



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, October 8, 2009

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COUNCIL MEMBER TURNER HOSTS REGIONAL FORUM ADDRESSING THE IMPACT OF CHILDHOOD OBESITY ON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Council of Governments Panel to Address Effects of Childhood Obesity on Learning

Prince George's County Council Member Ingrid Turner (D) – District 4, in her capacity as Chair of the Human Services and Public Safety Committee of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), will host **“Addressing Youth Obesity and the Impact on Success in Our Schools”** on Friday, October 16th, from 9:30 a.m. to Noon, at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, 777 North Capitol Street, N.E.; Suite 300, in Washington, D.C.

“Addressing Youth Obesity and the Impact on Success in Our Schools” is a regional forum of local leaders and subject matter experts, addressing childhood obesity and its impact on student success.

Council Member Turner, forum moderator, says the multi-jurisdictional discussion presents an important opportunity to work collaboratively on a critical issue impacting student success.

“We will examine best practices, and focus on the experiences schools have had in addressing the obesity epidemic among young people. The ultimate goal is to work together to develop community support for policy that promotes healthier lifestyles among our young people across the region. There is a connection between student health and student achievement. We want to bring this issue to the forefront.”

The day's event will include two panel discussions - *Best Practices and Successes in the Region's Schools* and *Working Together to Address the Challenges and Barriers to Addressing Childhood Obesity*. Panelists include Fairfax County School Board Member Jane Strauss; Prince George's County Board of Education Chair Verjeana Jacobs and Board Member Donna Hathaway Beck; Maryland State Senator David Harrington; Montgomery County Board of Education President, Shirley Brandman; Arlington County School Board Member, Abby Raphael; Institute of Medicine, Tracey Fox; Fairfax Department of Health, Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu; CORE Health D.C. Executive Director Dr. Gloria Wilder; and D.C. State Board of Education Member Lisa Raymond.

COG is a regional organization of Washington area local governments. COG's stated mission is to enhance the quality of life and competitive advantages of the Washington metropolitan regions in the global economy by providing a forum for consensus building and policy-making; implementing intergovernmental policies, plans, and programs; and supporting the region as an expert information resource.

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All legislative powers of Prince George's County are vested in the County Council. The County Council sits as the District Council on zoning and land use policy, and as the Board of Health to govern and guide health policy. The County Council meets as a legislative body on Tuesdays in the Council Hearing Room on the first floor of the County Administration Building in Upper Marlboro. For more information on the Prince George's County Council, please visit www.princegeorgescountymd.gov.



Serving the People of Prince George's County, Maryland

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