

**THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION
PRESS RELEASE**

For immediate release:

April 7, 2006

For more information, contact:

Nancy C. Lineman
Chief, Community Outreach and Media Relations
The Montgomery County Planning Board
The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
301/495-4600

**PLANNING BOARD APPROVES TRANSFER OF GOLF COURSE OPERATIONS
TO MONTGOMERY COUNTY REVENUE AUTHORITY**

SILVER SPRING, MD – To consolidate the operations of public golf courses in Montgomery County under a single agency and improve operations, the Montgomery County Planning Board gave approval yesterday to an agreement that will transfer operations of its four golf courses to the Montgomery County Revenue Authority as of April 15, 2006.

The Revenue Authority operates five public golf courses in the county. Last year, the Revenue Authority earned \$734,000 from golf operations while Park and Planning lost close to \$500,000.

“The Revenue Authority has a much better record of running public golf,” said Planning Board Chairman Derick Berlage. “The Board made a very fiscally prudent decision today that will result in efficiencies at the courses – not to mention efficiencies for the Montgomery County taxpayer.”

Approximately 32 full-time staff currently working for Park and Planning’s golf courses will be eligible to be transferred to other comparable positions within the park system. They are also eligible to apply for employment at the Revenue Authority.

The Revenue Authority will run the golf operations and Park and Planning will retain ownership of the land. The two agencies will sign a lease that will incorporate the terms of the operating agreement. After public hearings on the matter, the Planning Board and the Montgomery County Council will review and vote on the terms of the lease.

Chairman Derick Berlage, Vice Chairman Wendy Purdue and Commissioner John Robinson voted in favor of the transfer. Commissioner Meredith Wellington opposed it. Commissioner Allison Bryant abstained.

###