

1                                            **CITY OF HYATTSVILLE, MARYLAND**  
2

3                                            **RESOLUTION 2020-05**  
4

5                                            **A Resolution in defense of Black lives and a commitment to enacting**  
6                                            **policies that unequivocally defend Black life and aim to undo the**  
7                                            **effects of systemic racism affecting Black people in the City of**  
8                                            **Hyattsville.**  
9

10                                            **WHEREAS**, the first enslaved Africans were brought as captives to what is now the  
11 Commonwealth of Virginia in 1619; and

12                                            **WHEREAS**, Black people were bought and sold as slave labor for nearly 250 years and  
13 suffered unspeakable acts of violence, including: assault, rape, mutilation, and murder at the  
14 hands of their captors; and

15                                            **WHEREAS**, the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments to the Constitution  
16 were enacted following the end of this country's Civil War, which resulted in the abolishment of  
17 the practice of slavery and the extension of civil and legal protections to Black people who were  
18 formerly enslaved; and

19                                            **WHEREAS**, many states adopted Jim Crow laws following the end of this country's  
20 Civil War and the enactment of the Thirteen, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments; and

21                                            **WHEREAS**, Jim Crow laws perpetuated the racist legal and social system existing prior  
22 to the Civil War and resulted in Black people being treated as second-class citizens; and

23                                            **WHEREAS**, this country's ugly history of state-sanctioned violence against Black  
24 people persists despite the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments and the adoption  
25 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; and

26                                            **WHEREAS**, Black people, generally, are unfairly targeted and profiled by law  
27 enforcement throughout this country at rates beyond what can be reasonably explained; and

1           **WHEREAS**, racial profiling of Black people results in disproportionate rates of arrest,  
2 incarceration, and overall exposure to the criminal legal system for Black people; and

3           **WHEREAS**, Black people experience inequalities across many aspects of daily living,  
4 including, but not limited to, housing, education, employment, and health as a result of this  
5 country’s aforementioned history, laws, and law enforcement practices, which erodes the quality  
6 of life for Black people; and

7           **WHEREAS**, Black people are justifiably outraged by this country’s devaluation of Black  
8 life and humanity; and

9           **WHEREAS**, approximately thirty percent (30%) of the residents of the City of  
10 Hyattsville identify as Black or African American; and

11           **WHEREAS**, these residents deserve to be treated fairly, with dignity, and to have their  
12 humanity, existence, and contributions valued; and

13           **WHEREAS**, it is indisputable that Black lives matter.

14           **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City of Hyattsville, Maryland, will  
15 commit to enacting policies that unequivocally defend Black life and aim to undo the effects of  
16 systemic racism affecting Black people in the City of Hyattsville.

17           **INTRODUCED** by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Hyattsville, Maryland, at  
18 a regular meeting on June 1, 2020, at which meeting copies were available to the public for  
19 inspection, and at which time a public hearing took place.

20           **ADOPTED** by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Hyattsville, Maryland, at a  
21 regular meeting on June 1, 2020, at which meeting copies were made available to the public for  
22 inspection.

ATTEST/WITNESS:

City of Hyattsville, Maryland

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Laura Reams  
City Clerk

APPROVED:

City of Hyattsville, Maryland

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Candace B. Hollingsworth  
Mayor