

For Immediate Release: 11/21/2011

County Department of Housing and Community Affairs Seeks Input on Housing Policy

Montgomery County's Department of Housing and Community Affairs (DHCA) is sponsoring two public meetings to hear from residents and organizations interested in contributing to the update of the 2001 Housing Policy, "Montgomery County – The Place to Call Home." The meetings will be held on Wednesday, November 30 from 1 to 3 p.m. and on Thursday, December 1, from 7 to 9 p.m., in the first floor auditorium at the Council Office Building, located at 100 Maryland Avenue in Rockville.

The purpose of the Housing Policy, which is updated every ten years, is to guide the implementation of the County's housing programs and policies, to provide recommendations for improving them, and to provide direction for the allocation of resources. Objectives of the 2001 Housing Policy included variety and choice in housing, in various types of new and existing neighborhoods; assistance for persons with diverse housing needs; safe, high-quality neighborhoods; communities with affordable housing throughout the County; housing for all stages of life; equal opportunity housing; and sustainable communities. To view the 2001 Housing Policy online, visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/housingpolicy.

To sign up to speak or to submit written comments, email dhca.housingpolicy@montgomerycountymd.gov. Those interested in speaking may also leave a message at 240-777-3645. Those requiring special aids or services to participate in this hearing should email dhca.housingpolicy@montgomerycountymd.gov. Sign language interpreter services and language interpreter services are available upon request with at least three business days notice.

Issues, ideas and concerns shared at the public meetings will be compiled and considered in updating the current Housing Policy. A recommended 2012 Housing Policy will be presented to the Montgomery County Council in January. The updated Housing Policy will complement the "Housing Element of the General Plan" (online at www.montgomeryplanning.org/community/housing), approved by the Montgomery County Council in April 2011 and adopted by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission in May 2011. The Housing Element makes recommendations for housing in Montgomery County and identifies policy objectives, regulatory reforms and land use strategies needed to accomplish the recommendations.

For more information, call Stephanie Killian, Department of Housing and Community Affairs, at 240-777-3693, or email stephanie.killian@montgomerycountymd.gov

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