

City of Greenbelt

City Manager's Report

Week Ending July 16, 2021

1. Included separately in council's packet are forms for the city manager evaluation. Completed forms are due to the mayor by July 30.
2. Attached is a draft letter to Governor Hogan requesting the eviction moratorium be extended and to provide eviction support. Please forward your comments and/ or edits to Anne Marie or Tim by Wednesday, July 21.
3. The post cards informing residents of the upcoming city election were mailed to residents this week.
4. **Assistant City Manager**
 - a. Attended Council regular meeting, PSAC work session and Sunday CRAB forum.
 - b. Processed employee additions/forms.
 - c. Approved check requests/invoices.
 - d. Reviewed ARPA information and met with staff to discuss.
 - e. Responded to Council and resident concerns/questions.
 - f. Drafted MML LAR response.
 - g. Drafted letter to Governor Hogan as requested by Council.
5. **Human Resources**
 - a. Held orientation for two Public Works non-classified employees who were promoted to classified status.
 - b. Onboarded and conducted a new hire orientation for the new Police Administrative Coordinator.
 - c. Input new FY 2022 COLA rates into the payroll system for staff not affected by the CBA. The new rates will show in the paychecks on July 23.
 - d. Prepared electronic folders with all application attachments for the Police Public Information Officer, Grants Coordinator and Accounting Technician I positions.
 - e. Processed a promotion for the Accounting Administrator position.
 - f. Assisted with sick leave pool for an employee.
6. **City Treasurer/Finance**
 - a. Continued discussions with Hagerty Consulting—the State's consulting firm handling ARPA funding to municipalities.
 - b. Met with Assistant City Manager and Police Chief on several operational matters.
 - c. Joined regular Council meeting and responded to inquiries.
 - d. Met virtually with the auditing firm and staff to prepare for the annual audit that will begin in the next couple of weeks.
 - e. Processed purchase orders and vendor checks.
7. **Information Technology**
 - a. Attended COG-CIO meeting.
 - b. Attended Comcast Negotiations internal team meeting.
 - c. Reviewed Police/ CARES connection request.

8. Economic Development

- a. Connected with local municipalities, county and state agencies about Restaurant Revitalization updates.
- b. Responded to four inquiries related to community activities, business planning assistance and local partnership opportunities.
- c. Performed outreach to seven businesses and organizations to check in about COVID-19 related updates and recovery efforts.
- d. Attended American Job Center Community Network (Employ Prince George's County) Quarterly Meeting (Virtual).
- e. International Council of Shopping Centers Webinar – Right Sizing Your Real Estate
- f. Worked on economic development reporting for management objective updates.

cc: Department Heads

Tim George, Assistant City Manager

Dawane Martinez, Human Resources Director

Bonita Anderson, City Clerk

July 14, 2021

The Honorable Larry J. Hogan
Governor of Maryland
100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1925

Dear Governor Hogan:

On behalf of the Greenbelt City Council and the Greenbelt Racial Equity Alliance (GREA), I want to voice our opposition to ending the eviction moratorium beginning of COVID-19 pandemic and further request additional support services for those facing evictions across Maryland. Specifically, we urge you to extend or implement the following:

- Extend the Eviction Moratorium beyond August 15th, to give DHCD of Prince George's County additional time to disburse the remaining ERAP (Emergency Rental Assistance Program) money they have received from the March 2021 American Rescue Plan Act.
- Allocate state funding from your federal disbursement to provide necessary resources to pay for “civil representation” in eviction court.
- Allocate state funding from your federal disbursement to fund the “MDEC” (Maryland Electronic Courts), which would allow tenants to track their eviction filings online.

The paragraphs below provide a brief background on each request.

Eviction Moratorium. Several GREA Members attended a County Council briefing on July 1, given by Ms. Aspasia Xypolia, DHCD Director. She stated that her office has disbursed \$15.1M from the December federal stimulus bill. However, she has another \$27M from the March 2021 American Rescue Plan Act left to spend. So far, they have funded 48% of all Landlord Applications, but only 6% of all Tenant Applications. Of course, new applications are coming in everyday. New laws allow them to fund up to 18 months of back rent. Due to capacity issues, GREA is concerned that all of the money will not be disbursed by August 15th.

Civil Representation. In April 2021, the MD General Assembly passed HB18, giving tenants the "right to counsel" in landlord-tenant disputes and eviction proceedings. However, the companion bill HB31, which would have provided funding, did not pass. We request that federal funding received by the state from the various stimulus bills passed in late 2020 and March 2021 be allocated at the state and county level, to help pay for civil representation in eviction court.

Tracking of Eviction Cases. Maryland has a system for electronic filing of eviction cases. It is called MDEC (Maryland Electronic Courts) <https://mdcourts.gov/mdec/about>. Currently, the

system does not cover Baltimore City, Prince George's or Montgomery Counties. Therefore, a tenant is not able to look up their eviction case to see its status. Preliminary research says that the roll out of MDEC in these three jurisdictions may not be happening until October 2021 or beyond. We request that the state also provide funding for the MDEC to expand and expedite the tracking of eviction filings. Tenants should have the right to know the status of their case.

The City of Greenbelt strongly urges the State of Maryland to extend the eviction moratorium at least through September 2021 and to fund other important assistance to Maryland residents at risk of eviction.

Sincerely,

Colin A. Byrd
Mayor

cc: Senator Paul Pinsky
Delegate Anne Healy
Delegate Alonzo Washington
Delegate Nicole Williams
Greenbelt City Council