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For Immediate Release

September 30, 2009

**Statement on the Montgomery County Tuition Assistance Programs**

The Leggett administration has irresponsibly approved the expenditure of tens of thousands of taxpayer dollars for programs and courses that were neither authorized nor contemplated by any collective bargaining agreement. The administration is now running for political cover while again, acting irresponsibly in violating the intent and substance of valid contracts.

We will exercise our rights and seek an appropriate remedy for those employees who seek higher education in connection with their public service.

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*see notice below*

**Milne, Jane**

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**From:** MCG Postmaster **Sent:** Wed 9/30/2009 5:02 PM  
**To:** #MCG.ALL  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** A message from the Chief Administrative Officer  
**Attachments:**

Effective today, I have directed the immediate suspension of the Montgomery County Tuition Assistance Program.

The program, which began in 1979, has made significant contributions over the years to continuing education and training for Montgomery County employees. However, serious questions have been raised about the appropriateness of a small number of the hundreds of courses covered by the program.

In those few cases where payments were made for educational expenses other than tuition, the County is seeking and will continue to seek reimbursement from the individuals involved. The County's internal audit unit will be reviewing program records to ensure past and present compliance with established guidelines and the intended purposes, and will be reviewing management controls.

Commitments for employees' courses already made by the Office of Human Resources in FY10 will be honored, subject to review for compliance with established guidelines. All other requests are suspended. The program will resume if and when *every* part of the program works the way it should.

Questions should be directed to the Office of Human Resources. Thank you for your patience while we review this program to ensure that it serves its intended purpose.

Timothy L. Firestine

Chief Administrative Officer