

Mayor Report (September 2022)

Key Highlights Rollup

Mayor Cashenna A. Cross Report (August 27, 2022- September 25, 2022)



1. Accomplished:

a. Resolutions/Council Actions:

- i. Resolutions for appointments to Ethics Commission (Squire Newsome, renewal).
- ii. Requesting city council to support: Follow-up on actions necessary for traffic Calming measures, Ordinance on Traffic regulation, Sensys Gatsco has per city council request, provided success metrics relative to other jurisdictions over a month ago. Request a formal decision on the contractor's offer by letter to Mayor's Office.
- iii. Secure a lobbyist for the legislative sessions in Annapolis and nationally. It is an absolute necessity to have a lobbyist to attend the various sessions and be in place to keep the city aware of change actions impacting the municipality.
- iv. Interviews conducted for project manager of the ARPA Funds reporting. Over to City Council for resolution.
- v. Conducted Swearing in ceremony for two new Officers for the City of Glenarden Police Department.

b. The Mayor's Office has supported/fielded 14 office calls/meetings.

- i. Judge Sylvania Woods Elementary School Back to School Block Party host alongside Mayor Cashenna A. Cross, DSW and Associates, Reservoir for Hope community partners. The grand and most intricate back to school block party incorporated life skills training for youth and families, games, free giveaways, and three truckloads of fresh produce, dry goods, fresh meats, and vegetables for the community elementary school families Thursday September 1, 2022.
- ii. Attended the Honorable Angela D. Alsobrooks Mayor's Appreciation Luncheon. Held in the PG Ballroom.
- iii. Mentor session returning citizens Jude House, Bridge Center, Employ Prince George's.
- iv. Meeting with foundational board member of The Black History Museum & Cultural Center of Virginia (BHMVA). Assessing the best work efforts towards supporting Glenarden Historical Society (Laurence Winston) in the capturing of Glenarden History. In 2021, BHMVA celebrated 40 years of telling the stories of Virginia's Black people. FORGING FREEDOM, JUSTICE AND EQUALITY is a riveting interactive, multi-themed immersion into the Black experience in the history of

the Commonwealth of Virginia and beyond. Assessing such replication in Glenarden.

- v. Met with CM and Director National Fitness parks on the 7th street resolution.
 - vi. Teachers Festival Back to School VIP Reception at the University of the Potomac, Washington, DC, to celebrate educators' opportunity to network and meet with various distinguished members in academia.
 - vii. Projected Service providers to support upcoming Harvest Day Rewind at the Glenarden Municipal Center Nov 5th, 2022 (11:00am -3:00pm).
 - viii. Attended School board District 4 Community Advisory Meeting.
 - ix. Held staff meetings with City Manager, Treasurer, and Chief of Police.
 - x. Supported City of Glenarden - Glenarden Day 2022 raffles/ gift giveaways.
 - xi. Attended the general monthly NAACP Prince George's meeting Annapolis Legislation communication/ Nov 8th voter registration and attendance strategy.
 - xii. Attended PGCC Student Success & Engagement Resource Fair.
 - xiii. Selected as a Panelist on the voter education program titled "Your Vote, Your Voice," at PGCC. Goals of the event were achieved as students....
 - 1. Learned what civic engagement is and the importance of practicing civic engagement
 - 2. Were called to action and to be inspired to participate in voting and increase their civic engagement
 - 3. Developed an awareness of how the political/electoral process may affect marginalized communities within Prince George's County
 - 4. Actively used their voice to engage in a question-and-answer session with community stakeholders
 - 5. Learned when, where, and how to vote in and/or contribute support to elections held at the county, state, and federal level
- c. Mayoral Proclamation Actions:
- i. Aug 2022: Maryland Park and Planning (Aug 27, 2022) Back to School Extravaganza
 - ii. Aug 2022: Glenarden Community Center (Aug 27, 2022) Back to School Extravaganza
- d. Mayor Cashenna A. Cross Mayoral Community Forum: "Let's Talk W/ School Dist. 4 Rep. Shayla Adams-Stafford" - September 14, 2022. Sample questions asked: School's back in

session so now what's in store to ensure success? Where has the schoolboard grown to in terms of reconciliation of some newsworthy performance issues? How can community leaders be of help as partners? The Glenarden Mayoral Community Forum seeks to not only encourage, but to build an advocacy for residents and citizens in need of resources. By raising community awareness on trust, we are uniting to find solutions for better inclusion by increasing awareness to not only understand but to engage citizens on how to become more aware and improve their day-to-day wellbeing.

- e. The 3rd quarterly community events newsletter buildout completed. Every department reported on their quarterly engagements and community updates.
- f. Mayoral Community outreach program expansion: Partnership building in the coming FY23 legislative year from the Prince George's County to Annapolis.
- g. Supported Maryland-National Capital Police Prince George's County Division and the American Red Cross hosted blood drive. Site: Glenarden Community Center. Wednesday, September 7, 2022, Glenarden Community Center 8615 McLain Avenue Glenarden, MD 20706 TIMES: 01:00 PM - 06:00 PM

https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=Glenarden&cid=siebel&med=email&source=bdc_email&utm_source=siebel&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=bdc_email

2. Annapolis Legislative communication/ attendance strategy.

- a. MML Priority Recommendations: At the September 6th meeting of the MML Legislative Committee, the members of the committee unanimously recommended that the League adopt on priorities for the 2023 legislative session. This item still needs to be considered by the Board. The recommended priority is to ensure municipalities have the option of creating their own Police Accountability Boards and Charging Committees. Members of the Committee also adopted two strategic initiatives this year:
 - i. Expanding Municipal Revenues Sources, and
 - ii. Focus on Communication, specifically the intersections of transparency, notifications, and privacy. Administration Projected:
- b. Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr. introduced a fiscal 2023 budget that increased general fund spending by 13% and increased the Rainy-Day Fund balance to 16%. As part of his fiscal plan, the Governor also proposed legislation to eliminate business filing fees for online filers and phase-out taxes on retirement income over six years.
- c. Education aid supported by general funds grows by \$500 million in fiscal 2023 attributable to changes in the statutory formulas, growth in funding for student transportation costs, and \$125 million in new funding for the Education Effort Adjustment.
- d. Personnel: Ongoing high vacancy rates and understaffing for critical classes of positions, combined with the stresses born by essential personnel working during the pandemic,

particularly those in the public health, public safety, unemployment insurance, and direct care nursing positions, led SAC to recommend that the Administration provide State employees with general and targeted compensation enhancements, along with exploring options for expanding the use of bonuses and apprenticeship programs. Mayor Cross and Mr. Huges have also discussed the availability of apprenticeships.

- e. 90-Day report: *[select]* Maryland Legislative Budget Priorities (\$ in Millions) Priorities Funded Through Supplemental Budgets
<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/Pubs/LegisLegal/2022rs-90-day-report.pdf>
 - i. Arts and tourism grants \$50.0
 - ii. COVID-19 relief for assisted living facilities \$20.0
 - iii. Restore victim assistance funds for Victims of Crime Act Program \$35.0
 - iv. Provide \$500 bonus to each noncertified education support professional \$8.0
 - v. Grants to violence prevention and interruption organizations \$2.5
 - vi. Grants to police departments to acquire license plate readers \$5.0
 - vii. Grants to police departments to coordinate task forces that cross jurisdictional boundaries \$1.0
 - viii. Grant to Employ Prince George's, Inc. \$0.3
 - ix. Grants to business development, youth sports, and cultural programs \$1.0

3. Expanded Community Strategy: *Department of Legislative Services Maryland General Assembly*

- a. The approved state of Maryland budget also includes \$25 million in funding for apprenticeship programs. The budget committees also directed the Maryland Department of Labor to establish workgroups to study public safety, health, and transportation vacancies in State employment and the potential for the creation of apprenticeship programs to assist in recruiting for the State workforce. The personnel goals for fiscal 2023 were met.
- b. Legislation affecting revenues with a projected five-year impact of \$50 million or more includes:
 - i. **Senate Bill 405/House Bill 1468 (Chs. 3 and 4)** create a nonrefundable credit against the State income tax for a resident (1) who is at least age 65 and (2) whose federal adjusted gross income does not exceed \$100,000 (\$150,000 if married filing jointly). The amount of the tax credit is equal to (1) \$1,000 for an individual or if only one of the individuals filing a joint return is an eligible individual; and (2) \$1,750 if married filing jointly and both individuals are at least age 65. The bill also expands the State subtraction modification for retired law enforcement; correctional officer; and fire, rescue, and emergency services

personnel. Under the Acts, general fund revenues decrease annually between \$291 million in fiscal 2023 and \$332 million in fiscal 2027.

- ii. **Senate Bill 316/House Bill 282 (Chs. 7 and 8)** exempt from the State sales and use tax the sale of the following items: diapers, baby bottles, baby bottle nipples, and infant car seats. Under Chapters 7 and 8, general fund revenues decrease by \$10 million in fiscal 2023 and by \$11 million annually between fiscal 2024-2027.
- iii. **Senate Bill 150/House Bill 6 (both passed)** require Medicaid, beginning January 1, 2023, to provide dental services, including diagnostic, preventive, restorative, and periodontal services, for adults with household incomes up to 133% of the federal poverty level. Under the bills, general fund spending increases annually between \$53 million and \$55 million from fiscal 2024 through 2027. Funding is included in the fiscal 2023 budget to initiate the program.
- iv. **House Bill 1080 (Ch. 28)** requires Medicaid, subject to the limitations of the State budget, to provide comprehensive medical care and other health care services to noncitizen pregnant women who would be eligible for Medicaid but for their immigration status and to their children up to the age of one.

Overall Medicaid enrollment is expected to decline by approximately 3.4% in fiscal 2023 as Maryland Department of Health resumes eligibility redetermination. The budget assumes that the national COVID-19 public health emergency ends in mid-April as currently scheduled, and that redetermination resume in the beginning of fiscal 2023.

- v. **House Bill 734 (Ch. 23) (1)** changes eligibility for the Guaranteed Access Grant under the Delegate Howard P. Rawlings Educational Excellence Awards Program and extends eligibility for services through a related program; (2) authorizes a private career school to award scholarships under the Edward T. and Mary A. Conroy Memorial Scholarship Program and the Jean B. Cryor Memorial Scholarship Program; (3) expands the eligibility requirements for the Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship to include the stepchildren of specified qualified individuals; (4) expands the focus of the near completer communication campaign; and (5) makes a technical change to the 2+2 Scholarship Program. Under Chapter 23, general fund spending increases by \$14 million annually between fiscal 2024 through 2027.
- vi. An addition of \$577.0 million (in total) for Maryland's historically black colleges and universities (HBCU) from fiscal 2023 through 2032 to be distributed and used as specified, contingent on final settlement of The Coalition for Equity and Excellence in Maryland Higher Education, et al. v. Maryland Higher Education Commission, et al. lawsuit by June 1, 2021. General fund spending increases by about \$60 million annually due to the Acts.

- c. After several legislative attempts in the past year concerning good policing, civilians now have the right to request to review police misconduct records. Anton's Law, named after 19-year-old Anton Black, who died in police custody in 2018, has declassified police administrative and criminal misconduct records from personnel records to public records, allowing those records to be inspected by civilians through the Maryland Public Information Act.