



CITY OF DISTRICT HEIGHTS

MARYLAND

HOUSEHOLD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

ATTENTION! ATTENTION! ATTENTION!
APPLICATIONS IN SPANISH ARE AVAILABLE.

The City of District Heights is offering financial assistance to eligible households that were negatively impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency through the Household Assistance Program (HAP).

The City has allocated \$850,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 funds to the HAP. Subject to the availability of HAP funding, the City will provide \$1,250 for each member of an eligible household, up to a maximum of \$5,000 per household. Please visit the City website at www.districtheights.org to obtain additional information and application form. You can also contact the City offices at (301) 336-1402 Ext. 110 for additional information.

¡ATENCIÓN! ¡ATENCIÓN! ¡ATENCIÓN!
LAS SOLICITUDES EN ESPAÑOL ESTÁN DISPONIBLES.

La Ciudad de District Heights ofrece asistencia financiera a los hogares elegibles que se vieron afectados negativamente por la emergencia de salud pública de COVID-19 a través del Programa de Asistencia para el Hogar (o HAP por sus siglas en Inglés).

La Ciudad ha asignado \$850,000 en fondos de la Ley del Plan de Rescate Estadounidense (American Rescue Plan Act, o ARPA por sus siglas en Inglés) de 2021 a HAP.

Sujeta a la disponibilidad de fondos HAP, la Ciudad proporcionará \$1,250 para cada miembro de un hogar elegible, hasta un máximo de \$5,000 por hogar. Para determinar su elegibilidad y solicitar una solicitud aplicación, visite nuestro sitio web www.districtheights.org. También puede contactarnos al correo electrónico HAP@districtheights.org o llamar la oficina al (301) 336-1402, extensión 110.



Call (301) 336-1400, extension 111 to sign up for public safety notifications via email or text message from the District Heights Police Department.

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MAYOR CYNTHIA MILLER

Mayor Cynthia Miller, City of District Heights was elected in July 2022. She entered into political office in May 2014, when she was elected Commissioner, Ward 1 and was appointed Vice Mayor in June 2021.

Mayor Miller served as Liaison for General Government and has 38 years of combined experience working in the federal, non-profit, private and public sectors and has lived in District Heights for 24 years.

Mayor Miller is a 2015 Fellow Graduate with the Academy for Excellence in Local Governance with the University of Maryland, Maryland Municipal League.



Her memberships include Women in Municipal Government and Prince George's County Women in Government, Prince George's County Municipal Association, National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials, National League of Cities, National Council of Negro Women Prince George's County Chapter, AARP Chapter 939, and Maryland Black Mayors, Inc.

She currently serves on Board that include Prince George's County Municipal Association Policy Chair, 2021-Present; Prince George's County Cable Television Commission, 2018-present; Census 2020 and Prince George's Complete Count Committee, Dementia Friendly America Team Member, 2016-present; City of District Heights 80th Anniversary Chair, 2016; Former President of the Prince George's County Municipal Association, 2018-2019; Maryland Municipal League Former Vice-President, District 9, 2018-2019. She continues to serve on the Committees for the Youth and Family Service Bureau, Youth Development Foundation, Planning Committee for the Veterans Park, Website Committee Chair and Senior Center Project for the City of District Heights. She currently serves on the Marlboro Pike Corridor Stakeholders Committee. The Committee is focusing on the revitalization of Marlboro Pike. This will be a huge investment and redevelopment project that will bring new businesses and a more upscaled look to the landscape of our community.

Mayor Miller continues to volunteer with her husband at Woodland Springs Apartment Complex as part of the Monthly Food Bank Program. Additionally, she tirelessly volunteers her time at Food 4Thought, food distribution program at St. Paul Church. Mayor Miller is currently in discussion with Food4Thought to bring a regular food program that include the residents. Mayor Cynthia Miller and husband, Cyril are long standing members of First Baptist Church of Highland Park in Landover, MD.

FROM THE DESK OF FORMER VICE MAYOR IRVING

I would like to start by thanking the citizens of District Heights, the staff/employees of District Heights and my fellow elected officials of District Heights for all the support and the encouragement provided to me during my eight years tenure as an elected official (Ward II Commissioner and Vice Mayor).

After EIGHT YEARS, I am retiring from my duties/job as an elected official but not from working for and in the city which I LOVE and live. I will definitely still be active, especially with the Senior Citizen Center, the Veterans (to include the Veterans Park), Recreation Programs, North Forestville Elementary School, and various committees. I have to practice what I always say and believe to be true: YOU ARE EITHER PART OF THE PROBLEM OR PART OF THE SOLUTION and I definitely want to be part of the solution.

During my eight years, the elected officials have accomplished much. Some of the accomplishments are:

- Youth Services Bureau Building
- New floor for the indoor Basketball Court
- Doggie Park
- Fence around the far end of the outdoor track (increase safety)
- Veterans Park
- Senior Citizen Center
- New and Improved Website
- Implementation of Charter Committee to update the City Charter
- School Zone/Speed Sign/Radar on Ritchie Rd. at North Forestville Elementary (originally requested a traffic light)

There have also been significant changes in the city's staffing/personnel, policies and procedures,

Be sure to pick up a copy of the City's Welcome Packet, which includes pertinent information such as the various city departments with the telephone numbers and hours of operation. Also look for and read the city's newspaper the "Herald" (which comes out quarterly), the city's new and improved website and watch the city's television station (Verizon 25 and Comcast 71).

In closing I would like to pay special recognition to the ELECTED OFFICIALS that transitioned during this period: Mayor James Walls, Mayor Jack Sims, and Commissioner Carol Blake

I was honored to have known and had the opportunity to serve with them.



COMMISSIONER HARCOURT

Hello, beautiful District Heights, neighbors, friends and supporters!

I would like to offer congratulations my dear colleague and friend, Mayor Cynthia Miller for her win to lead our community for the next four years. Wait till you see what she has up her sleeve for us!

Congratulations to Commissioners Elect Pamela Janifer and Anthony Tilghman. We welcome you, and hope that we can maintain the community's forward momentum towards a brighter and more prosperous future – TOGETHER!

These past few very busy weeks, I took advantage of the beautiful weather to knock on doors to check-in and listen to my neighbors. I wanted to better understand their concerns. I appreciate the many of you that opened the door and spoke to me. I also understand the apprehension of those that didn't, as we are still in the midst of a pandemic and there are so many scams going on, you just don't really know. Seeing me on Zoom is not quite the same as recognizing me knocking on your door!

Many of our neighbors shared with me concerns over safety and wanted information about the state of our current police department. I promised when I took this job, I would just tell you the truth. It is easier, and since I have no political aspirations outside of this community where I have planted roots and gratefully call home, I am not concerned about the "optics." I am gonna give it to you straight.

Our crime statistics are extremely low for the region (crime appears to be rising during the pandemic for multitude reasons). Our police department is going through a transformational change. Several officers that simply weren't a good fit for this community, or our City's finances (lawsuits and civil rights violations; productivity problems, etc.) have moved on. Some that the community loved, will be, gratefully, returning.



Those officers and staff that are here are committed and dedicated to serve this community in a respectful, professional, and community oriented manner.

If you have questions, please don't listen to the gossip, you may come to me, Mayor Miller, Vice Mayor Irving or Commissioners Gomez and Waters directly. We are in this together and truthful information is empowerment for a strong, informed and vibrant community.

As many know, we have been actively in the process of selecting our next permanent chief. We had received over 45 applications of interest, and whittled it down to the top 5 candidates. After very careful consideration to ensure that we have a Chief of Police that will compliment this community and be able to hire officers that aren't here to take advantage or over-police our community, the panel has made a recommendation.

COMMISSIONER HARCOURT

The number one recommendation was Ronald Tarpley. Chief Tarpley has accepted the role and offer, and will be working immediately to help us “reimagine policing” in District Heights and Prince George’s County. Chief Tarpley brings a host of knowledge, skills, education and training to lead our Department to a new level of professional standards and ethics. He possesses the discipline and work ethic to get out from behind his desk and get into the community, working with his colleagues and the community as a partner and true leader.

Please join us as we welcome and congratulate a shining star to lead our community’s most dedicated men and women, Chief Ronald Tarpley!

Chief Tarpley’s first priority will be to hire qualified officers to join the team. Hiring a qualified police officer is not like hiring in other professions. As a former police officer, I assure you it requires patience to ensure that the person empowered to give you a warning, write you a ticket, or under certain grave circumstances, take a person’s freedom or life, is beyond reproach, honest, and by the book.

Additionally, we are exploring new technology that will help protect our community and promote officer safety. We are going to rebuild this Department the right way, our collective lives depend on it.

We offer several ways to contact the Department:

- Main line – (301) 336-1400
- Non-Emergency – (301) 352-1200
- Email – police2002@districtheights.org (please cc me, Department Liaison: harcourt@districtheights.org and Acting Chief Tarpley at: tarpleyr@districtheights.org)

A huge concern, by far, is speeding and reckless driving through our streets. The current speed limit for District Heights’ residential streets is 25 mph. In many instances, because the streets are so narrow, it may require a lower speed. I am appealing to my neighbors directly – please slow down. Please practice a bit of empathy when driving through YOUR community, and ask, would you want visitors speeding through a community where your children played or your significant other and elderly parents walked? Many of our streets don’t have sidewalks, and when you are walking, unprotected, the sight of a vehicle barreling down on you speeding, is not a good feeling.

So please, slow down and advise your guests to please slow down. It only takes a split second for a child chasing a ball, or an adventurous pet to be gone too soon, leaving a hole and trauma for all involved. Shaving a second or two off your arrival time just isn’t worth it. Next issue, drug activity. I would like to thank the courageous residents that shared tips about suspected drug activity, and encourage more to do the same. I am also comforted to see so many residents that have alarms, surveillance, and video recording devices on their properties.

COMMISSIONER HARCOURT

This may prove helpful when we may need to build an investigation. Some of the main areas of suspected drug activity are:

- Automobile parked at the path on bottom of Gateway and Foster
- 7000 Block of Halleck and Mason

These areas have been reported to the Department and will be routinely surveilled. Why am I posting the locations? Because I want the dealers to know that this community is paying attention to its surroundings, and you are not welcome here. Dealing drugs brings a host of complimentary crime, from littering, noise pollution, property crimes and diminishing property values. It destabilizes communities, and we are on the move. We are not going backwards. Please take your business elsewhere.

The City can only be as responsive to concerns as the information we get. Please partner with us to make our community even better. Don't simply complain, take action and partner with the City! And finally, we need Chairpersons and volunteers for several committees – minimum 5 participants for a quorum:

- Holiday Decoration Committee
- District Heights Arts and Craft Fair Committee (I want this one!)
- Health and Hygiene Committee (will work on updating codes) will require a background in contracting; code enforcement; law; research; etc.
- Young Leaders Committee – 13 through 18 year olds interested in politics; financial literacy; internships
- STEM (Science, Tech, Engineering, Math) for youth (ages to be determined by group)
- CAP (Citizens Action Patrol) Neighborhood Watch – Be part of the community safety solution!
- Woodland Springs Tenant's Group
- Green Team (Climate Action) – Contact Commissioner Gyasi Gomez – gomezg@districtheights.org

If you are a resident and interested in sponsoring or volunteering on one of these committees, or starting something not listed, please contact me at:

harcourt@districtheights.org with a statement of interest (name, address, contact information – phone and email). Also, please contact the City Clerk, Mr. Antonio Robbins at: cityclerk@districtheights.org and request a volunteer application.

Always yours,
Xander

COMMISSIONER GYASI GOMEZ

INTRODUCING YOUR WARD II COMMISSIONER GYASI GOMEZ



Gyasi Gomez (pronounced JAH-SEE) was born and raised in Prince George's County and has been a resident of District Heights since 2019. She resides on Kipling Pkwy and was appointed as Commissioner in May 2022.

Gyasi holds a Bachelor's of Art in Sociology and a Masters of Science in International Social Welfare and Health Policy and is District Heights' youngest Commissioner to date.

Gyasi currently works as a Qualitative AI Research Project Manager at Appen, an Artificial Intelligence company.

There, she works on the new business team developing proposals and winning contracts from the top US technology companies. She is also a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

Gyasi's approach to city affairs is guided by sociological theory, and her professional and personal values. She strongly believes in the transformation that is possible for District Heights to become a safer, more inclusive and proactive community. Gyasi's first initiative has been to start the Green Committee to make the community more resilient to climate change and memorialize sustainable practices. She is also a plot partner in the community garden "Fiesta Place" on Gateway Blvd.

Gyasi knows that District Heights is the best kept secret in the DMV as an affordable community right outside of the nation's capital. With the cost of living quickly rising, ensuring District Heights remains affordable, while increasing services and amenities, is of the utmost importance. Gyasi looks forward to serving her neighbors until May 2023 and beyond.

DISTRICT HEIGHTS SWEARING IN CEREMONY 2022



FIESTA PLACE COMMUNITY GARDEN

6717 Gateway Blvd.

SUMMER is here at the Fiesta Place Community Garden. We are so excited about the possibilities of the garden. If you haven't noticed, we have been under renovation. Our Plot Partners are beginning to harvest their vegetables. In the midst of our challenges, we are continuing to make sure every bed is filled with earthly delights.



We are thankful and very excited about the Mayor and Commission voting to move the Fiesta Place Gathering Space to the next steps. We want to say thank you to the Neighborhood Design Center for helping create a concept that will benefit the District Heights community. Stay tuned for more positive news about this project.

If you are interested in becoming a Plot Partner - email us at FiestaPlaceGardeninfo@gmail.com.



If the gate is open, come on in and see how we are growing a healthy community.

If the gate is open, feel free to drop in to say hi and find out more. Did you know many vegetables only need an inch of water a week? Growing herbs can make a beginning gardener look like an expert? Stop by the garden for more information and tips.

ABC Youth Fitness Program

AGES
6 TO 11
12 TO 16

RESERVE
YOUR
SPOT
TODAY!

A (6) week Afterschool Boot Camp Program
for **building healthier, stronger and inspired youth**
in our community

POTENTIAL BENEFITS

- Manage weight/ lose weight
- Learn Basic Nutrition
- Boost immunity
- Improve cardio
- Increase strength/ tone muscles
- Lower stress
- Exercise with your friends
- Meet new ones

PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES

Participate in fun coed recreation games and sports that like

- Double Dutch
- Freeze Tag
- Four Squares
- Kickball
- Soccer
- Basketball
- Volleyball and more

REGISTRATION

FREE for Incorporated City Residents age 16 and under

Only **\$9.99** for non residents age 16 and under. Must have a parent or legal guardian to register

SPACES
ARE
LIMITED

STARTS
SEPTEMBER
2022

FITNESS WORKOUTS AND CLASSES

Walking and Step Tracking Cardio conditioning workouts

- Jogging
- Relay races
- Hill workouts
- Field workouts

Muscle conditioning classes

- Proper stretching techniques
- Toning
- Proper strength training
- Functional workouts
- Group exercise classes
- Volleyball and more

OPPORTUNITIES

- Mental Health Moments
- Earn Volunteer Hrs for School
- SAT/ ACT classes
- Learn about municipal government
- Financial literacy classes
- And much more

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT
RECREATION DEPARTMENT **301.336.5633**
recreation@districtheights.org

2000 MARBURY DRIVE
DISTRICT HEIGHTS, MARYLAND 20747



CITY OF DISTRICT HEIGHTS RECREATION DEPARTMENT AND MUNICIPAL PARKS AND FIELD

Prince George's County Public Schools is not sponsoring, endorsing or recommending the activities announced on this flyer/material.



RECREATION, PARKS AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT

The City of District Heights Recreation Department is currently open to help serve residents and guest with various recreation classes, sports, and leisure activities from 9:00AM to 7:00PM Monday through Friday.

Please call [\(301\) 336-5633](tel:3013365633) or email recreation@districtheights.org, for more information about classes, activities, programs and much more!

SUMMER CAMP (from Monday, June 27th to Friday, August 5th)

Activities included but not limited to:

- Financial literacy
- Arts and crafts
- Gymnastics/ tumbling
- Sports
- Dance
- Walks/ Hikes
- Recreation Open Gym Fun
- Group Social Interaction
- And much more

ABC YOUTH FITNESS PROGRAM (September 2022) *Reserve Your Spot Today*

CIVIC COALITION

Veterans Corner:

A "Global War on Terrorism Memorial" will be constructed on the Washington Mall to honor the 2.8 million service members that have been a part of the longest war in U.S. history. The resolution states the memorial will be built, "in a place of prominence on the National Mall so veterans of the Global War on Terror can come and remember their service and remember those who never came home." As quoted in the American Legion Maryland Free State Warrior Spring edition newsletter.

Coalition News:

The Sierra Club had a webinar on May 11, 2022, concerning the "Municipal Curbside Food Scrap Program." Areas participating in this program includes Bowie, Hyattsville, Ft. Washington, Peppermill/Carmody Hills, and Wilburn. The stated benefits of collecting food scraps for pickup and composting are (1) that it reduces excessive greenhouse gas emissions, (2) protects our environment, and (3) helps Prince George's County get closer to zero waste goals. The opportunity has been expanded to include District Heights, MD. POC for information is PGC311.

Contact us at:

dhciviccoalition@gmail.com.

CITIZEN ACTION PATROL NEWS



Tip of the Issue

Street Safety within the corporate City of District Heights.

Report any street lighting deficiencies within the City that includes streetlights that are not properly illuminated or areas that need lights. Report these areas to

the City Public Works

Department at

publicworks@districtheights.org.



House(s) of the Month

The house of the month for May is 7406 Kipling Parkway. June's house of the month is 6118 Cabot St. Congrats! Contact CAP for nominations to house of the month.



Get Involved!

Contact CAP at (301) 336-1400
dhcivicactionpatrol@gmail.com
if you are interested in helping to keep your city clean and safe by joining the neighborhood Watch Program.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Mosquito Control

Through September 30, 2022, the County will be spraying the City of District Heights for mosquito larvae. Complaints should be forward on a regular basis. Name, address, problem area, time of day when mosquito are the worst. Complaints can be faxed to (301) 422-0502 or e-mailed to skeetermdl.mda@maryland.gov or call Mrs. Barnhill-Love at (301) 336-7417



Public Works Department

(301) 336-7417

Public Works Supervisor

Brian Edwards
(240) 508-7289

Foreman I

Rick Whitman
(240) 508-7290

Foreman II

Angela Barnhill-Love
(240) 508-6679

Bulk Trash Collection

(301) 773-2069

Bates Trash Services

Bulk trash is collected on Wednesdays, by APPOINTMENT ONLY. You must call by 2 p.m. on Tuesday, before Wednesday's pick-up. Regular trash pick-up days are Mondays and Thursdays.

Recycling is picked up on Thursdays. Yard waste is picked up on Mondays.

Limb pick-up will resume on Tuesday, January 11, 2022. Christmas trees will also be included in this pick-up.





THURSDAYS NIGHTS AT DISTRICT HEIGHTS

Mini Money Managers – 5:00PM – 6:00PM (Elementary School Students)

Our young people will have fun learning financial and economic concepts through music, movement, interactive games, and activities focused on saving, needs vs. wants, cryptocurrency, opportunity cost, and much more. Let's put our children on the path to growing generational wealth.

Economical Teens – 6:00PM – 7:00PM (Middle and High School Students)

Economics and finance affect our world and the decisions we can make. Without money, choices are limited. Let's not limit our youth. Empower your teen with the knowledge that allows them to use debt to their advantage as opposed to letting debt be their downfall. Teens focus on creating a sound budget, starting a business, cryptocurrency, building credit, the price of loans, and economic concepts. Understanding fiscal and economics as a teen can mean financial success as an adult.

FINANCIAL LITERACY CLASSES



2000 Marbury Drive, District Heights, MD 20747

Cost for residents \$5.00

Cost for non-residents \$10.00

SUCCESS

SEPTEMBER 22ND - OCTOBER 20TH

To register or for information
301-336 5622 or 301-660-2500

youcandoit@zoeyandzandersguidetosuccess.org
www.zoeyandzandersguidetosuccess.org





THE CITY OF DISTRICT HEIGHTS

2000 MARBURY DRIVE
DISTRICT HEIGHTS, MD 20747
DISTRICTHEIGHTS.ORG

PRE-SORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
DISTRICT HEIGHTS, MD
PERMIT NO. 1840

Important Telephone Numbers

General Government	<i>(301) 336-1402</i>
District Heights Call-A-Bus	<i>(301) 336-1402</i>
Police Department & Code Enforcement	<i>(301) 336-1400</i>
Youth Services Bureau	<i>(301) 336-7600</i>
Recreation, Cultural and Parks Department	<i>(301) 336-5633</i>
Public Works Department	<i>(301) 336-7417</i>
Bulk Trash	<i>(301) 773-2069</i>