



**I**n the challenging fiscal climate that will encompass the 2015 Session of the Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session we, the Prince George's County Executive and Prince George's County Council, are resolved to work together to protect critical State funding necessary to further our common goals of expanding our commercial tax base, job creation, economic development, improving our school system and ensuring the health, safety and welfare of our citizens.

The County's 2015 Legislative Agenda focuses primarily on safeguarding the County's budget priorities; specifically, securing previously committed State funding for the Regional Medical Center, protecting critical K-12 funding including the Geographic Cost of Education Index and school construction dollars, protecting transportation projects like the Purple Line that help provide the infrastructure investments that we need to spur economic development and expand our commercial tax base. Equally important, the County will work to protect further cuts to funding for other essential programs that have the direct effect of threatening the County's ability to provide basic services to our residents, in particular the disparity grant and public safety grants that have helped us bring crime down to unprecedentedly low levels.

Prince George's County is in a very strong position to be the economic engine of Maryland. With its available land inventory and abundant transit oriented development nodes throughout our jurisdiction, Prince George's County is poised to turn these assets into revenue generation and job creation hubs that will significantly benefit not only the County but the overall State of Maryland as well. Moreover, county government is committing its own resources in partnership with the State to make those goals a reality. Therefore, for the overall health and future prosperity of the State, it is both logical and imperative that the State and County continue to partner together to further the County's growth.

Working together, we are looking forward to a successful 2015 Legislative Session, and, most importantly, the continued prospering and growth of our beloved Prince George's County.

Respectfully,

***Rushern L. Baker, III***

County Executive  
Prince George's County

***Mel Franklin***

Council Chairman  
Prince George's County

# Legislative Agenda *for* 2015 Session

## REGIONAL MEDICAL SYSTEM FUNDING

Ensuring the Regional Medical Center project is secured and that previously committed State funding remains in place. In addition to helping to reduce health disparities in the region, the new facility and the transit-oriented development that will accompany it will positively affect the State and County's fiscal health by creating jobs, expanding the commercial tax base in the County, and ultimately, ending the years long dependency of the existing facilities on taxpayer subsidies.

## K-12 AND PUBLIC SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION FUNDING

Ensuring appropriate formula funding from the State for the County's K-12 educational system (including the Geographic Cost of Education Index funding) as well as appropriate funding to meet the school system's increasingly growing needs for repair, construction, renovation and modernization projects. Continue to explore work with the legislative and executive branches to identify long-term funding mechanisms that will address significant capital needs.

## TRANSPORTATION

Safeguarding State funding for transportation infrastructure investments that are crucial to the County and State's efforts to create jobs and generate revenues, in particular, the federal/state/local partnership to build the Purple Line light rail project. Construction of the Purple Line will have the multi-beneficial effect of spurring regional community revitalization, and creating thousands of jobs and millions of dollars in economic development growth. In addition, to relieving congestion and positively affecting the region's environment, the transit-oriented nature of the resulting development will make our existing communities even more sustainable.

The County will also work to protect state funding for other critical road projects, as well as funding for local road maintenance projects.

## PUBLIC SAFETY FUNDING

Working to safeguard the State public safety funding that has contributed to the unprecedented drops in County crime, making our community a safer, more attractive place in which to live, work and visit, and in so doing, making the County an increasingly more robust contributor to the State's tax and revenue base. This includes funding from the disparity grant, police aid, and grants from the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention.