

Notice of Special Edition

Get out and vote!!!



THE CITY OF DISTRICT HEIGHTS ELECTION

The City of District Heights, Maryland will hold an election for the purpose of electing Ward I Commissioner and Ward II Commissioner.

The election will take place on:

Monday, May 1, 2023

Polls open: 10:00 a.m to 8:00 p.m.

*****Masks are optional****

Polling Location:

Youth Services Bureau Building

6421 Atwood Street

District Heights, MD 20747

Information pertaining to the election can be found on the City's website: <https://www.districtheights.org/board-supervisors-elections>

2023 Candidates

Election Information

Designation of Agent Form

Mail-In Ballot Request Form and more...

Newsletter Highlights

Election Information

Xander Harcourt
Biography (Ward 1)

Gyasi Gomez Biography
(Ward 2)

Mail-In Ballot request forms
available Wednesday, April
5th, 2023.

Downloadable forms are
available on the website
and/or you can request a
copy of the form by sending
an email to
BOSE@districtheights.org.

Also, forms are available for
pick in the lobby of the
Municipal Building located
at 2000 Marbury Drive,
District Heights, MD
20747.

Deadline to return your
Mail-in Ballot Request
Forms is Friday, April 14,
2023 by 4:00pm.

Emergency Mail-In Ballot
Request Form available
April 27th in-person only.
Contact City Clerk/BOSE
no later than 4:00pm.

XANDER HARCOURT

GETTING TO KNOW XANDER...



Xander Harcourt, currently the Vice Mayor of the City of District Heights, has been a homeowner of the Incorporated City of District Heights since 2018.

Upon arrival to his new community, he immediately identified deficiencies and became involved in finding solutions. These included spearheading the Website Committee that is responsible for the newly modernized and beautiful website. Immediately elevating the City's digital footprint.

He helped coordinate and worked on the Census Committee. Working his Federal contacts, he was able to secure all the swag that was distributed to get people to complete the census. The result? The largest participation rate for District Heights residents in over 30 years. These increased participation meant more funding for the City and helped increase CARES Act and ARPA Fund Federal dollars used to help our residents and community.

After winning a special election to fill a vacancy, Xander immediately went to work by partnering with Prince George's County, and secured nearly 50 trees to be planted throughout the City. He is passionate about environmental justice, health and sustainability. He also partnered with Sierra Club to host the first of its kind, Environment Just and You: Energy Equity workshop in District Heights that received a global audience. District Heights is on the map for great things!

Vice Mayor Harcourt has worked collaboratively with the Commission to hire a permanent Police Chief, that is a part of our community, with a commitment to policing our community with decency and respect. Chief Tarpley has rebuilt the Department in a way that champions the best of who we are and what we deserve.

We hired a new and dynamic Senior Center Coordinator that is incredible, Dr. Katrina Polk.

CONT.



Vice Mayor Harcourt has worked with the community, staff, and Commission to pass 2 regular budgets, that did not include tax increases and still maintained a considerable surplus, as well as the ARPA spend budget. The ARPA funds allotted nearly one million dollars to our most vulnerable residents impacted by COVID and inflation. All those monies were accounted for and made it to the intended audience.

Vice Mayor Xander Harcourt has not only taken several classes through Maryland Municipal League, he offered the first ever report by a commissioner of what he learned and shared that with the community. All of this knowledge has been put to use for the betterment of our community. He also serves on the MML Summer Conference Planning Committee.

Vice Mayor Harcourt has been a regular and vocal feature throughout the Community, working with the Holiday Decorations Committee, started in honor of the late great Commissioner Carole Blake; Part of the Marlboro Pike Coalition, partnering with Local/State/Federal, religious and other stakeholders to improve Marlboro Pike. You will regularly see him out and about solo, collecting trash strewn on our streets. Community means everything to him, and he brings solutions and insight from over two decades of managerial and Federal Government experience.

Vice Mayor Harcourt has also made sure to share important information through multiple forms of media, be that YouTube, NextDoor, Instagram, through meetings, town halls, or just showing up at the door to check-in on neighbors going through a difficult, or not so difficult time.

Xander is asking you to look at his short and dynamic record and allow him to continue working for you towards a new future for our community – TOGETHER!

GYASI GOMEZ

GETTING TO KNOW GYASI...



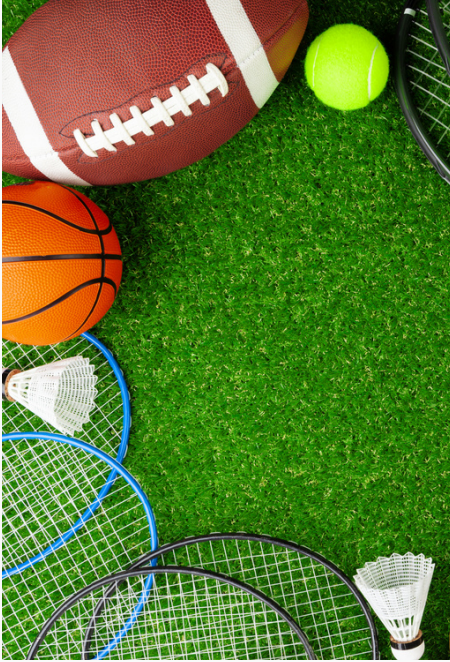
Commissioner Gyasi Gomez (pronounced Jah-See) was born and raised in Prince George’s County and has been a resident of the Incorporated City of District Heights since 2019. She resides on Kipling Pkwy and was appointed as Commissioner of Ward 2 in May 2022.

Gyasi holds a Bachelor’s of Art in Sociology from Loyola University New Orleans and a Masters of Science in International Social Welfare and Health Policy from Oslo Metropolitan University in Oslo, Norway. In her current full-time role, Gyasi serves 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. and a plot partner at “Fiesta Place” (community garden) on Gateway Blvd.

Gyasi is solutions oriented and values the importance of establishing policy and structure that will safeguard tax-payer dollars and guarantee delivery of quality services to residents. In less than a year on the Commission, Gyasi has:

- In partnership with the Police Department, led the installation of a long-overdue guardrail at Elmhurst and Aztec, to ensure resident safety;
- Re-solidified relationships with District Heights Elementary and North Forestville Elementary School. This included facilitating partnerships between both Elementary schools and “Leveling the Playing Field”, a local non-profit that provides new and gently used playing equipment to Title I Schools and other organizations;
- Removed city trash cans from private commercial property (the 6300th block of Marlboro Pike) to increase cleanliness, order, and appearance of the city’s Main Street and;
- Established the city’s first “Green Team” to ensure community resilience to climate change and memorialize practices that will sustain the quality of life for residents long-term.

CONT.



Gyasi continues to focus on:

- Bringing the city into the 21st century, ensuring the city has a well-maintained cloud infrastructure and cyber-security, which is the foundation of modernizing the city's communications. Updating the city's IT and communication structure is one way she is striving to facilitate higher levels of community engagement.
- Expanding our tree canopy and removing dangerous, overgrown, and hazardous trees (cost-effectively), through partnership with PG Parks and Planning's, Urban Forestry Program, an initiative started by Vice Mayor Harcourt.
- Flawlessly executing extensive road and sidewalk construction, including new speed humps with city ARPA funding.

In her role as Liaison to the Public Works Department, she addresses residents' and city-led committees' questions, comments and concerns, while providing leadership internally to ensure flawless service delivery. This includes: breaking down silos between the Police Department and Public Works to plan and execute key public safety initiatives collaboratively; eliminating personnel use of city vehicles outside of business hours and memorializing this policy into the personnel handbook to eliminate unnecessary liability of city assets; and facilitating a smooth transition of Departmental leadership after the retirement of long-time (40 year) PW Director.

The community within the Incorporated city of District Heights is diverse in age, gender, sexuality, race and ethnicity, and disability-status. Gyasi is focused on delivering services that can meet the needs of all residents.



CITY OF
DISTRICT HEIGHTS
MARYLAND

2000 Marbury Drive
District Heights, MD 20747

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