



# Town of Capitol Heights

*"A Unique Experience. Discover Us!"*

**OFFICE OF THE TOWN OF CAPITOL HEIGHTS COUNCIL  
RHONDA AKERS, CAROLINE BROWN, LATONYA CHEW, ELAINE WILLIAMS  
PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release:**

March 29, 2021

**For More Information:**

Elliott Reed I

Senior Advisor

Office of the Town Administrator

Town of Capitol Heights

c. 301.747.8000

o. 301-336-0626

[townadministrator@capitolheightsmd.com](mailto:townadministrator@capitolheightsmd.com)

**TOWN OF CAPITOL HEIGHTS, MARYLAND GOVERNMENT DEVELOPING  
POLICY TO SUPPORT RESIDENTS IMPACTED BY COVID-19**

*Announces New Projects Supporting Residents During Spring 2021*

**CAPITOL HEIGHTS, MD** – Capitol Heights Town Councilmembers Rhonda Akers, Caroline Brown, Latonya Chew, and Elaine Williams today launched the Capitol Heights Community Development Initiative to highlight plans to assist residents facing economic hardship by the spread of COVID-19. The new initiative is a public-private partnership of Town and private resources, providing loans and grant funding for community development projects in the town. The Capitol Heights Town Council allocated land for a community garden, for a high tunnel (14 feet) enclosed 72 by 36-foot all-season garden, and gave initial approval to a proposal for land use by a community food co-op. The all-female, all-Black council is actively updating the Town charter, including formally changing the municipality from “Town” to “City” of Capitol Heights.

“We are able to announce a new resource available to our nonprofits, businesses, and residents today due to elected officials working collaboratively. We are seeking input from residents about the best form of government moving forward, considering the ex-mayor’s attempt to sidetrack the people’s business,” said Councilmember Elaine Williams, Chair of the Community, Health and Environment Committee. “We are progressing as a community because of our track record of transparent, accountable, and effective administration of our residents’ resources.”

Vivian M. Dodson Municipal Center  
One Capitol Heights Boulevard, Capitol Heights, Maryland 20743  
(301) 336-0626 Office - (301) 336-8706 Facsimile



# Town of Capitol Heights

*"A Unique Experience. Discover Us!"*

The Town of Capitol Heights on January 25, 2021 suspended the mayor, then voted to abolish the office on March 15, 2021 after giving full public notice. The Town of Capitol Heights approved a resolution on March 22, 2021 to toll and extend the suspension period of the ex-mayor as a result of his insistence on misrepresenting his standing with the municipality. The ex-mayor has directly confused residents by starting a fee-based civic association, which is not affiliated with the Town in any way. Residents should not pay the ex-mayor money for services.

"As elected officials representing the interests of thousands of people, we want to set the record straight about what is happening in the Town of Capitol Heights: Positive Progress" Councilmember Caroline Brown said. "As Chair of the Education/TV Committee, it is important as Black women that we stand strong and united. Residents should know that we have been able to accomplish a lot of work in the town, achieved a lot of progress towards the goals they elected the Council to target, and worked with lots of volunteers to help make this town a great Town. Through the Education/TV Committee, the Councilmember has had the opportunity to make dreams come true. "When students & residents decide to go back to school and major in Education or TV because they loved your program, that's a great accomplishment, that's heartfelt jubilation and my sincere reward! Another recent project I am excited to support is the food co-op, which will address the food desert in our community. We are having a ribbon cutting in April for a community high tunnel and I am looking forward to this important endeavor. Positive things are happening in our Town!"

The Town had no choice but to change its governance structure temporarily, made even more pertinent because the ex-mayor raged on just like the pandemic. "We acted during Women's History Month to send a clear message that, just like our Vice President Kamala Harris, we are comfortable leading and will not shy from our duties. We have the votes, and we are the voice of the people. People in the Town have asked for reliable neighborhood services with responsive government administration. We are able to do that free from the distraction of a weak mayor who was also ineffective and has problems working with women" said Councilmember Rhonda Akers, Chair of the Neighborhood Services Committee. "Just this year, we have been able to announce new police department and neighborhood services department facilities on Rollins Ave. Our commitment to public safety and public service has never been stronger."

Councilmember LaTonya Chew, Chair of the Parks and Recreation Committee noted that, "We, as a Council are not focused on the negativity anymore. We went to the people and made our issues known. Our goal is not to engage in protracted, prolonged political fighting with someone who does not have the best interests of our people at heart. We are working with our town administration to prepare for a new season in the literal and figurative senses: with spring coming, we are highlighting the natural beauty of the town as well as the outdoor resources, that are socially distanced. Whenever you hear the ex-mayor speak, listen closely—the topic is perpetually himself. We are about the people of the town, we voted no-confidence in him and stand by that."

Vivian M. Dodson Municipal Center  
One Capitol Heights Boulevard, Capitol Heights, Maryland 20743  
(301) 336-0626 Office - (301) 336-8706 Facsimile



# Town of Capitol Heights

*"A Unique Experience. Discover Us!"*

“The bullying, failure to conduct meetings properly, and sign checks made my job more difficult,” said Acting Town Administrator, Darrell Miller on WJLA Channel 7 ABC News. “All that was needed was for him to take time, take a step back, and look at what he was doing. The ex-mayor did not do that. As a former mayor, I know it is important to work with the other people that the voters sent to do the work. Understanding that part of the job requires listening, because our mayor position is more ceremonial than anything else. She or he presides at meetings, signs checks, and represents the Town in an ideal circumstance. There is lots of work to be done in the town and we cannot afford to waste time in acrimony. This is an exciting time in Capitol Heights. We are annexing people into the town, building capacity for community development and nonprofit partnership, all while effectively providing programs to distribute the COVID-19 relief programming to our residents.”

Vivian M. Dodson Municipal Center  
One Capitol Heights Boulevard, Capitol Heights, Maryland 20743  
(301) 336-0626 Office ~ (301) 336-8706 Facsimile