



Protecting Land to Improve Communities

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Barbara Hopkins: 443-610-8601

NeighborSpace Honors County Executive Kevin Kamenetz with the Community Neighbor Space Award

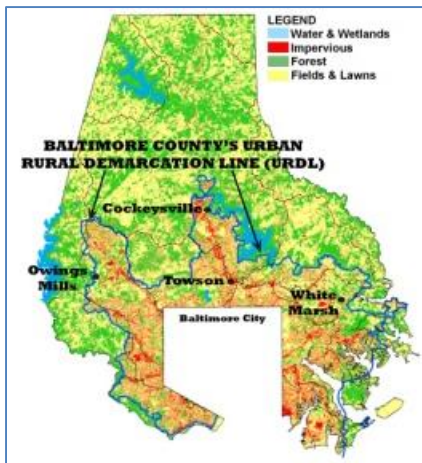
TOWSON, MD. NeighborSpace of Baltimore County, a non-profit land trust, honored County Executive Kevin Kamenetz with its Community NeighborSpace Award at a Nov. 15 breakfast at Towson University. Kamenetz received the award for his efforts as a member of the County Council to pass legislation to create and sustain NeighborSpace, one of only a handful of land trusts nationwide that is focused on protecting and improving land inside a growth boundary, the Urban Rural Demarcation Line (URDL), shown in the map below. Ninety percent of the County's 816,000 residents live within the URDL on just 30% of the County's total land area. Because population is so dense and most of the neighborhoods there were built before there were open space requirements, land for parks, gardens and natural areas is at a premium. Since its founding 2002, NeighborSpace has protected over 26 acres of land within the URDL valued at roughly \$1.2 million. The event attracted Whiteford Taylor and Preston, LLP, ArchPlan, Inc. and Craftsmen Developers, among others, as sponsors and proceeds will support NeighborSpace's operating and stewardship costs.

A lifelong resident of Baltimore County who holds degrees from Johns Hopkins University and the University of Baltimore School of Law, Kevin Kamenetz began his career in public service as a prosecutor in the Baltimore City States Attorney's Office. In 1994, he was elected to the Baltimore County Council where, among many other important efforts, he supported legislation that created NeighborSpace, provided it with funding support, and extended property tax credits to individuals donating easements to the organization.

He has worked tirelessly to conserve land, not just within the Urban Rural Demarcation Line (URDL), but, also, outside of it. For his efforts to protect environmentally sensitive land and watersheds in rural

areas, the Valleys Planning Council recognized then Councilman Kamenetz with its coveted McHarg Award in 2010.

Last year, Mr. Kamenetz was elected to serve as Baltimore County's twelfth County Executive. Since taking office last December, he has indicated a commitment to focusing on the "U" in URDL, that is, on the quality of life of within communities on the urban side of the Urban Rural Demarcation Line. For these and the foregoing reasons, NeighborSpace chose County Executive Kevin Kamenetz as the 2011 recipient of the Community Neighbor Space Award.



For more information about NeighborSpace, please contact Barbara Hopkins, Executive Director, at 443-610-8601 or at barbara@neighborspacebaltimorecounty.org

NeighborSpace is a 501(c)(3) non-profit land trust promoting more livable communities in Baltimore County's established neighborhoods by acquiring land to serve as small parks, gardens and natural areas within the Urban Rural Demarcation Line (URDL), the area outlined at left. Outside the URDL, neither public water nor sewer utilities exist, a result that curtails development and protects rural open space. Inside the URDL, population is dense and open space is scarce, with 90% of the County's 816,000 residents living on just 30% of the total land area. NeighborSpace has protected 9 properties valued at over \$1 million and contributing 26 acres toward open space within the URDL to date. For more information,

visit www.neighborspacebaltimorecounty.org.