



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

HANS RIEMER
COUNCILMEMBER AT-LARGE

May 30, 2012

The Honorable Isiah Leggett
Montgomery County Executive
50 Monroe Street
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Mr. Leggett:

It was great to speak with you recently about developing a plan to “go big” with our efforts to protect and grow trees in Montgomery County. Beautiful trees in shady neighborhoods are a signature characteristic of Montgomery County, and one that we must not only protect but grow anew for future generations.

I would like to work with you to engage our county residents in a campaign to plant 100,000 new trees in 10 years. This campaign would not only include street trees, over which the county has direct authority, but we would also ask residents to accept and care for new trees on their own property, provided and planted by the campaign.

This effort would seek to bring people from all over the county and from every walk of life to participate in a community effort to build a better future. We would work with schools and PTAs, churches and civic groups, environmental organizations and municipal governments in the County to identify the highest priority areas for planting trees, appropriate techniques, funding, and volunteer power. We would build a website for the campaign and monitor our progress, tree by tree, year by year. We would start with a community summit, proceed with house parties and contests, and perhaps we could even exceed our goal.

I am ready to dedicate my time and energy to this important task. An effort like this will require expertise and person-power that we have available to us thanks to the great leadership of our Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Transportation and the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission; as well as our own strong community advocacy groups.

I would like to meet with you soon to get additional feedback on this idea and, if you agree, discuss how we can draft a concrete plan, assign responsibilities, identify resources and start working towards our goal.

With appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hans Riemer".

Hans Riemer
Council Member, At-large