

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF DORCHESTER COUNTY**  
COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING, P.O. BOX 26  
CAMBRIDGE, MARYLAND 21613  
PHONE: (410) 228-1700  
FAX: (410) 228-9641

RICKY C. TRAVERS, PRESIDENT  
TOM C. BRADSHAW, VICE PRESIDENT  
WILLIAM V. NICHOLS  
RICK M. PRICE  
DON B. SATTERFIELD



JEREMY GOLDMAN  
COUNTY MANAGER  
  
E. THOMAS MERRYWEATHER  
COUNTY ATTORNEY

**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FROM: Dorchester County Council**  
**DATE: December 13, 2017**

**Dorchester County Receives Academy for Excellence in  
Local Governance County Innovation Award**

Dorchester County Government's *Tax Lien Property Re-Purpose Program* was selected by the University of Maryland and the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) Board of Directors, to receive an Academy for Excellence in Local Governance County Innovation Award. Two awards are given each year, to one rural and one urban county. Out of 22 nominees, Dorchester County was selected to receive the rural county award which was accepted by Councilman Ricky Travers, President, on behalf of the Dorchester County Council, on December 7, 2017 at the MACo Conference which is held annually at the Hyatt Chesapeake Bay Regency.

To address blight, vacant housing and deteriorating properties, the County Council established a Tax Lien Property Committee, to provide recommendations on ways to transfer properties acquired by the County via tax sale into productive use. The following individuals were chosen to serve on this Committee: Jeremy Goldman, County Manager; Cindy Smith, Grants Administrator; Michael Spears, Finance Director; Tom Moore and Steve Dodd, Planning and Zoning Director. The end result was the *Tax Lien Property Re-Purpose Program* which was adopted by the County Council. This program takes a holistic approach to housing. Not only are vacant properties repurposed as productive locations, counseling and services are offered to those at risk of displacement. In return citizens within the community are able to retain or increase their property values and their overall quality of life.

Councilman Travers, on behalf of the Council, offers the following to the members of the Committee: "Thank you for your efforts in ensuring residents are afforded every opportunity to continue to enjoy living in Dorchester County." He also commended the County Council for their role in this important community building effort.

For further information contact: Jeremy Goldman, County Manager, (410) 228-1700,  
[jgoldman@docogonet.com](mailto:jgoldman@docogonet.com).