



# County Executive Isiah Leggett: Six-Point Plan for Economic Development in Montgomery County

During his inaugural address on Dec. 1, 2014, marking the beginning of his third term, County Executive Isiah Leggett announced a six-point plan to accelerate economic development in Montgomery County. These actions boost both new and ongoing initiatives while a comprehensive economic strategy is well underway.

1

**Turn vacant office space and land into productive assets.** It is in our long term interest to hone this approach and provide even greater incentives for businesses to locate in the county. The County Executive is recommending a \$30 million program—BUILD—to provide support for shovel-ready commercial office and hotel projects, and to expand the current MOVE initiative to attract additional companies to existing office space.

2

**Build a new start-up business accelerator called MC-Squared to nurture the next generation of tech savvy entrepreneurs.** Montgomery County already has a vibrant small business community, but we need to create value generators by taking emerging start-ups and unleashing their potential by pairing them with managers from successful tech companies and VC funding opportunities.

3

**Create an independent transit authority for Montgomery County to move transit projects forward.** The authority would focus attention and resources on our growing transit needs as we compete for jobs, talents and investments. A state-of-the art transit network is essential to unlocking the county's economic potential and linking our economic centers of excellence throughout the county.

4

**Appoint a Development Ombudsperson to facilitate problem-solving and ensure transparency and responsiveness for our business community.** We will also commit to turning around a project around in 30 days if a ready-for-processing plan is submitted.

5

**Launch Ultra Montgomery, a high-speed fiber network, to connect our business, academic and federal institutions along major corridors and in transit-oriented, smart-growth communities.**

6

**Consolidate all our workforce programs and develop innovative ways to address both community needs and market demands.** We will establish a working group, in conjunction with MCPS and Montgomery Moving Forward, a network of community leaders from public, private, education and nonprofit sectors, to expand and create vocational apprenticeship programs in the county.

