

1 **CITY OF HYATTSVILLE**

2 **ORDINANCE 2020-07**

3 **An ordinance whereby the City Council amends Section 8-4, Article V,**
4 **Chapter 8 of the Hyattsville Code to change the time for which the Board may**
5 **begin to process ballots received before the closing of the polls on Election Day**
6 **in an election that is conducted primarily by mail.**

7 **WHEREAS**, the Maryland Code, Local Government Article, Section 5–202, as amended,
8 authorizes the legislative body of each municipal corporation in the State of Maryland to pass
9 ordinances that such legislative body deems necessary to assure the good government of the
10 municipality, to protect and preserve the municipality’s rights, property and privileges, to preserve
11 peace and good order, to secure persons and property from danger and destruction, and to protect
12 the health, comfort, and convenience of the citizens of the municipality; and
13

14 **WHEREAS**, after the most recent election, the Mayor and City Council recognized that
15 the City’s election laws need updating to improve Mail-in-Ballot canvassing procedures; and

16 **WHEREAS**, the Council is committed to ensuring future elections are accessible, secure,
17 and safe; and
18

19 **WHEREAS**, the Council is committed to counting, certifying, and canvassing the Vote-
20 by-Mail ballots in a timely and deliberate matter.
21

22 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED**, by the City Council of the City of Hyattsville
23 in regular session assembled that Section 8-4, Article V, Chapter 8 of the Hyattsville Code is
24 hereby amended as follows:

25
26 **Chapter 8**
27 **ELECTIONS**
28 **ARTICLE V**
29 **Vote-by-Mail**

30 * * *

31 **§ 8-4. Vote-by-Mail Election.**

32 A. City elections may utilize vote-by-mail ballot voting.
33

1 B. The Council may determine by resolution whether vote-by-mail ballot voting shall be the
2 primary means of voting. In the event the Council determines that vote-by-mail ballot voting shall
3 be the primary means of voting, such an election shall be called a “vote-by-mail election.”
4

5 C. In a vote-by-mail election, at least one polling location shall be kept open on election day
6 for in-person voting. The Board of Elections shall keep any such polling location open from 7:00
7 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on election day.
8

9 D. In an election that is primarily vote-by-mail pursuant to section 8-4(B) of this Chapter, the
10 Board of Elections may begin to process the ballots in preparation for counting and tabulation
11 fifteen days prior to the an election which is primarily vote-by-mail. The process shall be open to
12 the public in accordance with applicable law and regulations and may include opening ballot
13 envelopes, unfolding the ballots, and scanning the ballots. Votes may not be counted or tabulated
14 until the polls close on Election Day.
15

16 **AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** that this Ordinance shall take effect twenty (20)
17 days from the date of its adoption;

18 **AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** that a fair summary of this ordinance shall
19 forthwith be published twice in a newspaper having general circulation in the City and otherwise
20 be made available to the public.

21 **INTRODUCED** by the City Council of the City of Hyattsville, Maryland, at a regular
22 public meeting on December 7, 2020.

23 **ADOPTED** by the City Council of the City of Hyattsville, Maryland, at a regular public
24 meeting on December 21, 2020.

Adopted: _____

Attest: _____
Laura Reams, City Clerk

Candace B. Hollingsworth, Mayor

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27 Effective Date: January 10, 2021