

MARYLAND



MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

News Release

Release ID: 03-262

Contact: Mary Anderson 240-777-6530 ;

For Immediate Release: June 20, 2003

Duncan Joins Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless to Outline New Initiatives to Fight Homelessness in County

Montgomery County Executive Douglas M. Duncan today joined the Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless and Action in Montgomery (AIM) in outlining several key steps being taken to address the ongoing needs of the homeless which were outlined in the Coalition's ten year plan to end homelessness. Duncan joined Sharan London, executive director of the Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless, Tom Cowley of Action in Montgomery and County Councilmember Steve Silverman at the Coalition's Celebrating Partnerships Breakfast.

"We are committed to working with the Coalition and other partners in the community to combat homelessness and address the affordable housing crisis in our community," said Duncan, "and there has been significant progress in the past year."

Among the steps taken by the County in the past year are:

- Purchase of the Econolodge motel property in Gaithersburg. Work is underway to convert it to 40 efficiency apartments and 17 two-bedroom apartments which will provide permanent housing for single adult men and women and 3-6 month transitional housing for families who need support to move them toward self-sufficiency.
- Creation of the Partnership for Permanent Housing, a project spearheaded by Action in Montgomery (AIM), which makes available rental units in the private market for formerly homeless families, with rental subsidies to the landlords from the Housing Opportunities Commission. With the inauguration of this partnership, Montgomery County has implemented the first phase of a "housing first" model which moves people from motels and shelters directly into housing with the supportive services.
- Formalizing an interagency workgroup; made up of agency heads from the Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Department of Health and Human Services, Housing Opportunities Commission, Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission and the Montgomery County Public Schools to work hand in hand with community leaders to

increase the stock of affordable housing for people with special needs and with very low income.

Duncan also released the annual report of the County's Housing Initiative Fund (HIF), which outlines the Fund's grants and loans administered during Fiscal Year 2002 (July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2002). During Fiscal Year 2002, the County signed grants and loans totaling \$14,844,648 to non-profit developers, for-profit developer, property owners and the Housing Opportunities Commission to support efforts to build and renovate affordable housing in Montgomery County. For every dollar of local funding spent; the HIF was able to leverage seven dollars in resources from private, federal and state sources.

These grants and loans have preserved the affordability of more than 5,600 housing units and directly improved the housing conditions of almost 8,000 residents. People in the neighboring community also benefited from the physical and management improvements in deteriorated buildings.

"In Montgomery County there are children living in motel rooms because their family has become homeless," said County Council Vice President Steven Silverman. "We must, and we will, work together to make sure every child and family in this County has a decent home."

In May 2002, the Coalition for the Homeless released "Homelessness in Montgomery County: Beginning to End, a 10-year action plan to end homelessness in the County. The objectives included increasing the stock of affordable housing, stopping the flow of people into homelessness, reducing barriers to people exiting homelessness quickly and raising public awareness about homelessness and its prevalence in Montgomery County year.

"We have made some real progress in the last year on the affordable housing front and on working to increase what we're doing for homeless individuals and families in our community," said Duncan, "but we need to keep the momentum going and continue to forge the partnerships between government, the private sector and the community so that we can be here in 10 years to talk about how we reached our goal to end homelessness in Montgomery County."

"Collaboration in addressing the housing needs of people experiencing homelessness is critical," said Sharan London, executive director of the Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless. "The Partnership for Permanent Housing and the PLQ project will increase the number of people housed in our community and both were realized because of partnerships between non-profits and government, between advocates and funders. We must continue to develop innovative solutions to address the housing crisis so together, we can see "Homelessness in Montgomery County: Beginning to End."

###

[Return to Press Releases](#)

[AWARDS](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [User Rights](#) | [Accessibility](#) | [Disclaimer](#)

Copyright 2002 Montgomery County Government All Rights Reserved - Best viewed with IE 5.0 or Netscape 6.0 and higher