



REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL, HYATTSVILLE MD MONDAY, MARCH 1, 2021 7:00 PM

Kevin Ward, W1, Interim Mayor
Carrianna Suiter, W3, Council Vice President (*arrived at 7:35 p.m.*)
Bart Lawrence, W1
Robert Croslin, W2
Danny Schaible, W2
Ben Simasek, W3
Edouard Haba, W4 (*arrived at 7:35 p.m.*)
Daniel Peabody, W4
Joseph A. Solomon, W5
Erica Spell Wolf, W5

Absent: None

Also present were the following City staff members:
Tracey Douglas, City Administrator
Ron Brooks, City Treasurer
Lesley Riddle, Director of the Department of Public Works
Hal Metzler, Deputy Director of the Department of Public Works
Jim Chandler, Assistant City Administrator
Laura Reams, City Clerk
Adrienne Augustus, Media Relations and Mental Health Programs Manager

Meeting Notice:

As we continue to take precautions due to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic, the Hyattsville City Council will hold its meeting on Monday, March 1, 2021 remotely via video conference. The Council meeting will be conducted entirely remotely; there will be no in-person meeting attendance.

The meeting will be broadcast live on cable television channel 71 (Comcast), channel 12 (Verizon), and available via live stream at www.hyattsville.org/meetings.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Public comment may be made using the e-comment feature at www.hyattsville.org/meetings or by emailing cityclerk@hyattsville.org. All electronic comments must be submitted by 5 PM on March 1, 2021. Comments received will be read by City staff during the public comment portion of the meeting.

Members of the public who wish to attend the virtual Council meeting must register in advance using the link below.

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Jy3EvOuHTDisE2Ynaew7Yw

1. Call to Order and Council Roll Call

Interim Mayor Kevin Ward called the meeting to order at 7:27 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag



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3. Approval of Agenda

AMENDMENT

1) AMEND the motion language of item HCC-247-FY21 to read:

10.a) COVID-19 Pandemic Relief Fund - Reappropriation for Professional Trades HCC-247-FY21

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the use of the remaining \$80K in the Hyattsville COVID-19 Pandemic Relief Fund Grants for Working Artists ~~to cover costs for both the Working Artists fund and a newly established~~ and to expand the fund criteria to include Professional Trades. Professional Trades eligibility will be limited to include barbers, cosmetologists, pet groomers, and tattoo artists licensed by the State of Maryland or Prince George’s County (where required for legal operation) and currently working in a business registered within the corporate limits of the City of Hyattsville.

I further move that the maximum award for applicants for both Working Artists and Professional Trades funds be limited to \$750.00 per award, per three (3) month cycle for Hyattsville residents and \$300.00 per award, per three (3) month cycle for non-Hyattsville residents working in the City of Hyattsville. Funding shall be made available in fiscal year 2021 (FY21) from April 1, 2021 - June 30, 2021.

RESULT:	APPROVED, AS AMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Suiter
SECONDER:	Spell Wolf
AYES:	Ward, Suiter, Lawrence, Croslin, Schaible, Simasek, Haba, Peabody, Solomon, Spell Wolf
ABSENT:	None

4. Public Comment (7:10 p.m. – 7:20 p.m.) Complete Speaker Card, Limit 2 minutes per speaker

Rebecca Baldwin addressed the Mayor and Council expressing concerns about a possible drastic reduction in Metro bus and station operation in January 2022 if the Washington Metropolitan Area Metro Authority (WMATA) was unable to secure funding. Ms. Baldwin requested that the City Council send correspondence to preserve metro routes through Hyattsville as maintaining metro transportation in the area was imperative and would negatively affect Hyattsville’s mission to be a walkable city, the Transit District Development Plans (TDDP) for West Hyattsville and Prince George’s Plaza, and Prince George’s County’s 20-year plan. She warned that transportation services in the City would be reduced to reliance on the University of Maryland shuttle bus which did not run on weekends, summers, or when students were not actively in session. She detailed the many routes and stations that would be affected and relayed that concerned residents could attend the WMATA public hearings the following week.

Ward 2 resident David Marshall submitted a comment in the question and answer (Q&A) function addressing the Mayor and Council in opposition to HCC-247-FY21 stating that there was no reason



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to reappropriate COVID-19 relief funds and the remaining money should be returned to the general fund. Mr. Marshall continued that he opposed HCC-244-FY21 questioning the security of the program and the assurance of qualified recipients and opining that the non-profit funds are intended for a small number of specific entities. He proclaimed opposition to HCC-248-FY21 stating that the Body should not be in support of the State bills and that specifically, the School Resource Officer (SRO) measure.

Council Vice President Carrianna Suiter thanked everyone whom she had served and served with over the previous four (4) years stating that she was honored to have been elected a City of Hyattsville Councilmember and describing the challenges and difficulties of balancing a family, job, and the responsibilities of an elected official. She explained that the previous year had been particularly stressful for her family and that she would not be seeking another term on the City Council. She relayed that she was distressed to see the possibility of a Council without female representation citing that over 2M women and women of color were compelled to leave the work force to care for their families and added responsibilities. She encouraged female residents to run for Council and provided the applicable details.

5. **City Administrator Update (7:20 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.)**

City Administrator Tracey Douglas thanked **Council Vice President Suiter** for her service to the City and expressed well wishes on her future endeavors. She began her update addressing the Mayor and Council with information regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and accessibility to the vaccine stating that the Hyattsville vaccination site would be located at First United Methodist Church and a soft launch was held on February 24th with expected operations on Tuesday through Thursday of each week.

Ms. Douglas reported that positivity rates at the testing site remained idle at 5.5%, the County had entered Phase 1C but were delayed, the City Municipal Building would have limited public access as the reception area was being moved to the first floor and announced that there would be a gradual reintroduction of the Call-a-Bus service in early April.

Administrator Douglas provided an update regarding community support services relaying that the City had received 990 boxes of food from the Capital Food Bank as well as 600 boxes of fresh produce, protein, and milk from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). She noted that Hyattsville was receiving 20K diapers monthly from the Greater DC Diaper Bank with pre-registered distributions taking place on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Ms. Douglas stated that service of meals for seniors would continue through Meals on Wheels and the County Department of Aging and that the City's Age-Friendly programming would be exploring partnerships with Prince George's Community College (PGCC), Habitat for Humanity, the American Association for Retired Persons (AARP) and Age Friendly DC to increase options for service to senior residents. She added that virtual camp for children would begin at the end of March and operate through April 2nd.



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The City Administrator stated that bulk trash pickup had reconvened and pickup services for items such as appliances would continue the second and fourth Monday of each month. Ms. Douglas noted that there were four (4) locations for composting drop-offs: Department of Public Works (DPW), City Park, Heurich Park, and the Duck Pond. She continued that the finalization and move-in date for the new DPW facility was scheduled for April 1 and support for possible emergency weather was still at the ready.

Ms. Douglas announced that the recently approved COVID-19 relief fund for restaurants, breweries, and meaderies was accepting applications and would provide as much as \$2K for businesses and provided explained the process for obtaining further information. She recognized the comments made during the public comment portion of the meeting stating that discussions would be held, and plans were ongoing, but the City would have an interest in assuring that transportation continue to be abundant and available.

Administrator Douglas informed the Body regarding the WMATA Platform Improvement Project to begin the following summer that would be designed to improve rider accessibility at four (4) Green Line stations. She stated that the West Hyattsville and Hyattsville Crossing (HVX) stations would be closed during the improvements and the project would improve upgrades to escalators, signage, and safety measure and directed those seeking further information to contact WMATA.

Ms. Douglas provided information regarding the Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) budget meeting schedule reporting that an introduction and departmental presentations were scheduled for March 24th, a public hearing on the Real Property Tax Rate and Council meeting were scheduled for April 19th, followed by an introduction and first reading of the budget on May 3rd, and finally, second reading and adoption to take place on May 17th.

She reported on the upcoming election relaying details regarding important dates and events, the process of the election, and other election related initiatives and outreach.

Ward 4 Councilmember Edouard Haba asked if there was any available information regarding seniors who were seeking the vaccine but were unable to leave their homes to which Ms. Douglas responded that mobile stations were under consideration, but until something was operational, she would be unable to provide any details.

6. City Treasurer Update (7:30 p.m. - 7:35 p.m.)

City Treasurer Ron Brooks addressed the Mayor and Council with an update on the City's financial position stating that the Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20) audit was ongoing and staff members were securing the financial confirmations that are sent to stakeholders, stated departments, and partners with which the City does business. Mr. Brooks anticipated that the audit would be complete by mid-May even with the challenges realized by the health crisis.

Treasurer Brooks announced that the City had been consistent with projected estimates and was collecting revenue at a percentage above the previous year. He stated that personal property tax revenues had increased 10% and miscellaneous reimbursements had increased 13% since the previous year and there had been less revenue than the prior year from income taxes and



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admission taxes. Mr. Brooks reported that the revenue numbers in the City of Hyattsville were consistent with surrounding areas and relayed to the Body that he would return at the next Council meeting with an update through the end of February 2021.

Councilmember Haba inquired as to the number associated with the constant yield to which City Treasurer Brooks responded that it was received and would be a mandatory figure in the upcoming FY22 Budget that would be presented to Council but stated that he would be able to provide it to the Body sooner if requested.

7. Presentations (7:35 p.m. - 7:50 p.m.)

7.a) Mental Health Program

[HCC-236-FY21](#)

Sponsor: At the Request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[HCPD MH Program- City Council March 1 Presentation](#)

Presentation Only

Media Relations and Mental Health Programs Manager for the Hyattsville City Police Department (HCPD) Adrienne Augustus addressed the Mayor and Council introducing a presentation on mental health initiatives and programs within the Department. Ms. Augustus recalled a previous Council meeting in which **Ward 4 Councilmember Daniel Peabody** presented a proposal for mandatory, quarterly, therapy sessions for HCPD personnel explaining that it was one of many initiatives of a robust, overarching effort for mental health resources. She reported that one (1) in every five (5) adults lived with mental illness and one (1) in 20 adults were diagnosed with a serious mental illness such as bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, and the like.

Ms. Augustus explained that law enforcement professionals were twice as likely to die by way of suicide than homicide and were at high risk for trauma as first responders. She described the program as a combination of mandatory and voluntary training and assistance including the check-in program and Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training.

Ms. Augustus detailed some of the areas in which education, information, and programming could start immediately as well as others which required further planning noting that all were consistent with all recommendations for mental health and wellness for law enforcement and the 2015 report from the President's Task Force on 21st century policing.

She displayed an illustrative slide that reflected data regarding answers to questions related to a poll given to 44 HCPD personnel in December 2020 in which 41% of those polled stated they would not be able to describe the difference between bipolar disorder and schizophrenia. She cited that when asked if they felt that they could properly engage individuals on the phone who may be experiencing a health crisis 41% answered in the negative.



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Ms. Augustus reported that the polling reflected that 55% felt that they had adequate training to engage individuals with autism and when asked about their interest in an HCPD policy that would require all personnel to meet with a therapist quarterly, 18.18% viewed it as a negative, 20.45% responded that they were impartial, and 61.36% viewed it as a positive.

She explained that the program was in Phase 1 and Mental Health First Aid training for law enforcement was being offered to HCPD for free in partnership with United Way and the Greenbelt Police Department. She cited that she was proposing a Mental Health and Wellness Day and training would begin in May for Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT) in an effort to expand the number of personnel who were trained and equipped to navigate incidents involving mental health.

Ms. Augustus announced that in April 2021 all officers and dispatchers would participate in meetings and workshops from the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), DC Survivors and Advocates for Empowerment, Inc. (DC SAFE Inc.) for domestic abuse training, and Community Crisis Services, Inc., Pathfinders for Autism MD, and the Prince George's County Local Behavioral Health Authority as well as receiving information on maintaining mental wellness and meditation.

Ms. Augustus reported that Phase 2 consisted of the entire following fiscal year and would continue the required and optional programming with the intention of launching the wellness check-in program in September 2021. She reiterated that required CIT training would continue and cited September as suicide prevention month and mental health and wellness week and stated that she would like to develop a joint effort of the HCPD and City Government mental health and wellness event in September or October.

She relayed the required training for all HCPD officers and dispatchers including PTSD training, suicide prevention training, a Resiliency and Mental Wellness for First Responders presentation in collaboration with Anne Arundel County, an Emotional Survival webinar, and cited the aforementioned Mental Wellness Check-in Program.

Ms. Augustus described that Phase 3 would take place during FY22 and FY23 and upon the opening of the new Police and Public Safety building which would allow more area and resources for the ongoing programming as well as community social service outreach including emergency referral services in which those suffering from a mental episode could be transported to a safe environment, drop-in opportunities, a food and clothing pantry, and outreach to the homeless.

Ms. Augustus explained that a majority of the funding for the initiatives would be provided by community agencies and non-profits, while other funds would be requested of the City. She stated that she had been working with City Administrator Douglas to identify opportunities in association with county, state, and federal entities, as well as seeking out federal grant funding. She expressed that she did not want to diminish the training already received by law enforcement personnel stating that she has witnessed demonstrated compassion and improved skill sets when dealing with mental health incidents and noted that the proposed measures would be in addition to the effective training already being received.



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Ward 2 Councilmember Robert Croslin commented that he was very pleased with the presentation thanking Ms. Augustus and **Councilmember Peabody** for their efforts to which Ms. Augustus recognized **Councilmember Croslin's** wife and a free program she helped provide to the City noting that those guidelines and programming were a part of the HCPD mental wellness initiative.

Ward 5 Councilmember Joseph Solomon expressed gratitude for the presentation inquiring as to any further analysis of the effectiveness of the programming and highlighting the need to have the ability to have each officer in the field equipped with a designated minimum amount of training to which Ms. Augustus replied that a review and assessment of information retention would be conducted after training was received and that training was focused on those who would most likely enter situations in which the training could be exercised noting that the CIT training was 40 hours and, given the size of the HCPD, it would not be feasible to train more than a small percentage of staff at a time.

Ward 5 Councilmember Erica Spell Wolf commended Ms. Augustus for her work and expressed anticipation for programming for youth residents and the completion of the new Police and Public Safety facility and stated that the programming would be a great asset to the community. Ms. Augustus took the opportunity to reference the assistance of City Administrator Douglas and her assistance with the framework and progress of the measures.

Ward 3 Councilmember Ben Simasek expressed his appreciation for Ms. Douglas and Ms. Augustus and their efforts as well as the direction in which the programming was taking inquiring as to how training would address effects of ingesting drugs and alcohol in conjunction with a mental health crisis to which Ms. Augustus replied that the Mental Health First Aid and CIT training would deal directly with such matters and additional training could be implemented as seen fit.

City Administrator Tracey Douglas noted that credit should be given to former HCPD Chief Amal Awad who began the first steps of these programs and expressed her appreciation to Ms. Augustus for picking up where the former Chief had left off noting her interest in partnering with neighboring municipalities and instituting simulator training. Interim Chief Scott Dunklee supplemented that he had reviewed Virtual Reality (VR) training in which officers could be trained on de-escalation techniques for those in mental health crisis from their point of view or the perspective of the subject individual and stated that it would be extremely helpful for a better understanding of how to navigate similar instances.

Interim Mayor Ward inquired as to the stigma surrounding mental health in reference to veteran officers, young officers, and officers of color to which Ms. Augustus responded that previous surveys conducted did not record the ages or ethnicities of participants but noted that in candid conversations with law enforcement personnel, a discrepancy was evident in which younger officers were more open and comfortable discussing mental health and potential resources.



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Interim Mayor Ward asked if any data had been reviewed that would reflect officers being affected by movements in recent years such as Black Lives Matter (BLM) to which Ms. Augustus replied that anecdotally she has been made aware from acquaintances in the mental health field that calls for service and concern for officers of color had increased substantially amid recent events.

8. Proclamations (7:50 p.m. - 7:55 p.m.)

8.a) Proclamation Celebrating March 2021 as Women's History Month in the City of Hyattsville
[HCC-239-FY21](#)

Sponsor: At the Request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[CM 0301 Women's History Month 2021](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council proclaim March 2020 to be Women's History Month in the City of Hyattsville.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Suiter
SECONDER:	Croslin
AYES:	Ward, Suiter, Lawrence, Croslin, Schaible, Simasek, Haba, Peabody, Solomon, Spell Wolf
ABSENT:	None

9. Consent Items (7:55 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.)

9.a) Deitz Park - Storm Drain Improvements

[HCC-216-FY21](#)

Sponsor: At the Request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[2021 01 29 SMC Task Order 10 - Dietz Park Flood Mitigation](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize an expenditure not to exceed \$40,000 to Stormwater Maintenance, LLC (SMC) for the construction of storm drain improvements at Deitz park under their existing contract with the City.

9.b) Purchase of Replacement Trash Toters

[HCC-237-FY21](#)

Sponsor: At the Request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[Hyattsville 96G \(200\) V1](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize an expenditure not to exceed \$15,000 for the purchase of replacement trash receptacles from Toter utilizing the Omnia Partners contract #171717 of which the City is a member.



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9.c) Planting of Bioretention Garden at Nicholson Street and Maryhurst Drive

[HCC-238-FY21](#)

Sponsor: At the Request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[2021 02 23 SMC ES-21-054 - Nicholson Street Improvements Construction Phase I, II and III \(1\)](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize an expenditure not to exceed \$44,000 with Stormwater Mitigation, LLC (SMC) for the planting and maintenance of the bioretention garden at the intersection of Nicholson Street and Maryhurst Drive under their existing On-call Environmental and Stormwater Engineering and Design contract with the City.

9.d) Wells Boulevard/Parkway Complete Green Street Project Change Order 1

[HCC-240-FY21](#)

Sponsor: At the Request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[TO11A Cost Estimate Change order 1 \(1\)](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize an expenditure not to exceed \$25,000 to Johnson, Mirmiran, and Thompson (JMT) for Change Order #1 to complete the design and permitting process with Prince George's County Department of Permitting, Inspections, and Enforcement (DPIE), under their existing contract with the City.

9.e) New DPW Facility Construction - 3rd Party Inspection and Construction Management Change Order 1

[HCC-241-FY21](#)

Sponsor: At the Request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[Cost Estimate CO1 2.4.2021](#)
[TO 58 Proposal 2.15.2021](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize an expenditure not to exceed \$55,000 to Johnson, Mirmiran, and Thompson (JMT) for the third-party inspection, construction management, and final survey work required to complete the construction of new Department of Public Works (DPW) building under their current contract.

9.f) Purchase of Solar Power LED Blinker Stop Signs

[HCC-242-FY21](#)

Sponsor: At the Request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[Sales-Quote Q21002854](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize an expenditure not to exceed \$13,000 to Traffic and Parking Control Co., Inc. (TAPCO) for the purchase of eight (8) solar powered blinker stop signs under the Onvia Partners contract, of which the City is a party.



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Interim Mayor Ward raised questions regarding item 9.f) and the extent of which the stop signs would blink and glare to which Director Lesley Riddle explained that the signs could be modified before purchase to be motion activated and set to a timer. Deputy Director Hal Metzler confirmed the comments stating that further traffic study would be performed and then the activity of the sign would be set to the portions of each day that consisted of the highest frequency of traffic.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Suiter
SECONDER:	Haba
AYES:	Ward, Suiter, Lawrence, Croslin, Schaible, Simasek, Haba, Peabody, Solomon, Spell Wolf
ABSENT:	None

10. Action Items (8:00 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.)

10.a) COVID-19 Pandemic Relief Fund - Reappropriation for Professional Trades

[HCC-247-FY21](#)

Sponsor: Solomon

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[Solomon Motion, to Expand Working Artist Fund V4](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the use of the remaining \$80K in the Hyattsville COVID-19 Pandemic Relief Fund Grants for Working Artists ~~to cover costs for both the Working Artists fund and a newly established~~ and to expand the fund criteria to include Professional Trades. Professional Trades eligibility will be limited to include barbers, cosmetologists, pet groomers, and tattoo artists licensed by the State of Maryland or Prince George’s County (where required for legal operation) and currently working in a business registered within the corporate limits of the City of Hyattsville.

I further move that the maximum award for applicants for both Working Artists and Professional Trades funds be limited to \$750.00 per award, per three (3) month cycle for Hyattsville residents and \$300.00 per award, per three (3) month cycle for non-Hyattsville residents working in the City of Hyattsville. Funding shall be made available in fiscal year 2021 (FY21) from April 1, 2021 - June 30, 2021.

RESULT:	APPROVED, AS AMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Suiter
SECONDER:	Solomon
AYES:	Ward, Suiter, Lawrence, Croslin, Schaible, Simasek, Haba, Peabody, Solomon, Spell Wolf
ABSENT:	None



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11. Discussion Items (8:15 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.)

11.a) COVID-19 Support for Hyattsville Non-Profits

[HCC-244-FY21](#)

Sponsor: Solomon

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[Solomon Motion, Budget Request 1 - Non-Profit Fund V3](#)

[Solomon Motion, NonProfit, Maryland allocations](#)

I move that Mayor and Council approve and appropriate a transfer of \$100K from the unencumbered fund balance to the Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) Special Revenue Funds Budget for the purpose of establishing the Hyattsville COVID-19 Non-Profit Reimbursements Fund. The funds will be used to provide reimbursements to non-profit organizations located in the City of Hyattsville who have expended resources on COVID-19 support for Hyattsville residents. Any remaining balance in the original COVID-19 fund #32 will be reallocated in FY22.

Councilmember Solomon introduced the item explaining that the motion was before the Council a second time following the previous Council meeting in which the Body required further detail. He described that the program would be implemented in 90-day cycles and non-profit organizations would be allowed to apply for up to \$5K per cycle and that the revised motion listed qualifying non-profits that operated within the City of Hyattsville and the funding would be reserved exclusively for COVID-19 related expenses and costs incurred due to the pandemic.

Councilmember Solomon stated that legislation at the federal level and funding from acts of Congress was taken into consideration when preparing the item and the intention of the motion was to reimburse local entities regarding their costs in providing services to the City of Hyattsville and its residents during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Councilmember Simasek sought clarity regarding the applicable non-profits and the parameters under which funding would be applied to which **Councilmember Solomon** responded that cycle 1 was reserved exclusively for the previous year but it was possible to apply for reimbursement of expenses in the current year and receive compensation on a following cycle or cycles.

Ward 2 Councilmember Danny Schaible requested clarity on the types of non-profit organizations that would be qualified to which **Councilmember Solomon** offered examples of the First United Methodist Church that served as a COVID-19 testing and vaccination site and referenced those who are preparing masks and other Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) stating that those entities would qualify.

Ward 1 Councilmember Bart Lawrence asked how the organizations would demonstrate that they had incurred pandemic-related expenses to which **Councilmember Solomon** responded that there would be a requirement to provide receipts and invoices with explanations of the use of those specific funds as well as a requirement to sign an affidavit that stated if the City was to find that certain costs were not related to the pandemic, the associated funding would be returned to the City.



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Councilmember Lawrence requested that the language in the motion be clear about the return of funds stating that it was important that the reimbursements be exclusively for costs directly as a result of the pandemic. He asked if there was any concern with City funding for religious organizations to which **Councilmember Solomon** responded that there had been discussion relating to religious organizations and deterred to the Assistant City Administrator. Assistant City Administrator Jim Chandler confirmed the Councilmember's response and stated that the City Attorney did not hold any general concerns but preferred to review the applications prior to approval.

Councilmember Peabody expressed support for the motion and appreciated the benefit being exclusively reserved for working physically within City limits. He sought clarity regarding the administrative requirements to which City Treasurer Ron Brooks replied that it would be similar to COVID relief funding that was already in process and would transfer an additional \$100K from the unencumbered fund balance. Assistant City Administrator Jim Chandler added that several discussions on the item had taken place and further detail was requested regarding which specific costs would be eligible for reimbursement.

Councilmember Peabody compared the item to past funding initiatives and acknowledged the need for relief throughout the City and inquired about the possibility of transferring funds from other areas of the budget to address resident COVID relief and whether the funds received by the City through federal and other grants affect the City's financial bottom line.

Councilmember Solomon provided an explanation in which he described the processes with which the federal government distributes funding and the way those distributions are allocated balancing out what the City spends with regard to what they are reimbursed stating that it seemingly balanced out. He noted that while the City had received some federal funding, the proposed legislation for further funding had not yet been finalized and could be subject to change.

City Treasurer Ron Brooks clarified that the City received approximately \$1M from the federal CARES Act relief funding and that historically federal grants were assigned to programs or activities on a reimbursable basis with the recipient having to match some of the cost; usually with in-kind contributions tied to personnel compensation or materials. He stated that, with the exception of rare occurrences, federal grants do not contribute to the bottom line and it was such in that instance.

Councilmember Peabody inquired as to a list of potential non-profit organizations within the City that would qualify for funding to which **Councilmember Solomon** replied that the item was up for discussion and if a vote could be taken, it would allow time to identify the qualified entities and to prepare it for the FY22 budget.

The Body agreed to move forward with including the initiative in the FY22 budget.



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11.b) Authorization to Send Letter to Maryland General Assembly on Pending Police Reform Legislation

[HCC-248-FY21](#)

Sponsor: Solomon

Co-Sponsor(s): Schaible, Simasek, Peabody, Ward

[Council Motion Form Police Reform Letter](#)

[Police Reform Bills draft letter 022621](#)

[Maryland-2021-HB108-Introduced](#)

[Maryland-2021-HB120-Introduced](#)

[Maryland-2021-HB411-Introduced](#)

[Maryland-2021-HB522-Introduced](#)

[Maryland-2021-HB537-Introduced](#)

[Maryland-2021-HB670-Introduced](#)

[Maryland-2021-HB977-Introduced](#)

[Maryland-2021-SB43-Engrossed](#)

[Maryland-2021-SB178-Introduced](#)

[Maryland-2021-SB245-Introduced](#)

FOR DISCUSSION:

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the Mayor in consultation with the City Attorney, to send the attached correspondence to the Maryland General Assembly, Prince George's County Municipal Association, and Maryland Municipal League, stating the City of Hyattsville's position on the proposed police reform House and Senate bills.

Councilmember Solomon provided an introduction on the item thanking **Councilmember Schaible** for bringing a group together to hold serious discussions regarding policing and law enforcement guidelines exclusive to the City of Hyattsville stating that conversation had extended to areas outside the scope of the Council and the group was compelled to contact the State delegation to state the Body's position regarding several legislative measures that were under review of the Maryland State Assembly.

Councilmember Solomon explained that the motion listed 300 policing items that were being considered in the State legislature and items of which he urged Council on which to provide a position noting that correspondence on the matter had already been forwarded to the Police and Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee (PPSCAC) and HCPD Interim Chief Scott Dunklee.

Councilmember Schaible supplemented that the group had been meeting for several months to discuss police reform matters and wanted to address some of the issues of which the Council did not have any authority over as a municipal government but could advocate for to the State Assembly. He described that the associated documentation included multiple omnibus bills as well as bills singularly presented. He stated that the letter would include commentary on requirements body worn cameras and several other mandates on law enforcement procedures.



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Councilmember Croslin expressed his appreciation for the involvement of the PPSCAC commending their report on the matters but disagreeing with the inclusion of language on School Resource Officers (SRO) as he was supportive of the ones that were currently active.

Councilmember Lawrence thanked everyone involved for their efforts and commended the legislation noting that, while he had not yet sorted through all of the bills, he was supportive of moving forward with the measure.

Councilmember Haba thanked those involved for their work and expressed support for the motion.

Councilmember Peabody echoed the comments of **Councilmember Lawrence** and recommended that Council review all of the material, especially resident input, and was in general support of the motion.

Councilmember Simasek expressed gratitude for the legislation thanking the PPSCAC for their report and clarifying that the supported legislation would not remove SROs from schools, rather it would adjust the times in which they were able to enter a building and limiting them from regular discipline.

Davion Percy, a consultant for the group from public affairs, added that legislators were focusing on bills that restrict the activity of SROs citing one of the concerns being an enhancement to the prison pipeline and to avoid SROs from being granted the authority to be involved in day-to-day discipline in cases where a student is unruly but not a physical threat.

Councilmember Solomon thanked the PPSCAC stating that he did not expect a response of the caliber received and he was extremely appreciative to have work produced at such a professional level.

12. **Council Dialogue (8:45 p.m. - 8:55 p.m.)**

Councilmember Solomon thanked City residents expressing appreciation for an involved community that strived to improve life in Hyattsville.

Councilmember Peabody encouraged all to receive their vaccinations for COVID-19 as soon as they were available.

Councilmember Croslin expressed appreciation for **Council Vice President Suiter** and all that she had contributed as a member of Council.

Councilmember Schaible expressed appreciation for **Council Vice President Suiter** and wished her well.

Councilmember Spell Wolf cited Women's History Month and International Women's Day and expressed appreciation for **Council Vice President Suiter** wishing her well in future endeavors.



**REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL, HYATTSVILLE MD
MONDAY, MARCH 1, 2021 7:00 PM**

Councilmember Simasek thanked **Council Vice President Suiter** and **Councilmember Spell Wolf** for their contributions to the City and their camaraderie wishing both well.

Councilmember Lawrence echoed the sentiments of his colleagues and expressed his appreciation for what Council had been able to achieve.

Councilmember Haba stated that he wanted to enjoy the short time left with his two departing colleagues.

Interim Mayor Ward thanked **Council Vice President Suiter** and **Councilmember Spell Wolf** expressing appreciation for their work on City Council and navigating and balancing the responsibilities and challenges of public office, personal employment, and their roles as mothers and family members.

Council Vice President Suiter thanked her colleagues for their comments and noted that she would still be accessible in the City and looked forward to seeing her counterparts outside of regular business.

13. Community Notices and Meetings

**13.a) Main City Calendar March 2 - March 15, 2021
[HCC-246-FY21](#)**

Sponsor: At the Request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[Main City Calendar Mar 2 - Mar 15 2021 FINAL](#)

14. Motion to Adjourn

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Croslin
SECONDER:	Suiter
AYES:	Ward, Suiter, Lawrence, Croslin, Schaible, Simasek, Haba, Peabody, Solomon, Spell Wolf
ABSENT:	None

The meeting adjourned at 9:26 p.m.

**ATTEST:
March 25, 2021**

Laura Reams, City Clerk

Sean Corcoran, Deputy City Clerk