**CITY COUNCIL**

CHRISTINE M. JOHNSON
At-Large

JAMES KOLE
First Ward

ADRIAN G. SIMMONS
First Ward

KYLA M. CLARK
Second Ward

JEFFREY W. MILLS
Second Ward

Council meets second and fourth Mondays of each month.

KEITH R. SYDNOR
Mayor

CHRISTIAN L. PULLEY, CPM
City Administrator

TIM MILLER
Acting Deputy City Administrator

STEPHANIE P. ANDERSON
City Solicitor

SARA A. GREEN, CPM, MMC
City Clerk

(301) 725-5300

www.cityoflaurel.org

# MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL

8103 Sandy Spring Road

Laurel, Maryland 20707-2502

## THIRTIETH REGULAR MEETING
## MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL
## MONDAY, APRIL 14, 2025
## 6:00 PM
## VIRTUAL MEETING
## *MINUTES*

The meeting convened via Zoom at approximately 6:00 pm with Council President Kyla M. Clark presiding. Councilwoman Christine M. Johnson, Councilman James Kole, Councilman Jeffrey W. Mills, Councilman Adrian G. Simmons, and Mayor Keith R. Sydnor were present. There were zero (0) members of the public in attendance.

The following staff members were also present: Christian L. Pulley, CPM, City Administrator, Tim Miller, Acting Deputy City Administrator, Sara A. Green, CPM, MMC, City Clerk, Bill Bailey, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation, Monta L. Burrough, Director, Department of Economic and Community Development, Chrissy Cornwell, Director, Department of Emergency Management, Chief Russell E. Hamill, III, LPD, Tommy Helms, Acting Director, Department of Public Works, Marchelle LeBlanc, Director, Department of Human Services, S. Michele Saylor, Director, Department of Budget and Personnel Services, James Cornwell-Shiel, Director, Department of Information Technology, Deputy Chief Mark Plazinski, Natalie Williams, Director, Department of Communications, Stephanie P. Anderson, City Solicitor.

Agenda Item No. 3 was approval of the following minutes:

- March 24, 2025 Regular Meeting
- April 2, 2025 Work Session

Councilman Simmons made a motion to approve both sets of minutes as written. Councilman Mills seconded the motion that was carried on a roll call vote of all Councilmembers present.

Next, the Mayor and City Councilmembers provided their reports regarding events and happenings since the last meeting and made announcements regarding upcoming meetings and events.

Mayor Sydnor noted that the following Proclamations had been issued by his Office:

- Flood Awareness Month
- Second Chance Month
- National Public Health Week
- Black Maternal Health Week
- National Public Safety Telecommunications Week
- Earth Day
- Arbor Day

Agenda Item No. 5 was the following Mayoral Appointment:

- Rosette Ladson CAC for Senior Residents and Persons with Disabilities 04/14/25-04/14/27

Councilman Kole made a motion to approve the appointment. Councilman Mills seconded the motion that was carried on a roll call vote of all Councilmembers present.

Agenda Item No. 6 was the General Public Hearing. President Clark opened the General Public Hearing at approximately 6:38 pm. There was no one signed up to speak. President Clark closed the General Public Hearing at approximately 6:38 pm.

Agenda Item No. 7 was a Bid Recommendation for Cypress Street and Saratoga Avenue Improvements. Mr. Tommy Helms, Acting Director, Department of Public Works, presented the bid recommending it be awarded to Calvert Ready Mix and Concrete Supplies, LLC., of Lusby, Maryland for a total amount of $100,000. Councilman Simmons made a motion to approve the Bid Recommendation as presented. Councilman Kole seconded the motion that was carried on a roll call vote of all Councilmembers present.

Agenda Item No. 8 was a Bid Recommendation for the Generator Replacement Project Phase 1-Design- Department of Emergency Management. Chrissy Cornwell, Director, Department of Emergency Management presented the bid recommending it be awarded to Maryland Environmental Services in the amount of $152,477. Councilman Kole made a motion to approve the bid as presented. Councilman Mills seconded the motion that was carried on a roll call vote of all Councilmembers present.

Next, Agenda Item No. 9 was Introduction and First Public Hearing on Resolution No. 4-2025- A Resolution of the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland to Set the Date, Time and Polling Location for Early Voting in the City of Laurel for the General Election of November 2025. President Clark read the title into the record for the first public hearing. Sara A. Green, CPM, MMC, City Clerk presented the resolution noting that Early Voting would be set for Saturday, November 1, 2025 at both the Joseph R. Robison Laurel Municipal Center, and the Robert J. DiPietro Community Center from 9:00 am-5:00 pm. President Clark opened the public hearing at 6:48 pm. There was no one signed up to speak. President Clark closed the public hearing at 6:48 pm and noted that the Second Public Hearing with Possible Action on the item would be at the April 28, 2025 meeting at 6:00 pm.

Agenda Item No. 10 was Introduction and First Public Hearing on Resolution No. 5-2025- A Resolution of the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland to Pay Tribute to Emancipation Day. President Clark read the title into the record for the first public hearing and presented the proposed resolution. President Clark opened the public hearing at approximately 6:50 pm. There was no one signed up to speak. President Clark closed the public hearing at approximately 6:50 pm and noted that

the Second Public Hearing with Possible Action on the item would be at the April 28, 2025 meeting at 6:00 pm.

Agenda Item No. 11 was the Mayoral Appointment of Chrissy Cornwell, Director, Department of Emergency Management. Mayor Sydnor noted that with the approval of Charter Amendment No. 180 that dissolved the Department of Community Resources and Emergency Management and the creation of the Department of Emergency Management, and the Department of Human Services, he wanted to formally appointment Ms. Cornwell as the Director of the Department of Emergency Management. Councilman Kole made a motion to approve the appointment of Ms. Cornwell. Councilman Mills seconded the motion that was carried on a roll call vote of all Councilmembers present.

Agenda Item No. 12 was the Mayoral Appointment of Marchelle LeBlanc, Director, Department of Human Services. Mayor Sydnor noted that he wanted to formally appointment Ms. LeBlanc as the Director of the newly created Department of Human Services. Councilwoman Johnson made a motion to approve the appointment. Councilman Simmons seconded the motion that was carried on a roll call vote of all Councilmembers present.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:56 pm.

Approved: Date: April 28, 2025

Sara A. Green, CPM, MMC
City Clerk

**Mayor and City Council Voting Record**

**April 14, 2025 6:00 pm**

**Virtual Meeting**

**Call to Order:** 6:00 pm **Meeting Ended:** 6:56 pm **Members of the Public:** 0

**Staff Attendance:**

✓ Christian L Pulley ✓ Tim Miller ✓ Bill Bailey ✓ Monta Burrough ✓ Chrissy Cornwell

✓ James Cornwell-Shiel ✓ Chief Russell Hamill ✓ Marchelle LeBlanc

✓ S. Michele Saylor ✓ Danny Selby ✓ Natalie Williams ✓ Stephanie Anderson ✓ Mark Plazinski

**Roll Call**

✓ Councilman Mills ✓ Councilman Kole ✓ Councilwoman Johnson

✓ Councilman Simmons ✓ President Clark ✓ Mayor Sydnor

**Agenda Item No. 3- Approval of Minutes**

- **March 24, 2025 Regular Meeting**
- **April 2, 2025 Work Session**

2nd Councilman Mills yes Councilman Kole yes Councilwoman Johnson

1st Councilman Simmons yes President Clark

**Agenda Item No. 5- Mayoral Appointment**

- Rosette Ladson CAC for Senior Residents and Persons with Disabilities 04/14/25-04/14/27

2nd Councilman Mills 1st Councilman Kole yes Councilwoman Johnson

yes Councilman Simmons yes President Clark

**Agenda Item No. 6- General Public Hearing**

Open: 6:38pm Closed: 6:38pm

**Agenda Item No. 7- Bid Recommendation- Cypress Street and Saratoga Avenue Improvements- Department of Public Works**

yes Councilman Mills 2nd Councilman Kole yes Councilwoman Johnson

1st Councilman Simmons yes President Clark

**Agenda Item No. 8- Bid Recommendation- Generator Replacement Project Phase 1 Design- Department of Emergency Management**

2nd Councilman Mills 1st Councilman Kole yes Councilwoman Johnson

yes Councilman Simmons yes President Clark

**Agenda Item No. 9- Introduction and First Public Hearing on Resolution No. 4-2025- A Resolution of the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland to Set the Date, Time and Polling Location for Early Voting in the City of Laurel for the General Election of November 2025**

Open Public Hearing: 6:48 pm Closed Public Hearing: 6:48pm

**Agenda Item No. 10- Introduction and First Public Hearing on Resolution No. 5-2025- A Resolution of the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland to Pay Tribute to Emancipation Day**

Open Public Hearing: 6: 50 pm Closed Public Hearing: 6:50 pm

**Agenda Item No. 11- Mayoral Appointment- Chrissy Cornwell, Director, Department of Emergency Management**

2nd Councilman Mills 1st Councilman Kole yes Councilwoman Johnson

yes Councilman Simmons yes President Clark

**Agenda Item No. 12- Mayoral Appointment- Marchelle LeBlanc, Director, Department of Human Services**

yes Councilman Mills yes Councilman Kole 1st Councilwoman Johnson

2nd Councilman Simmons yes President Clark

**CITY COUNCIL**

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# MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL

8103 Sandy Spring Road

Laurel, Maryland 20707-2502

## THIRTIETH REGULAR MEETING

**Monday, April 14, 2025**

**6:00 PM**

**Agenda (*Revised 04/08/2025)***

**Virtual Meeting**

**Watch the meeting on Laurel TV streaming live in your web browser at https://laureltv.org/watch-live or locally Laurel TV can be found on Comcast Channel 996 (HD), 71 (SD) or Verizon FiOS Channel 12.**

1. Call to Order – Kyla M. Clark, President
2. Roll Call- Sara A. Green, CPM, MMC, City Clerk
3. Approval of Minutes
    - March 24, 2025 Regular Meeting
    - April 2, 2025 Work Session
4. Report of the Mayor and City Council
5. Mayoral Appointment

- Rosette Ladson CAC for Senior Residents and Persons with Disabilities 04/14/25-04/14/27

6. General Public Hearing
7. Bid Recommendation- Cypress Street and Saratoga Avenue Improvements- Department of Public Works
8. Bid Recommendation- Generator Replacement Project Phase 1 Design- Department of Emergency Management

9. Introduction and First Public Hearing on Resolution No. 4-2025- A Resolution of the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland to Set the Date, Time and Polling Location for Early Voting in the City of Laurel for the General Election of November 2025

10. Introduction and First Public Hearing on Resolution No. 5-2025- A Resolution of the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland to Pay Tribute to Emancipation Day

***11. Mayoral Appointment- Chrissy Cornwell, Director, Department of Emergency Management***

***12. Mayoral Appointment- Marchelle LeBlanc, Director, Department of Human Services***

13. Adjournment

# CITY OF LAUREL
# OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

8103 Sandy Spring Road, Laurel, MD 20707
Phone: 301-725-5300 ext. 2125 • Fax: 301-725-6831

**Keith R. Sydnor**
Mayor


March 25, 2025

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Kyla Clark, Council President
Laurel City Councilmembers
FROM: Keith R. Sydnor, Mayor KRS
SUBJ: Mayoral Appointment

I plan to make the following reappointment at the April 14, 2025, Mayor and City Council meeting.

**APPOINTMENT**
Rosette Ladson CAC for Senior Residents and Persons with Disabilities 04/14/25 – 04/14/27

I look forward to your confirmation of this appointment.

ec: Sara A. Green, CPM, CMC, City Clerk

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL**

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

**305-307 First Street • Laurel, Maryland 20707 (301) 725-0088**

**http://www.cityoflaurel.org • email – dpw@laurel.md.us Fax (301) 498-5266**

March 10, 2025

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Mayor Keith R. Sydnor
Council President Kyla M. Clark, MBA
Laurel City Councilmembers

Thru: Timothy Miller, Acting Deputy City Administrator

From: Thomas Helms, Acting Director, Public Works

Subject: LA 25-007, Cypress Street & Saratoga Improvement Avenue Project

The Department of Public Works is requesting approval to award the contract for Cypress Street and Saratoga Improvement Project (LA 25-007).

**Project Scope:**

The scope includes resurfacing the existing pavement, replacing sections of curb and gutter, sidewalk, ADA-compliant ramps, and installing new thermoplastic roadway markings on Cypress Street from Westmeath Drive to Oxford Drive; and the entire length of Saratoga Avenue from Concord Avenue to Colony Avenue.

**Bid Results:**

The Department of Public Works has solicited public bids for this project, resulting in nine (9) submissions. A bid opening was conducted on March 4, 2025, in the Council Chambers. The submitted bids, ranked from lowest to highest, are as follows:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Calvert Ready Mix & Concrete Supplies LLC | $90,258.40 * |
| 2. | VMP Construction Co, Inc. | $101,961.00 |
| 3. | Stanley Concrete, LLC | $103,949.20 |
| 4. | E & R Services, Inc. | $110,913.40 |
| 5. | Espina Paving, Inc. | $112,582.00 |
| 6. | Image Asphalt maintenance, Inc. | $125,863.00 |
| 7. | SFMS, LLC. | $126,451.71 |
| 8. | Ross Contracting, Inc. | $135,448.00 |
| 9. | Francis O. Day Co., Inc. | $158,272.00 |

*Apparent Low Bidder and not a minority business, but the difference in pricing from the second lowest bidder is more than 3%.

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL**

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

**305-307 First Street • Laurel, Maryland 20707 (301) 725-0088**

**http://www.cityoflaurel.org • email – dpw@laurel.md.us Fax (301) 498-5266**

**Funding:**

Funding for this project is available through the FY2025 Adopted Capital Improvement Program – Cypress Street and Saratoga Avenue Improvements.

**Recommendation:**

It is recommended that Calvert Ready Mix & Concrete Supplies LLC from Lusby, MD, undertake the Cypress Street & Saratoga Avenue Project in the amount of $90,258.40. In addition, DPW is requesting a contingency amount of $9,741.60 to account for any unforeseen construction issues that may arise during the project for a total of $100,000.

Should you have any questions or desire further information, please contact Thomas Helms, Acting Director at 301-725-0088, extension 3205.

**Reviewed:**

S. Michele Saylor 3/12/2025

**S. Michele Saylor, Director** **Date**
**Department of Budget and Personnel Services**

cc: Christian L. Pulley, CPM, City Administrator

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL**
**DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

**8103 Sandy Spring Road • Laurel, Maryland 20707 (301) 725-5300 x2232**
**http://www.cityoflaurel.org • ccornwell@laurel.md.us**

March 14, 2025

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: The Honorable Keith R. Sydnor, Mayor
Council President Kyla M. Clark, MBA
Laurel City Councilmembers

THRU: Timothy Miller, Acting Deputy City Administrator

FROM: Christina L. Cornwell, CPM, CEM, Director, Emergency Management

SUBJ: Generator Replacement Project Phase 1 Design

The Department of Emergency Management is seeking approval to proceed with the survey, design, and permitting for the installation of five (5) emergency generators at key City facilities.

**Specifications:**

The emergency back-up generator project will involve replacing outdated diesel-powered generators with high efficiency state-of-the-art natural gas-powered generators at five (5) critical facilities.

**Joseph R. Robison Laurel Municipal Center**
8103 Sandy Spring Road
Laurel, MD 20707

**Barkman-Kaiser Public Safety Complex (Police Department)**
3811 Fifth Street
Laurel, MD 20707

**Fairall Foundry Public Works Complex**
305-307 1st Street
Laurel, MD 20707

**Parks & Recreation Maintenance Facility**
7705 Old Sandy Spring Road
Laurel, MD 20707

**Laurel Armory Anderson & Murphy Community Center**
422 Montgomery Street
Laurel, MD 20707

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL**
**DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

**8103 Sandy Spring Road • Laurel, Maryland 20707 (301) 725-5300 x2232**
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In accordance with the Intergovernmental Agreement No. 2-4-3-42, dated November 6, 2023, the Maryland Environmental Service is equipped to provide the City with the necessary subject matter expertise to develop a detailed engineering and electrical design for the installation of natural gas generator at each facility. This includes determining the required kW capacity, along with the associated piping and electrical infrastructure needed for installation.

**Funding:**

Phase 1 of this project, which covers survey, design, and permitting has been quoted for $152,477.00. Funding for this project is provided in the FY2025 Adopted Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) – Hazard Mitigation Project.

**Recommendation:**

It is recommended that the Mayor and City Council approve the scope of work for phase 1 of this project, in the amount of $152,477.00, to the Maryland Environmental Service.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Christina L. Cornwell at Ext. 2232.

**Reviewed:**

Michele Saylor

**S. Michele Saylor, Director**
**Department of Budget and Personnel Services**

3/14/2025

**Date**

Attachments

Cc: Christian L. Pulley, CPM, City Administrator

# CITY OF LAUREL, MARYLAND

## RESOLUTION NO. 4-2025

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL, MARYLAND TO SET THE DATE, TIME AND POLLING LOCATION FOR EARLY VOTING IN THE CITY OF LAUREL FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION OF NOVEMBER 2025.**

*Sponsored by the President at the request of the Administration.*

**WHEREAS**, on January 11, 2021, the City Council adopted Charter Resolution No. 172, Article 600, Registrations and Elections, Section 605, Voting Procedures, Letter B, Voting, Procedures and Hours, ***Number 2, Early Voting, Letter A.*** Which reads, in part:

> *(A) "The City Council or Board may provide for one or more early voting days in any election. Early voting for any election whether for public office or for any ballot question, proposition, or referenda submitted to qualified voters shall be scheduled on dates and times established by resolution of the Mayor and City Council, with voting to be held at the Laurel City Municipal Center and any other location determined in the resolution. Resolutions permitting early voting shall be adopted by the Mayor and City Council not later than May 31 in any year of a general election or less than sixty (60) days prior to any special election. ";* and;

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and City Council wish to provide for early voting for the City's General Election to take place on November 4, 2025, and to establish the date, time and polling location(s) for such early voting; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to its desire to make voting as accessible as possible, the Mayor and City Council have determined that early voting for the November 4, 2025, General Election will be held no more than fifteen (15) days prior to Election Day, and that it will be held at the Laurel Municipal Center and the Robert J. DiPietro Community Center.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Early Voting for the 2025 City of Laurel General Election will take place on November 1, 2025 at the Laurel Municipal Center and the Robert J. DiPietro Community Center, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED;** that this Resolution shall take effect on the date of its adoption.

**ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2025.**

**ATTEST:**

| | |
|---|---|
| **SARA A. GREEN, CPM, MMC**<br>**City Clerk** | **KYLA M. CLARK**<br>**President of the City Council** |

**APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 2025.**

**KEITH R. SYDNOR**
**Mayor**

# CITY OF LAUREL, MARYLAND

## RESOLUTION NO. 5-2025

## A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL, MARYLAND TO PAY TRIBUTE TO EMANCIPATION DAY

*Sponsored by Council President Kyla M. Clark*

**WHEREAS,** the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland recognize that Emancipation Day is not only a commemoration of the end of slavery, but also an opportunity to honor the efforts of those who fought for freedom, reflect on the progress made, and reaffirm the ongoing commitment to justice and equality for all; and

**WHEREAS,** Emancipation Day, celebrated annually on November 1st, marks the historic day in 1864 when the people of Maryland, through a referendum, approved by a new State Constitution that included the abolition of slavery, thus freeing more than 87,000 enslaved individuals, including 33,295 people in Southern Maryland; and

**WHEREAS,** the passage of this referendum, which took place during the Civil War, was a monumental step in ending the practice of slavery in Maryland, making it one of the last Northern states to free the enslaved; and

**WHEREAS,** many enslaved people in Maryland, before and after the passage of the referendum, sought freedom by fleeing to Union-held areas, including Washington, D.C., where enslaved people were freed by the federal government in April 1862. Additionally, African Americans in Maryland were able to enlist in the Union Army starting in January 1863; and

**WHEREAS,** the legacy of Emancipation Day is not just one of freedom but also one of perseverance, resilience, and courage. The history of Emancipation Day reminds us of the struggles and sacrifices made by African Americans in Maryland and across the nation to secure their rights and dignity; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** by recognizing Emancipation Day, the City of Laurel affirms its dedication to fostering an inclusive community where all residents, regardless of their background, can celebrate the ideals of liberty, equality, and human dignity.

**AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that this Resolution shall take effect on the date of its adoption.

**ADOPTED** this ___ day of _____, 2025.

**ATTEST:**

**SARA A. GREEN, CPM, MMC**
**City Clerk**

**KYLA M. CLARK**
**President of the City Council**

**APPROVED** this ___ day of _____, 2025.

**KEITH R. SYDNOR**
**Mayor**

# CITY OF LAUREL
# OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

8103 Sandy Spring Road, Laurel, MD 20707
Phone: 301-725-5300 ext. 2125 • Fax: 301-725-6831

**Keith R. Sydnor**
Mayor


April 7, 2025

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Kyla Clark, Council President
Laurel City Councilmembers
**FROM:** Mayor Keith R. Sydnor
**SUBJ:** Appointment of Department Heads

I am writing to formally request the City Council's confirmation of the appointments of the following department heads.

After careful evaluation and consideration, I have determined that the continued leadership of these department heads is vital to the ongoing success and stability of our City's departments. Their expertise and dedication have significantly contributed to the positive development of our community.

I am seeking your confirmation of the following department heads:

- Christina Cornwell, Director, Department of Emergency Management
- Marchelle LeBlanc, Director, Human Services Department

Enclosed with this memo, you will find detailed resumes for both, outlining their qualifications, accomplishments, and relevant experience. I believe that their professional backgrounds align seamlessly with the demands of their respective roles.

I kindly request that the City Council confirm these appointments during the next Mayor and City Council meeting scheduled for Monday, April 14, 2025. Your support in this matter is crucial to ensuring the continuity of the successful initiatives and projects currently underway.

If you wish to discuss these reappointments further or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Keith R. Sydnor
Mayor

cc: Christian Pulley, CPM, City Administrator
Tim Miller, Acting Deputy City Administrator
Sara A. Green, CPM, CMC, Clerk to the City Council

# CITY OF LAUREL
# OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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Phone: 301-725-5300 ext. 2125 • Fax: 301-725-6831

**Keith R. Sydnor**
Mayor


April 7, 2025

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Laurel City Councilmembers
**FROM:** Mayor Keith R. Sydnor
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If you wish to discuss these reappointments further or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Keith R. Sydnor
Mayor

cc: Christian Pulley, CPM, City Administrator
Tim Miller, Acting Deputy City Administrator
Sara A. Green, CPM, CMC, Clerk to the City Council

# City of Laurel

## PROCLAMATION
## 2025-11

***WHEREAS:*** *Each year, floods in Maryland kill more Maryland residents and destroy more property than any other natural hazard. Maryland residents may become injured, or their properties suffer from damage due to severe flooding, especially during the spring and summer months; and*

***WHEREAS:*** *The findings of the Fourth National Climate Assessment indicate that the frequency and intensity of heavy precipitation events across the Northeast United States have increased since the beginning of the last century; and, that this trend is projected to continue; and that in Maryland scientists and meteorologists have observed a five to ten percent increase in precipitation from 1958 to 2015; and*

***WHEREAS:*** *A sizable portion of Marylanders are at risk and may be unaware of these changes and be uninsured or underinsured against flood hazard; and*

***WHEREAS:*** *Spring and Summer weather requires Maryland residents to take extra precautions to ensure being safe at home during severe weather or while traveling, which includes always being up to date on weather forecasts and having an emergency kit at home and in their vehicles*

***NOW, THEREFORE, I, KEITH R. SYDNOR, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF LAUREL, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM THE MONTH OF APRIL as***

## FLOOD AWARENESS MONTH

***in the City of Laurel and urge all citizens to learn more about ways to protect themselves, their property and possessions, their finances, and communities from flooding and severe weather.***

Keith R Sydnor

***Keith R. Sydnor***
***Mayor***

# City of Laurel

## PROCLAMATION
## 2025-13

***WHEREAS:*** *the week of April 7-13, 2025, is the 30th observance of National Public Health Week, and the theme is "It Starts Here"; and*

***WHEREAS:*** *since 1995, the American Public Health Association, through its sponsorship of National Public Health Week, has educated the public, policymakers, and public health professionals about issues important to improving the public's health; and*

***WHEREAS:*** *public health professionals help communities prevent, prepare for, withstand, and recover from the impact of a full range of health threats, including disease outbreaks such as COVID-19 pandemic, measles, natural disasters, and disasters caused by human activity; and*

***WHEREAS:*** *public health action, together with scientific and technological advances, has played a major role in reducing and, in some cases, eliminating the spread of infectious disease, and in establishing today's disease surveillance and control systems.*

***NOW, THEREFORE, I, KEITH R. SYDNOR, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF LAUREL, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM APRIL 7-13, 2025, as***

### NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK

*in the City of Laurel and urge all citizens to observe this week by helping our families, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and leaders to better understand the value of public health and supporting great opportunities to adopt preventive lifestyle habits.*

Keith R Sydnor

*Keith R. Sydnor*
*Mayor*

# *City of Laurel*

## *PROCLAMATION*
## *2025-14*

***WHEREAS:** Pregnancy and childbirth should be a dignified, safe, and joyful experience for all expecting mothers and their families; and*

***WHEREAS:** Far too many mothers have experienced complications related to pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum which can lead to devastating health outcomes — including hundreds of deaths each year; and*

***WHEREAS:** This maternal health crisis is particularly devastating for Black women, who are more than three times as likely to die from pregnancy-related complications as white women, regardless of their income or education; and*

***WHEREAS:** During Black Maternal Health Week, we renew our commitment to addressing the crisis of Black maternal mortality and morbidity across the country; and*

***WHEREAS:** Black Maternal Health Week is also a time to stand in solidarity, recognizing that this issue impacts Black mothers, Indigenous mothers, and other mothers of color, who all experience the weight of systemic bias; and*

***WHEREAS:** It is on all of us to ensure that no person's race ever determines their health outcomes and that every person preparing to give birth is treated with dignity, safety, and respect in our health care system*

***NOW, THEREFORE, I, KEITH R. SYDNOR, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF LAUREL DO HEREBY PROCLAIM, April 11 – 17, 2025 as***

## *BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH WEEK*

***in the City of Laurel and encourage all citizens to join us in affirming the need to improve our maternal care systems and invest in improving Black maternal health outcomes.***

*Keith R. Sydnor*
*Mayor*

*City of Laurel*

# *PROCLAMATION*
## *2025-16*

***WHEREAS:** the first Earth Day was created over 50 years ago, recognizing the importance of every person in preserving our natural resources; and on that first Earth Day, 20 million Americans rallied for a healthy, sustainable environment; and*

***WHEREAS:** the global community now faces extraordinary challenges, such as global health issues, food and water shortages, extreme weather events, and economic struggles; and*

***WHEREAS:** all life forms on Earth have a right to a healthy, sustainable environment as caretakers of the planet, we all have an obligation to change the human behaviors that contribute to climate change and environmental degradation to preserve the Earth's beauty and its resources; and*

***WHEREAS:** the obligation extends not only to today's caretakers but also the future generations of caretakers who will inherit the planet from us; and*

***WHEREAS:** the City of Laurel supports projects that demonstrate and encourage energy conservation, sustainability, and the usage of renewable energy; and*

***WHEREAS:** many local community members, schools and businesses are working together in the interest of the planet to inspire intergenerational participation through local action and global environmental consciousness.*

***NOW, THEREFORE, I, KEITH R. SYDNOR, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF LAUREL, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM APRIL 22, 2025, AS***

# *EARTH DAY*

***in the City of Laurel and encourage all citizens to become engaged in local and global efforts to help improve the environment.***

*Keith R. Sydnor*
*Mayor*

# *City of Laurel*

## *PROCLAMATION*
## *2025-17*

***WHEREAS:** The Arbor Day Holiday was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska; and*

***WHEREAS:** Trees can reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cut heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce oxygen, and provide habitat for wildlife; and*

***WHEREAS:** Laurel has been recognized as a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation and desires to continue its tree planting opportunities; and*

***WHEREAS:** The City of Laurel Tree Board will plant twelve Giant Arborvitaes trees at Gude Mansion*

***NOW, THEREFORE, I, KEITH R. SYDNOR, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF LAUREL, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM APRIL 22, 2025, AS***

## *ARBOR DAY*

***in the City of Laurel and urge all citizens to support efforts to care for our trees and woodlands and to support our City's community forestry program.***

*Keith R. Sydnor*
*Mayor*