



For Immediate Release

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***Several Major Prince George's County
Leaders Endorse O'Malley-Brown
Cite Record of Cutting Crime, Improving Schools,
and Increasing Economic Development***

Bladensburg, MD (February 20, 2006) – Today, several Prince George's County leaders endorsed Martin O'Malley and Anthony Brown for Governor and Lt. Governor respectively. Speaking in Bladensburg, twelve current and former Prince George's County leaders cited O'Malley's willingness to tackle tough challenges and record of progress in reducing violent crime, improving city schools, and bringing billions of dollars in new investment to Baltimore.

"Martin O'Malley and Anthony Brown have shown time and again they have the courage to tackle tough challenges, bring people together and make progress," said Del. Jim Hubbard (23rd Dist.). "As a former law enforcement officer, I am greatly impressed by the reduction in violent crime in Baltimore's on Martin O'Malley's watch. What the people of Baltimore have achieved by working together is a great example of what you can do with strong leadership."

Several national publications have cited the dramatic reduction in violent crime as a major reason in the Baltimore comeback – especially the \$7 billion in new investment in the city. Time magazine named O'Malley one of America's 5 best big city mayors, based on the record of leadership and progress.

Joining Del. Hubbard in endorsing the O'Malley Brown team were Del. Joanne Benson (24th Dist.), Del. Doyle Niemann (47th Dist.), Rev. and Fmr. Del. Kerry Hill (26th Dist.), Commissioner Eddie Martin (District Heights), Mayor Robert McGrory (Fmr. Mayor, Bladensburg), Mayor Adam Ortiz (Edmonston), Fmr. Del. Darren Swain (24th Dist.), Mayor Guy Tiberio (Fmr. Mayor, Riverdale Park), Del. Veronica Turner (26th Dist.), Vice Mayor James Walls (District Heights). Also endorsing the ticket, but not in attendance was Del. Rosetta Parker (47th Dist.).

Del. Joanne Benson, a former educator, added, "I'm truly impressed by the record of progress in Baltimore schools, despite the state being an absentee partner in tackling the challenges confronting the community." When O'Malley came into office, not one grade scored proficient in reading and math. Now a majority of 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th graders

scored proficient or advanced. Scores have improved in every grade and graduation rates are up significantly.

“Martin O’Malley understands the challenges Prince George’s faces, because he has faced similar problems in Baltimore and overcome them – especially, his ability to bring in billions in new investment” said Mayor Adam Ortiz. “He cut crime, improved schools, and helped create good jobs despite all the naysayers who said, and continue to say, that progress couldn’t be made in Baltimore.”

“Baltimore, Prince George’s County and our entire state are confronted by difficult challenges, but as Marylanders we share the determination to overcome them,” O’Malley added in accepting the endorsements. “There are always going to be some who say that problems are too big and progress can’t be made, but Anthony and I are committed to taking on the big fights for all hard-working Maryland families.”

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