

# O'Malley Swears in Members of State's Economic Development Commission

Gov. Martin O'Malley recently presided over the official swearing in of the Maryland Economic Development Commission, formally re-launching the defunct entity at a time when private economic investment is needed most.

The commission, which was first created in 1995 but has been inactive since 2006, is composed of 25 members that will help shape Maryland's business policy, regulation and legislation. It will develop a 10-year strategic plan for Maryland's economy, solicit input from businesses from each region of the state and provide recommendations to the governor on current and potential issues impacting Maryland's businesses.

"The Maryland Economic Development Commission will play a vital role in charting a course for Maryland's economic future," said O'Malley. "We are fortunate to have brought together some of Maryland's greatest visionaries in science, education and business from every region of the state to undertake this important mission, and I look forward to learning their recommendations for how we can best support Maryland's business community."

Commission members serve staggered three-year terms. Chairing the organization will be Elias Zerhouni, who is currently senior adviser for Johns Hopkins Medicine and senior fellow at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. From 2002 to 2008, Zerhouni was the director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), where he successfully led a series of reforms that were adopted by Congress in the NIH Reform Act of 2006.

O'Malley recently launched a series of small business "check-in" roundtable discussions, where small business owners have an opportunity to meet informally with him and members of his administration to discuss relevant topics, including the impact of the national recession on local small businesses, the need for health care reform so employees of small businesses can have access to affordable, quality health care and the many resources and services available to Maryland companies looking to grow.

Recently, he also announced the creation

of the Small Business Task Force, which will be composed of 15 small business owners from around Maryland. It will serve as the governor's sounding board on small business issues and will be tasked with providing recommendations to improve state services and resources available to Maryland small businesses, so that they may operate more efficiently and effectively.

The current and new board members are Timothy Adams, founder and CEO of SA-Tech; Deepak Bansal (current member), senior information technology consultant; Richard Bernstein, president and CEO of LWRC International; Steve Dubin, CEO of Martek Biosciences Corp.; Susan Ganz, CEO of Lion Brothers; Edwin Hale, Sr., chairman and CEO of 1st Mariner Bancorp; Timothy Hodge, principal (current member) of Miles and Stockbridge; Kevin Johnson, CEO of Commercial Interiors; William "Britt" Kirwan, chancellor of the University System of Maryland; Aris Mardrossian, CEO (current member) of Technology Patents; Ricardo Martinez, chairman and CEO of Project Enhancement Corp.; John McLaughlin, president and CEO of DAP Products; Karen Myers, president of Wisp Resort Development and Mountaineer Log & Siding Co.; Sagar Patel, president of GE Mechanical Systems; Ronald Peterson, president/vice president of The Johns Hopkins Hospital and Health System/Johns Hopkins Medicine; Dawn Deiter Rich, president/vice president of American Electronics/Deiter, Burris Associates; Bob Smelkinson, chairman (retired/current member) of Smelkinson Sysco Food Services; Ed St. John, president of St. John Properties; Harold Stinger, chairman of Stinger Ghaffarian Technologies; Walter (Butch) Tilley III, executive vice president (current member) of Home Paramount; and Alan Wilson, chairman, president and CEO of McCormick & Co.

Ex-officio members include Christian Johansson, secretary of the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development; Harold Adams, chairman emeritus/chairman of RTKL Associates' In-



ternational Advisory Board; James Dinegar, president and CEO, Greater Washington Board of Trade; Donald Fry, president of the Greater Baltimore Committee; and Kevin Kelly, vice president/chairman of Van Skoyoc Associates/Federal Facilities Advisory Board.