



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.

