mary Scott, Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture
- Chair Maria Welch, Governor's Commission on Hispanic Affairs
- Chair Jane Nishida, Governor's Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs
- Chair Auriel Fenwick, Governor's Commission on Indian Affairs
- Chair Anwer Hasan, Governor's Commission on Middle Eastern American Affairs

In addition, Senate President Miller has appointed two members, Senator Richard Madaleno and Senator Joan Carter Conway, and Speaker of the House Michael Busch appointed two members, Delegate Susan Lee and Delegate Nicholas Kipke, to sit on the Council.

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## **Governor O'Malley Addresses Maryland Democratic Party 10th Annual Legislative Luncheon; Republican House and Senate Caucus Pre-Session Briefing**

### ***Stresses Importance of Working Together to Get Maryland Families through These Tough Fiscal Times***

**ANNAPOLIS, MD (January 13, 2009)** – Governor Martin O'Malley today attended the Maryland Democratic Party at their 10th Annual Legislative Luncheon, and later addressed the Senate and House Republican Caucuses at their pre-session issues briefing. Governor O'Malley focused his remarks on working together to get Maryland's families through these tough fiscal times.

“Now more than ever – with our middle class families struggling due to the national recession – it is imperative that we come together in a spirit of bipartisanship,” said Governor O'Malley. “Given the magnitude of the challenges we face as we work to protect the progress we have made in public education and public safety, and cut an additional \$1.9 billion from next year's budget, we cannot afford *not* to work together.”

In his remarks, Governor O'Malley touted Maryland's No. 1 national public education ranking due to the State's record investments in education despite recent fiscal challenges, and emphasized the importance of continuing those investments to strengthen Maryland's priorities.

Later, Governor O'Malley addressed the House and Senate Republican Caucus Pre-Session Briefing stressing the need for bipartisanship as Maryland fights to advance the common good.

“The weight of Maryland's challenges calls for bipartisanship,” said Governor O'Malley. “The tough choices we will have to make will be made as One Maryland – working together for the common good of our families and the people we have been elected to represent.

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# Governor Martin O'Malley Announces Homeland Security Progress for Maryland and Statewide Emergency Management Comprehensive Plan

*Officials also announce Port of Baltimore receives near-perfect score on security assessment*



**BALTIMORE, MD (January 15, 2009)** – Governor Martin O’Malley made good on a commitment made during the 2008 State of the State address by releasing a comprehensive report on statewide emergency preparedness. In addition, Governor O’Malley outlined the steps already taken to improve the state’s homeland security, including at the Port of Baltimore, which recently received a near-perfect score on a Coast Guard security compliance exam and which served as the backdrop for today’s announcement. The Governor was joined today by Maryland Department of Transportation Secretary John Porcari, Maryland Emergency Management Agency Director Richard Muth, and other state and federal emergency management officials.

“The report we’re releasing today is a tough, extensive assessment of both our strengths and weaknesses – many of which we’ve already taken steps to correct,” noted Governor O’Malley. “The need is urgent, and with the forward momentum we’ve started and the impetus from this report, we will make progress towards our goals of a safer State for our families.”

In January 2008 during his State of the State address, Governor O’Malley committed Maryland to improving its homeland security by working to better integrate emergency preparedness and emergency information sharing, as well as bringing into service for the first time a truly statewide system of interoperable communications. Since that time, the state has commissioned James Lee Witt Associates, a crisis management and preparedness services consulting firm based in Washington, D.C. that is a part of GlobalOptions Group, to conduct an exhaustive review of Maryland’s level of preparedness and offer recommendations for how to improve.

“Governor O’Malley and the State of Maryland have taken bold steps to conduct this extensive review of emergency preparedness in Maryland,” said James Lee Witt, Chief Executive Officer of James Lee Witt Associates and former FEMA Director. “I believe that with these recommendations, many of which have already been acted upon by the Governor, will not only make Maryland more prepared, but a leader in emergency preparedness in the United States.”

Recommendations in the report range from improving the state’s emergency management authority structure, improving

communications with local jurisdictions, improving the state's ability to operate during an emergency should the main Emergency Operations Center become unavailable or non-functional, and reform of the Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center's leadership.



Maryland has already taken steps to improve its security and its ability to manage an emergency should one occur. Focusing on a set of twelve, basic core capacities that Maryland and our first responders in every region use as a baseline for evaluating homeland security efforts, state emergency and public safety officials have made a number of internal changes to be more responsive to local government and to Maryland's families including:

- To increase efficiency and optimize preparedness, state officials working to remodel the organizational structures of MEMA and our State Emergency Operations Center, using as a basis the National Incident Management System, or NIMS.
- Working with local partners, Maryland has established a backup emergency operations center.
- To improve communication and accountability, MEMA now holds one-one-one meetings and monthly conference calls with all 26 local emergency managers.
- To further Maryland's goals for efficiency, communication, and accountability, a centralized planning division has been created within MEMA and efforts to provide better and more effective training for MEMA staff are being redoubled.
- MEMA's public affairs and public information office has been revamped, launching among other things a more robust emergency management website and issuing and publishing an agency newsletter.
- Plans for long-term strategic goals, emergency operations, information technology, disaster recovery, and continuity of operations are currently being developed and completed.

In direct response to a recommendation from the Witt Report, Governor O'Malley announced today that he will introduce legislation during the current legislative session that enables the Director of MEMA to directly report to the Governor, eliminating any confusion regarding the line of authority during an actual emergency.

Officials today also announced that during a recent security compliance exam, the Port of Baltimore's public terminals received a near-perfect score from the Coast Guard, a great improvement over a similar exam given by the Coast Guard in 2007. Several security enhancements have taken place at the Port of Baltimore, including:

- Becoming the first major U.S. port to require the federally-mandated TWIC card;
- Beginning a project which will ultimately implement the use of real-time video surveillance on its public terminals;
- Activating the New Terminal Cargo Truck Plaza, which uses real-time video and security checks to verify a trucker's ID and purpose of visit; and,
- Strengthening of perimeter fencing surrounding all of the Port of Baltimore's public terminals.

In the past two years, in addition to the dramatic security improvements outlined above, the O'Malley-Brown Administration has made steady progress to enhance the state of Maryland's homeland security and emergency

preparedness, including:

- For the first time, Maryland has begun the preliminary stages that will result in a fully interoperable communications system for all local and state public safety and emergency response agencies throughout Maryland.
- We have upgraded critical detection technology for the State's bomb squads, and have worked with local bomb squad leaders to develop a system for centrally tracking bomb responses.
- We've upgraded the State Police armored response vehicle, and purchased baseline personal protective equipment for all patrol officers in Maryland's five largest law enforcement agencies.
- We've established stockpiles of antiviral medications to protect Maryland's state and local first responders, healthcare workers, and critical infrastructure sector.
- To protect Maryland's key assets and infrastructure, we've streamlined the Critical Infrastructure Protection Program - Maryland's tool for managing critical infrastructure and key resource vulnerability.
- As part of an ongoing effort to improve transportation security, we have established new closed circuit television systems, including at the Port of Baltimore Public Terminals, and expanded existing systems for Maryland's bridges, tunnels, and roads.

**[View Full Report](#)**

**[Maryland's Roadmap for Improved Preparedness](#)**

**[Maryland's Strategic Goals & Objectives for Homeland Security](#)**

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## Governor O'Malley Swears in the Honorable Mary Ellen Barbera to Court of Appeals of Maryland



**ANNAPOLIS, MD (January 15, 2009)** – Governor Martin O’Malley today swore in the Honorable Mary Ellen Barbera to the Court of Appeals of Maryland, the State’s highest Court. Judge Barbera will represent the Seventh Appellate Judicial Circuit (Montgomery County), and fills the vacancy created by the retirement of the Honorable Irma S. Raker.

“Through her over twenty years of legal experience, Judge Barbera has shown impeccable judgment, integrity, intelligence, and compassion,” said Governor O’Malley. “Her breadth of experience and strength of character will benefit the Court of Appeals and the citizens of Maryland. I am honored to swear her in to the State’s highest court.”

Judge Barbera has been a public servant and a leader throughout her career. In the early 1980s, she taught elementary school for the Baltimore City Public School System while attending the University of Maryland School of Law at night. From 1985 to 1989, she worked for the Criminal Appeals Division of the Office of the Attorney General, where she represented the State of Maryland in at least 250 criminal appeals. From 1998 to 2002, she served as legal counsel to Governor Parris N. Glendening.

Since 2002, Judge Barbera has served as an Associate Judge on the Court of Special Appeals, the State’s intermediate appellate court. During Judge Barbera’s tenure there, she authored dozens of published opinions for the Court. The Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals selected Judge Barbera to serve on the Judicial Ethics Committee and to chair the Criminal Law and Procedure Committee of the Maryland Judicial Conference. Judge Barbera also has served on numerous committees of the Maryland State Bar Association, including the special committee on anti-discrimination matters and the standing committee to draft pattern jury instructions in criminal cases.



In addition to her work on the bench, Judge Barbera has taught courses at the American University Washington College of Law and the University of Baltimore School of Law. In 1998, the University of Baltimore School of Law gave her an award for Outstanding Teaching by an Adjunct Faculty Member.

Judge Barbera has been recognized for her consistent leadership and public service. The *Daily Record* gave her the Maryland Leadership in Law Award in 2007, and recognized her as one of Maryland’s Top 100 Women in 2008. In 1998, she received the Distinguished Service Award from the Maryland State’s Attorneys’ Association.

Judge Barbera received a Juris Doctor from the University of Maryland School of Law in 1984. She received a Bachelor of Arts in early childhood education from Towson University in 1975.

# Statement from Governor Martin O'Malley on the Federal Panel Ruling Approving a LNG Plant in Baltimore County

**ANNAPOLIS, MD (January 15, 2009)** – Governor Martin O'Malley issued the following statement today following the U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) conditional approval of an application for a liquefied natural gas (LNG) facility and pipeline in Maryland:

*"I want to express my sincere disappointment in today's decision by the FERC in approving a facility at Sparrow's Point that could have catastrophic security and environmental implications for our State, including potentially severe impacts to the Chesapeake Bay and to those who use it like our recreational fishermen and boaters.*

*"This plant represents a significant potential terrorist target, a sentiment echoed by homeland security experts, the Government Accountability Office, scientists and engineers familiar with the risks associated with the proposal, and other public officials, including our own Senator Barbara Mikulski, a member of the Senate's Intelligence Committee and Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee.*

*"This decision flies in the face of every tenet of environmental justice. I am disappointed that the FERC decided that rather than ensuring the planners' ability to mitigate the risks of the project, they chose instead to ignore them and rubber stamp the proposal before the panel.*

*"On behalf of the families of Baltimore County, we renew our pledge to do everything within our power to stop the construction of the plant. As we review our options moving forward, I encourage the many community activists who have spent years attempting to thwart this effort not to give up their fight either."*

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## Additional Press Releases



# Governor O'Malley Unveils FY 2010 Budget

## *Closes \$2 billion FY 2010 deficit; Protects funding for education and Maryland's working families*

**ANNAPOLIS, MD (January 20, 2008)** – Governor Martin O'Malley, joined today by Lieutenant Governor Anthony Brown, released the FY 2010 budget for the State of Maryland. In the midst of a national economic recession, Maryland's FY 2010 budget closes a projected \$2 billion shortfall and protects the state's progress in public education, workforce investments, and affordable higher education.

"These are not easy times, and here in Maryland we haven't been immune to the national recession. Our families are struggling. Our family-owned businesses are struggling. And just as our people have to find ways to do more with less, so too must those of us in government," said Governor Martin O'Malley.

Governor O'Malley's proposed budget closes a \$2 billion shortfall for FY 2010, and overall general fund expenditures decrease by 1.3 percent. The proposed budget is the first budget in State history to propose a negative Spending Affordability growth rate of 1.57 percent, which is significantly lower than the General Assembly Spending Affordability Committee's recommended .7% increase. The proposed FY 2010 budget also assumes Maryland will receive \$350 million from the federal stimulus, which is a conservative estimate given reports that States could receive more than \$200 billion in relief.

Governor O'Malley continued, "This budget is, by necessity, painfully lean. We were forced to cut or level-fund many worthy programs that are important to the future of our State. But because they are important to our State we worked hard to protect these programs and hold them harmless this year.

"At the same time, we are not willing to abandon the important progress we've achieved for our families these past two years, including the progress that led Education Week to rank our public school system #1 in America just a week ago. Nor are we willing to turn our back on our workforce and Maryland families who are struggling in this difficult economy to make ends meet."

Governor O'Malley's proposed budget contains increases in five key priority areas:

- K-12 Public Education and School Construction,
- Higher Education,
- A Safety Net for Maryland's Families,
- Public Safety,
- Environmental Protection.

"Governor O'Malley and I understand the challenges we face and the important work ahead of us," Lieutenant Governor Brown said. "We are confident, though, that we will get through these tough times by coming together and protecting the progress we've made on behalf of working families over the last two years."

### **K-12 Public Education and School Construction**

Since the O'Malley-Brown Administration took office, State funding for education aid has increased \$932 million while general fund spending on all other activities has declined by \$235 million.

Even in difficult times, Governor O'Malley's FY 2010 budget supports the progress of Maryland's children, teachers, and parents in the nation's **#1 ranked public school system**. The FY 2010 budget fully funds the Thornton Bridge to

Excellence Plan, proposing a \$5.4 billion investment in K-12 education, a \$68.3 million increase over FY 2009. In addition, the capital budget includes a proposed \$260.3 million for public school construction and renovation, bringing the O'Malley-Brown Administration's investment in school construction to an unprecedented level – over \$1 billion in just three years. In addition, Governor O'Malley's FY 2010 budget includes \$774.3 million to fully fund teacher and librarian retirement pension costs.

## Higher Education

Four Maryland institutions now rank among the **best values** in public higher education – Salisbury University, Towson University, University of Maryland Baltimore County, and St. Mary's College. Governor O'Malley's budget seeks to maintain and improve upon this distinction.

Because investments in Maryland's workforce are more important now during a national recession than at any other time, Governor O'Malley's proposed budget includes a fourth straight year of zero percent increase for in-state college tuition, moving the University System of Maryland from the sixth highest tuition in the nation in 2004 to an anticipated 18th.

## A Safety Net for Maryland's Families

Under the O'Malley-Brown Administration, Maryland has enacted sweeping legislation to protect homeowners from foreclosure, established America's first Living Wage law, expanded access to health care for 100,000 more Marylanders, made health care more affordable for small businesses, closed the Medicare "donut hole" providing seniors with affordable prescription drug coverage, extended the refundable earned income tax credit to adults without dependents and reduced income taxes for working families.

The FY 2010 proposed budget protects these priorities by including more than \$5 billion to support Medical Assistance benefits that ensure 700,000 Marylanders access to health care and more than \$450 million of federal funds for food stamps for needy families. Furthermore, the budget provides record levels of State funding – \$90 million – to help low-income households pay their energy bills, and assumes more than \$100 million of refundable earned income tax credits for working Maryland families.

In addition, the proposed budget includes more than \$22 million for school lunch and other nutrition programs to help end childhood hunger in Maryland and increase performance in Maryland classrooms, as well as increased funding for the Women, Infants, and Children program by more than \$10 million.

Governor O'Malley's proposed budget includes funding to ensure that all Marylanders are able to find employment and succeed in the workplace, including \$65.6 million for unemployment insurance programs to provide critical assistance for families in need and \$70.3 million for business development programs that assist small and minority businesses, promote technology-based enterprises, and help grow Maryland's economy.

In addition, the FY 2010 budget provides funding for services and training for adult learners, ex-offenders and the disabled, including \$31.9 million to provide the adults with the opportunity to earn high school diplomas, continue their education and training at the postsecondary level, and enhance employment opportunities. The budget also includes \$51.8 million to help individuals with disabilities obtain and succeed in employment, largely through vocational rehabilitation services.

## Improving Public Safety

The O'Malley-Brown Administration has made significant progress in improving Maryland's public safety efforts, including the establishment of regional, cross-border law-enforcement partnerships, improvement of critical law enforcement protection equipment, and the beginning stages of Maryland's first-ever statewide interoperable communications system.

Governor O'Malley's proposed budget continues this commitment to the safety and security of Maryland's families by including \$2.1 billion for public safety, contributing to a \$160 million increase over three years. This commitment

includes full funding for police aid at \$66 million, \$40 million for two new State Police helicopters so Maryland's Medevac system remains a national model, and an investment of \$10 million toward a statewide wireless communications system as part of a five-year \$110 million commitment to the project.

## **Protecting Our Environment**

The real threats that endanger Maryland's precious natural resources do not vanish in times of recession, and therefore Governor O'Malley's FY 2010 budget includes funding to protect our land, our water, and our air for future generations.

To protect the important progress made on environmental protection during the O'Malley-Brown Administration, the proposed budget includes full funding of Program Open Space at \$31.9 million and investment of \$27.6 million for Agricultural Land Preservation. In addition, the budget proposes \$25 million for the Chesapeake 2010 Trust Fund, \$164.5 million in Bay restoration funds, and a record \$17.7 million for cover crops.

Governor O'Malley's announcement of the FY 2010 proposed budget also included an outline of the proposed budget reductions for FY 2009. Governor O'Malley proposed \$154 million of additional cuts for FY 2009 including savings from furloughs, local aid reductions, abolition of 250 vacant positions, and additional agency budget reductions.

"Throughout our great Revolutionary history, our greatest triumphs have always come at times when we've faced our greatest adversity," Governor O'Malley wrote to the leaders of the Maryland General Assembly in presenting his budget. "We are going to get through these tough times the way we always have: by working together. We have made tremendous progress for Maryland families these past two years. Now, when our families need us most, we are united in our commitment to stand up and fight to protect our progress."

### **[View Budget Outline and Supplemental Graphs](#)**

### **[View Budget Highlights](#)**

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### **[Additional Press Releases](#)**



# Governor Martin O'Malley Announces Legislation to Reduce Global Warming Pollution

## *Legislation Commits State to Reducing Greenhouse Gases 25 Percent by 2020*

**BALTIMORE, MD (January 23, 2009)** – Today Governor Martin O'Malley, along with sponsors Senator Paul Pinsky and Delegate Kumar Barve, unveiled legislation to commit Maryland to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions 25 percent by the year 2020. The bill, which will be introduced in the Maryland General Assembly on Monday, is part of Governor O'Malley's *Smart, Green, and Growing* legislative package this year. To ensure the State meets this target, the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act requires the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to have a plan in place to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 25 percent by 2020 by the year 2012. Scientists worldwide agree that early carbon reductions of at least 25 percent are necessary to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

"In the current economic climate, under the new Obama Administration, Maryland cannot afford to let this opportunity pass us by," said Governor Martin O'Malley. "For our prosperity, for our current and future generations, and for the health of our State, which is so vulnerable to rising sea levels, we must take action on climate change now – not later. Maryland can't afford to be left behind. We must commit to taking the actions necessary to protect our environment, our economy, and our citizens."

Recent State initiatives, including the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative cap-and-trade program, Clean Cars Act, and Empower Maryland, have put the State on track to reduce greenhouse gases by 12.5 percent -- half of the 25 percent reduction goal. These actions, along with the Climate Change Commission's *Climate Action Plan* that details 42 options to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, demonstrate that this reduction goal is achievable and beneficial.

After last year's debate over greenhouse gas reduction legislation, at Governor O'Malley's urging, leaders from union, labor, manufacturing and environmental groups worked tirelessly to develop an approach to reducing carbon emissions that would meet the Climate Commission's recommendations.

"Adding Maryland to the growing list of states calling for a 25 percent reduction is a major achievement, and we appreciate the governor's strong leadership," said Senator Paul Pinsky. "Hopefully this will also drive the federal effort to make the necessary reductions to stabilize climate change."

"Maryland, with its 3,100 miles of shoreline, is directly threatened by rising sea levels and flooding caused by global warming," said Delegate Kumar Barve. "We have the technological ability to clean up our air, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and move to a future free of foreign energy dependence. We cannot afford any more delay. Governor O'Malley's aggressive support has been vital, and his sponsorship of this bill will help ensure its passage."

"Our carbon reduction goals are achievable, and we know we can meet them," said MDE Secretary Shari T. Wilson. "Early actions now to reduce greenhouse gas pollution will be much cheaper than in the years to come, and by putting the legislation in place, Maryland will be setting the stage for green jobs and business investments in renewable energy to green buildings and home energy efficiency."

The Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act provides Maryland with an opportunity to move forward while still remaining flexible to support a federal program for any additional cap and trade requirements, which are far more effective at the federal level, and to meet any requirements of federal legislation anticipated to be passed within the next several years.

Brad Heavner of Environment Maryland said: "Getting ahead of the curve on global warming solutions is the smart thing to do. It will provide lasting economic and environmental benefits as we help develop the clean energy economy of the future. Governor O'Malley deserves high praise for this step in making Maryland a leader."

“We appreciate the effort made by the State to work with all stakeholders on this critical issue,” said Jim Strong, Sub-District Director of United Steelworkers, District 8. “The bill shows that the State can move forward and begin to address climate change in a way that protects existing manufacturing jobs. That's all we ever asked for.”

In 2008, per an Executive Order by Governor O'Malley, the Maryland Commission on Climate Change released its *Climate Action Plan* detailing what effects global warming will have on the State and recommending actions to protect Maryland's property and people from rising sea levels and changing weather patterns as well as a “road map” of forty-two actions to help the state greatly reduce its global warming pollution. Preliminary estimates indicate that, by 2020, implementation of these forty-two strategies could result in a net economic benefit to the state of approximately \$2 billion dollars.

A study by the Baltimore-based International Center for Sustainable Development shows that Maryland could create between 144,000 and 326,000 “green collar” and research and development jobs by developing clean energy industries, contributing \$5.7 billion in wages and salaries boosting local tax revenues by \$973 million and increasing gross state production by \$16 billion.

Under the O'Malley-Brown Administration, Maryland has begun to reduce pollution and address the serious issue of climate change through: the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, Clean Cars Act, and EMPOWER Maryland programs; increasing Renewable Portfolio Standards to increase our use of clean energy; enacting “living shorelines” requirements; strengthening the Critical Areas Act to protect sensitive shorelines; adopting new green building standards for public buildings and investing in green technology for schools; transitioning the state's fleet to hybrid buses; fully funding land conservation programs; and reinstating the Office of Smart Growth; supporting transit-friendly development; improving mass transit options; encouraging smart growth BRAC zones; and, providing both technical and financial assistance to Maryland's coastal counties to adapt to sea level rise.

Introduced by Governor Martin O'Malley in October 2008, Maryland's *Smart, Green & Growing* initiative was created to strengthen the state's leadership role in fostering smarter, more sustainable growth and inspire action among all Marylanders to achieve a more sustainable future. The Initiative brings together state agencies, local governments, businesses and citizens to create more livable communities, improve transportation options, reduce the state's carbon footprint, support resource based industry, invest in green technologies, preserve valuable resource lands and restore the health of the Chesapeake Bay.

~ Bill summary follows ~

## Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act

### Bill Summary

**Background:** Maryland, with more than 3,100 miles of coastline, is the fourth most vulnerable state in the nation to the effects of climate change. Scientists worldwide agree that early carbon reductions of at least 25 percent are necessary to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. Early actions now to reduce greenhouse gas pollution will be much cheaper than in the years to come, and by putting the legislation in place, Maryland will be setting the stage for green jobs and business investments in everything from renewable energy to green buildings and home energy efficiency.

**Justification:** Recent State initiatives, including the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative cap-and-trade program, Clean Cars Act, and Empower Maryland, have put the State on track to reduce greenhouse gases by 12.5 percent -- half of the 25 percent reduction goal. These actions, along with the Climate Change Commission's Climate Action Plan that details 42 options to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, demonstrate that this reduction goal is achievable and beneficial. Preliminary estimates indicate that, by 2020, implementation of these forty-two strategies could result in a net economic benefit to the state of approximately \$2 billion dollars. A study by the Baltimore-based International Center for Sustainable Development shows that Maryland could create between 144,000 and 326,000 “green collar” and research and development jobs by developing clean energy industries, contributing \$5.7 billion in wages and salaries boosting

local tax revenues by \$973 million and increasing gross state production by \$16 billion.

**Legislation:** The 2009 Greenhouse Gas Reduction legislation would require the following:

- By 2020, Maryland must reduce Statewide greenhouse gas emissions 25 percent from 2006 levels;
- By 2011, MDE must develop a Statewide greenhouse gas emissions inventory, a “business as usual” emissions projection for 2020; and a proposed greenhouse gas emission reduction plan for public comment;
- By 2012, the State must adopt a final greenhouse gas emission reduction plan that includes regulations and a timeline to implement necessary programs;
- The plan must ensure: no loss of manufacturing existing jobs; a net increase in jobs and a net economic benefit, opportunities for new “green” jobs in energy and low carbon technology fields, and no adverse impact on the reliability and affordability of electricity and fuel supplies;
- Preservation of the State’s authority to regulate the manufacturing sector through expansion of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and, in the absence of a federal program, defers other State regulation of manufacturing sector until after the 2016 legislative review;
- By 2015, an independent study of the economic impact of requiring greenhouse gas emission reductions from the manufacturing due to the Governor and General Assembly;
- In 2015, a report to the Governor and General Assembly assessing: progress toward the 25 percent emissions reduction, benefits to the state’s economy, public health, and the environment, any need for further reductions, and the status of any federal greenhouse gas reduction program;
- In 2016, the Legislature will review the progress report, the report on economic impacts on manufacturing sector, the requirements of a federal program, and other information and determine whether to continue, adjust, or eliminate the requirement to achieve a 25 percent reduction by 2020.

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### **Additional Press Releases**





# Governor Martin O'Malley Introduces 2009 Legislative Agenda

*Improving Public Safety, Strengthening Safety Net for Maryland Families and Workforce Top O'Malley's Agenda;*

*O'Malley Works to Address Domestic Violence and Firearms; Repeal Death Penalty, Address State Police Surveillance; and Improve Juvenile Justice*

*Maryland: Smart, Green and Growing Initiatives to Address Energy Conservation, Smart Growth, Restore the Chesapeake Bay*



**ANNAPOLIS, MD (January 26, 2009)** – Governor Martin O'Malley today released his 2009 Legislative Agenda focused on improving public safety in every region of our State and strengthening the safety net for Maryland's families and workforce during this national economic recession. Just days after introducing his FY 2010 budget that closes a projected \$2 billion shortfall, O'Malley's top legislative priorities include initiatives to expand unemployment benefits for those families hardest hit by the recession, efforts to improve juvenile justice, and take firearms out of the hands of domestic abusers.

“These are common-sense initiatives that protect the progress we have made, continue to improve public safety in every community and every home in our State, and provide vital resources and assistance to Maryland families struggling to make ends meet during this national recession,” said Governor Martin O'Malley. “We will do everything in our power to help our families through this recession, but we will not abandon the progress we have made to build the No. 1 ranked school system in the nation, make college more affordable, improve the health of the Bay and ensure a more sustainable future for our children. These are critical challenges facing our State and now – even in these tough times – is the time to move forward again, protect our progress and build that future that we all prefer as Marylanders.”

Governor O'Malley's legislative agenda is comprised of a number of public safety initiatives that would repeal the death

# Statement from Governor Martin O'Malley on Obama Administration Announcement on Auto Emissions Standards

**ANNAPOLIS, MD (January 26, 2009)** – Today, the Obama Administration announced they will reconsider California's request for a waiver to the Clean Air Act enabling States, including Maryland and 12 other states, to set their own regulations limiting vehicle emissions. Following the announcement, Governor O'Malley released the following statement:

*“After years of delay from the Bush Administration, we are pleased to see the Obama Administration making one of its first actions the confirmation that States such as Maryland have the right to regulate pollution from vehicles. This is a tremendous step forward to help our nation begin to control its energy future and to address global climate change. Maryland is proud to be among the first states to enact these regulations, and we look forward to continuing to address the critical challenges affecting our state and our planet.”*

*“Maryland’s Clean Cars act is a critical component of how we can reduce our greenhouse gas emissions in Maryland by 25 percent by the year 2020. Today, we renewed our pledge to this scientifically supported goal by introducing the 2009 Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act. The recent early actions Maryland has taken on greenhouse gas emissions make significant strides towards achieving this goal, and the Clean Cars Act makes up about one-fifth of these projected reductions.”*

*“Today’s announcement by the Obama Administration illustrates that the people of Maryland once again have an ally in the White House.”*

Maryland has regulations for vehicle emissions through the 2007 Clean Cars Act. If the Environmental Protection Agency signs this waiver, Maryland's Clean Cars Act will go into immediate effect and apply to all model year 2011 vehicles. After the Bush Administration rejected California's request, in December 2007 Maryland joined a lawsuit against the EPA to force the Agency to allow States their right to regulate vehicle emissions.

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## [Additional Press Releases](#)



# Governor Martin O'Malley Delivers Keynote Address Before the US Naval Academy Forrestal Lecture Series

**ANNAPOLIS, MD (January 27, 2009)** – Last night, Governor Martin O'Malley delivered the **keynote address** before the entire Naval Academy brigade of 4,400 midshipmen and more than 200 attendees from visiting military and civilian academies at the US Naval Academy Forrestal Lecture Series. The January 2009 Forrestal Lecture is part of the US Naval Academy Leadership Conference that runs from Monday, January 26th through Wednesday, January 28th and carries the topic "Generational Leadership – How to Recruit, Lead, and Retain our Country's Next Generation."

Governor O'Malley noted particular traits possessed by the outlying men and women revered by history including a willingness to confront adversity: "Noah in building the ark had a willingness to confront adversity. Lincoln in teaching himself to read certainly demonstrated in his individual life a willingness to confront the adversity of illiteracy," Governor O'Malley said. "When, as President, he refused to allow Fort Sumter to be evacuated thereby precipitating the Civil War, he again demonstrated a willingness to confront adversity. When Gandhi and Martin Luther King stood up to overwhelming odds, power, systemic injustice and historic inertia, they too displayed that all important quality of leadership – a willingness to confront adversity."

Governor O'Malley continued: "Neil Armstrong's small step for man was made possible not only because President Kennedy had the vision to declare that America would put a man on the moon; but because he also had the discipline to measure performance towards that goal by saying publicly that we would land a man on the moon within a decade. And implicit in his declaration of goal and his measurement of performance was the courage to change our level of effort, our magnitude of investment, as well as any other tactics and strategies necessary to achieve the goal."

Governor O'Malley noted the discipline of setting goals and measuring one's effectiveness on meeting those goals: "It is not a matter of goals or measures. It is a discipline of goals and measures. Not a choice of compass or controls, but a discipline of compass and controls to steer any ship of human endeavor. Setting goals and measuring performance only advance the mission, however, if one has as a leader or citizen the courage to change course when the things we are doing are not working. This, of course, is not always easy. We humans tend to fall in love with the way we've always done it. We tend over time to confuse an unquestioning rote familiarity with expertise and excellence."

In his remarks, Governor O'Malley cited the challenges America faces and the overwhelming need for disciplined leadership to tackle them. "We live in times when our own human frailty and the compounding of human propensities for self-destruction and hyper-consumption of the planet's resources threaten our American and global way of life as never before. We face a range of challenges from global warming to the potential global collapse of marine life and bio-diversity; from global poverty and its many resource pressures including south to north migration, to global terror and the threat that this new type of asymmetrical warfare poses to our balance between liberty and security, and America's moral leadership of the free world. These challenges are the terrain upon which your generation's battle will be fought. But take some measure of comfort though from the truth that the essence of this battle is as old as recorded time; for the most fortunate and the least fortunate, for the privileged and the poor, the battle is always the same: will your world change you, or will you change your world?"

Noting that American leadership is best applied in the areas of American security, sustainability, and skills and

innovation, Governor O'Malley concluded his remarks by referring to the transcendence of leadership. "But before all of those notions of community, and after your professional careers are over, you are and will remain a Citizen of the United States. And our greatness as a people -- our power to recruit and summon forth great leadership in every generation -- is not found primarily in our economic, diplomatic or military power, it is found in our fourth power: the power of our principles, the power of our values. It is a treasure found in self-evident truths. It is a treasure held in the spiritual tabernacle of a compassionate and noble community renown around the world as the United States of America."

The Forrestal series was established in 1970 in honor of the late James V. Forrestal who, as one of the foremost proponents of seapower in our era, was instrumental in the development of the modern Navy. The purpose of the series is to enhance the education, awareness and appreciation of the members of the Brigade of Midshipmen in the social, political, and cultural dimensions of the Nation and the world. Some past lecturers include Sen. Chris Dodd (CT), Tim Russert, Dr. Henry Kissinger, Admiral Mike Mullen, H. Ross Perot, General Barry McCaffrey, President George H.W. Bush, General Colin Powell, Attorney General Janet Reno, David McCullough, and Vice President Dick Cheney.

[ [View Governor's Remarks](#) ]

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### [Additional Press Releases](#)



# Governor Martin O'Malley Delays Proposed Reductions to GCEI, Community Colleges, Other Local Aid

**ANNAPOLIS, MD (January 27, 2009)** – Governor O'Malley today announced plans to delay proposed reductions in the Geographic Cost of Education Index (GCEI), aid to community colleges and other local aid for Fiscal Year '09 amid speculation that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act could provide close to \$4 billion in economic relief for Maryland, including more than \$1.1 billion for public education.

“Today, we have chosen to delay proposed reductions in GCEI and other local aid programs for FY 09 until we have more information about the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act,” said Governor Martin O'Malley. “We have worked hard to protect our priorities even during this national economic downturn and we are hopeful that Congress will act quickly to approve this legislation that could provide up \$4 billion in economic relief to Maryland.”

Governor O'Malley also released a comprehensive overview of how the proposed federal stimulus package could impact Maryland. According to the proposed legislation under consideration by Congress, Maryland could receive up to \$1.1 billion in education aid, more than \$660 million for energy assistance and conservation programs, workforce development funds and community development block grants. In addition, Maryland could see over \$1 billion in Medicaid relief, public safety grants and over \$1 billion for infrastructure projects – including highway and mass transit projects, water/wastewater projects and school construction.

The State of the Maryland has been planning for months on how to allocate the proposed stimulus dollars should the funds be approved by Congress.

“We will continue to work with our federal partners and the Obama Administration to make sure Maryland has up-to-date information regarding the federal stimulus package that we are prepared on day one to put shovels in the ground as funds are approved,” Governor O'Malley said.

***View charts indicated estimated allocation of education aid by county under the expected stimulus funds, as well as an outline of the proposed FY 09 cuts by county which are now being delayed.***

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## **Additional Press Releases**



# Governor Martin O'Malley, Board of Public Works Hold "Hope-a-Thon" for School Construction Funding

## *\$1 Billion Invested in School Construction Over Three Years*

ANNAPOLIS, MD (January 28, 2009) – Governor Martin O'Malley, joined by Treasurer Nancy Kopp and Comptroller Peter Franchot, today met with Superintendents from school systems across the state at the annual "Hope-a-thon" for the allocation of the remaining public school construction funding. Governor O'Malley has proposed \$260.3 million in school construction funding for FY 2010. Over the last three years, the O'Malley-Brown Administration has awarded more than \$1 billion to local jurisdictions for school construction and renovation projects.

The "hope-a-thon," formerly known as the "beg-a-thon" was implemented by the Board of Public Works to allow school superintendents to have a more meaningful conversation with the Board of Public Works on their jurisdiction's key school priorities.

"Over the last two years, we have made tremendous progress moving our children out of temporary learning shacks and helping our local jurisdictions build classrooms and schools for the 21st century," said Governor Martin O'Malley. "Even in these difficult economic times, we must protect our #1 ranked public schools and continue to make investments in our children's future and the future of our State's workforce."

Today, superintendents from 18 local school systems in Maryland appeared before the Board of Public Works to discuss school construction projects in their local jurisdictions. Currently, \$65 million of the total \$260.3 million in state aid for public school construction funding remains unallocated. The recommendations are made by the State's Interagency Committee on School Construction.

The O'Malley-Brown Administration has made record investments over the last three years totaling over \$1 billion in public school construction and renovation. The Governor's FY 2010 proposed budget includes record levels of funding for K-12 Education, totaling \$5.4 billion, making it the largest component of the State's General Fund budget. The O'Malley-Brown Administration has also included \$774.3 million in their proposed budget to fully fund teacher and librarian retirement pension costs, and \$5.4 million for the new SEED school in Baltimore City.

Yesterday, Governor O'Malley announced plans to delay proposed reductions in the Geographic Cost of Education Index (GCEI), aid to community colleges and other local aid for Fiscal Year '09 amid speculation that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act could provide close to \$4 billion in economic relief for Maryland, including more than \$1.3 billion for public education, \$191 million of which is estimated for school construction funding.

Maryland's school system was recently ranked number one in the nation, according to *Education Week*. Each year, *Education Week* issues an education report card.

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### Additional Press Releases



# Governor Martin O'Malley Delivers Third State of the State Address

*Address focuses on protecting progress in public education, a strong safety net for families in tough economic times, improved public safety*



**ANNAPOLIS, MD (January 29, 2009)** – Governor Martin O'Malley today delivered the **2009 State of the State address** to the citizens of Maryland and the Maryland General Assembly. In his address, Governor O'Malley focused on the need to protect our shared priorities and strengthen Maryland's safety net for families in need during these tough economic times.

The Governor was joined by Lieutenant Governor Anthony Brown, Congresswoman Donna Edwards, House Speaker Michael Busch, Senate President Mike Miller, State Treasurer Nancy Kopp, Comptroller Peter Franchot, Attorney General Doug Gansler, members of the General Assembly, members of the Executive Cabinet, honored guests and Maryland citizens for this third State of the State address.

"I would like to talk with you about our hard-won progress, the serious economic challenges at hand, and the choices and actions we must take today in order to stand up for the families of our State in these tough economic times," said Governor O'Malley. "Finally, I want to talk with you about how, together, we will emerge from this recession with the real hope of a better future for all of Maryland's children."

"Thanks to the tough decisions we've made together over these last two years, the state of our State is once again strong enough to overcome the very challenging times at hand," Governor O'Malley continued. "And with the inspired leadership of our new President Barack Obama, we finally have a federal partner who shares our commitment to progress."

Noting that it is easy to overlook the progress we've made as One Maryland in a national recession this severe, Governor O'Malley outlined Maryland's "measures of progress," including:

- Maryland's second largest single-year homicide reduction in 25 years with 66 fewer murders, 34 fewer fire deaths; and 60 fewer lives lost on our roads to traffic accidents last year.
- Expansion of affordable healthcare to 100,000 additional Maryland families;
- Conservation of nearly 21,000 ecologically valuable acres through Program Open Space – quintupling Maryland's progress by more than 16,000 acres versus the previous administration; and
- Four straight years of zero percent increase for in-state college tuition, expanding affordable higher education to more Marylanders rather than fewer;

"We measure our progress in education by the number one ranking we received this year from *Education Week Magazine*. Let's say it again shall we? Maryland has the best public schools in America," Governor O'Malley declared. "Thank you Armistead Gardens – last year's highest scoring elementary math class in Baltimore City – for being here to

represent the generation which makes us so proud.”

In the midst of the most serious economic crisis in a generation, Governor O'Malley addressed the challenges that lie ahead for maintaining and expanding upon the progress we've made as a State by reading from letters he's received from citizens struggling to make ends meet, including "Sandra" in Alleghany County:

*"I have been blessed in many ways living in Maryland,... [but] I'm at a loss as to how I can keep a warm home and the food in my refrigerator properly cool with the high cost of electricity," the letter read. "...I know you are working hard, but the situation is getting downright heart wrenching. What can you do to prevent my son and I from becoming homeless due to electricity?"*

In his address, Governor O'Malley outlined ways Maryland has begun to protect working families during these difficult times:

- Passed what the Washington Post called *"among the most sweeping [reforms] in the country"* to help Maryland's most vulnerable neighbors, assembled more than 700 volunteer lawyers to aid at-risk homeowners, and negotiated agreements with six loan servicers to help borrowers and lenders find alternatives to foreclosure;
- Created 33 One Stop Centers which provide résumé, computer training, and job search services;
- Expanded opportunity to more women and minority business owners by increasing State awards to MBE firms; and
- Recovered \$1.2 million in unpaid wages owed to Maryland workers and passed the nation's first living wage law.



Noting that there is still significant work to do, Governor O'Malley cited ways the General Assembly can help protect Maryland's priorities and continue the progress already made:

"Our great challenge for this session is to redouble our efforts doing all that we can to stand up for Maryland families and to power through the other side of this recession ahead of other states," said Governor O'Malley, outlining specific areas where the General Assembly can act to protect Maryland's progress:

- Provide a record \$132 million in State funding to assist more than 125,000 Marylanders who are struggling to afford their heating bills this cold winter;
- Invest \$15 million to assist small businesses with obtaining health care coverage for their employees and keep 700,000 Marylanders insured by investing \$5.5 billion in Medicaid and the Maryland Children's Health Program;
- Support a legislative initiative expanding unemployment benefits to part-time workers who lose their job;
- Crack down on the shameful practice of cheating workers out of rights and benefits by fraudulently misclassifying employees as independent contractors;
- Guarantee a prevailing wage to workers on 118 more state-sponsored construction projects; and
- Give State workers the right to organize themselves by passing Fair Share enabling legislation.

Despite challenging economic times, Governor O'Malley's proposed FY2010 budget includes modest increases in key priority areas, K-12 public education and school construction, higher education, public safety, and the health of Maryland's future – our children and our environment. Governor O'Malley addressed these areas during his address citing the need to protect these key areas of Maryland's future.



## Public Education and School Construction



“In tough times we are investing \$5.4 billion in K-12 education; and we’re investing more than one billion dollars over three years in school construction. Our children, teachers and parents have given us a strong return on our investments – the best public school system in America,” said Governor O’Malley as he introduced the fifth grade class of Armistead Gardens Elementary School, last year’s highest scoring elementary math class in Baltimore City.

## Higher Education

“There is no single investment we can make that expands opportunity to more Marylanders like the investments we make to put the dreams of a college education within the grasp of more hard-working Maryland families,” said Governor O’Malley as he introduced two University of Maryland seniors who, due to four straight years of zero percent increase in college tuition, will graduate from college without a penny increase in their tuition. “This isn’t merely about trying to move up in some ranking, or generating another clip for a scrap book; this is about investing in our future.”

## Public Safety

“This year we need to focus on the things that actually save lives in Maryland and prevent violent crime like solving crimes with better technology, better law enforcement coordination, better re-entry programs and better parole, probation and juvenile services. There is no reason why one of the smartest and most compassionate states in the union should content itself with being one of the most violent states in the union,” Governor O’Malley said. In the House Chambers for the Governor’s address was Benjamin R. Civiletti, former U.S. Attorney General and Chair of the Maryland Commission on Capital Punishment whose final report recently recommended abolition of the death penalty in Maryland, a measure supported by a bill introduced this session by the O’Malley-Brown Administration.

## Health of Maryland’s Future

“Let this year be the year that our great State becomes the first in the nation to humbly acknowledge this important duality,” said Governor O’Malley, referring to the interrelated challenges of protecting the health of Maryland’s children and its environment. “Not only by pledging to redouble our efforts on land, water, and air to save the Chesapeake Bay, but let this also be the year that we together become the first State in the union to commit ourselves to eradicating childhood hunger by 2015 through the Maryland Partnership to End Childhood Hunger. This is not a pipe dream or the stuff of old songs. It is a matter of choosing and doing. Not only do we have a President and a Congress who want to help, but more importantly, we serve a people who want to help.”

Governor O’Malley concluded his address with a reference to this challenging but hopeful time in America’s history:

“For there is a truth that thundered across the Mall in Washington, DC last week, and we hear it rumbling still – a growing and renewed sense of hope and optimism, based on the values of our community and our sense of personal responsibility. A reaffirmation that we are all in this together, and that tough times don’t last but tough people do,” Governor O’Malley concluded. “The road is steep, but our legs are strong. And just as our challenges cannot be underestimated, neither can our strengths.”

[ [Read full text of the Governor's address, as prepared](#) ]

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## Governor Martin O'Malley Appoints Veteran Economic Developer to Lead the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development

**ANNAPOLIS, MD (January 30, 2009)** - Governor Martin O'Malley nominated Christian S. Johansson today as Secretary of Maryland's Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED).

"I am proud to nominate Mr. Johansson for this vital position to the future economic health of our One Maryland," said Governor O'Malley in announcing his selection. "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."

Christian Johansson joins 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.

"I look forward to working with Governor O'Malley and Lieutenant Governor Brown as we work to keep Maryland competitive in the global economy at this critical point in the State's history," said Johansson. "The O'Malley-Brown Administration's progress in expanding biotech and life sciences in Maryland and attracting new jobs to our State sets a strong foundation of growth for our economic future."

Mr. Johansson's education and experience, combined with his knowledge of Maryland's business climate and regional economies, will help him build quickly on many of the State's recent economic development successes, including the launch of Governor O'Malley's BIO 2020 initiative and DBED's ongoing expansion of international investment and trade. One of Mr. Johansson's first orders of business will be to design and implement a long-term economic growth strategy that maximizes the economic power of the federal government in Maryland and leverages the State's many scientific, medical and technology-based assets for continued growth in today's knowledge economy.

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.