

Candace B. Hollingsworth
Mayor



Tracey E. Douglas
City Administrator

July 20, 2020

Honorable Bill Ferguson
President of the Senate
Maryland Senate
State House, H-107, 100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear President Ferguson,

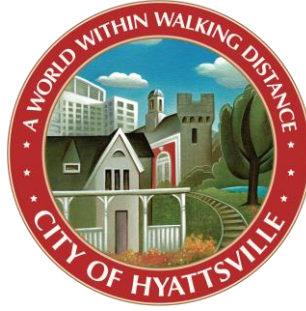
As the Mayor of the City of Hyattsville and on behalf of the City Council, I respectfully request that the Maryland General Assembly meet in a special session to take immediate action in addressing an appeal to the Governor's veto of funding for the Kirwan Commission's Blueprint for Maryland's future, the need for a coordinated Statewide COVID-19 response, and police reform to address the disproportionate impact on minority communities.

Our State and Country are currently experiencing a series of immense crises including education funding, the coronavirus pandemic, and national unrest in response to police violence within marginalized communities. These issues statistically and demonstrably impact minority communities with disproportionate numbers of grave and fatal outcomes. As a City at the intersection of these issues with large African-American and Latino populations, as well as community committed to investing in the success of our children through adequate education funding, we believe a strong, concerted, and immediate response is required from the State of Maryland.

We ask for the Maryland State legislature to convene for a special session to urgently address the following issues:

- Overriding the Governor's veto of Kirwan funding
- A resolution calling upon the federal government to pass the HEROES act to assist State and local governments with COVID-19 funding
- Developing a comprehensive COVID-19 plan for Counties and local governments
- An equitable economic public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic without interruption of critical public services and jobs for working families
- Looming evictions and foreclosures as a result of COVID-19
- Enacting meaningful and comprehensive police reform, including, but not limited to, passing Anton's Law, repealing the Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights (LEOBR), ending qualified immunity, limiting the use of force by police officers, eliminating no-knock warrants, and removing law enforcement from our schools

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- Reallocation of police funding for armed officers to provide training for security personnel and staff at every school in addition to adequate mental health counselors and social workers.

We fully recognize the health concerns for legislators, staff, advocates, and all others who are involved in the operations of the Maryland General Assembly. In consideration of these concerns, we ask that the General Assembly consider virtual sessions as we have done here in the City Hyattsville, in accordance with the Maryland Open Meetings Act and our general desire to promote transparency and allow for public notice and participation.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

Candace B. Hollingsworth
Mayor

cc:
Maryland District 22 Delegation
Maryland District 47 Delegation
Maryland Black Caucus
Maryland Latino Caucus

CITY OF HYATTSVILLE

4310 Gallatin Street, Hyattsville, MD 20781 | 301-985-5000 | www.hyattsville.org