



# Chamber In The News

February 13, 2009

To our Chamber members:

Here is the latest news from the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce:

## **Councilmember Knapp Discusses Need for Broad Economic Development Vision**



Pictured L-R: Gigi Godwin (MCCC), County Councilmember Mike Knapp, Elaine Amir (MCCC Board Member), Henry Bernstein (MCCC Board Member)

In a packed meeting of the Chamber's Economic Development and Education & Workforce Committee, this week, Councilmember Mike Knapp (D-District 2, Up-County), indicated that the recent decision by Hilton Hotels to locate in Fairfax County combined with the downturn in the economy has refocused him and his colleagues on the importance of a thriving business community.

Knapp called attention to the Council's ongoing review of the budget and plan for the County's Department of Economic Development. As part of the study, the Council is including a dialogue about what went wrong in the Hilton negotiations, and what needs to be done next time. Additionally, the review will contain findings regarding what other jurisdictions do, and what is and is not working in Montgomery County.

Perhaps most interesting, however, was Knapp's response to Chamber President Gigi Godwin's question 'does it matter to the County Council that we lost Hilton?' "We start from the assumption that everything's great, so to have a conversation where we acknowledge that everything isn't great is an interesting place to be," Knapp said. "What do we want to accomplish (as a County) and then what are the building blocks to do that. We want to be the place where this or that happens." "As leaders in the business and political community we need to articulate what that vision is."

## **MTA and SHA Brief Chamber Land Use & Transportation Committee on Status of the Corridor Cities Transitway**



Pictured L-R: Rick Kiegel (MTA), Gigi Godwin (MCCC), Brian Horn (SHA)

Rick Kiegel, Maryland Transit Administration and Brian Horn, State Highway Administration updated the Chamber's Land Use & Transportation Committee regarding the highway and transit projects proposed for the I-270 corridor.

The presenters reminded committee members that the three current projects in Maryland , the Purple Line, the Corridor Cities Transitway and the Red Line (in Baltimore ) will compete for Federal approval and dollars with projects from around the country. Projects nationwide likely to fare best in the competition are those that can prove both high levels of cost effectiveness and a State plan to secure matching funds. Governor O'Malley will be selecting the locally preferred route alternative for the CCT in the fall of '09. Federal funding for highway projects stands at a 50% match. The State and County will have to fund the remaining 50%.

Note: With this transit project funding and others in mind, the Chamber has supported State legislation in this and previous sessions to protect and increase the Transportation Trust Fund.

### **Don't Miss Out on the 35th Annual Public Safety Luncheon!**



The Montgomery County Firefighters Pipe & Drums are prepared to herald in the 35th Annual Public Safety Awards Luncheon. The event takes place on Friday, March 20 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel and Conference Center.

Tom Costello, NBC News Correspondent for the TODAY show and Norah O'Donnell, MSNBC Chief Washington Correspondent and Correspondent for the TODAY show are the programs emcees.

Sponsorships and individual tickets are available at <http://www.mccc.md.com/pubs/main/PSA.cfm>

# Chamber After Hours

Wednesday, February 18, 2009

5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Gordon Biersch

200 East Middle Lane , Unit A

Rockville , MD 20850

phone: 301-340-7159

Join the MCCC for a fun evening of networking as we fight back the winter chill  
at Gordon Biersch in Rockville Town Square .

**Cost: Free to members, \$40 to non-members**

**Contact:** Linda Ekizian, 301-738-0015 ext. 241, lekizian@mccc.md.com

## **SAVE THESE DATES**

35<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL PUBLIC SAFETY AWARDS – MARCH 20, 2009

CONGRESSIONAL PROCUREMENT CONFERENCE – MAY 13, 2009

MCCC 50<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL DINNER – JUNE 4, 2009

For more information on these and other Chamber events, visit us at

<http://www.mccc.md.com/>