

MontgomeryBriefs

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Minority affairs manager named

ROCKVILLE — Montgomery County Executive Douglas M. Duncan has appointed Katie Knowlin as the county's new Minority/Female Business Affairs Manager.

Ms. Knowlin will work out of the Department of Economic Development, helping minority- and women-owned small businesses grow to mid-size and large corporations, Mr. Duncan said.

Ms. Knowlin was named director of the state's Office of Minority Business Enterprise in 2001 after serving as a transportation policy analyst at the Maryland Department of Transportation.

She started her career in public service in 1985 as a special assistant in former Gov. William Donald Schaefer's Office of Minority Affairs. She went on to be a fiscal policy specialist at the Department of Human Resources and assistant director and manager of program and business development in the Office of Minority Business Enterprise.

Before joining state government, Ms. Knowlin owned a small business in Baltimore.

County forms ag reserve group

ROCKVILLE — The Montgomery County Council voted unanimously last week to form an Ad Hoc Agricultural Policy Working Group to address controversy over the county's 93,000-acre Agricultural Reserve.

The council hopes the group will include local farmers, environmental activists, residents of communities in the ag reserve and people from the state's broader agriculture community.

The ag reserve, established 25 years ago, spans northern and western Montgomery County in an arc from Laytonsville to Poolesville, from the Potomac River to the Patuxent. The farmland and open space is protected under zoning that allows only one unit per 25 acres.

Those interested in joining the group should write to Council President George Leventhal, 100 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850 by April 21. For more information, call Justina Ferber at 240-777-7938.