



COUNTY AMONG FINALISTS FOR DATACENTER PROJECT

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Montgomery County, Virginia –Montgomery County was among the top three finalists in the state competing for a major economic development prospect that selected another location.

“We wish to congratulate Mecklenburg County on successful recruitment of Microsoft to its Virginia GigaPark,” said Board Chair Annette Perkins. “This announcement also brings to a close several years of intense work by County economic development officials and staff, in partnership with the Town of Christiansburg, state economic development officials, the Governor’s Office and Congressman Rick Boucher, to bring this prospect to Falling Branch Corporate Park.

“We are very proud of the County’s efforts and our community’s competitiveness against other Virginia, North Carolina and Texas localities. Our economic development officials also developed a strong relationship with Microsoft during the site selection process, which we hope will leave an open door for us for the future,” Perkins said.

Since a request was made to the town for a special use permit for generators at the prospective site, citizens have expressed considerable interest in the potential prospect.

“We generally do not discuss unannounced projects but we believe it is important to express our appreciation to everyone who worked with us on this project and to Microsoft for putting us high on their list of prospective sites,” said County Administrator Craig Meadows. “I believe our economic development efforts will continue to attract interest from high-tech firms looking for all that our community has to offer.

“Companies seeking to make major capital investments have an extensive checklist of requirements,” Meadows added. “As the company proceeded with its due diligence on the site, factors such as site topography, site geology, and electric and fiber infrastructure, were all significantly evaluated. The company ultimately determined that the Montgomery County site required more extensive engineering compared to alternatives in other locations. Fortunately, Virginia identified an alternative site in the Commonwealth, which proved to be successful after further negotiations.”

Meadows noted, “The County’s performance-based incentives were approximately equal to our Southside neighbor. The State, however, was able to sweeten the pot with \$4.8 million in tobacco commission funds that were not on the table in Montgomery County.”

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