



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Gaithersburg/Germantown, Maryland

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CONTACT:

Laura Rowles, Director of Events & Marketing
lrowles@ggchamber.org, (301) 840-1400 x14

Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber's Upcounty Business Briefing Held

On Wednesday, May 12, the Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce (GGCC) held its 5th Annual Upcounty Business Breakfast Briefing (UCBBB). The UCBBB allots Chamber members and Upcounty Business Leaders an opportunity to discuss legislative issues with their elected officials.

The GGCC was honored to have Montgomery County Executive Isiah "Ike" Leggett, Montgomery County Councilmember Mike Knapp, State Senator Jennie Forehand – District 17, State Senator Rob Garagiola – District 15 and State Senator Nancy King – District 39 as their guest speakers.

The event was sponsored and hosted by Hughes Network Systems. Hughes' Assistant Vice President and GGCC Board Member Jim Muir welcomed over 40 attendees.

"The Upcounty Business Breakfast has become an important annual event for the Chamber. Special thanks go to Hughes for hosting the event and to our elected officials for their participation," stated Robert Jepson, Vice President Government Relations & Public Policy Adventist HealthCare and GGCC Board Chairman.

Senator Garagiola started the morning off highlighting the accomplishments of the 90-day session. "We passed a fiscally responsible balanced budget that continues to invest in our priorities without raising taxes," Garagiola stated in his Annapolis Wrap-up Report.

Senators King and Forehand followed suite and thanked the business community for their feedback, emails and phone calls throughout the session.

Montgomery County Executive Isiah "Ike" Leggett presented the FY11 Fiscal Update report to attendees and highlighted key initiatives and changes. The FY11 Fiscal report can be found online at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/omb. Montgomery County Councilmember echoed Leggett's remarks.

Doug Wrenn, Principal at Rodgers Consulting, Inc and GGCC Board Chair-Elect conducted an informative question and answer session with the guest speakers. Panelists addressed key issues such as the quality of education in Montgomery County; the tax burden on local businesses, the Corridor Cities Transitway, the Great Seneca Science Corridor Master Plan, government spending and the efforts to ensure a sustained climate of welcoming business and economic development in Montgomery County.

Senator King said "tell businesses we want them here." And Senator Garagiola noted "I am a businessman too and I get it." He encouraged the attendees to find out from their elected officials and candidates to find out where they "all of us" stand on these issues.



From left to right: State Senator Rob Garagiola - District 15, State Senator Jennie Forehand - District 17, State Senator Nancy King - District 39, Montgomery County Executive Isiah "Ike" Leggett, GGCC President & CEO Marilyn Balcombe, Vice President Government Relations & Public Policy Adventist HealthCare Robert Jepson and Hughes' Assistant Vice President and GGCC Board Member Jim Muir.