

# City of Hyattsville

*Hyattsville Municipal Bldg  
4310 Gallatin Street, 3rd Flr  
Hyattsville, MD 20781  
(301) 985-5000  
[www.hyattsville.org](http://www.hyattsville.org)*



## Public Hearing Meeting

**Monday, May 4, 2020**

**7:30 PM**

**Council Chambers**

**City Council Public Hearing**

**WELCOME TO THE CITY OF HYATTSVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING!****Your participation at this public meeting is valued and appreciated.**

**AGENDA/PACKET:** The Agenda/Packet is available for review at the Hyattsville Municipal Building and online at [www.hyattsville.org](http://www.hyattsville.org) prior to the scheduled meeting (generally available no later than the Friday prior to the scheduled Monday meeting). Please note, times given for agenda items are estimates only. Matters other than those indicated on the agenda may also be considered at Council discretion.

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITY ACT:** In compliance with the ADA, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting or other services in conjunction with this meeting, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (301) 985-5009. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.

**AUDIBLE DEVICES:** Please ensure all audible devices are turned off or otherwise not audible when the City Council is in session. Thank you.

**PUBLIC INPUT:** If you wish to address the Council during the Public Comment period, please submit an Audience Participation Form to the City Clerk prior to the beginning of the meeting. Matters identified during Public Comment that are not on that meeting's agenda will be referred to staff for follow-up or considered on a future agenda. Issues that require a response will be addressed publically at the next regular Council meeting. Speakers are requested to keep their comments to no more than two (2) minutes per speaker. Written comments or supporting documents may be turned in to the City Clerk for distribution to the Mayor and Council.

**WAYS TO WATCH THE MEETING LIVE:** City Council meetings are broadcast live on cable television channel 71 (Comcast) and channel 12 (Verizon). You may also view meetings live online at [hyattsville-md.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?camera\\_id=2](http://hyattsville-md.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?camera_id=2)

**REPLAY SCHEDULE:** The meetings will be re-broadcast on cable television, channel 71 (Comcast) and channel 12 (Verizon) daily at 7:00 a.m., 1 p.m., and 8 p.m. Meetings are also able for replay online at [www.hyattsville.org/meetings](http://www.hyattsville.org/meetings).

**CITY INFORMATION:** Sign up to receive text and email notifications about Hyattsville events, government, police and programs at [www.hyattsville.org/list.aspx](http://www.hyattsville.org/list.aspx)

**INCLEMENT WEATHER:** In the event of inclement weather, please call 301-985-5000 to confirm the status of the Council meeting.

**Public Hearing Notice:**

The City of Hyattsville Mayor & Council will conduct a Public Hearing on Monday, May 4, 2020 at 7:30 p.m (prior to the City Council Council Meeting). The purpose of the Public Hearing is to allow for residents to comment on the proposed Fiscal Year 2021 Real Property Tax Rate of \$0.63 per \$100 of assessed value. It is anticipated that the Council will set the tax rate during this Public Hearing.

Budget Documents can be found at [www.hyattsville.org/budget](http://www.hyattsville.org/budget). Paper copies of the budget can be requested by calling 301-985-5009 or via email at [cityclerk@hyattsville.org](mailto:cityclerk@hyattsville.org).

Public Comment may be made using the e-comment feature at [hyattsville.org/meetings](http://hyattsville.org/meetings) or emailing [cityclerk@hyattsville.org](mailto:cityclerk@hyattsville.org). All electronic comments must be submitted by 5 PM prior to the meeting. 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 public hearing must register in advance using the link below.

Register in advance for this webinar:

[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_jCEOIVg0Re6RhUaouN6YFA](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_jCEOIVg0Re6RhUaouN6YFA)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

The hearing will be conducted entirely remotely, there will be no in person meeting attendance. The Public Hearing will be broadcast live on Comcast Channel 71, Verizon Channel 12 and online at [www.hyattsville.org/meetings](http://www.hyattsville.org/meetings).

**1. Call to Order and Council Roll Call****2. Public Comment****3. Action Item****3.a**     [HCC-316-FY20](#)     Fiscal Year 2021 Real Property Tax Rate

**Recommendation:**     I move that the Mayor and Council set the City of Hyattsville's Real Property Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2021 at \$0.63 per \$100 of assessed value.

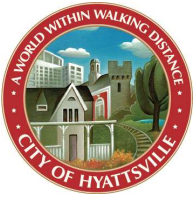
**Sponsors:**             City Administrator

**Indexes:**                 Budget

**Attachments:**         [FY2020 Constant Yield Tax Rate Certification](#)  
[PGPost\\_4-16\\_4-22\\_2020\\_A3](#)

**4. Motion to Adjourn**





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## Agenda Item Report

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**File #:** HCC-316-FY20

5/4/2020

3.a

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Submitted by: Laura Reams  
Submitting Department: Finance  
Agenda Section: Action

**Item Title:**

**Fiscal Year 2021 Real Property Tax Rate**

**Suggested Action:**

I move that the Mayor and Council set the City of Hyattsville's Real Property Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2021 at \$0.63 per \$100 of assessed value.

**Summary Background:**

The Mayor and Council are required under Maryland Property Tax Code 6-308 Constant Yield Tax Rate and Hyattsville Charter Code C5-15 to set the real property tax rate as part of the annual budget process.

**Next Steps:**

FY21 Budget Approval

**Fiscal Impact:**

FY21 Tax Rate will generate approximately \$14,040,698 in Real Property Tax Revenues.

**City Administrator Comments:**

See summary above.

**Community Engagement:**

The public hearing provides an opportunity for the community to get information, ask questions and give public comments related to this issue. Per State Guidelines, legal notice of the FY-21 proposed real property tax rate was published in the Prince George's Post. Notification of the Public Hearing was included in the Hyattsville Reporter mailed to all homes within City limits. Email and Text Alerts on the hearing were sent to all Hyattsville Notify Me subscribers.

**Strategic Goals:**

Goal 2 - Ensure the Long-Term Economic Viability of the City

**Legal Review Required?**

N/A

**State of Maryland**

Department of Assessments and Taxation

February 14, 2020

# 2020 Constant Yield Tax Rate Certification

Taxing authority: **Hyattsville**  
**in Prince George's County**

1	1-Jul-2019	Gross assessable real property base	\$	2,204,581,509
2	1-Jul-2019	Homestead Tax Credit	-	55,264,313
3	1-Jul-2019	Net assessable real property base		2,149,317,196
4	1-Jul-2019	Actual local tax rate (per \$100)	x	0.6300
5	1-Jul-2019	Potential revenue	\$	13,540,698
6	1-Jul-2020	Estimated assessable base	\$	2,342,392,028
7	1-Jan-2020	Half year new construction	-	37,614,170
8	1-Jul-2020	Estimated full year new construction*	-	900,000
9	1-Jul-2020	Estimated abatements and deletions**	-	121,898,284
10	1-Jul-2020	Net assessable real property base	\$	2,181,979,574

11	1-Jul-2019	Potential revenue	\$	13,540,698
12	1-Jul-2020	Net assessable real property base	÷	2,181,979,574
13	1-Jul-2020	Constant yield tax rate	\$	0.6206

Certified by



Director

\* Includes one-quarter year new construction where applicable.

 \*\*Actual + estimated as of July 1, 2020, including Homestead Tax Credit.  
 Form CYTR #1



# COMMUNITY

## The American Counseling Association’s Counseling Corner

### Don’t Let This Health Crisis Overwhelm Your Kids

While the coronavirus crisis has increased stress levels for all of us, younger children and teens are often more strongly impacted by such a national health disaster.

Kids have not only heard or seen news reports of what is happening but many have also been directly affected by the closing of their schools and colleges.

Such changes produce stress and anxiety for young people. Will there be graduation ceremonies? Will school sports or social events return? I miss my friends. I’ve never done online classes before. What if I get sick or my parents do?

The reduced socialization that was part of each school day is another stress-producing factor for many children. And yes, even very young children get scared as they hear bits and pieces of the news or see their parents’ anxiety or the differences in the way the family is living.

There are various changes that parents might observe that show how today’s problems are affecting your children. In younger children it might be excessive crying or irritation, the return of behaviors previously outgrown, or exhibiting high levels of worry or sadness.

In older children the stress can express itself as changes in eating and sleeping habits, or increased levels of irritability and “acting out” behaviors in teens. School performance may suffer, what were favorite activities may be avoided, and there might be reports of headaches or body pain for no clear reason.

As a parent you want to try and help your child, regardless of age, understand what is going on. An age appropriate discussion of COVID-19 is a starting point, one with answers the kids can understand. Try to be reassuring, making your child know that his or her safety is your primary concern.

Try to limit your kids’ exposure to news or social media stories about what is happening. When needed, share solid information from reliable sources rather than having the kids pick up misleading “facts,” rumors and advice from the Internet.

The more you can maintain normal, regular family routines, the more comforting it can be for your children. And the better example you can set by staying reliably informed and by setting an example, as much as possible, of a normal, healthy life, the easier it will be for your children to cope with the stress they may be experiencing. Most importantly, don’t skip on reassuring hugs and love for your children.

Counseling Corner is provided by the American Counseling Association. Comments and questions to [ACACorner@counseling.org](mailto:ACACorner@counseling.org) or visit the ACA website at [www.counseling.org](http://www.counseling.org).

## The YMCA of Metropolitan Washington Provides Communities With Critical Services During COVID-19 Pandemic

*From distributing free produce, providing daycare for essential workers to hosting critically needed blood drives and free online nutrition and exercise programs, the Y steps up for communities across the DMV*

By SOPHIE SCHEPS  
**for YMCA of Metro Washington**

WASHINGTON (April 8, 2020)—While the YMCA of Metropolitan Washington temporarily closed its facility doors on March 16, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, it did not close its community support. Instead, the Y is providing vital services to help support communities across the Washington metropolitan area. These include:

- Distributing free produce across each community the YMCA serves. To learn more, please click here;
- Providing emergency childcare support for the children of essential workers (first responders, medical professionals, etc.) at Y locations in Maryland;
- Holding blood drives in partnership with the Red Cross at Y facilities, to address the shortage of blood supplies in local hospitals;
- Providing free meals to children at YMCA branches and program centers. Details will soon be available here;
- Communicating directly with youth and their families to provide help needed through YMCA Youth and Family Services;
- Continuing to provide telehealth mental health therapy through the Y’s Youth and Family Services program for existing clients; and

- Coordinating virtual volunteer support for the community, including making masks for Y workers.

“Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the Y’s buildings may be temporarily closed, however, the Y will continue to be a force of good during this time of great uncertainty. We will provide critically needed services such as childcare for emergency frontline responders and community grocery distribution. The Y will also host blood drives and conduct welfare checks for seniors,” explained Angie L. Reese-Hawkins, YMCA of Metropolitan Washington, president and CEO. “Members of the Y help support these critical services. The Y is here to serve and strengthen the community.”

To support the mental, physical and spiritual well-being of the community, while observing social distancing requirements and other safety protocols, the YMCA of Metropolitan Washington is offering an exciting array of free virtual YMCA experiences online at [www.ymcadc.org/virtualymca](http://www.ymcadc.org/virtualymca). This site contains access to live workouts that are updated daily and recorded video content that is updated weekly to support:

- Physical activity for all in the Virtual Wellness Center. Enjoy yoga classes, the challenge of boot camp, barre, or participation in another workout experience.

- Nutrition education and cooking instruction is available at Virtual Kitchen. Viewers can learn how to blanch and freeze broccoli, how to make chicken stock, and much more.
- Youth development activities are available in the Virtual Playground, with activities for early learning and school age children.
- Learn better hand-eye techniques and racket skills in the Virtual Tennis Center.
- Enhance swimming skills, water safety and more in the Virtual Aquatics Center.
- Strength, community and support for seniors can be found in the Virtual Fit & Well Seniors Center.

The YMCA of Metropolitan Washington is a non-profit charity organization that has been serving the communities and families of Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia in the areas of youth development, healthy living and social responsibility, for nearly 168 years. Through opportunities in wellness, aquatics, youth sports, summer camps, childcare and more, the Y engages more than 250,000 individuals and families. Visit [www.ymcadc.org](http://www.ymcadc.org). Members are asked to stay with the Y during this critical time to maintain charitable services for every community. #StayWithUs

## Rabid Cat Alert in Prince George’s County

*One person scratched by the stray cat is being treated; Health Department seeks public’s help identifying other people who may have been exposed*

By GEORGE LETTIS  
**Prince George’s County Health Department**

LARGO, Md. (April 11, 2020)—The Prince George’s County Health Department is alerting community members about a recent rabies exposure in Riverdale Park, MD. On or around April 3, 2020, a stray cat scratched an individual near the 5800 block of 67th Ave in Riverdale Park. The stray cat is described as an orange tabby, domestic short hair. The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) confirmed that the cat tested positive for rabies on April 8. The individual exposed to the rabid cat has begun rabies post-exposure prophylaxis. As a precaution, additional stray cats found in the area will also be taken in for testing.

Due to the risk of rabies exposure, the Health Department seeks the public’s help in identifying any persons who may have had contact with the confirmed rabid cat or additional stray cats in that area. If you know of any persons or animals that may have had contact with the above cat between March 22 and April 3, please contact the Health Department immediately at 301-583-3750.

“Rabies is often a life-threatening disease; however, it is highly preventable by beginning post-exposure treatment immediately following exposure. Treatment is determined by the type of animal contact and patient assessment,” said Dr. Ernest Carter, Prince George’s County Health Officer. “Rabies is transmitted through the saliva of an infected animal and is easily transmissible through a bite of an infected animal. The best method to eliminate the risk of rabies exposure is to avoid contact with unfamiliar animals. We encourage community members to report any unusual or erratic animal behavior they notice and to avoid handling and feeding any unknown animals in their community.”

When a person is bitten or exposed to the saliva of a rabid animal, the disease is prevented by administering four doses of rabies vaccine over a 14-day period, and a dose of rabies immunoglobulin given at the beginning of treatment. Each year, approximately 900 Marylanders receive preventive treatment after exposure to a rabid or potentially rabid animal.

### CITY OF HYATTSVILLE NOTICE OF A PROPOSED REAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The City Council of the City of Hyattsville, Maryland proposes to increase real property taxes.

1. For the tax year beginning July 1, 2020, the estimated real property assessable base will increase by 1.52%, from \$2,149,317,196 to \$2,181,979,574.
2. If the City of Hyattsville maintains the current tax rate of \$0.63 per \$100 of assessment, real property tax revenues will increase by 1.52% resulting in \$205,773 of new real property tax revenues.
3. In order to fully offset the effect of increasing assessments, the real property tax rate should be reduced to \$0.6206, the constant yield tax rate.
4. The City is considering not reducing its real property tax rate enough to fully offset increasing assessments. The City proposes to adopt a real property tax rate of \$0.63 per \$100 of assessment. This tax rate is 1.52% higher than the constant yield tax rate and will generate \$205,773 in additional property tax revenues.

A public hearing on the proposed real property tax rate increase will be held at 7:30 p.m., on May 4, 2020. The meeting will be held remotely via video teleconference. To join the video conference: <https://zoom.us/j/843087355>. To join with audio only: +1 301 715 8592 US, Meeting ID: 843 087 355

The hearing is open to the public, and public testimony is encouraged. Participants who join the video/audio conference will be enabled to speak by the meeting chair. Speakers will be allowed to address the Council for two (2) minutes. Public Comment may also be made using the e-comment feature at [hyattsville.org/meetings](http://hyattsville.org/meetings) or emailing [cityclerk@hyattsville.org](mailto:cityclerk@hyattsville.org). All electronic comments must be submitted by 6 PM on May 4, 2020. Comments received will be read by City staff during the public comment portion of the meeting.

Persons with questions regarding this hearing may call 301-985-5009 for further information.

## An American Stranded in Europe by The Pandemic: A Personal Story

By CHARLOTTE PARKER DULANY  
**Capital News Service**

AMSTERDAM (April 3, 2020)—I walked hand in hand with my boyfriend along the Looiersgracht Canal to the soft tune of a piano, which had floated sleepily out of a nearby third floor window for only us to hear, and as we gazed around Amsterdam, only our memory brought forth the people and colorful life that usually flourish here—replaced now by locked doors and vacant streets.

Two weeks earlier, I wouldn’t have thought I would be here.

Knocks on the door, buzzing cell phones and the ringing of our longstanding landline telephone all erupted at once in my family’s fifth floor apartment in the East Village of Manhattan, urgently compelling us to turn on the news. President Donald Trump was announcing his travel ban on Europe in an attempt to halt the persistent spread of the coronavirus.

On that night of March 11, Trump declared in a brief Oval Office address that all travel between the United States and Europe would be suspended for 30 days and would go into effect in 48 hours.

I stood statically before the television as headlines in capital letters appeared, my yellow carry-on bag gripped tightly in my right hand in preparation to leave for John F. Kennedy International Airport to catch my flight to Amsterdam in three hours.

Against her view that fate brought this moment, my mother drove me to the airport with her eyes glued to the city streets over the wheel as we drove up 1st Avenue, ignoring each ding of the many incoming notifications from her cellphone. In the Queens-Midtown Tunnel she asked me, “God forbid, what if something happened and I couldn’t get to you?”

“Or, what if something happened to us?” she continued, speaking of our family. “Would you be okay with not being able to come back to us?”

The virus had spread in a whirlwind across various countries and into the United States over recent weeks with many disruptions; days earlier, the school I attend, the University of Maryland, announced its closure until April 10. It later extended the closure for the remainder of the spring semester.

Trump had placed a ban on all travel with Europe for the next 30 days, the woman at the desk for Norwegian Airlines at JFK reminded me. “If you go, there’s no guarantee when you will be able to return,” she said with a concerned look.

Out of 246 seats, only 112 passengers had checked in for my 1:05 a.m. flight. Most were Dutch citizens returning home. The Norwegian agent said kindly, “It’s your choice.”

I was torn about what to do as I sat with my mother in the airport parking lot watching our car’s digital clock rise in numbers. Cutting through silence she surprised me when she said, “If it were me, I would go.”

My trip had been planned for two months—to stay for 10 days in Amsterdam and Bussum, a small town nearby the capital city, with my boyfriend. I was at a gridlock, wondering when I would next be able to go if I didn’t go then. With 20 minutes left to get to my gate, I decided to take the leap.

The rest moved swiftly and I was soon on the plane, wiping down my seat and tray table with disinfectant wipes. In seat 8D, I could see only four fellow passengers and they were all engaged in similar cleaning practices. Looking around, I swayed between exhilaration and worry as I thought about how many would’ve opted to stay home.

Only when the plane was rolling down the runway was a correction issued that American citizens were able to return after undergoing proper screenings.

See **STRANDED** Page A4



PHOTO CREDIT CHARLOTTE PARKER DULANY/CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

**AMSTERDAM—As the coronavirus pandemic unfolded on both sides of the Atlantic last month, a Norwegian Airlines flight from New York to Amsterdam carried far fewer than the usual number of passengers.**