

Statement by County Executive Isiah Leggett

on Council Approval of Arts & Entertainment Land Use Changes

October 7, 2008

“I join the Silver Spring community in applauding Council approval of land use changes designed to encourage the creation of Arts and Entertainment facilities in our downtown areas.

“These measures make the opening of the Fillmore music, live entertainment, and community use venue a reality by 2011. The Fillmore will vitalize the old J.C. Penney site, which has been vacant at the gateway to Silver Spring for 19 years. This important economic development project will provide music for a variety of tastes, include significant community use, bring more business to downtown Silver Spring, and result in a net public benefit of \$1.6 million a year from the very start. This is a great deal for Montgomery County.

“Under this creative public-private partnership approved by the Council, we will have a significant tool to help stimulate arts and entertainment investment and economic activity in Silver Spring, Wheaton, and Bethesda.

“I thank the Silver Spring business and civic community for their steadfast support and I thank the County Council for their backing for changes that will enrich our arts and entertainment options as well as benefit the County economically.”