

**THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARK AND PLANNING
JOINT PRESS RELEASE**

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For more information, contact:

Patrick Lacefield, County Council spokesman – 301/777-7939

Nancy C. Lineman, Park and Planning spokeswoman – 301/495-4600

**COUNCIL, PARK AND PLANNING APPOINT MANAGEMENT EXPERTS
TO HELP GUIDE PLANNING REFORMS**

ROCKVILLE, MD – Montgomery County Council Chairman Tom Perez and Planning Board Chairman Derick Berlage announced today the appointment of two seasoned county government professionals, Royce Hanson and Robert Kendal, to jointly help reform the regulatory functions of the county's overall development implementation process.

Hanson, a former chairman of the Planning Board from 1972 to 1981, will serve as special advisor to the County Council. He is a research professor at George Washington University and holds a Ph.D. in government and public administration and a law degree from American University.

He was the Senior Staff Officer and Project Director of the Committee on National Urban Policy of the National Research Council and the President of the Washington Center for Metropolitan Studies.

Hanson will begin his work with the Council immediately.

“Royce Hanson is a well-known and highly-respected land use and public management expert who will provide critical guidance to the Council during the process of implementing solutions and restoring public confidence,” said Perez.

Kendal, who directed the County's Office of Management and Budget from 1987 to 2002, will serve as a senior advisor to the Park and Planning Commission. He will begin his work with Park and Planning by December 1.

“We are working closely with the County Council to bring together the expertise needed at this critical juncture,” said Berlage. “I am confident that Bob Kendal will be a great asset to the agency – and the community as a whole.”

(more...)

In addition, the Montgomery County Department of Park and Planning has contracted with Management Partners, a nationally recognized consulting firm with extensive expertise in development review processes across the county. The firm will give a thorough top-to-bottom analysis of Park and Planning's development review division and make recommendations for reform.

Both Hanson and Kendal will be instrumental in evaluating many structural, managerial, organizational changes, some of which were recommended in the Office of Legislative Oversight report that was released today.

"I believe we have a team of advisors that will help us to implement the recommendations of the report of the Office of Legislative Oversight and help put our house in order," said Perez.

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