

**January 30, 2009**

**Haddaway to Escort Senate for State of the State**

Today at noon, the Governor will deliver the annual State of the State Address in the House Chamber. It is customary for the Senate to sit in the House Chamber for the duration of the speech. This year, Delegate Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio and Delegate Bill Frick have been selected to escort the Senate into the House Chambers, an honor that is bestowed on two delegates each year. Article II, Section 19 of Maryland's Constitution requires the Governor to ". . . inform the Legislature of the condition of the State and recommend to their consideration such measures as he may judge necessary and expedient." As such, the Governor's address will likely include budget details and an overview of his legislative initiatives for the year.

**Haddaway Meets Executive Producer Barry Levinson**



Executive Producer Barry Levinson was honored by the Maryland House of Delegates this week for his outstanding work in film and television. He is well known for movies such as "Tin Men" starring Richard Dreyfuss and "Rain Man" starring Dustin Hoffman. More recently, he is noted for his contributions to "Homicide: Life on the Streets", a drama about Baltimore City. After receiving his recognition on the House floor, he spent a few minutes talking with Delegate Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio about Maryland's film tax credit, an issue that Haddaway has been working on for several years.

Maryland's film tax credit is lower than that of surrounding states and has resulted in Maryland being passed over for movies and films. Haddaway often gives the example of the movie "Annapolis", which was slated to be filmed at the Naval Academy but moved to Philadelphia because of the tax credit issue. "The Eastern Shore is a great example of the revenue that tourism, film and the arts can bring to a jurisdiction," she said. "Swimmers, Runaway Bride and the Wedding Crashers are just three recent examples of films on the Shore that resulted in a boost in restaurant receipts, retail sales and accommodations in the region. In these tough economic times, we should be investing in things that generate revenue for our State." Haddaway added that it would be hard to get any tax credits passed this year given Maryland's political climate, but that she will continue working on the issue.

## **Precious Metal Theft**

Theft of precious metals have been on the rise over the last few years as the price of silver, gold, platinum, aluminum and other metals has increased. Delegate Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio and other members of the House Economic Matters Committee were briefed today by the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (DLLR) on potential regulations for pawnbrokers that might help with the issue.

The Department also reported on the extremely low recovery rates of certain types of stolen property that is due in part to the lack of record keeping by pawnbrokers. “I don’t want us to over regulate second hand property dealers, but we have to give law enforcement officials the tools they need to investigate and solve these crimes,” Haddaway said. “The legislation we passed last year was a good start, but we have a lot more to do if we are going to curb this rise in thefts.”

For more information on this and other issues, please feel free to contact Delegate Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio’s office by calling (410) 841-3429 or by emailing [jeannie.haddaway@house.state.md.us](mailto:jeannie.haddaway@house.state.md.us).