

Monday, July 25, 2011



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## Leggett, Leventhal lead MontCo contingent to El Salvador

By: Rachel Baye | Examiner Staff Writer | 07/23/11 8:05 PM

Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett will lead a delegation of 66 people to El Salvador this week.

Lasting about a week, the trip is part of an effort to establish the county's first "Sister Cities" relationship with Morazan, in the northeast part of the country.

More than 50,000 of the county's 142,500 Hispanics are Salvadoran, and 35,000 were born in El Salvador, said Bruce Adams, director of the county's Office of Community Partnerships and a board member of Montgomery Sister Cities, the nonprofit behind the trip. The county's total population is about 946,000.

The trip will help participants gain a better understanding of the Salvadoran history and culture, so they can better understand the customs of Salvadoran residents in Montgomery County, he said.

establish a mutually beneficial relationship with Morazan, a relationship that has already begun.

After an initial trip to El Salvador last year, Adams helped a Salvadoran nonprofit establish a bank in Montgomery County so Salvadoran residents of Montgomery County could more easily transmit money to relatives in El Salvador.

"It's a complete win-win-win," he said.

In addition to Leggett and Adams, who will leave Monday, trip participants include County Councilman George Leventhal, Del. Ana Sol Gutierrez and former U.S. Rep. Connie Morella, as well as county staff, teachers, professors and other community members.

All travelers are paying their own way, including all travel and food expenses, said Leggett spokesman Patrick Lacefield, who also is going on the trip. All county staff are using vacation time, except for the elected officials who don't have paid vacation time.

But he emphasized that the trip is not a vacation.

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"This is work," Lacefield said. "Whether people are taking it as leave or not, this is work."

Agenda items range from meetings with local leaders and visits to historical sites to a cheese tasting.

Office of Community Partnerships Latino Liaison Karla Silvestre, who is going on the trip, said one of her goals is to learn why people leave El Salvador.

Leventhal said he is looking forward to learning about the history of the Salvadoran civil war in the 1980s, which drove about 25 percent of the population to leave the country.

Fourteen Habitat for Humanity volunteers also will build 38 homes, and nonprofit MoverMoms is performing community service at a school in Perquin.

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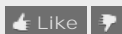
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**Igiveponausername** Yesterday 06:43 PM

Asmart, I know exactly how you feel. That's precisely why we left. Montgomery county's going down the toilet.

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**SoonToBeFormerResident** Yesterday 04:15 PM

We are running a deficit in this county and these dim bulbs held off to El Salvador? I guess by them leaving it raised the IQ of both locations.



Igiveponausername liked this

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**scarletdove** Yesterday 03:24 PM

And how many of the 142,500 are illegal? Illegals making money here and sending it back to El Salvador and our politicians facilitating this, blatant support for criminals. And notice how the dump this information in our face the week they are leaving, no word our there previously--slimey. No doubt Gustavo Torres and Ana Sol Gutierrez had something to do with this expensive little jaunt, 66 people using taxpayers money for this kind of crap in this kind of economic climate, how foolish is this ignorant decision. There is no need for these 66 people to know about El Salvador history, they need to support American and MoCo history. This is more nose rubbing, back kissing dirty liberal politics, so rampant in MoCo and MD. The illegals have become more important than the long-term citizen residents who have been subjected to this illegal-loving behavior from the libs. Enough is enough, haven't you damaged this county enough. I have lived here 65 years, born in DC and I just don't know how much longer I can put up with living in "little El Salvador" . If I want to go there to visit I will, I don't want El Salvador here! Vote all these fools out!

4 people liked this.

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**Common Sense** Yesterday 07:55 AM

There is nothing wrong with affluence. There is nothing wrong in a teaching program that attempted to lift all children - instead of teaching to the lowest common denominator. There is nothing wrong with housing developments that are all single-family homes, instead of a mandated mix of apartments, towns, and singles. The average single-family home owner adds to the tax base while the average apartment renter uses more in services than he contributes. Nothing against housing choice, but when it's government mandated, then government (a la Leventhal) can not question why the tax base is shrinking.

There's nothing wrong with business. But Montgomery's anti-business attitude up until 1999 is still having massive monetary effects.

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There's nothing wrong with wanting those who are illegal to leave - instead, we get a Safe-harbor policy. To the tune of \$300 million per year in expenditures to maintain their Safe-harbor policy.

Montgomery County is a joke - and its rapid descent is the evidence.

 scarletdove and 3 more liked this

 **Fix this county** 07/23/2011 12:46 PM

ICE already refers to MoCo as Little El Salvador. I'm sure this is going to do wonders with that image!


How about instead of spending time trying to figure out the culture of illegals who are here, you fix things that are wrong for the legal taxpayers of this county?

 scarletdove and 1 more liked this

 **K14** 07/23/2011 11:23 AM


Visiting historical sites and cheese tasting is WORK !! Now, get work ...cheese tatsers

1 person liked this.

 **Asmart** 07/23/2011 10:28 AM

Give me a break. I've lived her for all of my 50 years and watched my county slowly decline in every stat. A once proud and robust County has now been over taken by Howard County, Loudon County (you've got to be kidding and here comes PG !!) and has steadily fallen in the ranks of best counties in the US. Well done super left wing Mother Montgomery ! By the way I need this translated into Spanish, Korean, all Chinese dialects, Vietnamese, and the Slavic languages. Never mind the fact that a large number of signs in English in MoCo are mis-spelled and grammatically incorrect. Thank you. I'm going to go get my application for free housing now.

2 people liked this.

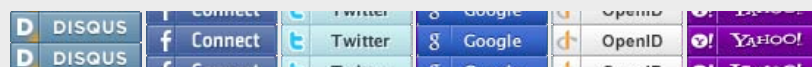
 **Teel301** 07/23/2011 09:42 AM

I suppose it would be too much to hope that El Salvador keeps them.  
When they get back, MoCo will have a renewed vigor in becomming the "best 3rd world county we can be".

4 people liked this.

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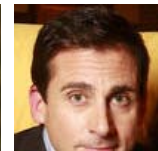
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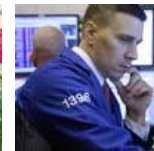
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