

Press Release

HARFORD COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Office of the County Executive



PUBLIC SAFETY

“Ensuring a Safe
Harford”

EDUCATION

“Preparing Now,
Building for the Future”

EFFICIENCY IN GOVERNMENT

“Governing Smarter”

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

“Growing and Sustaining
Harford’s Prosperity”

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

“Protecting Our
Environment”

QUALITY LIVING

“Safeguarding What is
Important to Harford
County Citizens”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 5, 2009

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County Executive Craig and Mayor Bennett Sign Water Agreement

*City of Aberdeen partners with County
to increase capacity and meet water needs*

(Aberdeen, MD) -- Harford County Executive David R. Craig and Mayor Michael Bennett of the City of Aberdeen, have signed the Sixth Amendment to the Harford County – Aberdeen Water Agreement. The agreement was signed Monday, October 5 at City Hall in Aberdeen, and will provide Aberdeen with a plan for current and future water needs.

Joining the County Executive and Mayor Bennett were Congressman C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger, County Councilman Richard Slutzky, County Councilwoman Mary Ann Lisanti, Aberdeen Council President Mike Hiob, and Aberdeen council members Ruth Ann Young, Ron Kuperfman and Ruth Elliott.

“Today is a great day for the City of Aberdeen and the people of Harford County,” remarked County Executive Craig. “With the signing of the Sixth Amendment to the existing water agreement, we have helped secure a brighter future for the City of Aberdeen and business community,” the County Executive stated.

Commenting on the signing of the Sixth Amendment, Mayor Michael Bennett stated, “Water links us to our neighbors in a way more profound and complex than any other, it is the building block of life”.

Also commenting on the occasion of the expansion of the Harford County – Aberdeen Water Agreement, Congressman Ruppersberger remarked, “It’s great to see Team Maryland coming together to create a comprehensive solution to ensure businesses in the region have access to water now and in the future. With thousands of jobs coming to the Harford County region through the closing of military bases in other states, it is even more important that we work together to ensure we have the infrastructure in place for current residents and businesses while we prepare for new ones,” said Congressman C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger.

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In March of this year, Harford County and the City of Aberdeen reached agreement on the Fifth Amendment to the water agreement. That amendment allowed for the purchase of an additional 100,000 gallons of water to support businesses in the City of Aberdeen. Both the Fifth and Sixth Amendments are vital to the county and City of Aberdeen as they work to meet the growing demands of BRAC to the region.

The original contract between Harford County and the City of Aberdeen was executed on June 27, 1995. That contract provided 500,000 gallons of water per day to the city from the county. The Sixth Amendment boosts the water allocation to a total of 600,000 gallons of water per day, with an option to increase that by another 300,000 gallons in the future.

The Sixth Amendment also coincides with the construction of the expansion to the Abingdon Water Treatment Plant, which began in December 2008 and is scheduled for completion in October 2011. As such the City of Aberdeen is now a vested partner in the Abingdon plant expansion.

The signing of this agreement also marks an important step forward in achieving County Executive Craig's goal for a regional approach to managing Harford County's water needs.

"It is critical for Harford County Government and the City of Aberdeen to work together on projects and initiatives that are in the best interest of our business community, our military partners and citizens we serve," stated County Executive Craig.